

# The Cooper Union

**ALWAYS  
VISIONARY**

# ALWAYS VISIONARY



**Peter Cooper**

Inventor, industrialist, philanthropist, social reformer, and founder of The Cooper Union

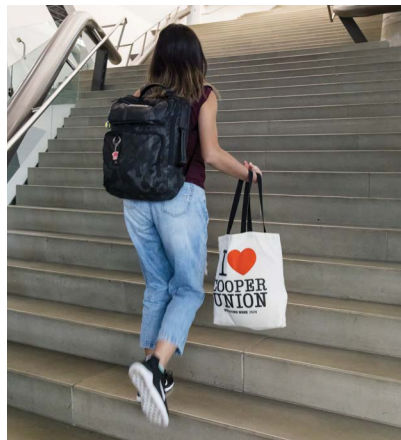
The Cooper Union was founded in 1859 based on a visionary belief ahead of its time: the belief that a world-class education should be accessible to all members of society.



Today, The Cooper Union is a top-ranked, all-honors college comprised of three schools specializing in architecture, art, and engineering. Committed to making education fair and accessible, Cooper awards every admitted undergraduate student a half-tuition scholarship valued at **\$22,275\*** per school year, and need- and merit-based aid if eligible.

Honoring Peter Cooper's belief that creating educational opportunity is a benefit to society, our mission is to ensure that no student is deterred from attending The Cooper Union based on their financial circumstances.

\*Value of the scholarship as of the August, 2025 print date



# VOTE



## A Bastion of Free Speech

The Cooper Union campus was the site of the Tenth National Women's Rights Convention on May 10 and 11, 1860.

From the beginning, Cooper has shaped American history, providing a platform for labor movements, civil rights activists, social reformers, and U.S. presidents from Lincoln to Obama.



THE VISION TO BUILD

# The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture



The five-year, studio-based curriculum asks students to engage in research and debate the role of architecture as a cultural practice with deep societal and environmental implications.



Architecture education at The Cooper Union is grounded in the belief that exercising individual creativity is a profoundly social act. Students from all years of study work side-by-side within an open studio, exploring the essential skills of drawing, model-making, and design development, along with analytical and critical uses of digital technologies.

This five-year program emphasizes studio work as an experimental space where students investigate the theoretical, historical, and social dimensions of architecture through their design and research. Open discussion and rigorous critique are central teaching components and help prepare students for their civic duty in the world.



THE VISION TO CREATE

# School of Art



COOPER

UNION

Logo provided by  
The Herb Lubalin Study  
Center of Design  
and Typography  
in the School of Art.

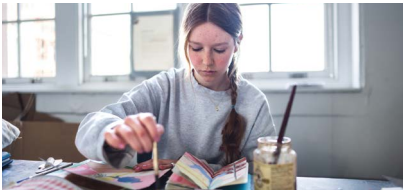
Students do not choose a major but instead begin their studies taking a year of foundational courses. Upon completion, they are offered courses in multiple disciplines, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, film/video, graphic design, performance, and sculpture.



Faculty and students in the School of Art can regularly be found in critiques, discussing and exchanging ideas that connect their practices to debates in art, history, and politics. Through a year-long foundational curriculum, students engage with different techniques, mediums, and disciplines while taking courses that develop their critical thinking, writing skills, and theoretical knowledge.



This broad, inclusive approach to learning exposes students to different perspectives on art and the artist in the public sphere. Through critique, experimentation across a variety of disciplines, and a strong intellectual grounding in history, theory, and criticism, students graduate from Cooper as well-rounded creative practitioners working to transform society.





THE VISION TO INNOVATE

# The Albert Nerken School of Engineering



## The I-Beam

Peter Cooper invented an early version of the wrought iron I-beam. This beam created a new standard for construction, making it possible to build high-rises and skyscrapers that have since transformed skylines around the world.

Through mentorship from experts in chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering, as well as computer science, students build a strong foundation in their discipline and apply that knowledge to benefit society.



At The Cooper Union, an engineering education starts with the faculty's extraordinary commitment to teaching. Students are mentored by a diverse group of educators, active researchers, and accomplished engineering professionals who are all dedicated to solving problems for the benefit of society.

Small classes and project-based, experiential learning provide opportunities for students to enhance their education through research and collaboration with peers and faculty. Together, they pursue innovative and socially

responsible solutions to today's challenges, such as climate change, automation, alternative energy, artificial intelligence, and drug delivery. The School of Engineering produces lifelong learners and active citizens who endeavor to work across disciplines and take action, at Cooper and beyond.





THE VISION TO INTEGRATE

# Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Cooper does more than prepare students for a rewarding career. It transforms them into lifelong learners, capable of asking questions, acting, leading, and challenging assumptions.

A foundation in the liberal arts provides the ethical, social, and humanistic framework essential to a flourishing intellect. To foster critical understanding of their work and practices, students from all three of Cooper's schools take a core curriculum in the humanities and social sciences with the opportunity to pursue a minor.



All Cooper students take a core curriculum of humanities and social sciences courses in which they learn to think, write, and critically investigate their work and its impact on society.





THE VISION TO EXPLORE

# New York City Campus

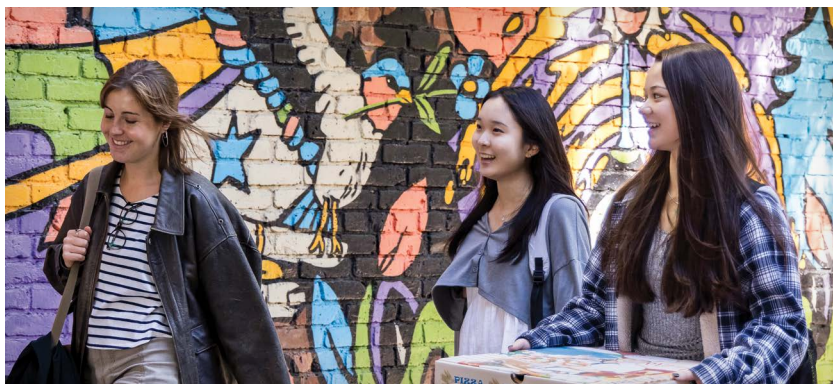
"I get inspired by one thing about New York, which is that it suggests everything is possible."

Milton Glaser A'51



You can study anywhere, but New York City is where you go to be an architect, an artist, an engineer. Our home is the vibrant and diverse East Village, the epicenter of experimental art movements, influential music scenes, and important social activism.

With access to world-class museums, galleries, architecture, cultural experiences, industry leaders, and startups, Cooper helps students navigate the city as an extension of their education—offering opportunities to build networks, engage with the community, and form professional relationships.



# NY, NY

Logo designed by Herb Lubalin A'39,  
commissioned by New York City.

# Applying & Affording Cooper

## Undergraduate Degrees

**Bachelor of Architecture**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**

**Bachelor of Engineering**

Majors: chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical  
(Students must declare an intended major on their application)

**Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**

The Cooper Union offers undergraduate minors in the humanities and social sciences to students in all three schools. In addition, minors in bioengineering, computer science, and mathematics are offered to School of Engineering students.

## Graduate Degrees

**Master of Engineering**

**Master of Science in Architecture**

## Student Life

Our Residence Hall offers apartment-style housing with preference given to first-year students. Through educational and recreational programming in the dormitory, students build a lasting community.

There are more than 80 student-run clubs and organizations with the open invitation to create more.

The Cooper Union Library provides research and academic support through its own collection, as well as various consortium agreements within New York City.

The Center for Career Development offers resources and organizes events to help students transition from the academic world to the professional world. Mock interviews with alumni volunteers, career fairs on campus, and career counseling are just a few ways the Career Center supports professional development.

## By the Numbers

For the academic year 2024–2025

**842 undergraduate students:**

15% in the School of Architecture; 31% in the School of Art; 54% in the School of Engineering

**78 graduate students:**

23% in the Master of Science in Architecture program; 77% in the Master of Engineering program

**51% Female, 46% Male, 3% Nonbinary**

**13% overall acceptance rate** based on the total number of completed Common Applications submitted

Undergraduate students who are U.S. Citizens and Residents: 31% are Asian, 7% are Black or African-American, 13% are Hispanic/Latino, 27% are White, 7% are Two or More Races, and 4% are Unknown; 11% of students are U.S. Nonresidents

**18%** First Generation

**8 to 1** student-to-faculty ratio

**92%** of students returned for sophomore year

**66%** of first-year students live on campus

**100%** tuition covered by scholarship or grant aid for 55% of students

**89%** of tuition was the average scholarship amount or grant aid received

**100%** of students received a minimum of 50% scholarship or grant aid

**27%** of our students are Pell Grant recipients

## Application Deadlines

*The Cooper Union seeks individuals who can engage with and enrich its community.*

### UNDERGRADUATE

#### Early Decision

Albert Nerken School of Engineering:  
November 1

Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture and School of Art: December 1

**Regular Decision:** January 5

### GRADUATE

Master of Science in Architecture: January 5

Master of Engineering: January 15

The Cooper Union uses the Common Application for first-year undergraduate applicants. Additional materials are required: **cooper.edu/admissions/applying-to-cu**. Graduate and transfer applicants apply through the Cooper Application. Apply at **connect.cooper.edu/portal/application-page!**

## Affording Cooper

Applicants will automatically be considered for additional merit-based scholarships. To be considered for need-based financial aid, students must submit the FAFSA (code: 002710).

The Cooper Union non-discrimination policy: **cooper.edu/admissions/applying-to-cu/nondiscriminatory-policy**

## Contact

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

Office of Enrollment  
41 Cooper Square  
New York, NY 10003

212-353-4120

**admissions@cooper.edu**  
**cooper.edu/admissions**

**Photo credits:** Ryan Brenizer, Kathryn Gamble, Herb Lubalin Study Center

Design: Cooper alumna / Augustus Saint-Gaudens Award recipient, Emily Oberman A&S, and her team at Pentagram



**“I have endeavored to  
remember that the object  
of life is to do good.”**

**—Peter Cooper**