Tulane University’s
Distinguishing Characteristics

Tulane University is a highly-selective, privately-endowed, Carnegie Extensive research university, composed of 11 different academic divisions that offer students a breadth of academic courses of study both at the undergraduate, professional and graduate level. These divisions include the coordinate colleges Tulane and Newcomb, which form the core of the undergraduate Liberal Arts and Sciences enterprises; University College whose offerings include continuing education to professionals from the New Orleans area; the Graduate School; and the Schools of Engineering, Architecture, Social Work, Business, Law, Medicine, and Public Health and Tropical Medicine. The University has in addition many vibrant interdisciplinary programs and research centers that link together intellectually faculty from many of these different divisions within the University.

Academic Programs and Educational Philosophy

Tulane University offers undergraduates a rigorous course of study with both breadth and depth in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Business, as well as a wealth of graduate and professional opportunities reflected by the full spectrum of Schools and Colleges. Tulane’s educational principles encourage intellectual achievement, information literacy, ethical reasoning, recognition and appreciation of cultural and human differences, and preparation for future leadership responsibilities. To assist students take full advantage of all of the offerings of the curriculum, each college has a cadre of advisers who closely track each student’s individual progress and help them realize their academic potential. Each department also has faculty advisers who are available to provide detailed information about majors and course selection. Tulane recognizes the significant adjustment many students face in going from high school to college, and have developed learning communities to allow students to get to know faculty and one another in smaller classroom setting, making that transition easier. The learning communities’ topics are broad in scope, intellectually exciting, and enjoyable blending classroom learning with social events, co-curricular activities, and field trips.

Tulane’s faculty has extraordinary depth with internationally recognized researchers and teachers. Faculty from each of its colleges each year are recognized as leaders in their fields. Tulane’s breadth is highlighted in its research centers. Tulane has 20 research centers that offer interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses of research and learning, where students are exposed to ideas and faculty from many of the different schools and divisions that make up the University. These include the Center for Computational Science, The Murphy Center for Political Economy, the Deep South Regional Humanities Center and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies that take advantage of Tulane’s unique geographical location, to name just a few.

A Research Faculty Committed to Undergraduates

Tulane students experience the benefits of a faculty deeply committed to excellence in undergraduate education, with the scholarly opportunities afforded only by a research extensive institution. The faculty and resulting intellectual environment is one that can only re-
Research Opportunities for Undergraduates
Tulane undergraduate students are presented with a diverse range of possibilities for study and learning that prepare them for graduate and professional school or their chosen career after graduation. While at Tulane, the presence of a research active faculty offers undergraduates the opportunity to participate in research projects with the faculty in all of the represented colleges, school, and disciplines. Students develop critical collaborative skills in such situations. University fellowships allow students to continue research projects over the summer and to attend professional meetings for example.

Nationally Recognized Student Body
Tulane is able to attract and accept a truly outstanding undergraduate student body, whose members enjoy success at and after Tulane. Tulane students have also had significant success in prestigious nationally competitive fellowships and scholarships. During the 1980s and early 1990s, Tulane has ranked in the top ten in the number of Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships awarded. The alumni body of the University is one of merit that would be the envy of most colleges or universities in the United States.

These fundamental defining characteristics situate the University within a small group of some 62 comparable institutions (universities in the Association of American Universities, or AAU). Within that group, Tulane is further celebrated by the following, which set it apart from other institutions and, in aggregate, make for a university of tremendous potential appeal to prospective students.

Intimacy of Scale and a Diversity of Academic Options
Tulane University is a comparatively small institution with a total student enrollment of about only about 12,000, which makes it smaller than most American universities. Of the University’s 11 academic divisions, none has an enrollment of more than 2000 students, and some are as small as a few hundred. Students enrolled in the University’s different schools and colleges therefore enjoy the intimacies typically associated with small colleges (the personal attention, the accessibility of the faculty, the sense of community, the opportunity to identify closely with one’s school or college), combined with the wide range of academic offerings and robust research infrastructure (libraries, laboratories, and so on) customarily associated with great universities.

The relatively small size of the Tulane Graduate School, for example, has benefits for undergraduates and graduate students alike. For students in all undergraduate schools and colleges, the presence of Tulane’s distinguished graduate and professional schools affords opportunities for research experiences with faculty as well access to combined programs of study, where students may complete both the baccalaureate and either the M.B.A. or the J.D. degrees for example. Moreover, students with the baccalaureate degree from Tulane are disproportionately highly represented amongst entering students at Tulane’s Schools of Law and Medicine. All other credentials being equal, a Tulane undergraduate degree is an advantage in the admission process at well-known schools of Business, Law, and Medicine.

result from the comprehensive mix of undergraduate, graduate, and professional divisions.
including Tulane University’s own schools.

Cross-divisional initiatives thus exist horizontally (between units at the undergraduate level) and vertically (between undergraduate and graduate divisions), initiatives of the sort that would be impossible outside the context of a university with a multiplicity of academic divisions. Each division’s curriculum enriches the others’ offerings, simply by virtue of their coexistence. These include the opportunity for degrees with majors and minors from different schools. Self-designed majors that combine elements of different areas of study, and interdisciplinary programs, also illustrate the flexibility of Tulane’s curriculum, which values breadth and depth of learning.

**The Coordinate College System**
In league with only seven other institutions in the United States, Tulane University supports a model of co-education known as coordinate education where there are separate and parallel colleges for men (Tulane College) and women (Newcomb College) who enter the university to study the Liberal Arts and Sciences. Undergraduates studying Engineering, Business, and Architecture are enrolled in separate co-educational schools.

The University as a whole, as well as the undergraduate liberal arts and sciences enterprises, is fully coeducational. A single Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences serves both Newcomb and Tulane Colleges, which subscribe to an identical curriculum. Nonetheless, the fact that men officially enroll at Tulane College and women at Newcomb College, along with the separate and parallel services, programs, and co-curricular opportunities supported by the two colleges, ensures sensitivity to issues of particular interest to men as well as to women.

Newcomb offers programs that support women’s academic success and achievement, including fostering leadership roles inside and outside the college. Tulane College supports programs that afford men the opportunity to apply and exercise the intellectual skills acquired in the undergraduate classroom (term-time and summer research, internships, and so on), and thus responds to an abundance of recent evidence that suggests an unusual interest among young men in the professional outcomes and lifelong vocational benefits of liberal learning. Each college celebrates its own history and traditions and the achievements of its students and alumnae, and provides students with a sense of collegiate intimacy within the larger University.

**A Distinguished University**
Tulane is a well-known, highly respected University that blends the opportunities and offerings of a research extensive university with a commitment to excellence in undergraduate education in a small college environment. The superb faculty, combined with its highly able student body and world-class facilities, the coordinate college system, the diversity of undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools, its intimacy of scale, and its many special and distinctive programs makes Tulane University intimate, distinctive, and exceptional.