

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

2023-2024 Undergraduate Catalog

This catalog is current as of June 2023. The provisions of this catalog do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student or faculty member and Empire State University or the State University of New York. The university reserves the right to make changes in policy, procedures, curricula, fee schedule, and other academic and administrative requirements, as circumstances dictate, subsequent to publication. Each student is expected to have knowledge of the information contained in this catalog and in other university publications and the student has a responsibility to stay informed of any changes. Changes in policy and programs are noted at information sessions and orientation workshops and on the university's website. Updated information also may be obtained from the following offices:

- Academic and Student Life Policy and Procedures: Office of Academic Affairs (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/academic-affairs/provost-office/staff/>)
- Financial Information: Office of Administration (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/administration/>)
- Admissions Information: Admissions (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/admissions/>)
- Financial Aid Information: Financial Aid (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/tuition-financial-aid/financial-aid/>)
- Learning Resources: Information Technology Services (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/its/>)
- Technology Information: Information Technology Services (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/its/>)

Our Students

Empire State University students represent a diverse community of learners. They are motivated and enthusiastic. They are busy adults – with jobs, families and real lives that simply won't accommodate the conventional university experience.

Most of our undergraduate students are between 25 and 50 years old (with an average age of 35), and are in the prime of their working lives. They are employed as professionals, managers or as skilled workers. They may be anyone from the CEO of a company to a working performing artist. More than 68 percent study part time. Most of our students are New York state residents, and they reflect the diversity that can be found from the Canadian border to Long Island's eastern shore. They come from large metropolitan areas, suburbs, and small towns and rural communities. Forty-eight percent are white; 13 percent are African-American; 12 percent are Hispanic; 3 percent are Asian/Pacific Islanders or American Indians; and while 2 percent identified as multiracial. We also have students from most states in the U.S. and from many other countries. Nonresidents of New York state, representing more than 10 percent of our undergraduate students, generally enroll in online degree programs.

Nearly 64 percent of the university's students are enrolled in the School for Undergraduate Studies, 20 percent are in our School for Graduate Studies, while the remaining enroll through other programs, such as The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. School of Labor Studies (6%), the School of Nursing and Allied Health (7%) or International Education (nearly 3%).

As a public university, Empire State University's mission includes helping military service members and veterans further their education. Our

Office of Veteran and Military Education is staffed with experts who are knowledgeable and accessible and ready to help returning veterans and service members find the educational program that best meets their needs, whether stateside or on deployment.

Your Undergraduate Degree Program

There is no hard and fast time frame for how long it will take to earn your degree, since this depends on how many courses you take at a time and how much credit you can include from transfer, exams and prior learning assessment. However, approximately 53 percent of our bachelor's degree students who enter at an advanced level complete their degrees within three years on a part-time basis; some take as little as a year.

Perhaps you're not ready to begin a degree program right now. Empire State University offers non-matriculated study that allows you to earn college credit.

However you choose to learn, SUNY Empire is dedicated to providing you with the best education in a time-efficient and affordable way.

Faculty Mentors

The more than 200 full- and part-time members of SUNY Empire's undergraduate faculty come from a variety of backgrounds, from business to the arts. Ninety-six percent of the full-time faculty hold doctoral or other terminal degrees.

What the faculty have in common is a passion for teaching adult students. Our faculty are called mentors because they are partners and guides in your education. Every undergraduate student at SUNY Empire is assigned a mentor who serves as their own academic guide and resource from orientation to graduation. They respect the years of experience and knowledge that adults bring to an academic program and are glad to share their own expertise. Our students confer with their mentors on a regular basis to receive advice, to develop their degree plans, and to carry out learning activities. Students maintain contact with their mentors in a variety of ways: face-to-face, email, online discussion areas, or even by mail. Most students value the personal attention, and when our students graduate, often it is their mentors whom they celebrate when they look back on their college years.

Planning Your Degree Program

Working with a faculty mentor, you design your own degree program. The degree you design reflects your goals and meets university requirements. You can incorporate prior learning from credit earned at other colleges, and college-level learning gained from work, volunteer or community activities, military training, reading, research and travel, and plan your additional study.

You formally begin degree planning through an educational planning course. For an associate degree, the university requires at least 2 credits of educational planning. For a bachelor's degree, the university requires at least 4 credits of educational planning.

As you work through your educational planning course with your mentor, you will review university requirements, and for individualized programs, define a concentration that meets your goals. When designing your degree program, consult the information on the "Program Details" tab in this catalog's Undergraduate Programs section (<http://catalog.esc.edu/undergraduate/areas-study-degrees-certificates/>).

Once you and your mentor complete the development of your degree program proposal, the proposal is submitted to the Office of Academic

Review for review and approval by a faculty committee. The final step is a policy review and approval by the Office of the Registrar.

Detailed information on planning your degree is available in the Student Degree Planning Guide (<http://www.sunyempire.edu/degree-planning-academic-review/degree-program/student-degree-planning-guide/>) and the Individualized Prior Learning Assessment (iPLA) Guide (<http://www.sunyempire.edu/degree-planning-academic-review/prior-learning-assessment/individualized-prior-learning-assessment/>). Both publications are available at your location and online on MySUNYEmpire (<http://my.sunyempire.edu/>). Additionally, the university provides an online degree program planning tool called DP Planner available through MySUNYEmpire to help you organize your degree program and submit it for review.

Degree Completion

When you have successfully completed your degree studies, your location staff will review all your academic records, and, when all is in order, forward a recommendation for degree conferral to the Office of the Registrar and Student Accounts. The registrar's staff performs a final review of your complete academic record, while Student Accounts performs a final review of your student financial account.

When the academic clearance is completed, the registrar assigns a degree award date. Although your degree will be awarded upon academic clearance, you will not be issued a diploma, transcript or degree verification letter until all outstanding financial obligations to the university have been met. You will receive an invitation to attend the next commencement ceremony.

Rates Of Degree Completion*

All Students

Entering Fall 2016 - 1880

Graduated by Fall 2022 - 935

Completion Rate - 49.73%

Part-Time

Entering Fall 2016 - 816

Graduated by Fall 2022 - 387

Completion Rate - 47.43%

Full-Time

Entering Fall 2016 - 1064

Graduated by Fall 2022 - 548

Completion Rate - 51.50%

*Within six years for bachelor's degree seeking students entering Empire State University during fall 2016.

Source of data: Decision Support Annual Retention Cube (Data Warehouse), fall 2016 new, matriculated, bachelor's degree seeking.