WHAT IS DRURY?

MAKE THE CONNECTION. PASS IT ON.
History and Mission

Founded in 1873, Drury University has a long-standing commitment to liberal arts education, professional and personal development, and service to the greater Ozarks region. Drury’s historical mission—which began with the goal of uniting, through jointly pursued intellectual inquiries, those who had been divided by the Civil War—compliments and infuses those larger commitments through a continuing insistence on empathetic, intellectual, imaginative and ethically guided engagement with diverse perspectives.

Although Drury has grown in size and complexity over time, these core commitments and goals have guided and grounded the institution’s priorities throughout its 141-year history. In this spirit, Drury remains committed to the coexistence of faith and reason—exemplified in Drury’s long-standing relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ—and stands proudly behind its dedication to traditions of inclusion, diversity, interdisciplinary and global awareness, as well as academic freedom and a focused passion for community engagement. A member of the New American Colleges and Universities, a national consortium of 20 outstanding private comprehensive universities, Drury recognizes the importance of both full-time traditional students and part-time adult learners. In fact, given the current period of remarkable demographic changes in higher education, Drury now serves a much wider student population than would have been thought possible even three decades ago. Throughout these rapid changes, Drury’s fundamental mission and identity have endured, grounded by strong commitments to both a rigorous liberal arts curriculum and to strong professional programs accredited by the NAAB, NCATE, ACBSP, AACSB and NASM.

Today, Drury University is a flourishing institution of some 4,600 students and is organized into three units. The “day school” serves our traditional age, largely full-time students and features selective admissions requirements and a full range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities. The “CCPS” (College of Continuing & Professional Studies) serves our predominantly non-traditional, part-time students. The “CGS” (College of Graduate Studies) houses our graduate programs.
Academic Structure

Day School

With 135 full-time faculty colleagues, Drury’s selective day school program provides an impressive array of academic offerings. Students choose from among 20 academic departments, collectively offering a total of 59 majors and 41 minors.

All day school students, regardless of major, participate in our recently instituted (Fall 2012) general education program — Drury Core: Engaging Our World general education curriculum. The Drury Core supports AACU’s high-impact learning educational experiences. These center on small seminar-based classes, common intellectual experiences, service learning, undergraduate research and learning communities, while also providing strong curricular incentives for practical immersion in the local, regional and/or global community. The core curriculum highlights our commitment to engaging diverse perspectives by requiring a robust exposure to the varied knowledge, skills, and ways of approaching and understanding the world. We believe our students need these skills in order to engage the world critically, imaginatively and ethically.

Our outstanding arts and sciences programs range from Asian studies to behavioral neuroscience, and we have received national recognition for our pre-health, fine and performing arts and animal rights programs. To address the perceived crisis in the humanities, we created the Ethics and Humanities Center in fall 2013, which promotes humanistic inquiry through film, book and speaker series on campus and in the greater Springfield community. Our three professional schools—the Hammons School of Architecture (which houses our community studio and design/build program featured in several national Extreme Makeover: Home Edition projects), the Breech School of Business Administration (which houses our internationally recognized Enactus team) and the School of Education and Child Development (which houses our nationally recognized developmental school partnership)—each integrate liberal and professional learning at all levels of the curriculum.

Drury’s commitments to this integrative learning model and to serving the larger community are further manifested in our partner programs offered through the Center for Community Studies, the Edward Jones Center for Entrepreneurship, the Center for Gifted Education, the Center for Non-Profit Communication, and the Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions.
College of Continuing Professional Studies

Beginning in 1948 with the first “extended courses” offered on campus, the College of Continuing Professional Studies (CCPS) now serves non-traditional students, the majority of whom are part-time students. Since the mid-1990s, CCPS has grown to serve the broader Ozarks region, offering online courses and traditional classroom instruction at 11 course delivery sites located in Springfield and throughout Missouri.

Recognizing the necessity for a strategic positioning within the burgeoning community demand for non-traditional learning programs, a 2011 Trustee Task Force produced a white paper that articulates an ambitious strategy for strengthening Drury’s already enviable position in this increasingly important component of the higher education marketplace.

At present, CCPS, working in collaboration with full-time department chairs, offers 19 associate and 20 baccalaureate degree programs. Total undergraduate seated enrollment was 2,656 in fall 2013.

Online programs are housed in CCPS and have grown tremendously since 2000 with 8 associate and 11 baccalaureate programs now available entirely online. We now have two online office locations — Bentonville, Arkansas and West Plains, Missouri.

College of Graduate Studies

Although Drury has offered graduate programs since 1952, the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) became a separate and independent school in fall 2012. CGS, with a total head count of 418 in 2013, offers master’s programs in education, business administration, communication, and art and theory.

In addition to national rankings, our graduate programs demonstrate rigor, diversity, and accomplishment while our graduates continue to support numerous local, community, and regional programs. The graduate faculty present their research both nationally and internationally and are recognized as leaders in their respective fields.

- Graduate faculty and students in the M.A. in communication program publish regularly in academic journals and support the Center for Nonprofit Communication.
- The M.A. in art theory program regularly attracts national and international scholars across a wide array of media.
- The Drury MBA offers a premiere program with emphases in leadership, teamwork, strategic thinking and intercultural competence. In addition to coursework, which is customizable based on students’ needs, students travel to an overseas destination as part of the Global Business, New Ventures and Innovations course. The Drury MBA is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).
- The Masters in Education program is highly-regarded, and its graduates are regional and national leaders in the fields of education. The Master in Education program is accredited through the Council on Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP, formerly NCATE) and through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the state of Missouri.
**Student Life**

Drury is also committed to providing robust co-curricular experiences that promote the personal development of undergraduate students, including 100 active student organizations that enrich the campus culture.

In fall of 2013, approximately 52% of day schools students lived in campus residential facilities, with some living in private accommodations near campus. A new 72-bed LEED Silver facility opened in fall 2012.

A member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, Drury offers 17 NCAA Division II sports for nearly 300 student athletes. Since joining the nation’s premiere NCAA-II conference in 2005, the Drury Panthers have achieved a total of 36 national championships — more than any other school in the state of Missouri. And, perhaps most impressively, a current cumulative grade point average of 3.38 — slightly higher than the university average.

**Sense of Place**

Drury University is located in Springfield, a thriving community of 164,000 with a metropolitan area of 440,000, in the heart of the beautiful Ozarks. The city draws a sense of place and purpose from its surrounding environment. Situated in Springfield’s historic midtown neighborhood, Drury’s main campus occupies 88 beautifully landscaped acres, and the university features a total campus building square footage of about 1 million sq. ft.

The oldest campus building is the iconic Stone Chapel constructed in 1876 and still used daily. In 2010, Drury built the O’Reilly Family Event Center, a 3,200 seat, multi-use, LEED Gold facility for Drury’s basketball and volleyball games and concerts for the community. The Olin Library, opened in 1992, resides at the heart of the Springfield campus. Other recent additions to the campus include the Trustee Science Center, a state-of-the-art facility for science education, which opened in 2002, and the Pool Art Center, a renovated Coca-Cola bottling plant that is now home to the university’s visual arts programs.

Of course, Drury’s campus extends beyond the immediate Springfield area to our branch locations. These sites are located throughout the region, with facilities in St. Robert/Ft. Leonard Wood, Rolla, Lebanon, Monett, Cabool, Ava and Thayer.

The Drury University Center in Greece was relocated from Volos to the scenic Greek island of Aigina in fall 2011. Founded originally in 2002 to enrich the globally engaged learning experiences of students in Drury’s Hammons School of Architecture, the program now serves students from across campus. In addition, an increasing number of students from other universities join our own students in both semester and short-term summer or winter term programs of study.