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Rockhurst University: Where Leaders Learn

Choosing a college is one of the most important and life-altering decisions a high school student has to make. The college a student chooses influence where they're employed, how much money they will be making, and their social status in society. When browsing for colleges, students should think to themselves, "Will this college meet my needs?" Rockhurst University is a school that will meet and exceed any student's needs because of its affordable tuition, promising undergraduate and graduate programs, and its campus life.

Rockhurst University, along with Rockhurst High School, was founded in 1910 in Kansas City. The state of Missouri granted the university with a charter and this allowed the school to start offering degrees. Sedgwick Hall was constructed in 1914 and this allowed the high school classes to begin that same year. College classes began soon after in 1917. The very first Rockhurst students were all taught by Reverend Alphonse Schwitala. The schools were fairly small in numbers, but the student's hearts and minds were filled with the Jesuit Spirit and the willingness to learn. Today, Rockhurst University has a total student population of 3,002, 76 percent of them being undergraduate. Rockhurst accepts 77 percent of the students that apply. There is a 12 to 1

student to teacher ratio. The school's ACT composite range is 23-28 with the average score being a 25. "Rockhurst University is ranked 221 in private colleges and 307 in the top colleges around the world" (Forbes).

How much a college costs should be one of a student's top concerns when looking for a college. Rockhurst University does its absolute best to accommodate to the financial needs of its students. The in-state and out-of-state tuition for the university is \$34,790. Of the 98 percent of students that apply for financial aid at Rockhurst University, 100 percent of them receive at least some type of aid. Also each first-time student that attends the school receives an average of \$22,558 that goes toward his or her fees (Rockhurst University). Not only can one apply for aid, but also completing the admission application automatically enters that student for the merit-based scholarships that the school offers. The university also offers scholarships based on student's competitiveness and the talents they possess which could include one's athletic ability, artistic skill, service, and much more. The scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 to the full tuition being covered. There's something out there for every type of student. Grants and loans are another way the school offers financial aid for its students. Whatever the case, Rockhurst University has a way of supporting its students despite their financial success. Now that the cost has been situated, what type of education does the school have to offer?

Not only should a good college offer exceptional undergraduate programs, it should grant its students with a variety of graduate programs. Rockhurst University has

worked to meet and exceed these needs for its students. In undergraduate programs, the school has majors such as accounting, biochemistry, criminal justice and just about any other major a student would want. The school also offers pre-professional studies such as dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, and many more (Rockhurst University). This way students can get a jump-start on their field of work as early as possible. For graduates, Rockhurst has the Helzberg School of Management, College of Health and Human Services, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Research College of Nursing (Graduate Programs). These schools and courses will prepare the professional leaders with a hands-on curriculum with superior faculty and flexible schedules. Academic advising is available to students who would like to explore their options for academic careers and university policies. "At Rockhurst University, each student is assigned an academic advisor. Most often, the assigned advisor will be a faculty member from the student's area of interest" (Academic Advising). The Greenlease Library located on campus also promotes students to participate in reading and other library programs. When going to Rockhurst University, a student can rest assured that their education is in the hands of professionals. So what does the campus have to offer?

Life out of the classroom is a big part of a student's college experience and can sway one's mind when deciding. Rockhurst welcomes new and returning students with a number of extracurricular activities and events. The campus has several different facilities for sports including a soccer stadium, a tennis complex, a baseball stadium, and a softball field. The Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse holds the basketball and volleyball courts.

This Division 2 School offers 12 varsity sports for anyone who likes a little competition. Plans are in place for a new Health and Wellness Center to be built (Laney). Any students looking to fulfill their religious desires would be delighted to know about the school's Campus Ministry Center. Daily mass is held here each school day and is also used by other praise and worship groups conducting meetings. Rockhurst also offers retreats during the school year for freshman to meet their classmates to get used to the everyday college experience (Laney). Students have the option to choose from eight Greek organizations. They consist of four fraternities and four sororities and students that have similar values and are bonded by brotherhood and sisterhood. Members are recruited based on their potential and how they can benefit the organization. To join, a student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, 12-college credit hours earned, no disciplinary probation, and they must be a full-time college student (Greek Life). There are many other groups and organizations available at Rockhurst University that encourage students to express themselves and find their place at Rockhurst University.

Rockhurst hasn't forgotten about its parents either. The school encourages not only the students to get involved, but their parents also. As soon as a student enrolls, their parent is automatically entered into the Rockhurst University Parents Association. Parents have access to their child's grades and any other useful information a parent would want to know. They can also make generous donations to the school and towards their child's future. Parents having made yearly donations to the school are inducted into the Blue and

White Society (Parents). All the donations by parents go towards the school's buildings and maintenance unless otherwise indicated.

The choice should be pretty clear now. Choosing the right college is an easy decision when a student goes with Rockhurst. Rockhurst University is a school that is worthy of any student's application. "Where Leaders Learn", is more than just a title. It's what Rockhurst tries to model its school on. The school is working to prepare the leaders of tomorrow with its ability to provide affordable tuition to any student, its promising undergraduate and graduate programs, and its inviting campus life.

Works Cited

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