

## Washington University in St. Louis, MO



Brookings Hall

Founded by T.S Elliot's grandfather in 1853, the university was originally known as Elliot's Seminary and was located in downtown St. Louis. It has since moved seven miles west of downtown St. Louis and currently abuts Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States, boasting 1,371 acres. The newly-expanded MetroLink light rail system, one of the best mass transit systems in the country, easily transports students around the city easily and quickly.

A top notch medium-sized school with more than 6,000 undergraduates, Washington University sits on a beautiful campus comprised of *Collegiate Gothic* buildings. "Housing is beautiful," contends a junior who further states that, "Freshman dorms are so posh." New buildings are being constructed to blend in with the older ones, utilizing the same architectural style.



South Forty, home to many undergraduate residence halls

Lack of instant name recognition is all that prevents it from being one of the most selective universities in the country. This can be a huge advantage to those students turned away by the Ivies. Applicants to the university must show they have challenged themselves academically and/or pursued a personal talent. The mid-50% of freshmen has a Critical Reading score of 680-750 on the SAT and a Math range of 710-780. On the ACT students most often score between 32 and 34 on the test. Ninety-six percent of students are ranked in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Over 23,000 applications are received, of which 22% are accepted. This low acceptance rate is maintained by favoring highly qualified Early Decision candidates.

Students applying may choose one of the following undergraduate schools: College of Arts & Sciences, Business School, School of Design & Visual Arts which houses the College of Architecture and College of Art, School of Engineering & Applied Science. Pre-professional advising is available for the following: Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Veterinary Medicine.



Olin Library

The university has created a learning environment characterized by intellectual challenge and academic excellence with intellectually curious students and teachers. The admission department contends, “It has a flexible, supportive attitude that invites exploration and individuality. And it’s an optimistic outlook that drives innovation and new opportunities. No matter what you study, where you live, or which activities you pursue, these elements pervade your Washington University experience.” What sets Washington University’s quality of teaching apart “is that undergraduates have access to one-on-one mentoring relationships with top faculty,” according to the [2011 Fiske Guide to Colleges](#).

Other colleges and universities that tend to overlap with Washington University, according to the Fiske Guide are Northwestern, Yale, Duke, Harvard, Stanford and University of Pennsylvania. Unigo.com and [Princeton Review's 373 Best Colleges](#) list Biology/Biological Sciences, Finance and Psychology as the most popular majors.



Duncker Hall, home to English Department

Tuition, room, board and fees for the 2010-2011 academic year average \$52,892. Additional costs for books and supplies vary with the course of study. With 40% of its students receiving financial aid, families must submit both the FAFSA and CSS PROFILE.

Well known alumni include Tennessee Williams, playwright; David Garroway, former host of NBC-TV’s *Today Show*; William H. Webster, former director of the FBI and CIA; Frank Gladney, founder of 7-Up; John F. McDonnell, former CEO of McDonnell Douglas; Clark Clifford, former Secretary of Defense; Earl Sutherland, Nobel Laureate in Medicine; and Harold Ramis, screenwriter famous for *Ghostbusters* and *Animal House*;