

Ramapo College of New Jersey

A. INSTITUTIONAL NARRATION INCLUDING ACCREDITATION STATUS

Institutional Profile

Established in 1969 and opened in 1971, Ramapo College of New Jersey is the Garden State's public liberal arts college. Ramapo offers bachelors' degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include teacher certification programs at the elementary and secondary levels, and social work. The College also offers three graduate programs; a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, a Master of Science in Educational Technology and a Master of Science in Nursing. In addition, the College offers a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science, and a Bachelor of Biology/Doctor of Physical Therapy with UMDNJ (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey), and a joint Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Chiropractic with New York Chiropractic College.

Ramapo College offers a mission-driven liberal arts education with particular emphasis on international education, intercultural understanding, interdisciplinary teaching, and experiential learning. The College's educational philosophy, organization, and programming are designed to reinforce its mission as the "college of choice for a global education." Organized into five interdisciplinary schools, the College's programs are complemented by lectures, performances, and off-campus experiences.

Ramapo College takes pride in four distinctive features that enhance each student's education: (1) concern for student development in and out of the classroom; (2) an exemplary faculty committed to an emphasis on the international and intercultural dimensions of all fields of study; (3) an interdisciplinary problem-solving orientation in its philosophy and programs; and (4) a collaborative association with corporations, communities, and educational institutions in the development of work- and community-related opportunities.

In fall 2006 the College instituted a new curriculum. The long awaited Curriculum Enhancement Plan was introduced to the Ramapo undergraduate students. The new curriculum objectives are; to produce more consistently rigorous courses, reinforce the four pillars of our mission, foster a teaching and learning environment, and strengthen ties between our liberal arts and professional programs.

Located on 300 acres in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains in Mahwah, the barrier-free Ramapo College campus is just 25 miles from New York City. The mainly undergraduate student body of over 5,600 reflects the diversity of the more than 16 states and 60 countries served by the College.

Ramapo College is a founding member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges C.O.P.L.A.C. is an alliance of institutions whose members are dedicated to the education of undergraduates in the liberal arts tradition, to the creation of teaching and learning communities, and to the expansion of access to undergraduate liberal arts education.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools first accredited the College in 1975. Ramapo College was reaccredited in 1980, 1990, and 1995. Middle States reaffirmed the College's accreditation in 2000. National disciplinary associations and State entities have also accredited certain Ramapo programs, including Chemistry (American Chemical Society), Nursing (National League for Nursing and N.J. Board of Nursing), Social Work (Council on Social Work Education), and Teacher Education (N.J. State Department of Education). The Anisfield School of Business application for AACSB (Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation candidacy, was accepted in October 2006.

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Ramapo is organized into five academic schools (Anisfield School of Business, American /International Studies, Contemporary Arts, Social Science and Human Services, and Theoretical and Applied Science) offering 33 undergraduate majors. Each of the schools has its own academic identity and outlook, yet each is linked through an interdisciplinary curriculum and concepts of international and multi-cultural education. Students may elect to take courses across two or more schools, but in their choice of a major, they identify with a particular school and program.

The Center for Academic Success provides Ramapo students with individual and small-group tutorial instruction, free of charge. CAS supports students' academic needs in English as a Second Language (ESL), reading, writing, mathematics, study skills and research paper design and presentation.

Ramapo's three graduate programs are not housed in academic schools, but instead are cross disciplinary in organization. The Master program in Liberal Studies admitted its first students in the spring of 1995, while the first degree-seeking students were matriculated in the Educational Technology program in spring 1998 and the Masters of Science in Nursing program enrolled students for the first time in the fall of 2001.

Ramapo has a gifted faculty that was instrumental in modeling the College's innovative academic programs. The faculty is well credentialed, with 93% of full-time faculty members holding either doctoral or terminal degrees in their fields. Many have received grants and fellowships from such prestigious agencies as the Ford, Fulbright, Guggenheim, Jerome, Kellogg, Mellon, National Science, and Woodrow Wilson Foundations; the National Endowment for the Arts; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the National Institute of Mental Health; the Social Science Research Council; the American Council on Education; and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Ramapo College is situated on the former Birch Estate. Some original buildings have been upgraded and are still in use, including the estate's Mansion (administrative offices), the McBride House (admissions and enrollment management), and an old stone garage (mail and print shop).

In 1971, the campus consisted of the academic buildings and a power plant. Subsequent construction added a new academic building with an auditorium, a science building, a gymnasium with a pool, and a library. In 1991, a sculpture studio/foundry was added. Revenue bonds issued by the Educational Facilities Authority provided funding for four phases of residence halls and apartments and a Student Center and Annex. The Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, the Trustees' Pavilion and the Oak Hall residence facility opened in 1999. The Maple Hall residence opened in 2000 and the Overlook residence opened in 2004. The historic Havermyer House was acquired in 2001 and houses the President of Ramapo College and his/her family, and the Village residence facility opened in 2002. Fall 2004 also saw the opening of the Bill Bradley Sport and Recreation Center, an 83,000 gross square foot facility containing a large main arena, fitness center, aerobic/dance studio, and a student recreation lounge. Fall 2006 saw the opening of Laurel Hall a 432 bed suite-style residence. Fall 2007 saw the opening of a new academic building housing the Anisfield School of Business and the Roukema Center for International Education. Future building plans include two construction projects; a Sustainability Center (estimated opening 2008) and a Meditation Center (groundbreaking ceremony September 24, 2007). All of Ramapo's buildings have been sited and designed with an eye to maintaining the visual attractiveness of the campus setting and with full attention to accessibility for persons with disabilities and to sustainability concerns.

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Institutional Mission

The Ramapo College mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees April 30, 2003.
It states:

Ramapo College of New Jersey is a comprehensive institution of higher education dedicated to the promotion of teaching and learning within a strong liberal arts based curriculum, thus earning the designation “New Jersey Public Liberal Arts College.” Its curricular emphasis includes the liberal arts and sciences, social sciences, fine and performing arts, and the professional programs within a residential and sustainable living and learning environment.

Organized into thematic learning communities, Ramapo College provides academic excellence through its interdisciplinary curriculum, international education, intercultural understanding and experiential learning opportunities. These four pillars, supported by global partnerships established in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean, and several Native American tribal communities, have become central themes in Ramapo College’s excellence in the teaching and learning continuum.

Ramapo College provides students with individual academic attention and social support within a caring sensitive and intellectually vigorous community. The College provides service and leadership opportunities for students and faculty through a combination of internships, field placements, community service, study abroad, and cooperative education. These opportunities allow students, faculty and staff to encounter the world beyond the campus.

Ramapo College is committed to maintaining strength and opportunity through diversity of age, race gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and economic background among faculty, staff, and students. Ramapo College is a selective institution committed to providing equal access to under-represented populations. Barrier-free, the College maintains a continuing commitment to persons with disabilities.

Ramapo College provides a rich living and learning environment through almost one hundred student organizations, intramural sports, and intercollegiate athletics. The College maintains a strong positive and economic impact on the surrounding communities by partnering with area communities, corporations, schools, service organizations, and governmental entities, while sharing its intellectual and cultural resources and its facilities. Ramapo College of New Jersey is committed to providing service and ethical leadership through international understanding and the creation of 21st century partnerships.