

THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART



This is an **I-beam**.
You might not know
just by looking at it,
but this simple shape
changed everything.



Peter Cooper—inventor, industrialist, social reformer, and founder of The Cooper Union—was one of the first people to see the potential of this seemingly simple structure. Rolling large spans of wrought iron into an “I” was no easy task, but Cooper found a way because he knew that this innovation would literally lift up his city. This early version of the I-beam evolved into a new standard for construction, making it possible to build high-rises and skyscrapers that transformed city skylines around the world.

**SEEING THAT POTENTIAL—
THE WHAT-IF’S, THE EXPERIMENTATION AND DISCOVERY,
THE CREATION OF NEW APPROACHES AND SOLUTIONS
FOR DISCIPLINES AND PRACTICES—
THAT’S WHAT EDUCATION AT COOPER IS ALL ABOUT.**

The Cooper Union is a top-ranked, all-honors college committed to making education fair and accessible to all, granting every admitted undergraduate student a half-tuition scholarship valued at \$22,275 per year as well as need-based aid.



POTENTIAL TO BUILD : THE IRWIN S. CHANIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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 both analytical and critical uses of digital technologies.

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. Open discussion and rigorous critique are central teaching components and prepare students for their civic duty in the world.



"WE ARE NEVER GIVEN A BRIEF AND TOLD TO COME BACK WITH A BUILDING. THE UNIQUENESS OF COOPER COMES FROM A PRACTICE OF QUESTIONING BEFORE RESPONDING. NOT SIMPLY QUESTIONING THE BRIEF, BUT PAYING CLOSE MIND TO WHICH QUESTIONS WE ASK-QUESTIONING OUR QUESTIONS. WE ARE INGRAINED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NEUTRALITY IS OFTEN ILLUSORY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE UNSPOKEN AND IMPLICIT WAYS OUR PROJECTS INTERACT WITH THE WORLD. WE RESEARCH, DISCUSS, DEBATE, AND INVESTIGATE IN ORDER TO RECONSTITUTE THE BRIEFS WE BEGIN WITH."

—DOV AR'23
not pictured



POTENTIAL TO CREATE : SCHOOL OF ART

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. Students do not choose a major but instead begin their studies taking a year of foundational courses, after which, they are offered courses in multiple disciplines: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, film/video, graphic design, performance, and sound.

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



“DEFINITELY A CHAOTIC GOOD EXPERIENCE.
ALTHOUGH THE WORKLOAD AND STRESS
CAN BE A BIT OVERWHELMING AND
HAPHAZARD AT TIMES, HAVING A
COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FACULTY
TO HAVE MY BACK HAS KEPT ME GOING.”

—YEJI A'22
not pictured



POTENTIAL TO INNOVATE :
ALBERT NERKEN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

At Cooper, engineering education starts with the faculty's extraordinary commitment to teaching. Through mentorship from these experts in the fields of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering, students develop a strong foundation in the fundamentals of their discipline and apply that knowledge 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 great challenges, such as those related to climate change, automation, alternative energy, artificial intelligence, and drug delivery. The School of Engineering produces lifelong learners and active citizens who endeavor to work within and across disciplines, who lead and empower, who think and take action at Cooper and beyond.



“ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A LOT TO STUDY, THE SMALL SIZE OF COOPER MAKES IT EASIER TO STUDY WITH CLASSMATES AND DO RESEARCH WITH PROFESSORS. I’M EXCITED TO BE A PART OF AUTONOMY LAB AND THE IGVC SELF-DRIVE TEAM WHICH IS DEVELOPING A SELF-DRIVING CAR USING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNIQUES. I ALSO LEAD COOPER’S ROWING CLUB, WHICH IS A GREAT WAY TO UNWIND AFTER A LONG WEEK OF WORK!

—JONATHAN EE’23
not pictured

POTENTIAL TO QUESTION : FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

A Cooper education doesn't just prepare you for a rewarding career. A foundation in the liberal arts provides the ethical, social, and humanistic framework crucial to intellectual flourishing and engaged citizenship. It transforms you into a lifelong learner, capable of asking questions, acting, leading, and challenging assumptions in pursuit of a just and equitable world.

All students across Cooper's three professional schools 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.



POTENTIAL TO EXPLORE : NEW YORK CITY CAMPUS

You can study anywhere, but New York City is where you go to be an artist, an engineer, an architect. Our home is the vibrant and diverse East Village, the epicenter of experimental art movements, influential music scenes, and important social activism. Since its founding, Cooper has been a channel for ideas flowing through the city, and its historic Great Hall has stood as a public forum for bold voices and innovative thinkers.

With access to world-class museums, galleries, architecture, cultural experiences, and “Silicon Alley” tech companies and startups, Cooper helps students navigate the city as part of their education, providing opportunities to build networks, get involved in the community, and form professional relationships well before graduation.



About Cooper

THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND ENGINEERING.

The Cooper Union was founded on the fundamental belief that education should be accessible to all members of society without regard to gender, race, religion, or economic status. Today, regarded as one the most prestigious private institutions in the world, The Cooper Union has a public mission: to sustain itself as a free center of learning and civic discourse that inspires inventive, creative, and influential voices in architecture, art, and engineering to address the critical challenges and opportunities of our time. As part of its historic mission to provide fair access to education, the institution is committed to raising scholarship amounts over the course of the next decade with the eventual goal of eliminating tuition for all undergraduate students.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Engineering:
Majors: civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical
(You must declare your major in your application)
- Bachelor of Science: general engineering

The Cooper Union also offers undergraduate minors in Humanities and Social Sciences, bioengineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics to students in the School of Architecture and the School of Engineering.

GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Engineering
- Master of Science in Architecture

BY THE NUMBERS

For the 2019–2020 academic year:*

- 16% admission rate
- 844 undergraduate students: 54% engineering, 32% art, and 14% architecture
- 43 graduate students in the Maurice Kanbar Graduate Institute working toward the Master of Engineering and Master of Architecture
- 59% male, 41% female
- Of our undergraduate students: 24% Asian; 17% Black or Hispanic; 32% Caucasian, non-Latino; 4% multi-ethnic or other; 8% do not identify with a specific race or ethnicity
- 15% of undergraduate students are international; 46% from New York State (34% from New York City)
- 8 to 1 student-to-faculty ratio
- 93% of students returned for sophomore year

STUDENT LIFE

- Our Residence Hall offers apartment-style housing to about 170 Cooper students during a typical year, with preference given to first-year students. Through educational and recreational programming in the dormitory, students build a lasting community.
- The Cooper Union Library provides research and academic support to supplement the architecture, art, engineering, and humanities curricula through its own collection, as well as various consortia agreements within NYC.
- 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.

*Admissions data as of August 2020

Applying to The Cooper Union

THE COOPER UNION SEEKS INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN ENGAGE WITH AND ENRICH ITS COMMUNITY.

THE IRWIN S. CHANIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

If you are interested in the architecture program, you should build a strong foundation in the humanities and visual arts and challenge yourself in coursework that includes mathematics and science.

Applicants must submit a series of written and visual responses to a faculty-designed studio test, used in lieu of a portfolio submission for first-year applicants. No previous architecture experience is needed—just creativity, an open mind, and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

SCHOOL OF ART

As a prospective art student, you should draw from observation daily, keep a sketchbook, and explore new forms of making. Learn about the historical, political, and social contexts of works that interest you and familiarize yourself with contemporary art by visiting galleries and museums.

Applicants must submit written and visual responses to a faculty-designed hometest, in addition to a portfolio and sketchbook. Traditional academic measures may not show your best creative abilities, which is why The Cooper Union places emphasis on your talent, potential, and ideas in its admissions process.

ALBERT NERKEN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Strong applicants for admission have typically excelled academically and aim to use an engineering mindset to make a positive impression on the world around them. They have studied physics and calculus, and value community engagement and strong communication skills. In the writing supplement, applicants should highlight their skills, their passions, and the ways they hope to engage their environment through the engineering discipline.

LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLYING, [HERE](#)

Affording Cooper

The Cooper Union was founded on the principle of providing access to higher education regardless of race, creed, gender, or financial means. Every admitted student receives a half-tuition scholarship valued at \$22,275 per academic year. 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).

Please go [here](#) to find The Cooper Union's nondiscrimination policy.

Join our [mailing list](#)
Join us for an [event or tour](#)
Take a self-guided virtual tour



Application Deadlines

2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

UNDERGRADUATE

EARLY DECISION

Albert School of Engineering: November 1

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

REGULAR DECISION All three schools: January 5


GRADUATE

Master of Science in Architecture: January 5

Master of Engineering: February 15



 **Foundation Building**
7 East 7th St.

 **41 Cooper Sq.**

 **Student Residence Hall**
29 3rd Ave.

 **30 Cooper Sq.**

 **Astor Place Station**
6 Train

 **8th St. Station**
R/W Trains

 **Parking**



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