

FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) Info Guide

Basic Information

- Located in New York City, NY
- Public College
- 8,508 enrolled undergraduates, about 20 students per class, 16:1 student to faculty ratio
- Average in-state tuition of \$6,110 and an average out of state tuition of \$16,490
- The acceptance rate is around 54 percent, making FIT fairly selective
- Founded in 1944
- Alumni median starting salary of \$50,600
- 82% female students and 18% male students
- 80% of students live off-campus

Academics

Undergraduate Majors

- Advertising and Digital Design
- Advertising and Marketing Communications
- Animation, Interactive Media and Game Design
- Art History and Museum Professions
- Communication Design
- Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing
- Direct and Interactive Marketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Fabric Styling
- Fashion Design
- Fashion Business Management
- Film and Media
- Fine Arts
- Footwear and Accessories Design
- Graphic Design
- Home Products Development

- Illustration
- Interior Design
- International Trade and Marketing for the Fashion Industries
- Jewelry Design
- Menswear
- Packaging Design
- Photography
- Production Management: Fashion and Related Industries
- Technical Design
- Textile Development and Marketing
- Textile/Surface Design
- Toy Design
- Visual Presentation and Exhibition Design

Graduate Majors

- Art Market Studies
- Exhibition and Experience Design
- Fashion and Textile Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice
- Fashion Design
- Illustration
- Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management
- Global Fashion Management

Class Locations

- The Marvin Feldman and Business and Liberal Arts centers house specialized classes in sewing, design, foreign language, knitting, and fabric sourcing
- The Peter G. Scotese Computer-Aided Design And Communications Center allows for students to learn about animation, fashion, advertising, photography, toys, textiles, product management, and patternmaking

- David Dubinsky Student Center is home to academic and extracurricular opportunities with lounges, art studios, student-run boutique, student government offices, dance studios, and gyms
- Gladys Marcus Library offers research and learning opportunities through its wide array of reading resources
- The Museum of FIT displays over 50,00 pieces for viewing and analysis

Core Curriculum

To achieve a bachelor's degree at FIT, ten classes (30 credits) of General Education courses are required. This includes

- a course in each of the following areas: Basic Communication (G1), Mathematics (G2), and Natural Science (G3)
- Four courses from four different areas: Social Sciences (G4), Western Civilization (G5), The Arts (G6), Humanities (G7), Foreign Language (G8), Other World Civilizations (G9), and American History (G10).
- Another three previously not taken courses in any of the listed ten areas.

Student Life

Clubs

FIT oversees over 60 student clubs open to all degree-seeking students. All clubs recognized by the college have access to campus resources, and students can take steps to establish their clubs and organization under the school's guidance. FIT club offerings include:

- Ethics and Sustainability Club
- Fashion Art and Design Club
- Accessories Design Club
- Entrepreneurship Club
- Film Club
- Geek Culture Club
- Theater Club

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

FIT hosts a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter, an international honor society for associate degree students. PTK membership grants students access to academic and social activity, community service and scholarship opportunities, and honor stoles which can be worn at graduation. Students that have completed at least 18 credits towards their associate's degrees and have a GPA of or over 3.5 are eligible to join. Over 100 new members were inducted in May 2021.

Student Government Association

FIT's Student Government Association upholds the rights of students and has representation across the college. The student government is made of the Student Council and the Board of Directors and Communications Committee. The members are elected by the student body and in 2021 the association is made of over 20 senators, secretaries, directors, presidents, and chiefs. The student government is present on social media and their activity in 2021 includes

- Voting on the collection of student activity fees
- Holding a student election
- Sharing a design contest for the school
- Hosting a senior fine art exhibit
- Managing the student club and organization fund
- Celebrating Pride Month and Black History Month

Student Volunteer Community Services (SVCS)

Interested students can seek volunteer opportunities through Student Volunteer Community Services. Volunteers can provide work to the fashion industry and the community. Organizations that offer opportunities through SCVS include

- The Children's Hope Foundation
- United Cerebral Palsy Foundation
- 7th on Sixth Productions
- CFDA fashion shows
- Toys for Tots

Publications and Media

- WFIT, a student-run broadcasting club, plays on cable channels 86 and 87. The sponsored club televises campus events and student productions. WFIT is open to all students to gain experience in the area of broadcasting.
- W27, the school's newspaper, is run by students and published monthly and distributed to students for free. The paper's content includes college issues, entertainment, NYC news, national news, and other topics of student interest.
- Blush Magazine is a FIT magazine that gives insight to the school's students on the beauty industry and related beauty topics.

Student Opportunity

Career and Internship Center

FIT's Career and Internship Center is a two-credit academic program that allows students to develop competitiveness and networking skills. The classroom portion of the program encourages students to utilize their work experiences and teaches them to market themselves. The internship portion of the program gives students direct work experience allowing students to develop their career skills.

Presidential Scholars Program

The Presidential Scholars Program is the honors program of FIT which offers a rich learning environment and a more challenging college experience to high achieving students. The program's activities and highlights include

- A freshman retreat every fall
- Community service opportunities like working in soup kitchens and public gardening
- Honors liberal art classes including Shakespeare, Film Art/Film Critic, and Contemporary Chinese Cinema
- Extracurricular activities like neighborhood tours and Broadway shows
- Senior seminars providing students the chance to explore topics of their choosing
- An annual merit stipend of \$1000 and various annual scholarship opportunities

Studying Abroad

FIT offers students several opportunities to study abroad.

- Fashion design majors can pursue their Associates in Florence, Italy during their first year, second year, or third semester
- Fashion business majors pursuing their Bachelors can study in Florence, Italy during their third year, fifth semester, or sixth semester
- All students can take liberal arts courses in Florence, Italy during one of their spring semesters
- Fashion business majors pursuing their Bachelors can study in Milan, Italy during their third year, fifth semester, sixth semester, or entire fourth year

Credited international internships are offered to students.

- Current FIT faculty-led internships are marketing internship in London for four credits and a marketing internship in Shanghai for three credits
- Artbound Initiative Internships (ABI) in partnership with over 150 companies offers personalized two to three-month internships in Berlin, Hong Kong, Sydney, and Melbourne in various areas
- Global Experiences Internships (GE) offers international internships to FIT students through their development program for credit. Internships are offered in Spain, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, France, and Germany

Athletics

FIT offers several opportunities for its students to participate in team sports.

- Cross Country
- Women's Soccer
- Women's Tennis
- Women's Volleyball
- Dance Company
- Swimming & Diving
- Table Tennis
- Men's Tennis
- Track & Field

Fall 2021, FIT plans to offer its students several free fitness courses.

- Boot Camp

- Cardio Express
- Cardio Kickboxing
- Every Body Blast
- Meditation
- Pilates
- Pound
- Sculpt & Burn
- Self Defense
- Six Pack Attack
- Spin
- Yoga

Housing

On-Campus

The school has four residential halls for student housing.

- Coed Hall, Nagler Hall, and Alumni Hall on 27th street host around 1100 students
- Kaufman Hall on 31st street hosts around 1100 students

Each hall has certain housing styles and prices (prices subject to change).

- The coed hall offers single traditional-style rooms available in the fall for \$6,615 a semester and double traditional-style rooms for \$5,342.50 a semester.
- Nagler Hall offers single traditional-style rooms available in the fall for \$6329 a semester, double traditional style rooms for \$5113.50 a semester, and single apartments for \$11,811 a semester.
- The Alumni hall offers three and four-person apartments. Double bedrooms are \$7,460.50 a semester and single bedrooms in a shared apartment are \$9,262 a semester.
- Kaufman hall offers 1 and 2 person apartments. Double apartments are \$8,033 a semester, single bedrooms in a shared apartment are available only in the fall for \$9210 a semester, and single apartments are available for \$11,743.50 a semester.

There are specific regulations and rules residents on campus must follow.

- All students living on campus are required to move in on certain dates.
- No visitors are allowed to stay overnight during move-in week or closing and exam weeks.

- Residents and visitors aren't allowed to arrive at the residential halls after eleven PM and are urged to seek other housing for that night.
- Resident Student College Identification Cards are issued and must be carried at all times.
- A handbook covers all policies and rules which residents must follow.

Off-Campus

FIT offers advice and assistance in securing off-campus housing in the five boroughs of NYC.

- Acquiring housing in the city is generally competitive and expensive.
- FIT students are given exclusive access to off-campus housing listings.
- The majority of city housing is offered in apartments and townhouses.
- Off-campus students sharing apartments as roommates is very common and practical.
- Housing in New Jersey, a state directly near New York, is recommended for cheaper rent.

Food

On-Campus

FIT offers food for students through a meal plan system. There are three meal plans,

- 265 block plan, includes a \$400 declining balance for the year and costs \$2,530.50 a semester
- 185 block plan, includes an 890 declining balance for the year and costs \$2,300 a semester
- 75 block plan, includes a 900 declining balance for the year and costs \$1,398 a semester

Meal plans are a requirement for all FIT students.

- Students staying in on-campus rooms must have at least the 185 plan
- Students staying in on-campus apartments must have at least the 75 plan
- All the other students must have a declining balance of at least \$250 every semester

Food is offered to students in three different areas on West 27th street.

- Dubinsky Dining Hall (Due to the pandemic, temporarily this is the only area where meal plans may be used as of June 2021)
- Starbucks
- FIT Express in the Marvin Feldman Center

There are certain regulations and details about the meal plans.

- Declining balances, or what FIT calls “Tiger Bucks”, can be used to purchase snacks, drinks, and sometimes even full meals on campus like a debit card.
- Meal swipes come with each meal plan. Every swipe gets a student an entree, aside, a drink and a piece of fruit or a cookie. Students can use up to four swipes a day and can use as many of these four swipes at a time when visiting the dining hall.

The Dubinsky Dining Hall offers students a variety of food and snacks, including

- Grab n go salads
- Sushi
- Fruits
- Sandwiches
- Pastries
- Burgers
- Deli creations
- All-day breakfasts

Off-Campus

New York City offers an extremely wide variety of restaurants, grocery stores, and delis to purchase snacks, meals, and ingredients. The area around FIT alone includes

- Coffee shops
- Gristedes supermarket
- Mcdonalds
- Kame, ramen restaurant
- Chipotle
- Whole Foods
- Milk Bar, dessert shop
- Scarpetta, Italian restaurant

Surrounding Area

FIT is located in downtown Manhattan on West 27th street.

1. The area is lively, loud and typically crowded
2. Near Chelsea, Hudson Yards, Koreatown, Penn Station, the Empire State Building, Madison Square Garden, and the Flatiron District
3. A great selection of dining and shopping establishments are in direct walking distance from the school
4. Public transportations, subway trains, and MTA buses are nearby
5. The city weather changes throughout the season, from around 20 to 30 degrees in the winter and high 80s and 90s in the summer
6. Transportation to New Jersey, Long Island, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island are nearby and accessible

New York City is a staple area in the fashion industry, creating more opportunities for students in their chosen fashion fields

Walking will be one of the most practical ways of transportation, needing to take long walks daily is very common

7. Taxis and rideshares like Uber and Lyft are a bit pricier, but typically the most comfortable way to travel longer distances

Applications

Want to apply to FIT? Here are the basics.

- Before applying, it is recommended you decide your intended major using the FIT site as you must select a major on your application
- The first step is to complete the SUNY application online and wait for 7 to 10 days for an email response from FIT
- You are then required to submit an essay under 750 words touching on why you're the right person for FIT, why you are interested in your intended major, and your experiences and achievements
- You must include your high school/secondary school transcript
- AP and CLEP scores and any IB certificates or diplomas should be provided
- If you're applying to FIT's School of Art and Design an art portfolio is required

- SAT and ACT scores are not required, but if submitted they will be used to determine placement in FIT English and math classes
- In general, at least strong B averages are considered
- No interviews
- The fall admission deadline is in January

Unique Features and Strengths

FIT offers a unique college experience.

- Students coming from high school begin taking a two-year associate's degree program, then they can apply to pursue a two-year bachelors or a masters degree
- There are no undecided or double majors like most colleges
- All students are pursuing careers in art fields
- Opportunities to study in several places across the world are provided
- Students can dorm in unique apartment-style dorms and can rent single dorms

FIT has many great qualities and opportunities for its students.

- Commonly named the top fashion and fashion merchandising college in the United States
- One of the cheapest New York colleges for in-state tuition
- Notable alumni in the fashion industry including Calvin Klein, Micheal Kors, David Chu founder of Nautica, and Naomi Sims who is credited as the first African American supermodel
- Small class sizes for a more personal college experience
- Located in New York, a diverse and exciting city with great opportunities and experiences
- A school-wide commitment to diversity and anti-discrimination
- Various opportunities for real-world work experience before starting your career