

STUDYING IN THE U.S.

COLLEGE VERSUS UNIVERSITY

**NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE
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As an international student, you may find it confusing that “college” and “university” are used interchangeably in the United States. The two terms mean very similar things. This page will explain the difference between them and what you can expect at New England College (NEC).

A College typically has smaller student populations and more intimate campuses. Most colleges focus on undergraduate programs, but many—such as NEC—offer graduate programs as well.

A University is typically a larger higher education institution that offers many programs and has bigger classroom settings. Many public universities enroll tens of thousands of students and often focus on producing research.

NEC was established in 1946 and has been granting undergraduate and graduate degrees for the last 76 years. As a college, **we hold the same robust regional accreditation as a university.**

At NEC, you can expect to have a personal learning experience, as opposed to the overwhelming offerings at a university. In NEC’s smaller classes, rather than the large classroom settings at a university, you can make personal connections in the classroom and with professors.

In the United States, **colleges and universities are academic equals** and both grant undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students often enter a college or university after completing their secondary schooling and later on if pursuing a graduate degree.