Brown University is a leading Ivy League institution and the only major research university in the nation where undergraduates are the architects of their own course of study. Brown is distinguished by its unique undergraduate academic program, a world-class faculty, outstanding graduate and medical students, and a tradition of innovative and rigorous multidisciplinary study.

The University’s mission—to serve the community, the nation, and the world by educating and preparing students (in the words of the College charter) to “discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation”—is fulfilled through a strong partnership of students and teachers.

The seventh oldest university in America, Brown was established in 1764 as Rhode Island College in the town of Warren, Rhode Island, and enrolled its first students in 1765. In 1770 the College moved to its present location, and in 1804 it was renamed Brown University to honor a $5,000 donation from local merchant Nicholas Brown. Today the University’s main campus covers nearly 140 acres on a historic residential hill overlooking downtown Providence, a vibrant city of some 170,000 people and the capital of Rhode Island.

Brown draws men and women from all over the United States and many other countries. Distinguished by their academic excellence, creativity, self-direction, leadership, and faculty known for its prize-winning multidisciplinary scholarship and dedication to teaching. By providing a rich undergraduate experience together with strong graduate and medical programs, the University fosters internal and external discovery at every level of the academic enterprise.

Brown is internationally known for its dynamic undergraduate curriculum, implemented by faculty vote in 1969. Undergraduates must pass 30 courses and complete the requirements for a concentration, or major, in order to receive a bachelor’s degree. The curriculum does not require distribution or core courses outside the concentration. More than 2,000 undergraduate courses support just under 80 concentrations, many of them interdisciplinary, and a wide variety of independent studies.

At the heart of the Brown curriculum are three basic principles: that students are active participants in learning; that acquiring analytical and critical skills is as important as mastering factual knowledge; and that learning requires opportunities for experimentation and cross-disciplinary synthesis.

The Graduate School at Brown is a national leader in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. In 2003, Brown celebrated the centennial of the Graduate Department, formally established in 1903 to confer advanced degrees.

The Warren Alpert Medical School, which awarded its first M.D. degrees in 1975, is renowned for innovation in medical education and for its programs in family medicine and primary care. The Warren Alpert Medical School now enrolls some 400 students, most of whom are accepted through Brown’s unique Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME), which combines undergraduate study with professional studies in medicine.

Beginning in 2002, fortified by vigorous leadership, prudent planning, and new ideas, the University launched an exciting program for academic enrichment to enlarge its faculty by 100 members over the next five to ten years, improve support for graduate students, and invest in libraries, information technology, and academic facilities. As part of this extensive program of improvements, the University instituted a need-blind undergraduate admission process to ensure all worthy applicants access to the University, regardless of their ability to pay.

Brown University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition, the Warren Alpert Medical School is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The School of Engineering has received accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for its bachelor of science programs in civil, chemical, electrical, materials, and mechanical engineering.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.