

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

A. INSTITUTIONAL NARRATION INCLUDING ACCREDITATION STATUS

Institutional Profile

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report (2011 ed.)* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of almost 6,000 students, and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the New York Chiropractic College, the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, the New York University College of Dentistry, and the SUNY State College of Optometry.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools first accredited the College in 1975. Ramapo College was reaccredited in 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. The decennial process of applying for reaccreditation involves examining the college's programs and services within the context of the standards outlined in the Commission's Characteristics of Excellence and the college's own mission. The self-study is a process of assessment and evaluation for the purposes of institutional improvement and maintenance of accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. 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), Teacher Education (N.J. State Department of Education), and, most recently, Business and Accounting, by AACSB International (Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business).

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.

The College's mission is focused on the four "pillars" of a Ramapo education: international, intercultural, interdisciplinary and experiential, all of which are incorporated throughout the curriculum and extracurricular. The international mission is further accomplished through a wide range of study abroad and student exchange links with institutions all over the world through the New Jersey State Consortium for International Studies (NJSCIS). Additional experiential programs include internships, co-op, and service learning.

A campus-wide building program during recent years has resulted in the completion of the Anisfield School of Business academic facility, a central feature of the main entrance to the campus; the Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center, with its 2,200-seat arena, fitness center, climbing wall, track and dance/aerobics studio; the Overlook and Laurel residence halls and the Village apartment complex. The Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts, completed in 1999, houses performance theaters, art galleries, and specialized spaces devoted to fine arts, computer art, photography, theater, dance, and music. The Sharp Sustainability Education Center and the Salameno Spiritual Center were completed in 2009.