About West Chester University

A comprehensive, multipurpose institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification programs. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides more than $5,000 toward the cost of each Pennsylvania student who attends.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School. Today, more than 13,800 students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the picturesque, 403-acre campus situated in the Borough of West Chester. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

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Undergraduate Programs of Study within the College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Music
Department of Applied Music
Music Performance, B.M.
Concentrations in instrumental, keyboard, and voice
Minor: Jazz Studies
Department of Music Education
Music Education, B.M., Teaching Certification
Music Therapy Certification (in cooperation with Immaculata University)
Department of Music History and Literature
Minors: Music, Music History
Department of Music Theory and Composition
Music Theory and Composition, B.M.
Elective Studies in an Outside Field, B.M.

Department of Art
Art (Studio), B.A., B.F.A.
Minors: Art History, Studio Art

Department of Theatre and Dance
Theatre, B.A.
Minors: Dance, Theatre Arts

Visit the College of Visual and Performing Arts on the Web at http://www.wcupa.edu/cvpa/.

College of Visual and Performing Arts

Music • Art • Theatre and Dance
Programs of study on inside panel of brochure

West Chester University
of Pennsylvania
Experience the Visual and Performing Arts

The College of Visual and Performing Arts comprises the School of Music, which includes the departments of Applied Music, Music Education, Music History and Literature, and Music Theory and Composition; Department of Art; and Department of Theatre and Dance. The college strives to create learning environments that not only provide a solid curricular foundation to prepare students for professional careers, but also fosters a life-long appreciation and continued growth in their respective fields of study. In addition, the college brings a wide variety of cultural events to the community.

West Chester University, which has offered music since its founding in 1871, has the only School of Music in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It also is one of the few All-Steinway Schools worldwide. The school sponsors numerous concerts every year that include student musical group performances and faculty recitals.

The Department of Art hosts international, national, and regional art exhibits, including those by students, faculty, and guest artists. Students work in a variety of media, using evolving technology, that includes painting and drawing, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, printmaking, papermaking, and photography. Art history courses also are offered. The Department of Theatre and Dance annually produces five theatrical events, including plays and musicals, as well as two major dance productions. Faculty work closely with students to develop skills in communication, management, performance, production, and research to create shows that provide educational opportunities as well as community enjoyment.

The college has numerous special programs and study opportunities, including student teaching for music education majors. Art internships are available for gallery workers who help to install exhibits and graphic arts students who can gain practical experience in outside companies or agencies. Theatre majors can take a professional apprenticeship class that provides a structured work experience in theatre. In addition, an international summer travel abroad program incorporates art, music, and global culture.

Numerous scholarships are available for students. For information about scholarships, students can view the college’s Web site, www.wcupa.edu/CVPA/, request the financial aid/scholarship booklet from the Office of Admissions, or see the Undergraduate Catalog, which is on the University’s Web site, www.wcupa.edu, or the scholarship Web site, www.wcupa.edu/giving/scholarships/.

Facilities

The University opened the new Swope Music Building and the Performing Arts Center in spring 2007. The three-story, lyrically shaped Swope Music Building comprises classrooms, state-of-the-art music laboratories, rehearsal rooms, faculty offices, practice rooms, Presser Music Library, 125-seat Gates Family Recital Hall, and Knauer Art Gallery. The other part of the center features the 375-seat Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, reception gallery, and support spaces; outside are a courtyard and a sculpture garden that tie this building to the E.O. Bull Center, which features the MainStage Theatre and the J. Peter Adler Studio Theatre. A larger venue, the Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall in Philips Memorial Building, seats 1,200 people. Two additional facilities – McKinney and Long galleries – in Mitchell Hall also hold numerous art exhibits. These venues for campus and community events help make West Chester University the cultural center of Chester County.

Career Opportunities

Art: professional artists (painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking) • graphic designers • art gallery and museum employees • photographers
Music: teachers • band and choir directors • professional musicians and singers • composers, arrangers, publishers
Theatre and Dance: professional actors and dancers • theatre production employees (make-up, costumes, lighting, sound, set design, construction)