



**BACK TO BACK TO BACK
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
2023 - 2024 - 2025**

WHY DRAKE FOOTBALL?

UNIQUE CULTURE

Drake Football prides itself on a family atmosphere and positive relationships.

INCREDIBLE FOOTBALL SUCCESS

The last three seasons, the bulldogs have won the Pioneer Football League Championship (2023, 2024 & 2025)

AMAZING FACILITIES

Drake offers high-level facilities across athletics and academics, highlighted by Drake Stadium—one of the most historic track & field venues in the country and home of the Drake Relays.

DES MOINES HOMETOWN TEAM

Located in Des Moines, Drake gives you access to a fast-growing city with real opportunity. From internships with major companies to a strong local business scene, you're not stuck in a college bubble—you're in a market that matters.

STRONG ACADEMIC VALUE

A degree from Drake University carries serious weight—especially in business, pharmacy, communications, and actuarial science. Small class sizes, direct professor access, and strong job placement give you a real return on your investment.

CITY WITHOUT THE CHAOS

Des Moines gives you everything you need—restaurants, nightlife, outdoor spaces—without the distractions and cost of a major metro.

It's a place where you can stay focused and still enjoy your college experience.

BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

Drake's 150-acre campus is located in Des Moines' state capital and a city offering attractions including restaurants and shopping; music festivals, museums, and other cultural highlights; and excellent internships.

BROAD CURRICULUM

Drake University offers over 100+ areas of study.





ABOUT DES MOINES

- Capital city with a major metro feel but no big-city chaos – easy to get around, short commutes, no traffic
- One of the fastest-growing cities in the Midwest with strong job placement and internship opportunities
- Downtown skyline + riverfront create a true city atmosphere minutes from campus
- Over 800+ miles of trails including the nationally recognized Principal Riverwalk
- Thriving downtown districts like the East Village and Historic Court Avenue District
- Home to professional sports: Iowa Cubs at Principal Park and Iowa Wild
- One of the best food scenes in the Midwest – local restaurants, coffee shops, and late-night spots
- Major concerts and events at Wells Fargo Arena and Lauridsen Amphitheater
- Top internship market – finance, insurance, tech, marketing, media, and business headquarters
- Clean, safe, and affordable – live like a city athlete without big-city cost
- Nationally known events including the Iowa State Fair and Des Moines Arts Festival
- Young, energetic population with strong college and post-grad scene
- Quick access to lakes, golf, and outdoor recreation minutes from downtown
- Central Midwest location – easy travel to Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Omaha

#DSMHOMETOWNTTEAM

QUICK FACTS

- City population: ~215,000
- Metro population: ~700,000+
- Largest city in Iowa
- Over 50 golf courses in the metro area
- Airport to campus: ~15 minutes



WHY DRAKE UNIVERSITY?



4,700+ students
Students from 45+ states
40+ countries represented
10:1 student-to-faculty ratio
Average class size: ~20



DIVISION I ATHLETICS

NCAA Division I
Missouri Valley Conference member
Pioneer Football League football
18 varsity sports



ACADEMICS

100+ majors, minors, concentrations
98% career placement rate
Top-ranked Midwest regional university
Strong internship connections in Des Moines



CAMPUS LIFE

150+ student organizations
Beautiful residential campus
Minutes from downtown Des Moines
Home of the Drake Relays



Finn Claypool '24

In 2024, Finn Claypool was named a Buck Buchanan Award Finalist

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

3+3 law/Arts & Sciences degree
3+3 law/Business degree
3+3 law/Health Sciences degree
3+3 law/Journalism degree
Accounting
Actuarial Science
Actuarial Science Minor
Advertising
American Politics
Anthropology and Sociology
Anthropology Minor
Applied Music (instrumental, piano or vocal music performance)
Art History
Art Minor
Artificial Intelligence
Athletic Training (includes Pre-AT)
Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
Biology
Biology
Business Law
Chemistry
Computer Science
Creative Writing and Writing Studies
Data Analytics
Digital Media Production
Disability and Rehabilitation Services
Drawing (Studio Art)
Economics & Quantitative Economics
Elementary Teacher Education (K-6)*
English
Entrepreneurship Minor
Environmental Science
Environmental Sustainability and Resilience
Finance
French Language and Culture Minor
German Language and Culture Minor
Graphic Design
Health Sciences
History
Individualized Major
Information Systems
International Business
International Relations
Japanese Language and Culture Minor
Journalism and Mass Communication: Digital Communications (100% Online)
Journalism and Mass Communication: Public Relations (100% Online)
Kinesiology
Law & Business Minor
Law, Politics and Society
Latin American Studies Minor
Leadership Education and Development Minor
Magazine Media
Management and Organizational Leadership
Marketing
Mathematics
Mathematics Education (Secondary)
Military Studies Minor
Multimedia Journalism
Music
Music Education (Instrumental or Choral)
Music Major with Elective Studies in Business
Music Major with Jazz Studies Concentration
Neuroscience
Nursing (includes pre-Nursing)
Occupational Therapy (includes pre-OT)
Open-Enrolled
Painting (Studio Art)
Pharmacy (includes pre-pharmacy)
Philosophy
Physics
Politics
Printmaking (Studio Art)
Psychology
Public Relations
Religious and Interfaith Studies
Risk Management & Insurance Minor
Sculpture (BFA and BA in Studio Art)
Secondary Teacher Education (7-12)*
Sociology
Spanish
Sports Media and Communication
Strategic Political Communications
Talent Development
Theatre Acting
Theatre Arts
Theatre Design
Theatre Directing
Theatre Arts with Teaching Certificate
Theatre Minor
Theatre, Musical
Undecided Majors
Zoo & Conservation Science

Pre-Professional Pathways
Pre-Engineering
Pre-Law
Pre-Med



Brett Welsing '25
2025 Stats Perform FCS
Preseason All-America
Team

ADMISSION

Application Process

The application process at Drake University is straightforward, rolling, and relatively low-friction compared to more selective schools. The key is completeness, timing, and presenting a solid academic profile.

1. Choose How to Apply

You start by submitting an online application—either through Drake’s own application or the Common App. Both are treated equally. There is no application fee for U.S. students, which removes a common barrier.

2. Submit Core Application Materials

Your application is built on a few essential components:

- Application form (basic personal + academic info)
- Official high school transcripts (sent directly from your school)
- Optional test scores (SAT/ACT) – considered but not always required
- Personal statement / essay (recommended)
- Letters of recommendation (recommended but not mandatory)

3. Understand Admission Standards

Drake is moderately selective (~64% acceptance rate), meaning:

- Strong GPA (around ~3.5–3.7 range) matters most
- Test scores help but aren’t make-or-break
- Rigor of coursework (AP, honors) strengthens your case

4. Apply Early (Rolling Admissions)

- Drake uses rolling admission, meaning:
- You can apply anytime within a broad window
- Decisions come back relatively quickly
- Earlier = better shot at scholarships, housing, and spots

5. Financial Aid & Scholarships

After applying, you’ll:

- Submit FAFSA for federal aid
- Be automatically considered for many merit scholarships
- Use tools like the Net Price Calculator to estimate cost

6. Admission Decision

Once your file is complete:

- Drake reviews your application holistically
- You’ll receive a decision (often within weeks due to rolling review)
- Possible outcomes: admit, deny, or request more info

7. Accept Offer & Enroll

Once accepted:

- Submit your enrollment deposit
- Register for housing and orientation
- Finalize financial aid and class registration



Will Warner '19
2018 FCS Football All-
American First Team
selection

DRAKE STADIUM



KNAPP CENTER



DRAKE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



DRAKE RELAYS

From road races, Beautiful Bulldogs, and athletic feats to family-friendly activities, alumni parties, and on-campus events, there is something for everyone during the 2025 Drake Relays



MATT WALKER

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Matt Walker, a national championship head coach, two-time NCAA Division III national coach of the year, and architect of one of the most explosive offenses in college football, was named head football coach at Drake University, Athletics Director Brian Hardin announced February 22.

Walker makes the jump to the FCS ranks after 15 seasons in the same role at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He capped his Falcon tenure with the ultimate result, leading UWRF to the NCAA Division III National Championship in 2025. Walker guided the Falcons to a program record 14 wins, their first national playoff berth since 1996, and the first national title in school history.

2025 also marked UW-River Falls' first outright Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championship since 1985. Following the 2025 season, Walker was named D3football.com Coach of the Year and the WIAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his career. In 2021, Walker also earned WIAC Coach of the Year honors and was named Hansen Rating National Coach of the Year following a nine-win campaign.

Since 2021, Walker has posted an overall record of 44-13 including back-to-back Isthmus Bowl (NCAA Division III postseason bowl game) titles, and routinely had the Falcons ranked among national offensive leaders.

In each of the last five seasons, Walker's teams led the WIAC in total offense and scoring offense. Three times since 2021, the Falcons ranked in the top-four of Division III in total offense and in the last five seasons, Walker's teams averaged 42.4 points per game.

Walker coached over 140 players to All-WIAC status, 13 All-Region honorees, six All-Americans, and the 2025 Gagliardi Trophy winner Kaleb Blaha, who was recognized as the most outstanding player in all of Division III football this past season. Five Falcons also earned the WIAC's most prestigious student-athlete achievement, the Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete Award, under Walker's tutelage.

Prior to UWRF, Walker served as an offensive assistant in 2010 at Pioneer Football League rival Butler University, where he coached the Bulldogs' tight ends.

His prior stop was back at the Division III level at DePauw University in Indiana. While with the Tigers, Matt coached running backs and wide receivers from 2000-05 before being elevated to head coach from 2006-09. In his three seasons as head coach at DePauw, Walker led the Tigers to a 22-8 record.

Walker's DePauw tenure was not limited to the gridiron, though, as he also served as the Tigers' head baseball coach from 2001-09. On the diamond, he led his squads to five divisional championships and an NCAA regional berth in 2001. He was one of the youngest coaches in college baseball history to reach 250 wins.

Walker earned his bachelor's degree in Sports Science from DePauw in 1999, then proceeded to earn his master's in physical education from Indiana State in 2001 where he collected Phi Kappa Phi academic status.

Matt and his wife, Jana, have two daughters, Kraly and Hudson, and two sons, Townsend and Sullivan.



FOOTBALL STAFF

Offense



Joe Matheson
Offensive Coordinator/
Quarterbacks Coach
@CoachJMath



Kristian Crabb
Offensive Line Coach/
Run Game Coordinator
@coach_CrabbDU



Drew Adams
Wide Receivers Coach
Recruiting Coordinator
@CoachDAdams



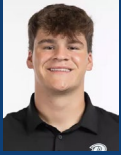
Parker Kizer
Tight Ends Coach
@CoachKizer_DU



Tanner Ash
Running Backs Coach/
Coordinator of Player
Development
@Coacht_ash



Seth Howard
Asst. Quarterback Coach/
Coordinator of Creative
Content
@SethHoward_



Tyler Woodman
Offensive Student Coach

Defense



Mark Sipple
Defensive Coordinator/
Safeties Coach
@CoachSipple



**Bobby Cade
Mornhinweg**
Special Teams
Coordinator/
Defensive Line Coach
@MornhinwegCade



Jacob Brown
Linebackers Coach
@DBCochJB



Myles Taylor
Defensive Tackles Coach
@CoachMylesT



Austin Biber
Defensive Graduate
Assistant
@austib14

Support Staff



Max Slinden
Video Coordinator



Matt Paja
Director of Sports
Performance



Dave Applegate
Minister of Culture



Carter Kallen
Student Coach



Jules Gentiluomo
Student Coach



LEGACY OF JOHN DEE BRIGHT

John Dee Bright, known to the Drake community as “Johnny Bright,” was a celebrated 1952 Drake graduate who starred on the football field for the Bulldogs and built a successful career as a committed educator and beloved principal in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Bright passed away in Edmonton in 1983 at the age of 53.

“Naming Bright College in Johnny’s honor pays tribute to his personal and professional qualities—the very qualities Bright College will instill in its learners: grit, resilience, dedication, drive, and civic and professional engagement,” Martin said.

Sadly, a vicious play in Stillwater, Oklahoma, robbed Bright of a certain Heisman Trophy in 1951. Two years previously, Bright had been the first Black football player to play a game at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University). On an early Drake offensive play in the 1951 game, an Oklahoma A&M lineman charged Bright—who did not have the ball—and hit him in the face, breaking Bright’s jaw. To honor his athletic accomplishments, Drake University named the football field at Drake Stadium the Johnny Bright Field in 2006.

Photographs of the incident caused a national outrage and heightened awareness of the racism Black athletes faced. The sequence of images earned Des Moines Register photographers John Robinson and Don Ultang a Pulitzer Prize for Photography in 1952.

Following the assault on Bright in the Oklahoma A&M game, Drake University withdrew from the Missouri Valley Conference after the conference refused to take any action against Oklahoma A&M. Bradley University also left the MVC in solidarity with Drake. President David Schmidly of Oklahoma State University issued a letter of apology for the incident to Drake University in 2005. President Schmidly referred to his team’s behavior as “an ugly mark on Oklahoma State University and college football.”

His running and passing wizardry enabled him to lead the NCAA in total offense in 1949 and 1950, setting an NCAA record of 2,400 yards in 1950 for a per game average of 266.7 yards, which also was an NCAA record. He also set the NCAA career total offense record of 5,983 yards. Bright concluded his collegiate career playing in the East-West Shrine All-Star game and the Hula Bowl.

Bright set 20 Drake records in football, basketball and track from 1949–51.

The NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles drafted Bright with the fifth pick in the first round of the 1952 NFL draft. Bright would have become the Eagles’ first Black player. Due to the likelihood of racist reprisals, Bright chose to take his talents to the Canadian Football League where he became one of Canada’s most accomplished professional football players ever. Bright was inducted into the CFL Hall of Fame in 1970.

Bright used his bachelor’s degree in education from Drake to work as a teacher, coach, and school administrator in Edmonton Public Schools during and after his football career. He coached football at Bonnie Doon High School throughout the 1960s. At the time of his death he was a junior high school principal. The Johnny Bright School, a kindergarten through grade nine school in Edmonton, bears his name.



Johnny Bright '52

BULLDOGS IN THE PROS

NOTABLE DRAKE PRO PLAYERS

Eric Saubert – Tight End

- Drafted by the Atlanta Falcons
- Multi-team NFL career (Falcons, Bears, Jaguars, Broncos, Cowboys)
- Known for blocking, versatility, and reliability
- Super Bowl 61 Champion

Johnny Bright – Running Back

- One of the most legendary players in college football history
- Dominant at Drake before a professional career in Canada
- His legacy helped shape the modern conversation around player safety and equity

Bill Kay – Defensive Back

- Played in the NFL after a standout career at Drake
- Early example of Drake sending talent to the league

Don Paris – Offensive Lineman

- NFL offensive lineman
- Built his foundation at Drake before competing at the next level

Billy Cundiff – Kicker

- Long time NFL Kicker
- 182 Career Field Goals



Eric Saubert '17

DRAKE ATHLETIC SUCCESS



Zach Johnson '98
 2007 Masters Champion
 2015 Open Champion
 2023 Ryder Cup Captain



#DSMHOMETOWNTTEAM

BACK TO BACK TO BACK
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

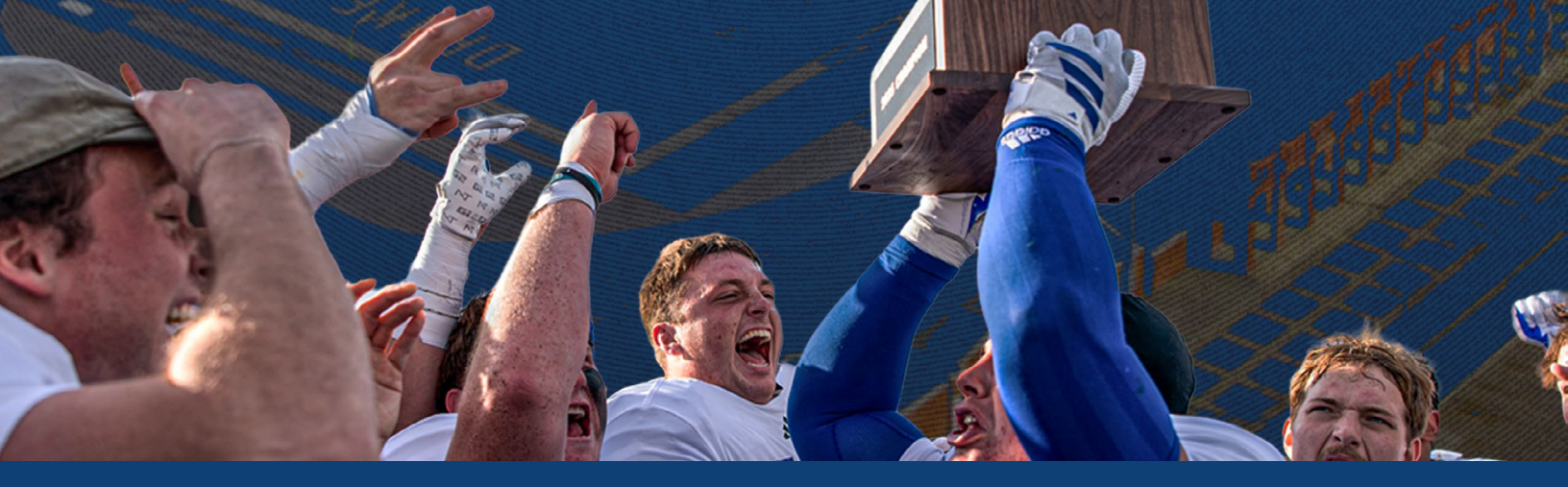


DRAKE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CAMPS

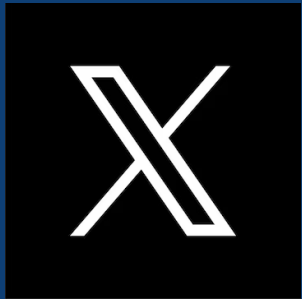
JUNE 3RD
JUNE 12TH
JUNE 14TH
JUNE 27TH



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