

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

Campus Facilities Overview

160 Convent Avenue • New York, NY 10031 • www.ccnycunyc.edu

1. Campus Location and Neighborhood Context

The City College of New York is located in the Hamilton Heights section of Upper Manhattan, occupying a prominent position on an elevated ridge between Amsterdam Avenue and St. Nicholas Terrace. The campus spans approximately 36.7 acres across multiple city blocks, containing academic, research, cultural, and support facilities arranged across a North Campus and South Campus, as well as several off-site locations.

Campus at a Glance

- Total Land Area: 36.7 acres in the Hamilton Heights section of Upper Manhattan
- Campus Districts: North Campus and South Campus
- Primary Address: 160 Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10031
- Total Buildings: 18+ academic, research, cultural, and support facilities
- CUNY System: Member institution of the City University of New York
- Off-Campus Site: Center for Worker Education — 25 Broadway (Cunard Line Building), Lower Manhattan
- NYC Landmark: The Neo-Gothic North Campus quadrangle is a designated New York City Landmark (1981)

1.1 Campus Boundaries

The primary campus extends from West 130th Street to West 140th Street, framed by Amsterdam Avenue to the west and St. Nicholas Park to the east. Key boundaries include:

- West: Amsterdam Avenue (primary vehicular frontage and service corridor)
- East: St. Nicholas Park (significant natural landscape edge)
- North: West 140th Street (with select buildings extending to 141st Street)
- South: West 130th Street

Several CCNY facilities are situated outside the primary campus boundary:

- Steinman Hall and the Storehouse — located on West 140th Street, immediately adjacent to the main campus
- Alumni House, located at the corner of Convent Avenue and West 141st Street
- Center for Worker Education (CWE) — located at 25 Broadway (the historic Cunard Line Building) in Lower Manhattan

1.2 Surrounding Neighborhood

The neighborhood surrounding the Harlem campus is dense and diverse, defined by a mix of residential buildings, cultural institutions, and public schools including A. Philip Randolph High School, P.S. 161, and P.S. 129. Amsterdam Avenue functions as a local commercial corridor, and St. Nicholas Park provides a significant natural landscape edge along the eastern boundary. The steep grade change along St. Nicholas Terrace influences campus access, sightlines, and circulation patterns. Convent Avenue serves as the primary pedestrian spine connecting North and South Campus.

2. Brief Campus History

CCNY's campus is the product of multiple development eras — from the original Free Academy and the establishment of the Neo-Gothic North Campus to the acquisition of South Campus and successive expansions in the modern era. These phases have shaped the campus structure, building typologies, circulation patterns, and the configuration of core academic programs.

Period / Year	Campus Development Milestone
1847 / 1849	The Free Academy — the nation's first tuition-free public institution of higher education — is founded on Lexington Avenue, Manhattan. Instruction begins in January 1849 for 200 students, with a Gothic Revival building designed by architect James Renwick.
1895	Enrollment surpasses 1,400. The New York State Assembly enacts legislation allocating funds to acquire a new campus site, setting the stage for relocation to Hamilton Heights.
1897	A 30-acre site between West 137th and 140th Streets in Manhattan is purchased. Renowned architect George B. Post is selected to design the new campus in the Gothic Revival style.
1907	North Campus construction is completed: Shepard Hall, Baskerville Hall, Wingate Hall, and Compton-Goethals Hall are built, establishing the historic academic quadrangle. Constructed of Manhattan schist with white terra-cotta detailing.
1915	Lewisohn Stadium construction is completed, providing a major open-air venue on the North Campus.
1952 – 1953	South Campus is acquired from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart (Convent Avenue, between 130th and 135th Streets), introducing a second campus district with distinct character and building typologies.
1957	Cohen Library is constructed on South Campus, reflecting growing collections and the increasing importance of centralized academic support services.
1962 – 1963	Steinman Hall is constructed to support CCNY's engineering programs; the Willie Administration Building is also completed during this period.
1971	Marshak Science Center is completed, consolidating and expanding science teaching and research facilities into a single major academic building on North Campus.
1978 – 1979	Aaron Davis Hall opens on South Campus, establishing a dedicated performing arts venue and a major cultural anchor for the College and the broader Harlem community.
1981	The Neo-Gothic North Campus quadrangle is officially designated a New York City Landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
1984	The North Academic Center (NAC) is completed, becoming CCNY's largest building and primary instructional hub. Cohen Library relocates from South Campus to the NAC, consolidating academic support services on North Campus.
2006	The Towers residential facility opens on South Campus, providing 600 beds for CUNY students across the system.
2008 – 2009	The former Cohen Library building on South Campus is adaptively reused and reopened as the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, following a renovation led by architect Rafael Viñoly.
2014	The Center for Discovery & Innovation (CDI) and the Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC) open on South Campus, establishing a world-class research precinct anchored in STEM disciplines.
2024	The CCNY 2026 Campus Plan is adopted, providing a comprehensive framework for future campus development, facility improvements, and long-term physical planning.

3. Campus Buildings & Instructional Facilities

CCNY's academic and support facilities are organized across the North Campus and South Campus. Together, these facilities house general-purpose classrooms, specialized teaching laboratories, design studios, performing arts venues, research centers, a library, student services, and administrative offices. The following sections provide a building-by-building overview organized by campus district.

3.1 North Campus Buildings

The North Campus contains the historic academic quadrangle and the College's primary modern instructional complex. It is home to the largest concentration of classrooms, science and engineering teaching laboratories, academic departments, student services, and the main campus library (Cohen Library). The historic quadrangle, designed by architect George B. Post in the Gothic Revival style and constructed by 1907, is a designated New York City Landmark.

Code	Building Name	Use Zone	Primary Function & Instructional Uses
NAC	North Academic Center	Academic Core	CCNY's primary instructional hub. Houses the majority of general-purpose classrooms, academic department offices, Cohen Library, student services, and the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.
MS	Marshak Science Center	Sciences & Engineering	Houses class teaching labs, research laboratories, science/engineering classrooms, and specialized shared science facilities supporting biology, chemistry, physics, earth and sciences, engineering and biomedical programs.
ST	Steinman Hall (Grove School of Engineering)	Engineering	Home of the Grove School of Engineering. Provides engineering classrooms, computer labs, design labs, and specialized engineering research and teaching laboratories.
SH	Shepard Hall	Humanities & Arts	Landmark Neo-Gothic centerpiece of the historic quadrangle. Houses humanities and arts programs, classrooms, and lecture halls. Designated NYC Landmark (1981).
CG	Compton-Goethals Hall	Humanities & Arts	Provides classrooms and academic program space for humanities and arts disciplines. Part of the designated historic Gothic quadrangle complex.
WG	Wingate Hall	Student Life	Primary student activities building. Houses student organization offices, meeting rooms, club spaces, and extracurricular programming facilities.
HR	Townsend Harris Hall	Medical / Health Sciences	Houses the CUNY School of Medicine and Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. Provides specialized medical and biomedical teaching and clinical training spaces. Functions as a separate academic institution within CUNY.
BH	Baskerville Hall	Academic / Secondary Education	Provides academic program space; also hosts a secondary-school program within the campus.
AB	Willie Administration Building	Administrative Hub	Dedicated non-academic administrative center housing central institutional offices including the Office of the President, Provost, Finance, and Human Resources.
V	Vivarium	Research Support	Specialized animal-care research support facility associated with biological sciences research programs.

3.2 South Campus Buildings

South Campus is located below West 135th Street, bounded by Convent Avenue and St. Nicholas Terrace. It was acquired in 1953 as the former campus of Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. Today it is home to the architecture school, a major performing arts venue, advanced research facilities, and student housing. South Campus has a distinct building style and landscape character that complements the North Campus.

Code	Building Name	Use Zone	Primary Function & Instructional Uses
SA	Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture (SSA)	Arts & Architecture	Home of the architecture school. Provides design studios, architectural workshops, critique spaces, computer-aided design labs, and exhibition areas. Renovated by architect Rafael Viñoly; reopened 2009 in the adaptively reused former Cohen Library building.
AD	Aaron Davis Hall	Arts & Architecture	Major performing arts venue and cultural anchor on South Campus. Hosts theatrical performances, recitals, concerts, film screenings, and arts programming open to the college community and the public.
DI	Center for Discovery & Innovation (CDI)	Research	The most advanced research facility on the CCNY campus. Supports a wide range of interdisciplinary research across the sciences and engineering disciplines. Opened 2014.
AS	Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC)	Research (CUNY-Administered)	A CUNY system-wide research facility located on South Campus. Supports cutting-edge multi-disciplinary research. Opened 2014. Not a CCNY-operated academic building.
SB	New York Structural Biology Center	Research (CUNY-Administered)	CUNY-administered structural biology research facility located on South Campus.
CC	Child Care Center	Student / Family Support	Provides childcare services for students, faculty, and staff with young children.
TW	The Towers	Student Housing (CUNY-Managed)	600-bed CUNY-managed residential facility serving students from across the CUNY system. Opened August 2006. Students should contact CUNY Housing Services for availability and application information.
MH	Mott Hall	Secondary Education (DOE)	Located on South Campus but administered by the New York City Department of Education (DOE). Not a CCNY academic building.

3.3 Off-Campus Academic Sites

CCNY extends its academic presence beyond the Hamilton Heights campus through the following off-campus location:

Abbreviation	Site Name	Location	Academic Function
CWE	Center for Worker Education — Division of Interdisciplinary Studies	25 Broadway (Cunard Line Building), Lower Manhattan, New York, NY	Extends CCNY's academic mission to working adults. Provides instructional space for interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs serving adult learners in a historic Lower Manhattan location.

4. Campus Use Zones & Instructional Space Distribution

The CCNY campus is organized into functional use zones that reflect the dominant program concentrations shaping daily use patterns. These zones describe primary character rather than rigid building-by-building boundaries, and provide a framework for understanding where academic, research, student, cultural, and administrative functions are concentrated across the campus.

Use Zone	Primary Buildings	Instructional & Student-Facing Functions
Academic Core	North Academic Center (NAC), Marshak Science Center	General-purpose classrooms, science teaching labs, research labs, Cohen Library, student services, academic department offices, CUNY Dominican Studies Institute archives and library
Humanities & Arts	Shepard Hall, Compton-Goethals Hall	Humanities and arts classrooms, lecture halls, faculty offices; housed within the historic landmark Gothic quadrangle complex
Engineering	Steinman Hall — Grove School of Engineering	Engineering classrooms, computer labs, design and fabrication labs, and specialized engineering research and teaching laboratories
Arts & Architecture	Spitzer School of Architecture (SSA), Aaron Davis Hall	Architecture design studios, critique rooms, computer-aided design labs, workshops, exhibition areas; major performing arts theater, concert hall, and cultural event programming spaces
Research	Center for Discovery & Innovation (CDI), ASRC (CUNY), NY Structural Biology Center (CUNY)	Interdisciplinary research laboratories, STEM research facilities, graduate and post-doctoral research environments supporting student engagement in cutting-edge scientific research
Student Life	Wingate Hall	Student organization offices, activity spaces, club rooms, meeting spaces, student government offices, and extracurricular programming facilities
Administrative Hub	Willie Administration Building	Central administrative offices: Office of the President, Provost, Finance, Human Resources, and other institutional leadership and support functions
Medical / Health Sciences	Townsend Harris Hall (HR)	CUNY School of Medicine and Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education specialized teaching, simulation, and clinical training spaces

5. Library & Academic Support Resources

5.1 Cohen Library

The Cohen Library is CCNY's primary academic library, located within the North Academic Center (NAC) on North Campus. It is the central hub for academic research and learning support, providing students, faculty, and researchers with access to extensive print and digital collections, research databases, group and individual study spaces, and professional library services. The library also provides access to the broader CUNY-wide library system.

Cohen Library Resources & Services

- Comprehensive print and digital research collections across all academic disciplines
- Access to CUNY-wide library system resources and databases
- Individual and group study spaces throughout the building
- Research consultation and reference services
- Interlibrary loan services for materials not held in-house
- Digital literacy instruction and research skills workshops
- Archives and special collections
- Reserve materials supporting course assignments

5.2 CUNY Dominican Studies Institute (DSI)

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, housed within the North Academic Center, is the nation's first and only university-based research center dedicated to the study of people of Dominican descent. It includes archive and library functions serving scholars, students, and the broader community with resources on Dominican history, culture, and the broader Latin American and Caribbean diaspora.

6. Transportation, Access & Campus Mobility

Transportation, mobility, and access shape daily campus activity and define how students, faculty, and staff arrive, move between buildings, and experience the campus as a connected place. CCNY is well-served by the New York City transit network, making the campus accessible from across the five boroughs and the broader metropolitan area.

6.1 Public Transit Access

Transit Mode	Line / Route	Nearest Stop & Notes
Subway 1 Train	IRT Broadway-Seventh Avenue Line (1)	137th Street–City College Station (Broadway & West 137th Street), closest subway stop to the main campus entrance
Subway B & C Trains	IND Eighth Avenue Line (B, C)	135th Street Station and 145th Street Station on St. Nicholas Avenue, serve the eastern campus approach
MTA Bus	Multiple MTA bus routes serving Amsterdam Avenue, West 135th Street, West 138th Street, and West 140th Street corridors	Bus stops located along Amsterdam Avenue and major cross streets adjacent to campus entries
Citi Bike	NYC Citi Bike bikeshare	Bikeshare docking stations near the campus perimeter support first/last-mile connections to transit hubs

6.2 Pedestrian Circulation & Campus Spine

Convent Avenue serves as the primary pedestrian spine of the campus, connecting North and South Campus. Major cross-campus corridors at West 135th Street, West 138th Street, and West 140th Street link the campus to adjacent neighborhoods and transit stops. Amsterdam Avenue serves as the primary vehicular frontage and service corridor for the campus.

The campus features a multi-level pedestrian environment shaped by topographic changes between Amsterdam Avenue (to the west) and St. Nicholas Terrace and St. Nicholas Park (to the east). Open spaces, including the NAC Plaza, the historic quadrangle, and South Campus lawns, provide pedestrian connectivity and offer opportunities for informal gathering, community events, and outdoor programming.

6.3 Campus Accessibility

CCNY is committed to providing an accessible campus environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The CCNY 2026 Campus Plan includes a targeted assessment of exterior accessibility across campus walkways, building entries, crossings, and key connections, identifying priority corridors for improvement.

Accessibility Features & Ongoing Improvements

- Accessible building entrances provided at all major academic and administrative buildings
- Elevator access available within all multi-story campus buildings
- Ongoing sidewalk and curb ramp improvement program along key pedestrian arrival corridors
- Accessible parking spaces designated at campus perimeter and adjacent street locations
- Priority improvement corridor: the 138th Street Gateway connecting Amsterdam Avenue to Convent Avenue (between NAC, Wingate Hall, and Townsend Harris Hall)
- Campus-wide accessible pedestrian network improvements planned under the CCNY 2026 Campus Plan

- Wayfinding and signage improvements planned to improve route legibility for accessible travel paths

Students, faculty, and staff requiring accessibility accommodations should contact the Office of Student Disability Services for individualized assistance, routing guidance, and accommodation services.

7. Student Housing

On-campus student housing at CCNY is provided through The Towers, a 600-bed residential facility located on South Campus (opened August 2006). The Towers is a CUNY-managed housing resource that serves students from across multiple CUNY campuses, not exclusively CCNY students. For information regarding housing availability, eligibility, and application procedures, prospective residents should contact CUNY Housing Services or visit the CUNY housing portal. Additional off-campus housing resources and referrals are available through CCNY's Office of Student Life.

8. Campus Open Spaces and Public Realm

CCNY's open spaces are an integral part of the campus experience, providing settings for informal study, community gathering, and outdoor events. The campus is notable among CUNY institutions for its substantial and varied open-space network distributed across both North and South Campus.

- **Historic Quadrangle** — The formal academic quadrangle at the heart of the Neo-Gothic North Campus, surrounded by landmark buildings including Shepard Hall, Wingate Hall, Baskerville Hall, and Compton-Goethals Hall. A designated NYC Landmark open space with significant architectural character and historical meaning.
- **NAC Plaza** — A central campus gathering space adjacent to the North Academic Center, serving as a primary hub for student activity, informal outdoor programming, and daily pedestrian circulation.
- **South Campus Lawns & Landscape** — Extensive open green spaces on South Campus surrounding the Spitzer School of Architecture, the Center for Discovery & Innovation (CDI), and the Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), giving South Campus a landscape-forward character.
- **St. Nicholas Park Edge** — The eastern boundary of the campus is bordered by St. Nicholas Park, providing a naturalistic green corridor, scenic views, and a defining landscape edge along the campus perimeter.

9. Contact Information & Additional Facilities Resources

For additional information about campus facilities

Office / Department	Phone	Website / Notes
Division of Facilities Management	(212) 650-8700	www.ccnycuniversity.edu/facilities
Office of Student Disability Services	(212) 650-5913	Accessibility accommodations, campus routing assistance
Office of Student Life	(212) 650-7000	Student housing referrals, activities, campus resources
Cohen Library	(212) 650-7609	www.ccnycuniversity.edu/library
CUNY Dominican Studies Institute	(212) 650-7496	www.ccnycuniversity.edu/dsi
CCNY Public Safety (24-Hour Emergency)	(212) 650-7777	Non-emergency and general security inquiries
CUNY Housing Services	212-794-5322	On-campus housing availability and application — The Towers