

ST. OLAF COLLEGE 2015 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, Minnesota.

Location

Northfield is a historic river town of 20,000 in the southeast part of Minnesota, just 45 minutes from the Twin Cities and Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) international airport. Downtown Northfield, within walking distance of 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 16 academic and administrative buildings, 30 student residences, and 10 athletic facilities. As a residential college, 95 percent of St. Olaf students reside in one of the 11 residence halls and 19 academic and special interest honor houses. Adjacent to campus are 325 acres of restored wetlands, woodlands, and native tallgrass prairie owned and maintained by St. Olaf, and a utility-grade 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 Schools. The college’s academic programs are also accredited by the American Chemical Society, Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, 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 in-depth study. 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, music education, and elective studies. To enrich their learning, St. Olaf students may choose among 23 different interdisciplinary concentrations including Asian studies, environmental studies, linguistics, and neuroscience.

Off-Campus and International Programs

Number of Off-Campus Programs Offered	110
Sponsored Off-Campus Program Participants (2014-15)	801
Domestic	119*
Study Abroad	703*
Members of Graduating Class Participating During College Career (Class of 2015)	72%
Domestic	14%*
Study Abroad	68%*

*Totals may not agree because some students do both.

Graduation and Retention

2009 Cohort 6-year Graduation Rate	87%
Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate (Fall '14 to '15)	93%
Degrees Awarded (2014-15)*	677
B.A.	650 (96%)
B.M.	27 (4%)

Majors with the largest number of graduates (903 majors awarded)*

1. Biology	105 (12%)
2. Psychology	74 (8%)
3. Economics	71 (8%)
4. Mathematics	68 (8%)
5. English	61 (7%)

*IPEDS data covering the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Enrollment (Fall 2015)

Total Enrollment	3,046
Full-Time	3,005 (99%)
Part-Time	41 (1%)
Degree-Seeking Students	3,005
Men	1,289 (43%)
Women	1,716 (57%)
Total Student FTE*	3,019
Racial/Ethnic Composition	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4 (0.1%)
Asian, Non-Hispanic	190 (6%)
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	61 (2%)
Hispanic	157 (5%)
Multiracial, Non-Hispanic	108 (4%)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1 (0%)
Nonresident International	234 (8%)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	25 (1%)
White, Non-Hispanic	2,266 (74%)

Geographic Representation

U.S. States/District of Columbia	50
Other countries (includes American citizens living abroad)	80

*Based on CDS calculation of FTE by enrollment headcount: Full-time + (Part-time/3).

Entering Student Profile (Class of 2019)

Number Applied	7,571
Acceptance Rate	36%
Number Enrolled	763
Median Combined SAT Score	1,280
Median ACT Score	29
Average High School GPA	3.59
First Generation	19%

Financial Aid (2015–16)

Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students	2,997
Total Institutional Gift Aid	\$64.2 million
Students Receiving Institutional Gift Aid	89%
Aid Recipients That Were Need-Based	76%
Aid Recipients That Were Non-Need Based/Merit-Only	24%
Average Need-Based Financial Aid Package	\$34,472

Faculty (Fall 2015)

Full-Time Faculty	213
Part-Time Faculty	120
Total Faculty FTE ^a	253
Full-Time Faculty with Ph.D. or Highest Degree in Field	93%
Full-Time Faculty with Tenure	130 (61%)
Student-Faculty Ratio ^b	12:1
Class Size (Fall 2015)	
Less than 20	54%
20–29	34%
30–49	9%
50+	3%

^aBased on CDS FTE calculation: Full-time + (Part-time/3).

^bBased on FTE Student/FTE Faculty.

Finances

Operating Budget (2014–15)	\$126.0 million
Endowment (May 31, 2015)	\$455.5 million
Total Net Assets (May 31, 2015)	\$634.2 million
Comprehensive Fee (2015–16)	\$52,730
Tuition and Fees	\$42,940
Room and Board	\$9,790

Advancement (2014–15)

Gift Revenue Received	\$11.3 million
New Pledges and Expectancies (will provisions, bequest intentions, and other new commitments)	\$15.4 million
Total Fundraising Results	\$26.8 million
Alumni of Record:	37,348
Alumni Participation Rate:	22%

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 eight choirs, two orchestras, and two bands of the highest quality and dozens of smaller ensembles from Japanese *taiko* drumming to jazz to lyric opera, approximately one-third of St. Olaf students are involved in music. The three flagship ensembles, the St. Olaf Choir, St. Olaf Orchestra, and St. Olaf Band, 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 music celebrations of the season in the United States and is broadcast on PBS nationally.

Student Organizations

There are nearly 250 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 12th overall among the nation's 263 baccalaureate colleges in the number of graduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees. St. Olaf earned top 10 rankings in the following fields: mathematics/statistics and religion/theology (3rd); education (4th); biology and the life sciences and arts/music (5th), medical sciences (6th); chemistry (8th); and engineering (10th).

St. Olaf has had five Rhodes Scholars since 1995. Two St. Olaf seniors were selected in the 2008 awards competition. Over the past two decades, only two other liberal arts colleges have had the honor of having two selections in a single year.

With data for 91 percent of the Class of 2014, 60 percent were employed within nine months of graduation, 25 percent enrolled in graduate school or other advanced study, and 12 percent engaged in full-time volunteer service.

Seven St. Olaf graduating seniors were named Fulbright Scholars for 2015–16. Since 1995 107 St. Olaf students have received prestigious Fulbright scholarships.

Thirty-three 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.

More than two-thirds of all St. Olaf students study abroad before graduating. According to the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors 2015 Report on International Educational Exchange*, St. Olaf ranked 1st among baccalaureate institutions in the total number of students studying abroad for the 2013–14 academic year.

St. Olaf regularly ranks as one of the top 25 small colleges and universities in the nation (5,000 students or fewer) in the number of graduates who serve in the Peace Corps. For 2014, St. Olaf placed 6th among its peers in current Peace Corps volunteers, with 15 volunteers serving overseas.

St. Olaf has earned seven Academic All-American selections: three in baseball and one each in football, volleyball, women's golf, and women's track and field. Ninety-three student-athletes received Academic All-Conference recognitions by the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2014–15.

St. Olaf has a strong track record of preparing students for careers in medicine and the health sciences. Approximately 75 percent of St. Olaf students who apply to medical school within three years of graduation are admitted.

St. Olaf had 19 National Merit Scholars in the freshman class that arrived on campus in the fall of 2015. In 2014, with 28 scholars, St. Olaf ranked 5th among liberal arts colleges and 71st overall among all accredited four-year colleges and universities in the nation in the number of merit scholars in that year's class.