

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

2008 PROFILE

Founded in 1874 by Norwegian Lutheran immigrants, St. Olaf is a nationally ranked liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America located in Northfield, Minn.

Location

Northfield is a historic river town of 19,000 in the south central part of Minnesota, just 45 minutes from the Twin Cities and Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) international airport. Downtown Northfield, a short walk from campus, has been restored to recall the 19th century and features coffeehouses, sandwich shops, restaurants, gift stores and local art galleries. Northfield is also home to Carleton College, an athletic rival whose campus is just across the Cannon River.

Campus

Known as "The Hill," St. Olaf College's picturesque 300-acre campus is home to 17 academic and administrative buildings, 29 student residences and 10 athletic facilities. As a residential college, 96 percent of St. Olaf students reside in one of the 11 residence halls and 18 academic and special interest group houses. Adjacent to campus are 700 acres of restored wetlands and woodlands, farmland and native tallgrass prairie owned and maintained by St. Olaf, and a 350-foot tall wind turbine that supplies one-third of the college's daily electrical needs.

Accreditation

St. Olaf College is accredited as a degree-granting institution by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The college's academic programs are also accredited by the American Chemical Society, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Schools of Dance, National Association of Schools of Music, National Association of Schools of Theatre and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Academic Calendar

St. Olaf College is one of only a handful of colleges and universities that adhere to a 4-1-4 academic calendar. The January Interim is a four-week period of intensive study that provides an opportunity for faculty and students to focus their attention on one course, offering a time for single-minded study in depth. Many students choose to pursue off-campus and international study during this time.

Academic Program

St. Olaf College offers a traditional four-year liberal arts education distinguished by both breadth and depth. Within the bachelor of arts degree program, academic majors are offered in 39 different disciplines and subject areas in the natural and mathematical sciences, fine arts, social sciences and humanities. Students also may pursue an individually designed major on any subject that permits coherent, in-depth study using resources available through the college. In addition to the bachelor of arts degree in music, the music department provides a professional bachelor of music degree with majors in performance, church music, theory and composition, and music education. To enrich their learning, St. Olaf students may choose among 19 different interdisciplinary concentrations including Asian studies, environmental studies, linguistics and women's studies.

Off-Campus and International Programs

Number of Off-Campus Programs	132
Sponsored Off-Campus Program Participants (2007-08)	826
Domestic	154
Study Abroad	672
Members of Graduating Class Participating During College Career (Class of 2008)	76%
Domestic	21%*
Study Abroad	68%*

*Percents sum to more than 76% because some students do both.

Graduation and Retention

2002 Cohort 6-year Graduation Rate	86.5%
Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate (2007-08)	91.7%
Degrees Awarded (Class of 2008)	712
B.A.	682 (96%)
B.M.	30 (4%)

Majors with the largest number of graduates (950 majors awarded to the Class of 2008)

1. Biology	127 (13.4%)
2. English	73 (7.7%)
3. Mathematics	67 (7.1%)
4. Economics	63 (6.7%)
5. Music (B.A. and B.M.)	58 (6.1%)

Enrollment (Fall 2008)

Total Enrollment	3,073
Full-Time	3,016 (98%)
Part-Time	57 (2%)
Degree-Seeking Students	3,014
Men	1,362 (45%)
Women	1,652 (55%)
Total Student FTE ^a	3,035

Racial/Ethnic Composition

African American	41 (1%)
Asian/Pacific Islander	157 (5%)
Hispanic/Latino	48 (1%)
Native American/Alaskan Native	7 (0.1%)
Non-resident International	62 (2%)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	124 (4%)
White, not Hispanic	2,634 (86%)

Geographic Representation

U.S. States	50
Other countries	30

^aBased on CDS calculation of FTE by enrollment headcount:

Full-time + (Part-time/3)

Entering Student Profile (Class of 2012)

Number Applied	3,964
Acceptance Rate	58.7%
Number Enrolled	817
Average Combined SAT Score	1,296
Average ACT Score	29
Top 10% of High School Class	58%
Average High School GPA	3.65
First Generation	15%

Financial Aid (2007-08)

Total Institutional Gift Aid	\$33.9 million
Students Receiving Institutional Gift Aid	81%
Need-Based Aid	63%
Non-Need Based or Merit-Only Aid	18%
Average Need-Based Financial Aid Package	\$22,743

Faculty (Fall 2008)

Full-time Faculty	194
Part-time Faculty	129
Total Faculty FTE ^a	237
Full-Time Faculty with Ph.D. or Highest Degree in Field	91%
Full-Time Faculty with Tenure	120 (62%)
Student-Faculty Ratio ^b	12.8:1
Class Size (Fall 2008)	
Less than 20	61%
20-29	25%
30-49	11%
50+	4%

^aBased on IPEDS FTE calculation: Full-time + (Part-time/3);

^bBased on FTE Student/FTE Faculty

Administration and Finances

Operating Budget (2008-09)	\$112.4 million
Endowment (May 31, 2008)	\$334.8 million
Endowment per Student FTE (2007-08)	\$111,455
Total Net Assets (May 31, 2008)	\$495.3 million
Comprehensive Fee (2008-09)	\$42,200
Tuition and Fees	\$34,300
Room and Board	\$7,900
Staff (Fall 2008)	481
Full-Time	318 (66%)
Part-Time	163 (34%)

Advancement (2007-2008)

Total Outright Gifts	\$19.5 million
Alumni of Record	34,490
Alumni Participation Rate	10,845 (31%)

Athletics

27 varsity teams, 14 for men and 13 for women, participate in NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, hockey, skiing (both Nordic and Alpine), soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field (both indoor and outdoor), volleyball, and wrestling. Athletic colors are black and gold, and the nickname for St. Olaf teams is the Oles. All varsity athletic teams compete in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), with the exception of wrestling and Alpine and Nordic skiing.

Music at St. Olaf

With five large instrumental ensembles and seven large vocal ensembles, numerous chamber music ensembles, three jazz ensembles, two early music ensembles, and a three-production lyric theater season, more than one-third of St. Olaf students are involved in music. The three flagship ensembles, the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir and St. Olaf Orchestra, annually tour the United States and frequently travel abroad. The St. Olaf Christmas Festival, featuring more than 500 student musicians comprising five choirs and the St. Olaf Orchestra, is one of the oldest Christmas musical celebrations in the United States and is broadcast on PBS nationally.

Student Organizations

There are more than 135 registered student organizations at St. Olaf, including academic, athletic, awareness, multicultural, political, religious, service and other special interest groups. Club sports include men's and women's rugby, men's and women's lacrosse, badminton, cycling, judo, dance, fencing, rowing and waterskiing, among others. The *Manitou Messenger* is the student newspaper and KSTO 93.1 FM is the student-operated radio station.

Achievements and Recognitions

According to the National Science Foundation's *Survey of Earned Doctorates*, St. Olaf ranks No. 1 in mathematics and statistics; No. 2 in religion and theology; No. 3 in art and music; No. 3 in foreign languages; No. 6 in chemistry; No. 8 in physics; and No. 10 in biological sciences among the nation's 213 baccalaureate colleges in the number of graduates who go on to earn Ph.D.s.

St. Olaf has had nine Rhodes Scholars. Since 1996 the college has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other liberal arts college in the nation. Two St. Olaf seniors were selected in the 2008 awards competition. Over the past two decades, only two other liberal arts colleges (Williams and Wellesley) have had the honor of having two selections in a single year.

59 percent of the Class of 2007 was employed within six months of graduation, 34 percent enrolled in graduate school or other advanced study, and 7 percent engaged in full-time volunteer service.

Three St. Olaf students were named Fulbright Scholars for 2008-09. Since 1993 70 St. Olaf students have received prestigious Fulbright scholarships.

26 St. Olaf students have received Goldwater scholarships since 1995. The scholarships, which are granted to sophomores and juniors in mathematics, science and engineering, are awarded on the basis of academic merit.

St. Olaf ranks as one of the top 20 small colleges and universities in the nation (5,000 students or fewer) in the number of graduates who serve in the Peace Corps. For 2008, St. Olaf placed ninth among its peers in current Peace Corps volunteers.

St. Olaf has earned six Academic All-American selections: three in baseball and one each in football, volleyball, and women's track and field. Fifty-seven student-athletes received Academic All-Conference recognitions by the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2007-08.

St. Olaf is consistently one of the nation's most successful undergraduate institutions in preparing students for medical school. Upwards of 80 percent of St. Olaf graduating seniors who apply to medical school gain admission, compared to a national acceptance rate of approximately 49-50 percent.

St. Olaf had 53 National Merit Scholars in the freshman class that arrived on campus in the fall of 2008. In 2007, with 43 scholars, St. Olaf ranked 5th among liberal arts colleges and 49th overall among the more than 3,000 accredited four-year colleges and universities in the nation in the number of merit scholars in that year's class.



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