

Warren Wilson College

One of a kind in higher education

Warren Wilson College is distinctive among American colleges and universities. Our students do not simply study the liberal arts; they engage in them in ways students at most schools probably could not envision. Warren Wilson students work hard in the classroom and laboratory, in majors ranging from art to outdoor leadership. They also work hard on their campus work crews, with each student toiling 15 hours per week in jobs scattered across a picturesque 1,100-acre campus. And they work hard doing service to community – not only to meet the College’s 100-hour graduation requirement, but also in a heartfelt effort to make a difference well beyond Warren Wilson. This learning Triad of academics, work and service is singular in higher education.

Because of our students’ engagement in the Triad, the story of Warren Wilson is unlike that of any other college or university. It is the story of students who started, in the early 1980s, the first recycling operation in the most populous county in Western North Carolina; of students who have collectively, as a student body of about 900, worked more than 10,000 hours in Gulf Coast relief efforts since the Katrina catastrophe in August 2005; of students who have examined vital issues in an environmental studies program dating to the late 1970s; of students who not only study abroad, but who also work on behalf of economic and social justice in the communities they visit; of students heavily involved in the conception and planning of an EcoDorm that recently became the first building on a college campus to receive LEED Platinum certification in the category of Existing Buildings; and in the construction of the first building on a college campus in North Carolina to achieve LEED Gold certification. It is the inspiring story of a small, resourceful College with a rich history, with much yet to be written.

A brief history of our College . . .

The College was founded by the Presbyterian Church in 1894 as the Asheville Farm School, in order to provide formal schooling for mountain boys. The institution evolved over the years, eventually becoming a four-year liberal arts college in 1967. A student work program has been an integral part of the school since its founding. Today the College maintains a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and with several presbyteries of the church.

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science
Master of Fine Arts in Writing
Undergraduate majors in 21 fields

Freshman Profile

SAT average: 1169
ACT average: 24.7
Average High School GPA: 3.45
Percent from North Carolina: 18

General Stats

Student/Faculty Ratio: 12:1
Students Receiving Financial Aid: 80%
College Endowment: \$40 million

Costs for 2010-11

Tuition and Fees	\$25,626
Room and Board	\$8,028
Minus Work Program Compensation	-\$3,480
Actual Cost	\$30,174

Noteworthy...

- 93% of the College’s full-time faculty members hold the highest degrees in their fields.
- The College’s Office of International Programs offers students the opportunity to work, serve and learn abroad or in a cross-cultural setting, helping them see the Triad’s application in the global community.
- The College enrolled a record 950 undergraduate students for the Fall 2009 semester. Students came from 41 states and 16 countries.
- 64% of Warren Wilson graduates continue their education in graduate or professional school after receiving their bachelor’s degrees.
- Warren Wilson students have consistently won more N.C. Academy of Science awards for papers on their research than students at any other institution in the state.
- The percentage of graduates entering the Peace Corps over the years is among the highest in the nation.
- Warren Wilson received the Award for Excellence in International Education from the N.C. Association of International Educators.
- Warren Wilson’s Intercollegiate and Adventure Sports Program includes these teams: basketball, soccer, cross country, mountain biking and swimming. The mountain-biking team finished 2nd in the nation in Division II for five consecutive years. The College recently became a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).
- Six faculty members of the MFA Program for Writers have won Pulitzer Prizes for their writing, and eight have received the MacArthur Foundation “genius grants.”
- Warren Wilson is one of seven four-year work colleges in the United States, and one of only two that require each residential student to work 15 hours per week in a campus job. It is also the only work college to require service hours as a graduation requirement.

Warren Wilson College is

- ➔ the first college or university to have a LEED Platinum building—the EcoDorm—in the category of Existing Buildings under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.
- ➔ the first college or university in the Southeast to offset all of its energy use with renewable energy credits, or “green” power.
- ➔ the only school with fewer than 1,000 students on the list of [leading service-learning programs](#) in [U.S. News](#)’ “America’s Best Colleges 2008.”
- ➔ #1 in the Southeast on [Outside Magazine](#)’s list of “40 schools that turn out smart grads with top-notch academic credentials, a healthy environmental ethos, and an A+ sense of adventure.”
- ➔ #1 in the National Wildlife Federation report “Campus Environment 2008” as the “[Leading School for Waste Reduction and Recycling](#).”
- ➔ the first college, in the early 1960s, to make [service-learning a graduation requirement](#).
- ➔ the first college or university in North Carolina to have a LEED Gold Certified Building (the Orr Cottage).
- ➔ the Southeast’s “[Greenest College](#),” selected by [Blue Ridge Outdoors](#) as part of the magazine’s Green Globe Awards.
- ➔ [2006 Conservation Farm Family of the Year](#) in the Mountain Region, chosen by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- ➔ winner of the national [2006 Campus Sustainability Achievement Award](#) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, in the category of four-year schools with fewer than 1,000 students.
- ➔ recipient of the [2006 N.C. Sustainability Award](#), in the Environmental Stewardship category, awarded by Sustainable North Carolina.
- ➔ first among N.C. independent colleges in signing a letter of intent for the [American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment](#).
- ➔ recipient of the [2008 Quality Forward Hall of Fame Award](#) for the Environmental Leadership Center’s involvement in INSULATE! (a program whose mission is to insulate homes for those below the poverty level), its role in teaching children, and reducing waste and energy use in the community.

Accolades in magazines and college guidebooks...

- [Kaplan Newsweek](#), in its Fall 2009 guide, featured Warren Wilson as one of “25 Colleges That Might Be Right for You.” The guide identified the College as a good choice for “Environmentalists Who Need to Get Their Hands Dirty,” noting that “the Warren Wilson Triad of work, academics, and service produces first-class scholars...”
- [The Fiske Guide to Colleges](#) chose Warren Wilson College as one of its 24 “Best Buys of 2010” among private colleges and universities nationwide, the fifth time since 2005 the guide has selected Warren Wilson for the distinction.
- In its first “MoJo Mini College Guide,” [Mother Jones](#) magazine named Warren Wilson as one of “Ten cool schools that will blow your mind, not your budget.”
- The 2010 edition of [U.S. News](#)’ “America’s Best Colleges” identifies Warren Wilson as one of its “A-Plus Schools for B Students.”
- For several years the College has been listed in [The Princeton Review](#) “The Best 371 Colleges.”
- Warren Wilson’s MFA Program for Writers is ranked among the top 20 of nearly 200 graduate creative writing programs nationwide by [U.S. News & World Report](#).
- Warren Wilson is one of only two schools in North Carolina to be listed in the “[Making a Difference College Guide](#),” drawing recognition for its holistic approach to education.
- [Blue Ridge Country](#) recognized Warren Wilson in a feature titled “The Future of Appalachia: 14 People and Places Making a Difference in the Region.”
- [TheDailyGreen.com](#), an online publication of Hearst Communications, placed Warren Wilson No. 2 on its list of “10 of the Greenest Colleges in America.”
- [The Atlantic Monthly](#) chose Warren Wilson’s MFA Program for Writers as one of the nation’s “Five Top Low-Residency M.F.A. Programs.” The College’s program, founded in 1976 and relocated here in 1981, was the nation’s first low-residency MFA program.



For More Information

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