

The Cooper Union was founded in 1859 in the East Village of Manhattan by inventor, industrialist, and social reformer, Peter Cooper. The Cooper Union is a top-ranked, all-honors college committed to making education fair and accessible to all. Every admitted undergraduate student is granted a half-tuition scholarship as well as need-based aid.

Comprised of three schools specializing in architecture, art, and engineering, The Cooper Union offers small, intimate classes organized around a culture of collaboration led by a faculty of teachers who are also leading practitioners in their fields. Throughout its history, Cooper has been a place where thinkers, builders, artists, activists, and dreamers have thrived and contributed to New York City and the world in large and small ways—being of this world and for this world.

Facts 2023–2024

891 Undergraduate Students

14% School of Architecture; 31% School of Art; 55% School of Engineering

82 Graduate Students

16% Master of Science in Architecture program; 84% Master of Engineering program

49% Male, 51% Female

9 to 1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio

12% Acceptance Rate*

4% School of Architecture; 8% School of Art; 23% School of Engineering

91% Students Returned for Sophomore Year

88% First-year Students Live on Campus

*Acceptance rate is based on the total number of completed Common Applications.

Undergraduate Students who are U.S. citizens and residents:

31% Asian; **7%** Black or African-American; **13%** Hispanic/Latino; **28%** White; **5%** Two or More Races; **4%** Unknown/Did Not Report a Specific Race or Ethnicity; and **12%** Nonresident Aliens/International Students

Rankings

#1 Best Value Schools

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#2 Best Regional Colleges (North)

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#8 Top Performers on Social Mobility

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#9 Best Undergraduate Engineering Program

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#9 Undergraduate Electrical / Electronic / Communications

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#11 Mechanical Engineering Program

—U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges, 2024

#3 of 736 Best Colleges for Art in America

—Niche, 2024

#11 of 161 Best Colleges for Architecture in America

—Niche, 2024

#17 of 968 Best Small Colleges in America

—Niche, 2024

#28 of 1,517 Most Diverse Colleges in America

—Niche, 2024

Top 20 Best Buy Colleges and Universities

—Fiske Guide to Colleges, 2024

Best Northeastern Colleges and Best Value Colleges (private schools)

—The Princeton Review Best Colleges, 2024

Ranked in the top 50 among the country's most selective schools for economic diversity

—New York Times, 2024

#1 Bachelor's College

—Washington Monthly, 2023

Top 30 Best Selective Colleges

—Money, 2022

Architecture

The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture offers a five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree and a post-professional Master of Science in Architecture degree. Students from all years of study work side by side in an open studio, exploring the essential skills of drawing, model-making, and design development along with both analytical and critical uses of digital technologies. Fluid discussion, rigorous critique, and research into the social and environmental implications of architecture as a cultural practice are all central components of the program and prepare students for their civic duty in the world.

Art

The School of Art offers a four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Students do not choose a major but instead begin their studies taking a year of foundational courses followed by course selections in drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, audiovisual, graphic design, sculpture, performance, and sound. Through critique, development of technical skills, and experimentation across a variety of disciplines and mediums, students form a strong intellectual grounding in history, theory, and criticism, graduating as well-rounded, creative practitioners working to transform society.

Engineering

The Albert Nerken School of Engineering offers Bachelor of Engineering degrees in chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering, a Bachelor of Science degree in general engineering, and a Master of Engineering degree. Small classes and project-based, experiential learning provide opportunities for students to enhance their education through research and collaboration with peers and faculty. The School of Engineering produces lifelong learners and active citizens who work within and across disciplines, lead and empower, and think and take action at Cooper and beyond.

Humanities and Social Sciences

All Cooper Union students take a four-semester core curriculum of required courses through the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in which they learn to think, write, and critically investigate their work and its impact on society. This liberal arts foundation provides an ethical, social, and humanistic framework crucial to intellectual flourishing and engaged citizenship.

Costs

Tuition: \$44,550

Half-Tuition Scholarship: \$22,275

(offered to every admitted undergraduate student)

