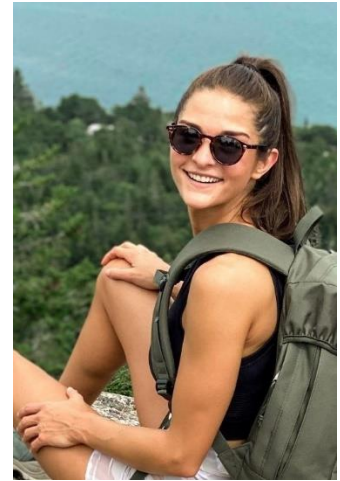


Corrine Parisi ('23) went back to college

Corrine Parisi was born and raised in Mullica Hill, NJ. Her parents are both retired. Her mother graduated from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) and was a schoolteacher and then a homemaker. Her father operated a metal recycling facility started by her great-grandfather. Corrine has two sisters. One is a nurse. The other is a seamstress.

Corrine obtained a business and engineering degree from the Drexel College of Business in 2019. After graduation, she started a job in financial compliance in Manhattan, NY. She soon realized she didn't feel fulfilled in that industry, but the Covid lockdown convinced her to stay with it for two years. She eventually decided to return to college and get an engineering degree at Rowan University. Her engineering courses from Drexel transferred to Rowan and she completed her Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering degree between Spring 2022 and Fall 2023.



During Corrine's time at Rowan she had an internship at Pennoni Engineering in the summer of 2023. She is now a full time Environmental Scientist at Pennoni. She plans to take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam by the end of the summer and enter an engineering track at Pennoni as soon as possible.¹ Corrine's current duties include Phase 1 & 2 environmental site assessments and investigations including field work such as soil, water and air sampling, as well as writing reports and assisting clients with regulatory compliance.

Corrine is an avid gardener. She likes to spend time outdoors. She just adopted a new dog. She also enjoys spending time with her sisters' young children.

I chose Rowan when I returned to college because I had heard many good things about the engineering school, and it is very affordable. Drexel was a great experience and the co-ops² were amazing, but after deciding to pay for another 2 years of college I needed it to be affordable. If I could do it all over again, I would go to Rowan right from high school.

I initially went to Drexel with the intention of becoming an environmental engineer, but being young and uncertain about my future career path I ended up switching majors to obtain the business and engineering degree. However, I found that working in the finance industry didn't align with what I valued most. In Environmental Engineering, I can do more than just focus on business profits. I can help ensure we can live in a clean sustainable society. Now, I work on projects in my community and region. The work is challenging, but I feel more connected.

I liked the small class size at Rowan. It was very easy to speak up. My classmates were amazing, especially the other women in my classes. They were uplifting and inspiring. They got me to work harder.

The professors at Rowan cared about fostering a positive learning experience. When I went to their office hours, they were always helpful. Professor Marcello was very encouraging. Professor Jahan was an amazing role model. She helped me get a research job my first summer

at CREATE.³ I did some of my Engineering Clinics⁴ with her: Waterworks⁵ and Engineers on Wheels.⁶ Both projects involved educational outreach to attract young people into engineering careers. I also got to go to conferences, such as the spring 2023 New Jersey Water Environment Association conference, to present our Waterworks clinic team poster.

I had a wonderful experience at Rowan. I found a close-knit community. The professors--even department heads--care about you. Everyone was easy to get along with: students and faculty. I got my money's worth at Rowan.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-3-25

1. The Professional Engineer license (PE) is a "standard recognized by employers and their clients, by governments and by the public as an assurance of dedication, skill and quality...Only PEs can sign and seal engineering drawings...To become a Licensed Professional Engineer, you must do four things: graduate from an accredited engineering program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, work with a professional engineer for four years, and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam."

2. "With co-op, students alternate classes with full-time employment through University-approved employers. Generally, students are on co-op for a six-month period, alternating with six months of classroom study. Cooperative education at Drexel is a degree requirement for most majors."

3. The Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems (CREATES) at the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering at Rowan University includes a "fully instrumented accelerated pavement testing facility and a Heavy Vehicle Simulator that allows for applying accelerated loading that simulates 20 years of traffic in as few as 3 to 6 months."

4. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering's place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.

5. "WaterWorks is a collaborative research effort from several engineering departments at Rowan University, and is developed with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of WaterWorks is to raise awareness about employment opportunities in the wastewater treatment sector. Using K-12 educational programs, WaterWorks aims to provide outreach and improved student education in topics related to wastewater treatment, water utility work, and water infrastructure."

6. "The goal of [Engineers on Wheels] is to get K-12 students interested in engineering at an early age and keep them interested. Through the projects they work on with Engineers on Wheels, students in area schools learn not only what engineering is but also how it can be fun and creative...Students and professors from the College of Engineering use their colorful, specially outfitted vans to provide students with that interactive experience."