

# Agent guide to Simmons University

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## About Simmons University

**Address:**

300 The Fenway, Boston, Massachusetts  
02115, USA

**Year founded:**

1899

**Type:**

Private institution

Women-centered at undergraduate level,  
co-ed at graduate level

**Setting:**

Small, urban, campus-based school

Student-faculty ratio: 8:1



**Campus map:**

[www.simmons.edu/maps-directions/campus-maps](http://www.simmons.edu/maps-directions/campus-maps)

**Location:**

The Fenway neighborhood is near the center of Boston. The area is home to 300,000+ students and there are 15 other colleges within walking distance.

**Previous name:**

Simmons College, until 2018

**Student population:**

1,800 undergraduates (+4,000 graduate students)

**International students:**

5% of undergraduate students are international (11 countries represented)

**Faculty:**

243 full-time faculty (74% are women)

**Average class size:**

15

**Athletics:**

Simmons teams, known as "Sharks", compete in NCAA Division III

## Remote learning: COVID-19 update

### Has campus opened for the Fall 2020 semester?

No, Simmons University is not fully opening its campus, and will instead offer a [virtual experience to new students](#).

### How does online learning work at Simmons for students outside the USA?

You'll find information in the [Simmons University online experience FAQ](#).

Faculty are aware of students being in different time zones and will work with students to land on a strategy for remote study. Classes are a mix of carefully designed activities, such as interactive live video sessions, hands-on assignments, discussion boards, and readings and recorded lectures. The types of activities will vary, based on what approaches are the best fit for that particular class.

### Will classes be held remotely in the Spring 2021 semester?

Simmons University has moved all teaching into an online format until at least the end of December 2020, but has not yet made a decision about the Spring semester.

## Rankings

### U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges, 2021

- #133 in National Universities
- #31 in Best Value Schools
- #80 in Top Performers on Social Mobility
- #308 in business programs (undergraduate)

### QS World University Rankings, 2019

- Boston is #1 Best Student City in the USA

### College Choice, 2020

- #6 Best Women's college in the USA

### Wall Street Journal / Times Higher Education's US College rankings, 2020

- #127 in the USA (based on THE's annual US Student Survey)

### Kiplinger's Best College Values, 2019

- #77 private college
- #230 overall university in the USA

### College Factual, 2021

- #13 Best college for Nursing in the USA (#1 in Massachusetts)

## Academics

Degree list on Simmons's website: [www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/academics/majors-minors](http://www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/academics/majors-minors)

Kaplan has a contract to recruit for all Simmons undergraduate majors across their 4 colleges:

College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences	College of Organizational, Computational, and Information Sciences	College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice	The Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities
BS Biochemistry <sup>∞</sup> BS Biology <sup>∞</sup> BS Biostatistics BS Chemistry <sup>∞</sup> BS Chemistry Management <sup>∞</sup> BS Environmental Science <sup>∞</sup> BS Exercise Science <sup>∞</sup> BS Neuroscience and Behavior <sup>∞</sup> BSN Nursing <sup>∞†</sup> BS Nutrition and Dietetics <sup>∞</sup> BS Nutrition and Food (Food Service Management) <sup>∞</sup> BS Nutrition and Food (Nutrition, Wellness, and Health Promotion) <sup>∞</sup> BS Physics <sup>∞</sup> BA Psychology	BSBA Accounting BSBA Business Management BS Computer Science <sup>∞</sup> BS Data Science and Analytics <sup>∞</sup> BSBA Finance BS Financial Mathematics BS Health Informatics <sup>∞</sup> BS Information Technology <sup>∞</sup> BSBA Marketing BS Mathematics <sup>∞</sup> BSBA Retail Management	BA Economics BS Economics and Mathematics <sup>∞</sup> BA International Relations BA Political Science BA/BS Public Health <sup>∞</sup> BSW Social Work BA Sociology	BA Africana Studies BA Art BA Arts Administration BA Communications BA Communications (Graphic Design) BA Communications (Journalism) BA Communications (Media Arts) BA East Asian Studies BA English BA French BA History BA Music BA Philosophy BA Public Relations and Marketing Communications BA Spanish BS Web Design and Development <sup>∞</sup> BA Women's and Gender Studies

<sup>∞</sup> STEM designated degree (graduates are eligible for a 24-month OPT extension).

<sup>†</sup> Fall start only for these programs.

## Engineering dual-degree with Columbia University

5-year program\*†: 3 years at Simmons + 2 years at Columbia.

Earn a Bachelor of Science from Simmons University (usually in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, or Biology) and also earn a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Columbia University (in Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Earth & Environmental, Electrical, Materials Science, or Mechanical Engineering).

Please note:

- Students must meet entry requirements for Columbia University engineering degrees after they finish 3 years at Simmons University: [www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2019-11/2018-2019\\_Combined\\_Plan\\_Curriculum.pdf](http://www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2019-11/2018-2019_Combined_Plan_Curriculum.pdf)
- If students do not meet Columbia's requirements, they still graduate with a Bachelor of Science from Simmons.

## Accelerated bachelor's + master's degrees

3+1 programs\*\*

- BA Political Science, BA Economics, or BA Sociology + MPP Public Policy
- BS Computer Science or BS Information Technology + MS Library and Information Science<sup>∞</sup>
- BS Social Work + MS Social Work

4+1 programs\*\*

- BS Exercise Science, BS Public Health, BS Biology, or BS Nutrition + MS Nutrition and Health Promotion<sup>∞</sup>
- BS Nursing + MS Nursing<sup>∞</sup>

\* Students only receive the 50% Simmons Kaplan scholarship for the 3 years of undergraduate study at Simmons.

<sup>∞</sup> STEM designated degrees (graduates are eligible for a 24-month OPT extension).

† Fall start only for these programs.

## Pre-professional advising programs

Pre-Law (extra-curricular activities of interest to prelaw students: lectures, meetings with lawyers who are Simmons alumnae, and field studies or internships related to law. Also help with Law School applications.)

Pre-Health (strong preparation for admission to medical, dental, optometry, podiatry, veterinary, and physician assistant programs)

## Honors Program

Simmons Honors Program is an interdisciplinary 4-year academic enrichment program for all majors. Honors students receive an extra \$1,000 per semester scholarship, and benefit from a mentorship program and leadership opportunities. Students admitted into this highly selective program graduate near the top of their high school class and have a solid record of honors, AP, or IB courses.

Available to incoming first-year undergraduate students, applicants have earlier deadlines and additional essays to submit. Apply through the standard Kaplan Simmons application form.

## Entry requirements

Green card holders and US citizens cannot apply through Kaplan.

Minimum age: 16 years by date of enrollment

### Academic criteria

High school GPA: minimum 3.0 is needed to be considered by Simmons – not a guarantee of admission.

International equivalencies to a 3.0:

#### By country

- Azerbaijan -- 4 or above
- Bahrain -- 77 or above
- China -- 80 or above
- Ecuador -- 15 or above
- Egypt -- 65 or above
- India -- 50 or above
- Korea -- 70 or above
- Nigeria -- 3 or above

- Peru -- 12 or above
- Russia -- 4 or above
- Taiwan -- 70 or above
- Thailand -- 76 or above
- Ukraine -- 7 or above

#### By qualification

- A levels – minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C
- Al Thanawiya (General Secondary Education Certificate) – 80 or above
- iGCSE – 11 years with minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C

## English proficiency

English test scores for direct\*\* admission:

- TOEFL / KiBT 89
- IELTS 6.5
- PTE 60
- Duolingo 105
- Kaplan International English – Advanced level

\*\* Conditional admission offered for students with lower English levels (more details below)

English test waiver for applicants:

- (applicants for 2021 only) who have completed 2 full-time years of high school or college coursework conducted in English, without ESL/ELL coursework.
- whose first language is English with an SAT/ACT score or a Duolingo English test.
- who have completed their junior and senior year in the US with an SAT EBWR score of 550 and/or an ACT English score of 21.
- who have completed 4 years of high school in a US high school must meet the same competency requirements as domestic students
- holding a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited US college or university

## Application and admission

Submit application through Kaplan's online form:

[www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/application-form](http://www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/application-form)

Complete application consists of:

- Online application form
- Passport
- Official transcripts – pdf of transcripts for the last 3 years of education (with official English translations, if needed)
- English Test – pdf of official score report
- 1 letter of recommendation – from a teacher or high school counselor
- Written personal statement (word count 250–650)
- Scholarship application video (maximum 3 minutes) or essay – send to your Market Manager via WhatsApp.

Study Gaps – if a student has completed high school more than 3 months prior to the start of the intake, they should submit a written statement of what they have been doing. If transcripts available, must submit these also.

## Admission decisions

On receipt of a complete application, Simmons will make an admission decision within **7 business days**.

Applicants whose English level does not meet Simmons proficiency requirements may be conditionally admitted:

- offer expires after 1 year.
- students can choose to study at a Kaplan International Language school in Boston (or elsewhere in the US) or submit a qualifying English language score.
- deadline to submit a new English score is the I-20 deadline, each intake.

## 2021 dates and deadlines

	Spring 2021	Fall 2021
Honors Program application deadline	November 1, 2020	February 1, 2021
General admission application deadline (in- and out-of-country)	December 2, 2020	July 7, 2021
I-20 request and deposit deadline	December 11, 2020	July 19, 2021
Orientation and move-in day	End of January (tbc)	end of August (tbc)
Classes start	February 1, 2021	September 1, 2021
Classes end	May 22, 2021	tbc

Dates are tentative and subject to change

## Tuition and costs

### 2020–2021 tuition rates

Most undergraduate programs: \$40,850 per academic year  
BSN Nursing: \$44,760 per academic year

Standard tuition after scholarship: \$20,425 (see below)

### Cost of attendance:

Fee type	Cost for the academic year
Undergraduate full-time tuition	\$40,850
On-campus room and meals	\$14,022
Activity Fee	\$230
Health Center Fee	\$837
Health Insurance	\$4,241
Transportation and personal expenses	\$4,400
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$64,580</b>
Scholarship	–\$20,425
<b>Cost after scholarship</b>	<b>\$44,155</b>

## Scholarship

### The Simmons Kaplan Women's Leadership Scholarship

Award: 50% of undergraduate tuition, renewable annually.

Total amount: worth ~\$80,000 over 4 years

Criteria: High achieving female international students with these attributes

- Open minded
- Intellectually curious
- Leadership potential
- Community involvement
- Passion and drive

To apply: Applicant should record a video or write an essay describing their interest in women's leadership.

Renewal eligibility: Maintain full-time enrollment and good academic standing.

## Acceptance and pre-arrival

- Deposit** \$1,000 to confirm acceptance; \$500 for housing
- I-20 request** Funding amount required (after scholarship has been deducted): \$44,988
- Proof of Finances** Complete the International Student Supplement Form (ISSF):  
[www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2020-02/ISSF%20%28UG-General%29%20ALM%20Accessible.pdf](http://www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2020-02/ISSF%20%28UG-General%29%20ALM%20Accessible.pdf)

(Note, there is a separate ISSF for BSN Nursing).

The form must be submitted along with proof that the applicant has sufficient financial support to cover the total cost of attendance for 1 academic year. This may include:

- Copy of scholarship award letter from Simmons.
- Personal bank statement or bank letter
- Private or company sponsor letter / bank statement
- Home government funding or loan

### Health forms

Review the health requirements for new students:

[www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2019-03/Portal%20Instructions%20for%20New%20Students.pdf](http://www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2019-03/Portal%20Instructions%20for%20New%20Students.pdf)

All forms must be uploaded to the student health portal.

For Fall intake, the deadline is July 15; for Spring intake, the deadline is January 10:

<https://www.simmons.edu/your-simmons/student-support-resources/health-center/portal>

## Student life

### Housing

- Requirement:** On-campus housing is compulsory for first year students.
- Location:** Simmons Residence Campus, a short walk from the main campus, has 9 residence halls, as well as Bartol Dining Hall, the Holmes Sports Center and the campus health center
- First-year residences:** First-year students live in one of 3 halls sharing with first-year roommates (usually in double or triple rooms):
- Morse Hall
- Houses first year students
  - Home to the Arts Floor
  - Double and triple rooms
  - Piano, laundry, large living room, kitchens, and vending machines
- North Hall
- Single and double rooms
  - Home to the Arts and Activism community on floors 1 and 2
  - Floors 3, 4, and 5 are mixed communities and class levels
  - Public kitchen, piano, TV room, living room, fireplace, study room, laundry, computer lab, and vending machines
- Simmons Hall
- Largest residence community
  - Houses first- and second-year students
  - Home to the Sports Pride Floor and Substance Free community
  - Double and triple rooms
  - Large living room with TV, piano, laundry, computer lab, vending machines, elevator, and kitchens
- Housing FAQ:** [www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/student-life/housing/residence-halls/residence-hall-faqs](http://www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/student-life/housing/residence-halls/residence-hall-faqs)

## Dining

First-year students receive a Meal Plan as part of their room and board package.

Simmons Dining Services offers flexible Meal Plans. Students can choose from a wide variety of dining options, including vegan, vegetarian, made without gluten and authentic ethnic menu offerings.

### Dining venues

On the residence campus:

- **Bartol Dining Hall** – all-you-care-to-eat dining facility with made-to-order meals, vegetarian options, salad bars, sautés, pizza, smoothies, and more.
- **Bartol Late Night** - snack bar and convenience store open late nights Thursday through Sunday.

On the academic campus:

- **The Fens Café** – quesadillas, pizza, deli snacks, salad bar, grab-and-go items.
- **Meyers Café** – Starbucks coffee, fresh pastries, sandwiches, sushi, frozen yogurt, snacks and bottled beverages.
- **Common Grounds Café** – hot drinks, fresh pastries, sandwiches, paninis and sushi.

On-campus dining video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwHpMvNu9x8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwHpMvNu9x8)

## Student clubs

Simmons has over 80 different clubs and organizations for students, including:

- African Caribbean Student Union (ACSU)
- Asian Students Association (ASO)
- Black Student Organization (BSO)
- Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization
- Kababayan Filipino Club
- Model UN
- Multicultural International Student Organization (MISO)
- Organization Latino America (OLA)
- Simmons Islamic Society (SIS)
- Simmons University Dance Company
- South Asian Society at Simmons (SASS)
- Student Government Association (SGA)

## Colleges of the Fenway

The Colleges of the Fenway is a collaborative of 5 neighboring Boston-based colleges and universities in the Fenway area:

1. Simmons University
2. Emmanuel College (liberal arts school)
3. Wentworth Institute of Technology (technical design and engineering)
4. Massachusetts College of Art and Design
5. MCPHS University (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences)

Simmons students may take up to 2 academic courses per semester at another participating institution, for no additional tuition costs. Students can also use the libraries, fitness facilities and other resources, and join shared student clubs at all participating institutions. [View the guide](#) for more information.

Collectively, the colleges represent 12,000 undergraduate students, more than 700 full-time faculty, and 2,300 course offerings: [www.colleges-fenway.org](http://www.colleges-fenway.org)



## Outcomes

Simmons graduate work in fields like healthcare, media, business and finance, and human services.

- 100% of Simmons students complete internships, clinicals, fieldwork or research projects.
- 91% of Simmons graduates are employed or in graduate school within 6 months of graduation.
- 97% of Simmons graduates are employed in a field related to their major.

## Graduate employers

Companies that recently hired Simmons graduates:

- Amazon
- Walt Disney World
- Fidelity Investments
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Procter & Gamble
- Trip Advisor
- Hub Spot
- Wayfair
- Dell / EMC

## Notable alumnae

Notable former Simmons students include:

- **Gwen Ifill** – managing editor of *Washington Week* (public affairs TV program), journalist, television newscaster, and author.
- **Denise Di Novi** – film producer, whose work includes *Edward Scissorhands* and *Crazy Stupid Love*
- **Nnenna Freelon** – six-time Grammy Award nominee, jazz singer, composer, producer, and arranger.
- **Princess Srinagarindra** – member of the Thai Royal Family.
- **Bertha Leticia Navarro Ochoa** – Mexican entrepreneur who was Secretary of Tourism for Mexico, president of JAFRA Cosmetics, and held high rank positions in the Gillette company.
- **Ann M. Fudge** – former CEO of Young & Rubicam

## General benefits of undergraduate women's education:

- Women's college students are twice as likely to go on to complete a graduate degree
- Women's college students are 12x more likely to get a degree in mathematics or hard science
- 30% of Businessweek's "Rising Women in Corporate America" are women's college graduates
- 20% of women in the United States Congress are graduates of women's colleges and universities

## Further reading and watching

Kaplan's Simmons University webpage

[www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/](http://www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/)

Articles on the Kaplan blog:

- [Benefits of Simmons' women-centered education](#)
- [Simmons Leadership Conference for Women](#)
- [BSN Nursing at Simmons](#)
- [What are the Colleges of the Fenway?](#)

Simmons playlist on Kaplan's YouTube channel:

<https://kpln.org/2wnT4Xm>

6 Questions You're Too Afraid to Ask about a Women's College

<https://vimeo.com/109258478>

Times Higher Education profile:

[www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/simmons-university](http://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/simmons-university)