Top Ten (culled from the list below)

- 83 percent of students say FIT was their top choice, compared with 54 percent across other SUNY schools. ([https://www.fitnyc.edu/documents/institutional-research/sos-2015-summary-report.pdf](https://www.fitnyc.edu/documents/institutional-research/sos-2015-summary-report.pdf)) (NB: this is based on a 2015 survey; the question was not asked in the 2018 survey.)
- CEO WORLD magazine ranks FIT as the number one fashion school in the U.S. and number two in the world. [https://ceoworld.biz/2020/02/21/best-fashion-schools-in-the-world-for-2020/](https://ceoworld.biz/2020/02/21/best-fashion-schools-in-the-world-for-2020/)
- FIT graduates are in the top 2 percent nationwide for mid-career salaries among community college alumni. ([https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/2-year-colleges](https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/2-year-colleges))
- One year after graduation, 86 percent of the class of 2018 were working full-time, and 70 percent in the creative field they studied. (alumni-survey-ay2018-grads-summary.pdf)
- As part of its commitment to sustainability, FIT has reduced its carbon footprint by 55 percent since 2007, more than any other school in New York.
- The Museum at FIT is the only museum in New York City devoted solely to the art of fashion. It is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, an honor given to less than 5 percent of museums. ([http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/news/archive/2012/aam-accreditation.php](http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/news/archive/2012/aam-accreditation.php))
- FIT gets an A+ for diversity from Niche.com—it is among the top 2.5 percent most diverse colleges in the country.
- FIT is in the list of U.S. colleges and universities that produced the highest number of U.S. Fulbright scholars.
- 80 percent of associate’s degree students graduate within three years, more than double the national average. ([https://www.fitnyc.edu/ire/institutional-research.php](https://www.fitnyc.edu/ire/institutional-research.php))
Superior Faculty of Practitioners and Scholars

- FIT’s full-time Art & Design and Business & Technology faculty are hired with **six to 10 years of industry experience**. Many own businesses or hold executive positions at major corporations.
- Faculty have won more than a dozen **Fulbright awards** for overseas research.
- FIT was a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Top Producing Institution for 2018–19.
- FIT’s Institutional Review Board approves **10 to 20 faculty and student research projects** per year.

Student Success

- 80 percent of associate’s degree students **graduate within three years**, more than double the national average. ([https://www.fitnyc.edu/ire/institutional-research.php](https://www.fitnyc.edu/ire/institutional-research.php))
- 80 percent of first-time associate’s degree students complete the two-year program within three years, and 90 percent of upper level students complete the two-year program within three years. ([https://www.fitnyc.edu/documents/institutional-research/factbook-graduation-rate-fa12tofa16.pdf](https://www.fitnyc.edu/documents/institutional-research/factbook-graduation-rate-fa12tofa16.pdf))
- 75 percent of students would **choose FIT again** if they were starting college over. (2018 Student Opinion Survey)
- No class has more than **25 students**.
- Through **industry-sponsored competitions**, students tackle real-world challenges; winners often receive national exposure.
- FIT students consistently win national and international **design and business competitions**, including:
  - LVMH Prize for Young Fashion Designers
  - CFDA Scholarship Program
  - Society of Illustrators Student Scholarship Competition
  - PAVE Student Competition for visual merchandising and store design
  - Joe’s Blackbook scholarship
  - Angelo Donghia Foundation interior design scholarships
  - National Retail Federation Foundation scholarships
  - Future Retail Challenge at the World Retail Congress
  - Biodesign Challenge
- **Student life** at FIT is enriched by 35 major-related clubs, 23 cultural and special-interest clubs, and 15 sports teams.
- Two-thirds (67 percent) of bachelor’s graduates had a **for-credit internship**.
• Nearly one-third of FIT student interns are offered employment on completion of their internships.
• 79 percent of students say the college is a good value. (2018 Student Opinion Survey)
• FIT’s cohort default rate, which measures the percentage of students who default on their student loans in less than two years, is just 4.4 percent, a fraction of the national average of 11.3 percent.
• 83 percent of students say FIT was their first choice in the application process.
• For the fall 2019 term, 56.5 percent of accepted applicants chose to attend FIT—an admission yield rate comparable to that of Ivy League schools. (Source: FIT’s Common Data Set)

Alumni Achievement

• FIT alumni have attained top positions in industry. Among notable alumni in fashion are Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, Reem Acra, Brian Atwood, Dennis Basso, Norma Kamali, Nanette Lepore, Bibhu Mohapatra, Ralph Rucci, and Michelle Smith. Fashion houses headed by alumni include Schiaparelli (Daniel Roseberry), Jil Sander (Luke Meier), and Halston (Robert Rodriguez). Other prominent graduates include Leslie Blodgett, creator of Bare Minerals; international restaurant designer Tony Chi; Nina Garcia, editor in chief of Elle magazine; and Ivy Ross, vice president and head of design/user experience for all hardware products, Google.
• Among associate’s and bachelor’s degree graduates from the 2017-18 academic year who were surveyed one year after graduation:
  o 86 percent of bachelor’s degree graduates were employed, with 70 percent reporting employment in a job related to their degree.
  o 81 percent of associate’s degree graduates who were not attending school were employed. (alumni-survey-ay2017-grads-summary.pdf)

Pioneering Curriculum

• FIT was founded in 1944 through a pioneering partnership between education and industry.
• The college offers nearly 50 majors, some of which are unique to FIT or pioneering programs.
  o The MFA in Fashion Design, established in 2017, allows for experimentation and reflection while providing opportunities to present to and engage with investors and industry leaders.
  o The Accessories Design, Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing, Fabric Styling, Toy Design, and Visual Presentation and Exhibition Design programs are the first of their kind in the U.S.
  o FIT offers the only BFA in Packaging Design in the country.
• The Home Products Development BS program is the first and only of its kind in the world.
• FIT offers the largest Interior Design program in New York City.
• Fashion Business Management is the largest degree program of its kind in the country.
• FIT Toy Design alumni have designed more than 3,500 toys on the market, for product lines including Barbie, Star Wars, LeapPad, and Lego.
• Textile/Surface Design students showcase their work at major trade shows, including the International Fabric and Fashion Show and Surtex at the Jacob Javits Convention Center.
• The Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management MPS program is considered the beauty industry’s think tank, as capstone presentations based on original research are presented annually to an influential audience of experts.
• No other U.S. college offers a Millinery or Performance Athletic Footwear certificate program.

FIT offers **34 academic minors**, including six interdisciplinary minors. ([http://www.fitnyc.edu/academic-advisement/academic-minors/index.php](http://www.fitnyc.edu/academic-advisement/academic-minors/index.php))

• With over 50 courses and hundreds of sections taught every year, FIT has **one of the largest art history departments** in the country.
• FIT offers **two online degree programs** and 126 online courses for credit. 84 percent of bachelor’s graduates took at least one course online.

**Unique Environment**

**The Museum at FIT**

• The Museum at FIT is the **only New York City museum** devoted to the art of fashion.
• The Museum at FIT’s accreditation by the **American Alliance of Museums** is a distinction shared by only 4.5 percent of America’s estimated 17,500 museums and less than 1 percent of college and university museums.
• Museum exhibitions attract more than **100,000 visitors** yearly.
• MFIT’s collection of more than **50,000 garments and accessories, plus 30,000 textiles**, is used by scholars and FIT students as a learning and research laboratory.
• The Museum at FIT’s **15,000 accessories** include more than 4,000 pairs of shoes by luminaries such as Manolo Blahnik, Ferragamo, and Perugia.
• The Museum at FIT was named one of the **ten best free museums in the nation** by **USA Today 10Best** and the Travel Channel, one of the top 20 in the U.S. by **National Geographic**, and one of the ten best in the city by **Time Out New York**.

**Gladys Marcus Library**
As a library specializing in fashion and its related industries, and with more than 45,000 linear feet of shelving, FIT’s Gladys Marcus Library is one of only a dozen comparable institutions in the world.

FIT’s Gladys Marcus Library subscribes to more than 400 print journals, and it houses a complete archive of Harper’s Bazaar. It offers the complete Vogue archive online, plus print copies from 1934 to the present.

The Department of Special Collections and College Archives in the Gladys Marcus Library houses 5,000 feet of rare and important books, periodicals, and designer scrapbooks—a total of 500,000 works on paper. The collection competes in importance with comparable archives at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and London’s Victoria and Albert Museum.

Through SUNYConnect, the State University of New York’s system-wide online library, FIT students have access to more than 18 million volumes and thousands of digital resources.

Labs and Equipment

- Cutting-edge labs enable students to work with the same equipment used in industry.
  - The Annette Green Fragrance Foundation Studio is the only fragrance lab on a U.S. college campus.
  - The Jewelry Design program offers a jewelry lab, silversmithing facility, and polishing room. The David Yurman collection of gemstones, valued at nearly $500,000, is used as a teaching tool.
  - FIT’s toy lab gives students the tools to fabricate soft, hard, and 3D-printed toys.
  - The knitting lab gives students access to three Stoll computerized knitting machines, a Dubied double-bed knitting machine, as well as Brother single-bed knitting machines.
  - 2,500 students from ten majors learn the principles of quality assurance every year in a textile-testing lab, better than many used in industry.
  - Students direct and produce television and radio commercials in a professional digital video studio.
  - A modern screen-printing studio and dyeing lab lets Textile/Surface Design students learn and experiment.
  - The Interior Design program offers a lighting laboratory, design graphics reproduction center, and model-making shop.
  - The leather design and footwear studios give students the tools they need to create a range of accessories.
  - The FIT/Infor DTech Lab engages faculty and students in using design and technology to solve big-picture industry problems.

Reputation: Lists and Rankings
Fashion-related rankings

- BusinessofFashion.com ranks FIT’s undergraduate programs—both Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management—among the best in the world. Those programs earned all four “Badges of Excellence,” for Best Overall, Best in Global Influence, Best in Learning Experience, and Best in Long-Term Value. FIT’s Global Fashion Management graduate program earned badges for Best Overall and Best in Global Influence.
- CEOworld magazine ranks FIT as the number one fashion school in the U.S. and number two in the world.
- In January 2020, The Upcoming, an online British culture and fashion magazine, ranked FIT No. 1 in its “Top Five Colleges to Study Fashion,” based on reputation, alumni performance, and exposure to the industry. https://www.theupcoming.co.uk/2020/01/10/top-five-colleges-to-study-fashion/
- WardrobeTrendsFashion, an Asian fashion and luxury online magazine, ranked FIT the fourth best fashion school in the world, based on a survey of 58,000 former students, fashion houses, recruitment consultants, designers, and other industry professionals.
- The Art Career Project, an online resource for students and professionals in the arts, ranked FIT number one on its 2018 list of the Best Fashion Merchandising Schools in the U.S., for its “commitment to research, experiential learning, adaptable academics, and industry partnerships.
- StyleCraze.com, India’s largest beauty community, ranked FIT fourth in their list of the Top 10 Fashion Schools in the World.
- In 2019, Fashion-Schools.org ranked both FIT’s Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management programs number one in the nation. https://www.fashionschools.org/school-rankings

Non-fashion-related rankings

- Niche.com also ranks FIT the 21st best college for design in the nation. https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges-for-design/
• Design Intelligence ranks FIT’s Interior Design Program as the 11th “Most Admired” program in the nation, and number 6 in the list of Interior Design Schools Most Hired From By Firms. (https://di-rankings.com/interior-design-schools.html)
• In 2019, Architectural Digest listed FIT among the top 15 interior design schools in the country, for its focus on "practical skills and environmental standards through multidisciplinary studies and hands-on projects." (https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/best-interior-design-schools)
• In 2017, career site Zippia.com ranked FIT number one in its list of the “7 Best Colleges for Advertising Majors in New York,” based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, taking into account selectivity, graduation rate, cost to attend, job placement, and earnings. FIT is the only New York City school on the list.
• College Factual ranks FIT as the most popular school in the nation for public relations and advertising; specialized sales, merchandising and marketing; and design and applied arts. According to the site, FIT has the highest-paid grads in the nation in textile and apparel studies; specialized sales, merchandising, and marketing; and family, consumer, and human sciences. And FIT is ranked #53 among the best marketing colleges in the U.S.
• College Magazine ranks FIT eighth in its Top 10 Universities for Graphic Design Majors. (https://www.collegemagazine.com/top-universities-for-graphic-design-majors/)
• Bachelor’s Degree Center included FIT’s bachelor’s program in Graphic Design in its top 25 nationwide, based on cost, job placement, graduation rate, salary potential, and student reviews. https://www.bachelorsdegrecencenter.org/best-graphic-design-degrees/
• Graphic Design USA included FIT in its 2020 list of the top programs nationwide. http://gdusa.com/features/top-design-schools/highest-honors-2020-top-art-design-schools
• FIT is among the Best 50 Marketing Schools, according to Study.com. (https://study.com/resources/marketing-schools)
• FIT was named the safest college in New York by YourLocalSecurity.com, based on statistics for violent crime, property crime, hate crime, and violence against women. (https://www.yourlocalsecurity.com/blog/the-safest-colleges-campuses-in-america/)
• BackgroundChecks.org, a public safety–focused organization, ranks FIT the eighth safest college in New York State.
• FIT has the second lowest rate of campus crime among the 100 most-attended U.S. colleges and universities, according to a 2017 survey. (https://collegestats.org/explore/campus-safety-rankings/)

Value rankings
FIT alumni are among the **highest earners in the country**, according to the 2019–20 College Salary Report by compensation data website Payscale. Among graduates with associate’s degrees, FIT ranked 19th—in the top 2 percent—with an average mid-career salary of $76,400. And an FIT education is an excellent value: It’s in the top 10 percent of all colleges nationwide for its return on investment. FIT was also ranked 14th in mid-career salaries for art majors among all U.S. colleges, and 34th for communications majors. [https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report](https://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report)

A 2019 study by the **Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University** placed FIT at 100 of 4,500 colleges nationwide for its “net present value” 10 years post-graduation, a measure of return on investment.

**Washington Monthly** ranked FIT 33rd in the northeast in its “**Best Bang for the Buck Colleges**” in its 2018 America’s Best Colleges Rankings.

Value Colleges, an independent online guide for prospective students, ranked FIT’s Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design as the **sixth best value** among accredited programs nationwide in 2019, taking into account reputation, cost, and median alumni salary. ([https://www.valuecolleges.com/ranking/best-bachelor-graphic-design-schools/](https://www.valuecolleges.com/ranking/best-bachelor-graphic-design-schools/))

In 2019, **College Consensus**, a rankings aggregator, placed FIT’s two online programs—in Fashion Business Management and International Trade and Marketing—at number 19 for **return on investment** among all online colleges. ([https://www.collegeconsensus.com/online/best-value-online-colleges/](https://www.collegeconsensus.com/online/best-value-online-colleges/))

**AffordableSchools.net** ranks FIT third in its list of the **Most Affordable Bachelor’s Degrees** in Animation, fourth for Entrepreneurship and 14th for Marketing.


In 2018, **Student Loan Hero** ranked FIT the **tenth most affordable** college in the Northeast, based on the cost of tuition and fees ($7,463) and the average student loan balance among graduates with debt ($24,850).

**Best Value Schools** named FIT the **second-best among New York colleges** for its online offerings, taking into account job placement, faculty experience, graduate success, number of online programs, graduation rate, financial aid, and student feedback. ([https://www.bestvalueschools.org/new-york-online-colleges/](https://www.bestvalueschools.org/new-york-online-colleges/))

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**Global Reach**

- Nearly 10 percent of FIT students are international. They represent more than 70 countries and develop strong global alumni networks.
- Among master’s-granting institutions, FIT had the **23rd most international students** for the 2017–18 academic year, with 1,225, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.
• Faculty consult, lecture at universities, and provide industry expertise globally.

• **Over 40 study-abroad programs**, from a few weeks to a full semester, encourage global learning.

• FIT students can also take advantage of SUNY’s 650-plus study-abroad programs, as well as those offered by the College Consortium for International Studies.

• FIT offers three campus locations: Florence and Milan, Italy, and Incheon, Korea.

• FIT offers the first fashion-related degree programs at SUNY Korea.

• More than 1,700 Korean alumni live in South Korea.

• FIT collaborates with institutions in Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Turkey, and the UK for faculty and student exchanges and study-abroad programs.

• About 6.25 percent of students study abroad each year (the national average is 1.5 percent), and a total of 19 percent of four-year students study abroad while at FIT.

• In 2014, Former First Lady Michelle Obama invited FIT faculty and students to the Celebration of Design at the White House, the first workshop of its kind to enlighten, educate, and mentor the next generation of fashion leaders.

**Diversity**

• Niche.com ranks the college among the top 2.5 percent most diverse schools in the country, giving the college an A+ grade. ([https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/most-diverse-colleges/?page=2](https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/most-diverse-colleges/?page=2) [https://www.niche.com/colleges/rankings/methodology/](https://www.niche.com/colleges/rankings/methodology/))

• The student population is 18 percent Hispanic, 11 percent Asian, and 9 percent African-American. ([https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Fashion+Institute+of+Technology&s=NY&id=191126](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Fashion+Institute+of+Technology&s=NY&id=191126))

• International students hail from more than 70 countries.

• *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* reports that FIT ranks #1 nationally in conferring degrees in the visual arts to minority students.

• *The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine* ranked FIT number 20 of the Top 25 Communication and Journalism Schools for Hispanics in 2019.

• More than 400 faculty, staff and student leaders have completed a Safe Zone training, which gives them the tools to support LGBTQ individuals and identities. And 100 percent of FIT’s Public Safety staff is Safe Zone–trained.

**Sustainability**

• FIT has 3/4 acres of green roofs. These roofs improve air quality, reduce the heat island effect, and combat storm water runoff.

• **Solar panels** on the roof of the Goodman Center generate electricity for the campus.

• FIT was the first institution to meet the New York City Mayor’s Carbon Challenge, reducing its carbon footprint by 30 percent in less than four years. Since 2007, FIT has

- FIT won one of eight 2016 Environmental Excellence Awards from New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation, for its carbon reduction, green roofs, curricular initiatives, special events, student projects, and waste-reduction efforts.
- In 2017, the New York Independent System Operators and the New York Power Authority recognized the college for outstanding performance in the Demand Response program: On particularly hot summer days, when air conditioners drain the city’s available power, institutions are paid to minimize electrical usage, because operating a “peak load” power plant is extremely costly. So far, the city has awarded FIT $1.25 million, which has been reinvested into additional energy-efficient equipment.
- The college won the Energy Champion award from New York’s Department of Citywide Administrative Services for its carbon reduction in 2017 and 2018.
- President Joyce F. Brown was honored at City & State magazine’s Sustainable New York Summit in May 2018 for her work in greening FIT.
- A natural dye garden educates students about alternatives to synthetic dyes.
- Students have brought a composting program to the residence halls.
- FIT sustainably renovates classrooms and other spaces on campus:
  - Recycled, nontoxic, low-VOC materials are used when possible.
  - In most cases, flooring is simple polished concrete, which requires nothing to be manufactured and is easy to maintain.
  - Construction materials are sourced within 500 miles of New York City.
  - Construction waste is brought to a nearby facility to be recycled.
  - Low-E windows reflect light, reducing air-conditioning costs.
  - LED lights with occupancy and daylight sensors are extremely energy-efficient.
- A new LEED-certified building to be built West 28th Street will feature numerous sustainable innovations, including energy-efficient heating, cooling, and ventilation systems and smart classrooms that make strategic use of natural light.
- FIT’s Sustainable Business and Design Conference, going strong for 14 years, informs, involves, and inspires the entire FIT community about sustainability.
- A team from FIT won the first annual Biodesign Challenge, a national competition to envision the future of biotechnology.
- The Sustainable Design Entrepreneurs certificate program was named one of the “top five sustainable fashion design programs in the world by Fashionista.com in 2013.
- The University Network named FIT the second most sustainable fashion school in the world. (https://www.tun.com/blog/top-10-sustainable-fashion-schools-in-the-world/)
- The University Network named FIT one of the 10 “most sustainable-focused” fashion schools. https://www.tun.com/blog/top-10-sustainable-fashion-schools-in-the-world/