



# Alvernia University

*Learn · Serve · Transform*

## WHY ALVERNIA?

U.S. News & World Report ranks Alvernia among 2020 best regional universities in the northeast.

## The Alvernia Advantage

**ALVERNIA** University was founded in 1958 by the Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Through its main campus in Reading and locations in Philadelphia and Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, the university serves 3,000 students of diverse backgrounds from around the country and the world.

Alvernia offers a unique blend of rigorous liberal arts core education for development of the mind, strong technical training in many high demand majors, experiential learning through study abroad, research and internship experiences, and engagement with the community through our Franciscan-based community service model. We call our model of transformational education the Alvernia Advantage, and we believe this style of education transforms students into ethical leaders with moral courage.

Alvernia offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and minors that are uniquely combined with a strong liberal arts foundation to develop critical thinking, communication and an understanding of human behavior.

Master's degrees are awarded in business administration, clinical counseling, education, leadership, nursing, occupational therapy, and social work. Alvernia offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, as well as Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs.

Alvernia University ranks in the top 100 among 2020 Best Regional Universities in the North by U.S. News & World Report, from the more than 1,500 colleges and universities in the northeast region of the U.S.

Alvernia has a longstanding commitment to helping students develop their innate talents, discover their passions and lead successful lives with deep meaning and purpose. Through experiential learning, students graduate well prepared for success in the workplace.

The Alvernia Advantage results in a superior track record of career placements and quality graduate school opportunities. 95% of our students are employed or enrolled in graduate programs within six months of graduation.

## Learning for real life

Alvernia offers you much more than degree programs. We help you develop the real-world skills to succeed after graduation and the heart to make a positive difference in your community. Here, you'll get the tools that will help you land your first job and succeed in whatever career path you choose.

To help navigate it all, we've created an Academic Success Center. It is the hub for student advising and the central resource center for real-world learning opportunities, major career exploration, academic support services and the first-year experience.

## Access to experience

An Alvernia education ensures that you'll have access to experiences that help you develop the broad knowledge and intellectual skills needed for a successful career and civic responsibility. Learn more about our students' experiences at **Alvernia.edu/success**.

**100%**  
**REAL-WORLD**  
**LEARNING**

Every Alvernia student is engaged in at least one form of real-world learning via internships, research work, practicums or service projects.

## ACADEMICS



## College of Professional Programs

Alvernia's College of Professional Programs offers a wide variety of career-focused majors for in-demand professions that prepare tomorrow's leaders in growing fields. As a student, you'll develop highly marketable skills that will allow you to thrive in the fast-paced world you'll encounter as a professional. You'll be exposed to real-world lessons that will support your growth as a broadly educated, lifelong learner, as well as a reflective professional and engaged global citizen.

## College of Arts & Sciences

The College of Arts & Sciences links learning with a strong liberal arts foundation, providing you with a well-rounded education that will give you the options you want in choosing your career. Core courses and majors in the sciences, humanities, social sciences and foreign languages open your mind to new ideas and ways of thinking.

## In-demand careers

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Alvernia's expanding healthcare and human service programs are catching the attention of many who are considering careers in these high-demand and fast-growing professions.

With established programs in nursing, occupational therapy and athletic training, Alvernia also offers an Associate of Science degree in partnership with Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, as well as majors in healthcare science and healthcare administration.

Our Doctor of Physical Therapy program offers the preferred credential for optimally preparing graduates to make significant contributions to the physical therapy profession. This program is a post-graduate doctoral degree that will take about three years to complete.

## HEALTHCARE

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

## Experience learning for life

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Discovering the real world has never been easier, thanks to Alvernia's popular approach to out-of-the-classroom experiential learning that offers students hands-on educational opportunities in nearly every area of study! It's an approach that delivers the practical know-how prized by employers, while allowing students to develop the essential skills needed to succeed in that all-important first job.

At Alvernia, you'll make your mark on the world—and you'll make a world of difference!

Experiential learning allows you to gain new skills and test your knowledge in real-life situations. You'll apply the fundamentals and techniques learned in the classroom, while gaining new insights to help solve the critical challenges facing today's organizations.



## Experts, advisors and mentors

Our professors are accomplished scholars, experts in their fields and supportive mentors who are committed foremost to their students' success. Outside the classroom, many regularly publish books and articles, present scholarly works at national and international conferences, and serve as experts to the news media.

Above all, our professors love to teach, and they thrive on your curiosity, enthusiasm for learning, and accomplishments in and out of the classroom. They spend time with you as instructors, advisors and mentors, and help you acquire the knowledge and skills you'll need after graduation.

## FACULTY



## SPIRITUAL LIFE



## Discover your spirit, develop your faith

Alvernia's Catholic heritage guides us to foster ethical leadership and service to others, while promoting civic engagement as a lifelong pursuit in every career and life path. Our Franciscan mission influences all that we do, from our curriculum and culture to what we teach and how we teach it.

Students' spiritual development is paramount, without regard to backgrounds and beliefs. Alvernia students learn to care about others and to be cognizant of social justice, human dignity and equality. We emphasize education of the whole person and encourage students to discover a sense of self and a strong work ethic so as to fully develop their unique gifts.

## Do well and do good

At Alvernia, service learning and volunteer opportunities abound. You'll be inspired to help those in need through community service activities that will expose you to environmental, cultural and social justice issues, as well as a variety of programs and activities.

Our service trips are popular with students who want to combine their desire to help those in need with an interest in exploring cultures different from their own. Recent trips have included travel to Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, New Orleans and Appalachia.

The Holleran Center for Community and Global Engagement identifies, cultivates and sustains strategic partnerships to strengthen both campus and community life. By making these community partnerships an essential part of the curriculum, the Holleran Center strives to foster the university mission and improve the quality of life in our community.

## SERVICE



## LEADERSHIP



## Developing ethical leaders

Alvernia aims to develop students' intellectual promise and also foster leadership potential with an emphasis on ethical and moral perspectives. Offering programs and initiatives that cultivate leadership development in students, coupled with real-world, hands-on learning, prepares students with the skills for which organizations are looking.

The O'Pake Institute for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship plays a pivotal role in educating students for participation in a global economy. The institute serves as a catalyst for educational and business expansion, including a student-centered business incubator in downtown Reading, which will provide experiential learning opportunities for students of all disciplines. This initiative will allow students to create, collaborate and lead while they provide hands-on support to new ventures and entrepreneurs in the community.

**100%**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**ENGAGEMENT**

All graduating Alvernia students participate in some form of community service activity. Alvernians volunteer for a combined 60,000 hours each year! (According to national research, community service is among the best means available to gain skills and experience needed to succeed on the job.)

## You're going to love it here

While you're here, you'll build your self-confidence as you learn to solve problems, make important decisions, and develop critical thinking and leadership skills. In between, you'll make friendships that will last a lifetime, and develop enduring relationships with faculty, students and alumni that you'll treasure forever.

You'll also have your share of just plain fun through involvement in a rich campus life that includes more than 55 clubs, intramural sports, research projects, academic societies and much more!

## A place you'll call home

Living on campus is an integral part of your life at Alvernia and our student housing is well known for offering spacious and clean accommodations. Students enjoy fully furnished rooms, basic cable service, Wi-Fi, free laundry facilities in each living space and more.

Alvernians also enjoy comfortable study lounges in each living area.

Alvernia offers more than five living facilities all ranging from traditional suite style dorms to apartment style residence halls.

## STUDENT LIFE



## ARTS & CULTURE



## Dance, art, lectures, concerts

For more than 50 years, Alvernia has been providing a dynamic environment for students and community members to experience arts and cultural events. Whether through student performances, visiting lecturers, featured faculty presentations or guest artists, the arts are alive at Alvernia!

For many of our students, the arts are an ideal venue to express themselves through theater performances, concerts and art exhibits.

In addition, our annual Lecture Series and Literary Festival feature world-class presenters who provide outstanding access to extraordinary learning experiences. These complement classroom activities and provide insights and perspectives from around the world. We invite everyone to participate in university events, theater performances and lectures hosted throughout the year.

Francis Hall's Theatre & Recital Hall provides a first-class venue for many arts performances and cultural events, and remains the historical landmark of the university.

## A proud tradition

Alvernia has a reputation for winning athletic teams and a fired-up school spirit. Students are known to rally around our teams and cheer for both home and away games no matter the sport. Our student athletes enjoy the competition of NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports, club sports and intramural programs.

Alvernia competes in the Commonwealth Conference of the Middle Atlantic Conferences (MAC).

### Men's Teams

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Ice Hockey\*  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Spirit Team\*  
Tennis  
Track & Field  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

### Women's Teams

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Equestrian  
Field Hockey  
Golf  
Ice Hockey  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Softball  
Spirit Team\*  
Tennis  
Track & Field  
Volleyball

\*denotes club sport

## ATHLETICS



## FUN & FITNESS



## Intramurals

Whether you're looking to play volleyball on the outdoor campus courts or after-class disc golf on our nine-hole course, Alvernia has plenty of ways for you to stay fit and have fun! You can also take advantage of a full range of fitness programs, including Pilates, yoga, kickboxing, tai chi and aerobics.

## Campus Commons

The Campus Commons boasts a two-story fitness center, a dance and aerobics studio, spaces for student clubs and offices, computer labs and a large campus living room complete with overstuffed couches and a fireplace.



## Alvernia's Recreation, Wellness & Health Sciences Complex

The FLYNN PLEX provides inter-professional teaching spaces for growing health sciences programs, integrating experiential training for students in programs such as nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, athletic training, social work and counseling. This concept enhances learning and provides a distinctive competitive advantage over both peer schools and larger universities.

Contemporary, flexible general-use classrooms of various sizes and styles serve multiple academic programs, offering state-of-the-art technology and instructional environments that encourage group work and collaboration. A large, tiered lecture hall accommodates expansion of popular academic programs and serves local community organizations as a vital resource for meeting space. It includes a field house designed to provide indoor recreation space for all students and the campus community.

The expansion is the largest, most ambitious in university history, adding more than 100,000 square feet of academic and recreation space and 15 acres to Alvernia's campus.

## THE TOM AND HELEN FLYNN COMPLEX



## AROUND ALVERNIA



## Our hometown

Alvernia is located in a quiet residential neighborhood just minutes from downtown Reading, Pennsylvania, in the heart of historic Berks County. Reading offers a mix of cultural entertainment destinations such as the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, the Reading Public Museum, outlet shopping, minor-league sports (Fightin' Phils, Royals, United and Express) and concerts at the Santander Arena.

There are many shops, restaurants and events in downtown Reading and on Penn Avenue in West Reading. You will also find plenty of opportunities for community involvement, internships and fieldwork experiences at many local businesses, agencies and organizations.

The beautiful Blue Marsh Lake is close to campus, offering biking, hiking, kayaking, swimming and more. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, French Creek State Park and plenty of great golf courses are also nearby.

## Your tomorrow is our priority today

Preparing you for a career and a successful, rewarding future is our priority. In fact, more than 9 out of 10 recent Alvernia graduates were employed or in grad schools within six months. At Alvernia, you'll get the training and knowledge you'll need to land that all-important job or to continue your studies at the graduate level. Our career center and alumni network offer a variety of resources for you to tap and put to work in establishing your career.

## CAREER SERVICES



## AFTER ALVERNIA



## Your future starts here

At Alvernia, you'll chart your course to a bright future, just like many of our successful alumni! We measure our success by our graduates' personal and professional satisfaction, and by the many ways they contribute to the greater good in all areas of society. Our graduates work in education, healthcare, social services, large and small businesses, the media, law firms, law enforcement, all levels of government, and in many other professions and fields. No matter what your aspirations and dreams, we'll give you the tools and support to help you thrive.

## The experience that counts

Visiting Alvernia is the only way to experience what makes this a truly special place where you can be yourself.

You can schedule an individual visit or a one-day shadow visit, attend an information session or open house, or get a feel for real life on campus with an overnight visit. You can meet with an admissions counselor, sit in on a class, talk with professors, coaches and students—even get to know your future teammates.

Schedule a visit or register for an event at **1-888-ALVERNIA** or [alvernia.edu/visit](http://alvernia.edu/visit).

## CAMPUS VISIT



## INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE



## Paying for your education

An Alvernia education is an affordable investment in your future, offering a high-quality university degree at a price below most other private schools. In fact, Alvernia was recently designated as a top college by Affordable Colleges Online as one of the Highest Return on Investment Colleges in Pennsylvania! Compare our tuition and fees to those at many of the other schools you might be considering, and we think you'll find that we're very competitive and an excellent value. Alvernia University is ranked in the top 100 among 2020 Best Regional Universities in the North by *U.S. News & World Report*.

**100%**  
**FINANCIAL AID/  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Making your college dream affordable is a priority. To that end, 100% of new students receive some form of financial aid and/or scholarship every year.

## Admission to Alvernia

We use a rolling admission process, which means that we constantly accept and review applications contingent on openings in specific academic majors. To apply, you'll need to submit the following: completed application for admission, personal essay, official high school transcripts, official SAT or ACT scores sent directly from the testing agency, and two letters of recommendation if applying to our nursing program.

## Making a change?

We make it easy for you to become part of the Alvernia community, and we work with you to make your transfer painless and easy.

APPLY NOW



## PROGRAMS OF STUDY

### Majors & Minors

Addictions and Mental Health Treatment<sup>+</sup>  
Athletic Training (5-year Master's Degree)  
Biochemistry#  
Biology<sup>+</sup>#  
Biology Medical Laboratory Science  
Business<sup>+</sup> (Optional 5-year MBA, choose a major below)  
Accounting  
Economics<sup>+</sup>  
Finance  
Healthcare Administration  
Human Resource Management  
Management  
Marketing  
Sport Management  
Chemistry<sup>+</sup>  
Communication<sup>+</sup> (Choose a track below)  
Film, Culture and Creative Arts  
Journalism  
Media Design and Production  
Public Relations and Advertising  
Strategic Communications  
Theatre Studies  
Computer Science<sup>+</sup>  
Criminal Justice Administration<sup>+</sup>

The programs of study list is provided by the Alvernia University Undergraduate Admissions Office and is updated regularly. Therefore, it is subject to change.

Digital Media Marketing  
Education  
Early Childhood (PreK-4)  
Early Childhood (PreK-4) and Special Education (PreK-8)  
English<sup>+</sup>  
Environmental Science<sup>+</sup>  
Forensic Science<sup>+</sup>  
General Science<sup>+</sup>  
Healthcare Science#  
History<sup>+</sup>  
Liberal Studies  
Mathematics<sup>+</sup>  
Nursing  
Occupational Therapy (5-year Master's Degree)  
Philosophy<sup>+</sup>  
Physical Therapy (6-year Doctoral Degree)  
Political Science<sup>+</sup>  
Psychology<sup>+</sup>#  
Social Work (Optional 5-year Master's Degree<sup>\*\*</sup>)  
Theatre<sup>+</sup>  
Theology<sup>+</sup>

### Additional Minors

Art  
Community & Environmental Sustainability  
Community Engagement  
Cultural Studies  
Cyber Security  
Data Science  
Digital Media  
Gerontology  
International Studies  
Leadership Studies  
Music  
Physics  
Pre-Law  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Women's & Gender Studies

### Pre-Professional Programs

Pre-Dental  
Pre-Law  
Pre-Medical  
Pre-Optometry  
Pre-Pharmacy  
Pre-Physician Assistant  
Pre-Veterinary

<sup>+</sup>Minor available

<sup>#</sup>May be used to track toward application for Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Alvernia is seeking accreditation for a Masters of Social Work (MSW) program that can be completed in one year following the completion of the bachelor of social work (BSW) program.



# Alvernia University

Office of Admissions  
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Reading, PA 19607

1-888-ALVERNIA  
admissions@alvernia.edu

alvernia.edu



Take a virtual tour of our  
campus, and get a feel for  
student life:

[www.alvernia.edu/  
virtualtour](http://www.alvernia.edu/virtualtour)