

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

COMMITMENT TO
DELAWAREANS



helping our students prepare for college



Dear Delaware Parent:

Parents often ask, "How can I help my child prepare for college?" The University of Delaware has designed the *UD Commitment to Delawareans* to answer that question. It gives you a "road map" that shows you what courses students should take in high school if they want to be prepared for college.

Taking rigorous academic courses and doing well in them are the most important ways to prepare for college. The *UD Commitment to Delawareans* is a balanced curriculum of 20 full-year academic courses in English, mathematics, laboratory science, foreign languages, history, and social studies. It shows the courses, the levels, and the grades necessary – from the beginning of high school through graduation – that will give your child the best chance of being admitted to the University of Delaware (and to most other colleges and universities).

National studies and our own research tell us that students who do well in these courses have the best chance of succeeding in college. The *UD Commitment to Delawareans* is more rigorous than the University's current minimum requirements for admission. There is a reason for this. We are looking towards the future, and by the time a current middle schooler in Delaware enters the University, it is probable that the requirements for success will be even more demanding than they are today. You will be pleased to know that in developing this "road map," the University has worked closely with school districts and other education professionals throughout our state.

Delawareans come first in UD admissions. If your child takes the classes we recommend and does well in them, then your child can be confident of success in college and confident that there will be a place for him or her at the University of Delaware. What is more, the University will also do all that it can to meet demonstrated financial need so that a University of Delaware education is affordable.

I hope that the *UD Commitment to Delawareans* will help you advise your child on how to prepare for college. The UD Admissions staff is looking forward to answering your questions. You may reach them at 302-831-8125 or at admissions@udel.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Rich".

Dan Rich
Provost

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT TO DELAWAREANS?

Think of the *Commitment to Delawareans* as an academic roadmap. Its goal is to show you the courses you must complete and the level of performance you must achieve in them if you want to be confident of gaining admission onto the Newark campus of the University of Delaware. If you follow what we have outlined, you can also be confident that we will meet your demonstrated financial need up to full, in-state tuition with a combination of grants, loans, and/or college work-study.

Is this a guarantee of admission?

It is as close to a “guarantee” as we can make it. While no university can guarantee admission until a student has submitted a complete application, we can lay out what you need to do in grades 9 through 12 if you want to give yourself the best chance of being admitted. Our intention is to help students, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors answer the question, “How can students best prepare themselves for admission into the University of Delaware?”



Biology & Physical Science
Students at Caesar Rodney
High School

How does the *Commitment to Delawareans* differ from the University's published requirements for admission?

Our published requirements spell out only the *minimum* number of college preparatory courses students must complete to be *considered* for admission. For some students, meeting only these minimum requirements will not be enough to assure them of admission. Whether they actually get admitted to UD – and whether that admission is into a four-year degree program or to a two-year, Associate in Arts program – will still depend on such factors as their grades, their test scores, and the rigor of the courses they have selected. In addition to high school performance, the Admissions Committee takes



Ms. Hudson's Art Class at Beacon Middle School

Mr. Browne's 4th Period Honors
Algebra Class at A.I. du Pont
Middle School



many factors into consideration when evaluating an applicant, including (but not limited to) letters of recommendation, a well-written essay, and extracurricular and community involvement.

Following the guidelines set forth in the *Commitment to Delawareans*, however, puts you on track for admission to the Newark campus into a four-year degree program. It also ensures that, once you do enroll, you will be among our best prepared students.

In short, the *Commitment to Delawareans* lays out a balanced curriculum of breadth and challenge in English, mathematics, laboratory science, foreign languages, and history and social studies. It is not only a roadmap for admission into an affordable education at the University of Delaware; it is also a curriculum to set you on the path to excellence as a University of Delaware student.

The *Commitment to Delawareans*

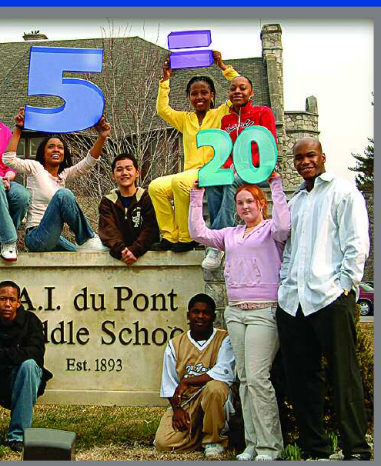
The residents of our home state have always enjoyed a special relationship with the University of Delaware. That is why we offer admission to every Delawarean applicant who demonstrates the ability to succeed at the University.

The most important predictor of academic success is the rigor of your course selection in high school. Next are the grades that you earn in rigorous, academic classes. Knowing that, we have developed a path that will show Delaware residents how they can best prepare themselves for admission into the University of Delaware.

The requirements that follow are not our minimum requirements for admission. Rather, they are more stringent than the ones we set forth in our admissions publications. Rest assured that, even if you fall short of meeting them, you may still be admitted into the University of Delaware. However, if you want to be confident of being admitted, here is a plan you can follow that will lead to a place in our freshman class.



Sra. Keenan's Spanish Language Class
at St. Mark's High School



Specifically, we make this commitment:

- If you meet all of the requirements specified in the chart to the right, then you can be confident of being admitted onto the Newark campus of the University of Delaware.
- Further, if you file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the University will meet your full, demonstrated financial need up to full, in-state tuition with a combination of grants, loans, and/or college work-study. The University will also attempt to meet your room and board costs as financial aid resources permit.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. You must complete at least 20 full year academic courses between grades 9 through 12, and at least 5 of those units must be completed during your senior year.
2. The level of these courses must be at least college preparatory or higher. If your school denotes its course levels with “phases” (with 5 as the highest) then these must be phase 3, 4 or 5 level courses.
3. At least 2 of these 20 academic courses must be at a level that is higher than college preparatory – for example, “honors,” “accelerated,” “enriched,” “Advanced Placement,” “International Baccalaureate,” “Academic Challenge.” If your school uses course “phases” (with 5 as the highest), then courses denoted as phase 4 or phase 5 would meet this requirement.
4. Among these 20 full year academic courses, no grade may be below a B- (or the equivalent of a B- according to your school’s grading scale) and your overall cumulative GPA in these academic courses must be at least a B+ or higher.
5. You must have a record of good conduct in your school and in your community. Students who have been expelled from school, have received suspensions for serious infractions, or have been convicted or adjudicated by the courts of crimes are not eligible.
6. You must be a resident of the State of Delaware and qualify for in-state tuition at the University of Delaware. Your application must be complete by our application deadline, and you must enter the University of Delaware as a freshman for the fall or spring semester immediately following your high school graduation.
7. You must graduate with a high school diploma from a regionally accredited high school. (We will gladly consider home-schooled students on a case-by-case basis.)
8. Finally, your 20 academic courses must include the following as specified below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS*

Course	Years Required	Level
English	4 years	At least college preparatory
Mathematics	4 years	At least college preparatory drawn only from algebra I, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability, precalculus, and calculus or an equivalent integrated math sequence that incorporates the above
Science	4 years	At least college preparatory; at least 3 of the 4 years must be drawn only from chemistry, biology, and physics and all 3 must include a laboratory; alternatively, you may complete 3 years of an approved integrated science curriculum
Foreign Language	3 years of the same foreign language	At least college preparatory and all 3 years must be completed during 9-12 grades
History	2 years	At least college preparatory, including one course in world history
Social Studies	2 years	At least college preparatory and drawn from psychology, political science, government, geography, economics, or sociology; a year of college preparatory science may be substituted for one of the social studies courses
Elective	1 year	At least college preparatory

** The University of Delaware Admissions Office will be working with each high school in our state to identify which of their courses we will count as college preparatory or higher.*

**Check us out at
www.udel.edu/commitment**

*Students in the Benjamin Franklin
Information Center at Sussex Technical
High School*



*7th & 8th graders in the Cafeteria at
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School*

**For a spanish version of this brochure, please go to
www.udel.edu/compromiso**

**Para una versión en español de
este folleto, vaya por favor a
www.udel.edu/compromiso**

The University of Delaware is committed to assuring equal opportunity to all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status, age or disability in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment practices as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, other applicable statutes and University policy. Inquiries concerning these statutes and information regarding campus accessibility should be referred to the Affirmative Action officer, 305 HULLIHEN HALL, (302) 831-2835 (voice), (302) 831-4563 (TDD).

University of Delaware
Office of Admissions
Newark, DE 19716

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