

history of drake university

history of drake university is a rich tapestry woven through time, showcasing the growth of an institution that has significantly impacted higher education in the Midwest. Founded in 1881, Drake University has evolved from a small Methodist institution to a comprehensive university recognized nationally for its academic rigor and community engagement. This article will explore the origins of Drake University, its growth and development over the years, significant milestones, and its current standing in the academic landscape. Readers will gain insights into the various facets that make Drake University a notable institution, including its academic programs, campus life, and contributions to the community.

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Founding and Early Years

The history of Drake University begins in 1881 when it was established in Des Moines, Iowa, by a group of Methodists who sought to create a higher education institution that would serve the community. Originally named the Des Moines University, it was founded with the intent of providing quality education based on Methodist principles. The university was named after Francis Marion Drake, a prominent Iowa figure and Civil War general, who was instrumental in its establishment.

In its early years, Drake University operated as a small institution offering a limited range of courses. The first class consisted of just a handful of students, and the curriculum focused mainly on the liberal arts. The university quickly gained a reputation for its commitment to academic excellence, which attracted more students and faculty. By the late 19th century, Drake had begun to expand its offerings and facilities, paving the way for future growth.

Growth and Expansion

As the 20th century approached, Drake University experienced significant growth, both in student enrollment and academic programs. This period marked the transition from a small liberal arts college to a more comprehensive university. In 1902, Drake became affiliated with the Methodist Church, further solidifying its identity as an institution grounded in faith and community service.

The early 1900s saw the construction of several key buildings on campus, including the iconic Old Main, which became a symbol of the university's commitment to education and community. By the 1920s, Drake had expanded its academic offerings to include professional programs, such as law and pharmacy, which attracted students from across the Midwest.

Significant Milestones

Throughout its history, Drake University has achieved many notable milestones that have shaped its identity. In 1930, the university became the first in Iowa to receive accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, a significant achievement that underscored its commitment to quality education.

In the post-World War II era, Drake experienced another surge in enrollment as returning veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill. This period of growth prompted the university to expand its campus facilities and enhance its academic programs further. The establishment of the College of Business and Public Administration in 1970 marked a pivotal moment in Drake's history, positioning the university as a leader in business education.

- 1930: First Iowa university accredited by the North Central Association
- 1970: Establishment of the College of Business and Public Administration
- 2000: Introduction of the first online degree programs
- 2014: Launch of the Drake University School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Academic Offerings and Innovations

Today, Drake University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including business, law, education, and the arts. The university is known for its commitment to experiential learning, providing students with opportunities to engage in internships, service-learning

projects, and research initiatives that prepare them for successful careers.

Drake's academic programs are distinguished by their emphasis on critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and strong communication skills. The university consistently ranks highly in national surveys for its business and law programs, attracting students from across the nation. Furthermore, Drake has embraced technological advancements by introducing online degree programs to accommodate the needs of modern learners.

Campus Life and Community Engagement

Drake University is not only known for its rigorous academic programs but also for its vibrant campus life. The university hosts a variety of student organizations, clubs, and activities that foster a sense of community among students. These organizations range from academic and professional societies to cultural and recreational groups, providing students with numerous opportunities to engage with their peers and develop leadership skills.

Community engagement is a core component of the Drake experience. The university encourages students to participate in service projects and initiatives that benefit the local and global community. Through programs like the Drake University Service Learning Program, students can apply their academic knowledge to real-world challenges, fostering a spirit of social responsibility.

Conclusion

The history of Drake University reflects its evolution from a small liberal arts college to a comprehensive institution dedicated to academic excellence and community service. With a solid foundation built on its Methodist heritage, Drake continues to thrive as a leader in higher education, offering diverse academic programs and fostering a vibrant campus life. As the university moves

forward, it remains committed to its mission of preparing students to become engaged, knowledgeable, and ethical leaders in their communities and beyond.

Q: What year was Drake University founded?

A: Drake University was founded in 1881.

Q: Who was Drake University named after?

A: The university was named after Francis Marion Drake, a prominent figure in Iowa's history.

Q: What notable achievements has Drake University accomplished?

A: Notable achievements include being the first university in Iowa to receive accreditation from the North Central Association in 1930 and the establishment of the College of Business and Public Administration in 1970.

Q: What types of programs does Drake University offer?

A: Drake University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across various fields, including business, law, education, and the arts.

Q: How does Drake University engage with the community?

A: Drake University engages with the community through service-learning projects and initiatives that encourage students to apply their academic knowledge to benefit local and global communities.

Q: What is the significance of the Old Main building at Drake University?

A: Old Main is an iconic building that symbolizes Drake University's commitment to education and community; it has historical significance as one of the university's original structures.

Q: How has Drake University adapted to modern education trends?

A: Drake University has adapted by introducing online degree programs and emphasizing experiential learning opportunities for students.

Q: What is the student life like at Drake University?

A: Student life at Drake University is vibrant, with numerous organizations, clubs, and activities that promote community engagement and leadership development.

Q: When did Drake University become affiliated with the Methodist Church?

A: Drake University became affiliated with the Methodist Church in 1902.

Q: What role do internships play at Drake University?

A: Internships play a crucial role by providing students with practical experience and enhancing their employability after graduation.

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