



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Join us as we search for St. Olaf's 12th President





ST. OLAF'S NEXT PRESIDENT

Based on St. Olaf's current and historical strengths, the college's 12th president will have a formidable platform on which to build. A breadth of opportunities await the new president as do significant challenges given the changing dynamics of higher education and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we prepare to transition from almost two decades of David Anderson's incredible leadership, we are excited to begin the search for our next leader, who will guide St. Olaf into the future. We are looking forward to engaging the entire St. Olaf community in this important process.

Stephanie Fehr '87
Search Committee Chair

These committee members were deliberately selected to represent diversity among gender, age, race, experience, viewpoints, and association with the college. They are also forward-thinking, with an eye toward St. Olaf's future.

Jay Lund '81, P'12, P'14, P'14
Chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents

TIMELINE

SUMMER - FALL 2021

Search Firm Identified

Search Committee Formed

WINTER - SUMMER 2022

Community Input

Build and Review Candidate Pool

Interviews Begin

FALL 2022 - SPRING 2023

Recommendations Made

Board of Regents Selection

12th President Announced

Transition Begins

SEARCH COMMITTEE

REGENTS AND FORMER REGENTS



Stephanie Fehr '87, Chair
Executive Vice President and
Chief Human Capital Officer, UnitedHealthcare



Rev. Dr. William Gafkjen '79
Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America's Indiana-Kentucky Synod



Susan Gunderson '79, P'15
Retired Chief Executive Officer,
LifeSource



Christopher Klein P'19
Retired Executive Chairman and CEO, Fortune
Brands Home & Security Inc.



Timothy Maudlin '73, P'99, P'02
Retired Executive, Active Board Member



Brenda McCormick '89
Chief Financial Officer and
Senior Vice President, Children's Minnesota



Glenn Taylor '73
Retired Executive; Board Member, DAS Health



Jennifer Hellman '98, P'25
President and CEO, Goff Public

FACULTY



Anthony Bateza
Associate Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College



Louis Epstein
Associate Professor of Music, St. Olaf College
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents

STAFF



Valeng Cha '95
Director of Government, Foundation and
Corporate Relations, St. Olaf College

STUDENT



Andy Nelson '23
Former Student Government Association
President, St. Olaf College



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SEARCH COMMITTEE

PROSPECTUS

More than a campus, a community

The Presidential Search Committee of St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN) invites applications, expressions of interest, and nominations of candidates in its search for the college's 12th president. The search was launched in response to President David R. Anderson's decision to retire in June 2023, following a celebrated 17-year tenure. In his successor, St. Olaf seeks a community-oriented leader with clear vision coupled with a commitment to the enduring value of a rigorous and holistic educational experience. The next president will both sustain and evolve the college as it realizes its mission to challenge students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by the Lutheran tradition.

Role of the 12th President of St. Olaf College

The president of St. Olaf is the executive leader of the college and reports to the Board of Regents. The president will be expected to lead with discernment, empathy, and a sense of determination that will propel the college's trajectory of excellence and academic distinction and effect even greater financial sustainability. In close collaboration with the senior leadership team, the president will have overall strategic, financial, and operational responsibility for the college. Moreover, the president will enhance the existing platform to attract a diverse community of

outstanding students, faculty, and staff while developing effective programs to support their retention and success.

The next president of St. Olaf will join a community passionate about and dedicated to the college and its distinctive place in the landscape of higher education. Programs of excellence led by an engaged and loyal faculty and staff have led to lifelong relationships between students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. The warm collegiality of the "Ole" community, the beauty of the campus and of its natural surroundings, the institution's sound financial health, and the deep loyalty of the alumni base are all sources of enormous pride for St. Olaf College.

AGENDA FOR LEADERSHIP FOR ST. OLAF'S NEXT PRESIDENT

St. Olaf has just completed a visioning process which has outlined several goals for the future of the college. The new vision statement is: "St. Olaf College will be known as one of the country's best liberal arts colleges, nationally and internationally recognized for excellence, academic rigor, and community inclusivity, while developing and preparing students of character to lead lives of substance as contributing citizens of the world." The agenda for leadership for the next president is to help bring this visioning statement to fruition. Among the most important priorities for the next president are:



LEARN MORE
PROSPECTUS



Demonstrating Inspiring Leadership, Vision, and Ambitious Strategic Planning

The president will be a courageous and inspiring leader who will contribute ambitious long-range strategic planning skills to an already outstanding academic enterprise. The president will be charged with working with the St. Olaf community to create a thoughtful and compelling strategic plan to bring the newly stated vision to fruition. In doing so, the new president must be willing to take calculated risks while being anticipatory and proactive in identifying issues that may arise as the landscape for private, residential, liberal arts institutions evolves.

Building Community and Investing in People

The next president will be a visible and engaging presence on and off campus. The ability to collaborate, unify, and instill confidence in all constituents, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, Regents, alumni, and community partners will be crucial. The president will honor shared governance and employ inclusive and transparent methods in decision-making and information sharing. The president will also think strategically about resources to invest in faculty and staff in meaningful ways through competitive compensation and opportunities for professional development. Under the new president, the St. Olaf community will continue to value and support the mental health of all of its members. Demonstrating joy in accomplishments small and large will nourish the Ole spirit in important ways.

Empowering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

As the leader of St. Olaf's distinctive and intentionally diverse academic home, the next president will be uncompromisingly committed to fostering an inclusive, culturally competent community that will engage and uplift all types of diversity. The president will lead St. Olaf as it seeks to foster excellent and transformative experiences and outcomes in an inclusive community where students, faculty, and staff alike can thrive and find meaningful belonging. The president will lead by example by actively inviting dialogue, listening, cultivating a growth mindset, respecting those with different views, being informed by data, and understanding that the work is ongoing, collaborative, organic, and ever evolving.

Preparing the St. Olaf College Curriculum for the Future

In partnership with the provost and faculty, the next president will guide a comprehensive consideration of the academic programs, ensuring that the offerings remain excellent, rigorous, and sustainable. St. Olaf will seek to build upon the disciplines that have strong enrollments, foster curricular innovation and prioritization, and seek to develop new markets that are mission-consistent. Additionally, the president will ensure that technological infrastructure is in place to deliver a 21st century education and to ensure the greatest potential for community and student success. With the goal of developing the whole person, the president will partner closely with areas such as student life, music, athletics, career services, and other co-curricular programming to ensure a dynamic program with strong impact that will ensure retention, student success, and preparation for a life of meaningful vocation.

Enhancing Fundraising and Building Financial Capacity

St. Olaf College enjoys financial strength and has a history of careful fiscal management that has served it well over the years. The president must be a strong financial manager, knowledgeable about academic business models, keenly aware of the broader higher education landscape, innovative in forging new revenue streams, and capable of adjusting the business plan to improve the college's financial security. An ongoing commitment to building the endowment will help St. Olaf thrive in the current climate. As St. Olaf's chief fundraiser and ambassador, the next president will spend a significant percentage of time on fundraising and "friend raising" to help ensure that St. Olaf has the resources needed to thrive in pursuit of its many goals. The next president will be expected to lead a campaign of significance, embracing the many individuals and organizations that support St. Olaf currently, as well as engaging new donors and partners.

Raising St. Olaf College's Profile Nationally and Internationally

The next president must be able to communicate the uniqueness of St. Olaf College to all constituencies, ensuring that the public perception and profile unites with its hopes to continue to attract students, faculty, and staff of the highest caliber. With an excellent foundation on which to build, St. Olaf College is eager to and deserves to have its reputation better known nationally and internationally. St. Olaf's next president will be a thought leader and will find ways to shine a light on the institution by contributing to important conversations about the evolving nature of higher education. The president will be an ardent champion of the rigorous, residential educational experience a "destination college" like St. Olaf offers.

Embracing and Proclaiming St. Olaf's Unique and Bold Contemporary Lutheran Identity in a Pluralistic World

The next president must fully embrace and promote St. Olaf's commitment to being a "rooted and open" institution, which is a shared calling of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) colleges and universities. St. Olaf is a college rooted in the Lutheran values of compassion, graciousness, and inclusivity. The college is called to live these values and bring people together of different faiths and worldviews to enrich spiritual inquiry, foster love and understanding of neighbor, and deepen a sense of vocation for all. The next president should have a strong understanding of this vision, actively work to integrate it into all areas of the college and be able to clearly articulate its value to alumni and current and potential students, faculty, staff and donors.

Focusing on Enrollment Strategies and Retention

The next president must be student-centric and understand the needs of the current and future generation of learners. The next president must have a firm understanding of enrollment management strategies and the ever-growing challenges surrounding recruitment and retention at private, residential liberal arts colleges and be able to balance the tensions between access, affordability, and financial sustainability. The next president must also have a strong understanding of how areas such as music, athletics, and co-curricular activities impact enrollment and student success.

Leading Through Challenging Times

These are complex times in higher education and in the nation and the world. The president must be a



wise, consultative, and astute leader, as well as an eloquent and compassionate communicator, especially during times of crisis. The president must be able to navigate these challenges astutely, seek counsel when needed, keep a keen eye on the fiscal health of the institution, and serve as an exemplary leader under pressure. The next president will also be adept at managing the institution with due diligence to meet growing state and national compliance requirements.

Engaging Externally in Meaningful Ways

The president will be eager to work closely with the St. Olaf and Northfield communities, which includes neighboring Carleton College, and provide leadership to ensure the well-being of these entities, recognizing the symbiotic relationship between them. Additionally, the president will actively seek, evaluate, and pursue new partnerships that broaden St. Olaf's impact. The president will foster partnerships and collaborations with foundations, community-based organizations, businesses, governments, nonprofits, and other colleges and institutions in the region and beyond.

DESIRED ATTRIBUTES FOR ST. OLAF'S NEXT PRESIDENT

St. Olaf seeks a president who will embrace the distinctive mission and core values of the college, who embodies a courageous spirit, demonstrates the depth and breadth of knowledge associated with a liberal arts community, and has the capacity both to consult with and lead such a community with conviction. The president will possess significant administrative experience and the ability to attract new resources and collaborative partners to the college.

The candidate of choice will be a servant leader with a highly relational approach, outstanding communications skills, humility, authenticity, self-confidence, integrity of the highest order, a strong work ethic, and a clear understanding of higher education. While the Presidential Search Committee is eager to consider many possible pathways to the St. Olaf presidency, candidates possessing a terminal degree will be preferred. The candidate of choice will be:

A strategic and visionary leader and systematic planner with a proven ability to develop a shared vision, articulate a clear and coherent plan, implement the plan, and unify constituents behind it.

A strong champion of the liberal arts and an articulate spokesperson for their profound impact on lifelong learning.

Deeply committed to and possessing a broad record of achievement in a range of initiatives that prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

A faithful person with knowledge of and abiding respect for the ELCA tradition coupled with a commitment to uphold its tenets.

A genuine, enthusiastic, and highly visible leader who is interested in interacting with the various members of the St. Olaf community and participating in the intellectual and social lives of the students, faculty, and staff.

An outstanding communicator able to listen carefully and synthesize ideas shared by members of the St. Olaf community, as well as to speak boldly and eloquently about the college to a wide range of constituencies.

A forthright, balanced, accessible, and committed supporter of the principles of shared governance, transparency, and inclusive decision-making.

A gifted fundraiser with experience finding traditional and non-traditional sources of funding, including but not limited to individuals, foundations, corporations, and government sources.

A strong manager with the capacity to make timely and sometimes difficult decisions and to communicate those decisions with clarity and care.

An entrepreneurial person with financial acumen who will aid the college in matching ambitions with available resources while thinking innovatively about growth opportunities.

An affirming team builder who will empower others and optimize the effectiveness of a talented and seasoned leadership team.

Technologically savvy with a fluent understanding of pedagogical strategies and approaches that enhance student learning and student success, including active learning strategies and technological approaches to program delivery.

An energetic, optimistic, authentic, relational, compassionate, and ambitious individual with good humor who will provide respected, long-term leadership.

Eligible candidates for the college's next presidency will be those who are members of the ELCA or a member of a denomination in full communion with the ELCA, which means that it shares the values and primary beliefs of the ELCA and St. Olaf College. The ELCA's full communion partners include the Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, The Moravian Church, and United Methodist Church.



The pond in St. Olaf's Natural Lands

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically as soon as possible. The new president is expected to begin serving by July 1, 2023.

Applications should include a letter of candidacy that responds to the agenda for leadership and the desired attributes for the president and a complete résumé or vita. All application materials will be considered in full confidence. Please send all nominations, inquiries, and applications, electronically to:

Julie E. Tea, Managing Director
Julie Williams-Krishnan, Senior Associate
stolafpresident@storbecksearch.com

St. Olaf College is an equal employment opportunity and voluntary affirmative action employer. The College is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. With regard to its hiring and employment practices, the college prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based upon an individual's legally protected status including race, color, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, or status with regard to public assistance.

THE INSTITUTION

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.

Mission

St. Olaf College challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition.

History

Founded in 1874 as a liberal studies academy, St. Olaf College stands on the homelands of the Wahpekute Band of the Dakota Nation. The college's early leaders — a group of Norwegian immigrant pastors, farmers and businessmen — named the institution for a central figure in Norway's political and religious history. St. Olaf College graduated its first class in 1890.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Transformative Change for a Transformative Liberal Arts Experience

Our goal is to generate conversations and processes that over time create greater clarity, transparency, trust, cooperation, consensus, respect, and measurable outcomes. Practices that support this goal include listening, cultivating a growth mindset, respecting those with different views, being informed by data, and understanding that the work is ongoing, collaborative, organic, and ever evolving.



BY THE NUMBERS

85+

Majors, concentrations,
and pre-professional
tracks

39%

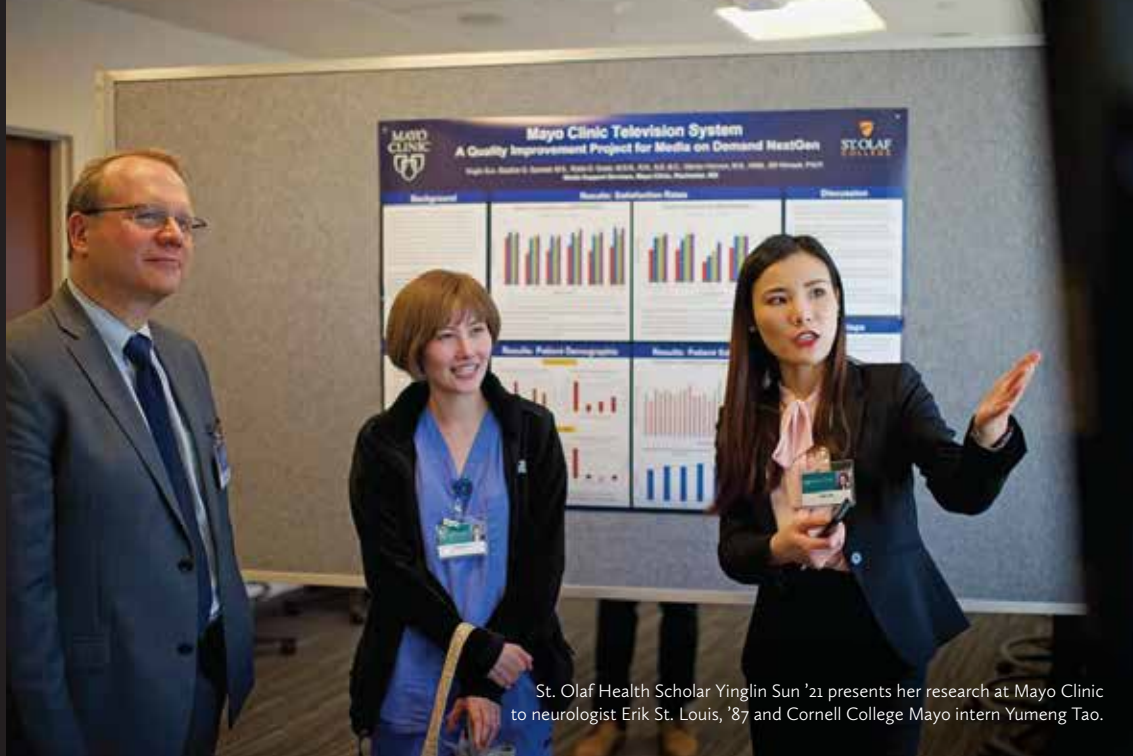
of the Class of 2021
graduated with two or
more majors

76%

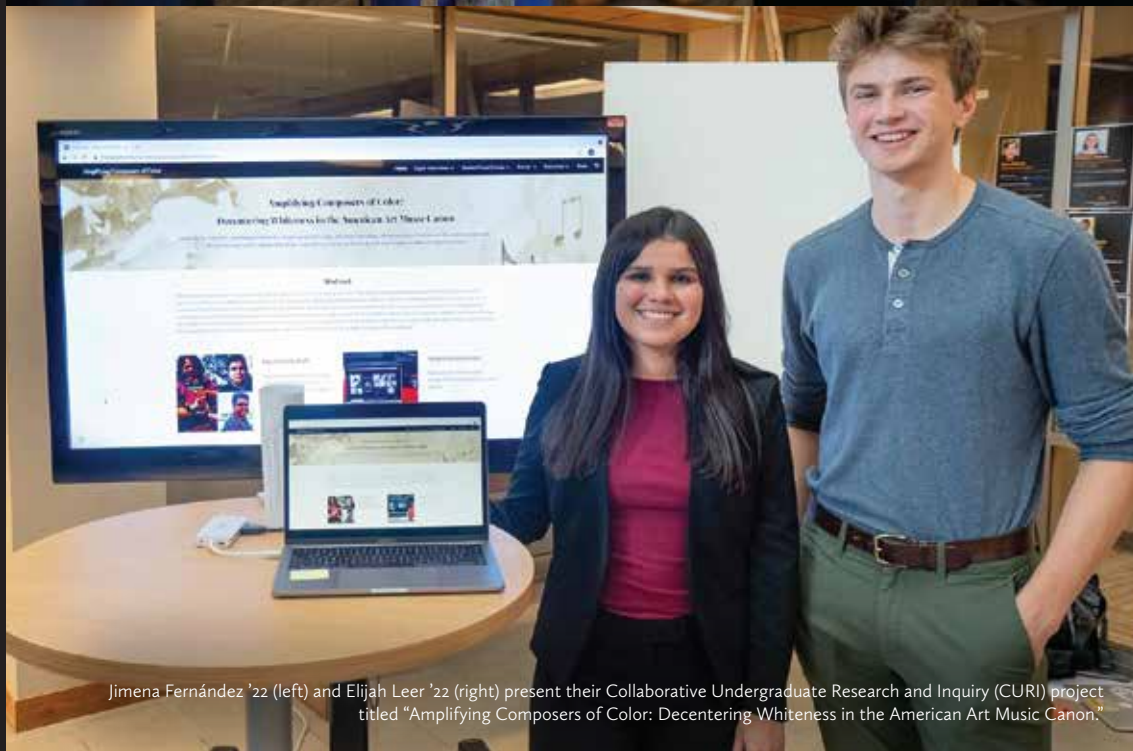
of students complete
an internship before
graduating

36%

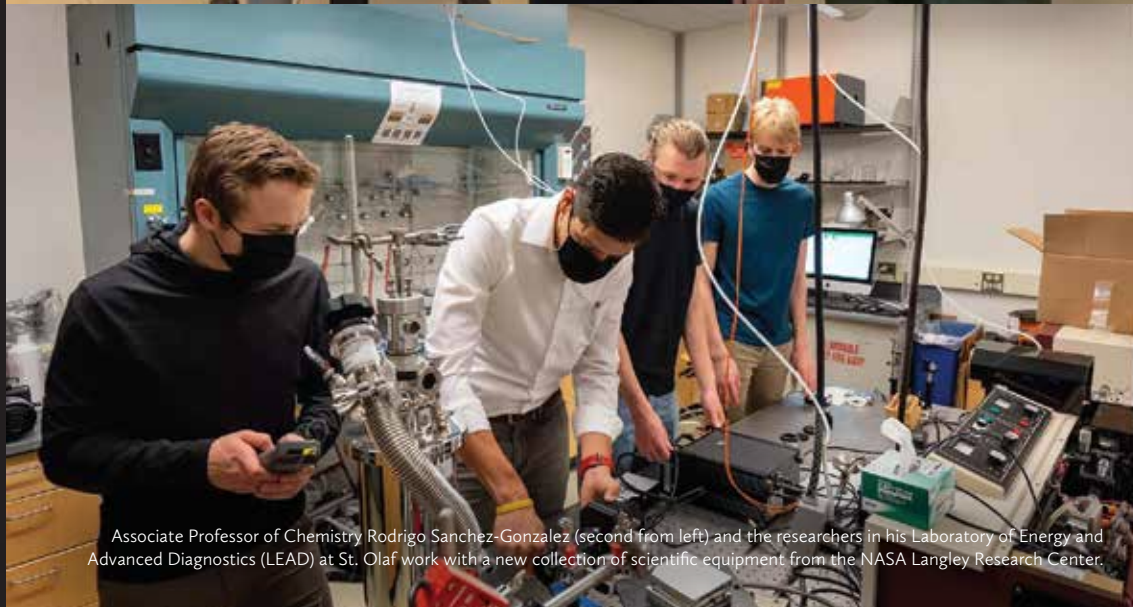
of students participate
in a mentored research
program



St. Olaf Health Scholar Yinglin Sun '21 presents her research at Mayo Clinic to neurologist Erik St. Louis, '87 and Cornell College Mayo intern Yumeng Tao.



Jimena Fernández '22 (left) and Elijah Leer '22 (right) present their Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) project titled "Amplifying Composers of Color: Decentering Whiteness in the American Art Music Canon."



Associate Professor of Chemistry Rodrigo Sanchez-Gonzalez (second from left) and the researchers in his Laboratory of Energy and Advanced Diagnostics (LEAD) at St. Olaf work with a new collection of scientific equipment from the NASA Langley Research Center.



Students in Assistant Professor of Physics Alden Adolph's Interim 2019 Introduction to Engineering Design course work collaboratively and creatively.

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.

Accreditation and Program Approvals

St. Olaf College is accredited as a degree-granting institution by the Higher Learning Commission. The college's academic programs are also accredited or approved by the American Chemical Society, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Council on Social Work Education, Minnesota Board of Nursing, Minnesota Board of Teaching, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, National Association of Schools of Dance, National Association of Schools of Music, and National Association of Schools of Theatre.

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 time for in-depth study. Many students choose to pursue off-campus and international study during this time.

Governance

St. Olaf College is governed by the Board of Regents, the President's Leadership Team, and the Faculty Governance Committee.

Board of Regents

The St. Olaf College Board of Regents establishes and advances the mission and strategic priorities of the college. The Board oversees the college's academic quality and fiscal integrity, ensuring the college's ability to accomplish its purposes both now and in the future. The Board meets three times during each academic year and has multiple responsibilities, from approving tenure for faculty members to monitoring, reviewing and improving the college's budget, building plans, and institutional effectiveness. The Board appoints the college president and assesses the president's performance.



President's Leadership Team

The 10-member President's Leadership Team is composed of the college's general counsel, the provost and dean of the college, the athletic director, and the vice presidents who lead work in human resources, student life, advancement, enrollment and college relations, finance, mission, and equity and inclusion. The PLT meets weekly to discuss long-term strategy and confer on more immediate campus issues.

Faculty Governance Committee

The Faculty Governance Committee organizes and monitors faculty governance and represents the faculty to the administration and the Board of Regents. It advises the administration on faculty meetings, college governance, and college planning.

International and Off-Campus Study

St. Olaf ranks #2 among colleges in the number of students studying abroad, with over 120 domestic and international off-campus study opportunities. Nearly three quarters of the Class of 2017 had participated in an off-campus study program. Although the global pandemic has disrupted many of the college's study abroad opportunities, the college has active plans to provide more options as travel conditions warrant.

Among the 692 graduates in the Class of 2021, 451 (65.2%) participated in at least one off-campus study program during their four years on campus. One hundred twenty-one students (or 17.4%) participated in two or more experiences. Fifty-five percent participated only in experiences during the month-long January Interim.



St. Olaf students in Ecuador



St. Olaf students in Tanzania, while on the college's Global Semester program



St. Olaf and Prairie Creek Elementary School students work together on an original operatic piece.

PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

St. Olaf has unique academic programs and centers providing expanded, mission-focused opportunities for learning and engagement within the community and the broader world.

Center for Advising and Academic Support

The Center for Advising and Academic Support (CAAS) provides assistance in exploring academic goals within the context of possible career and life long pursuits. CAAS supports both advisors and their advisees, and provides the information and skills to fulfill graduation, general education, and major requirements. Academic Advising also assists students in exploring possible major options, in changing advisors, in using a degree audit, class and lab schedule, and the St. Olaf Catalog.

Achievements

161 Oles have received Fulbright awards, including 13 in 2019.

35 Oles since 1997 have received Goldwater awards, including two in 2019.

9 Oles have been Rhodes Scholars.

8 Oles have received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in the past 5 years.

Outcomes

Graduation Rates and Retention

2014 Cohort 6-year Graduation Rate **85%**

2017 Cohort 4-year Graduation Rate **79%**

Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate (Fall 2021-22) **91%**

Career and Vocation

95% of graduates from the Class of 2020 were working, pursuing further education, or participating in a full-service program within nine months of graduation.

84% of alumni (less than 5 years out) find their jobs satisfying and **78%** find their jobs meaningful.

According to the National Science Foundation's Survey of Earned Doctorates, St. Olaf ranks 9th overall among the nation's 240 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 (2nd), life sciences and biological & biomedical sciences (3rd), education and health sciences (7th), and chemistry (9th).



The Institute for Freedom and Community

Encourages free inquiry and meaningful debate of important political and social issues. By exploring diverse ideas about politics, markets, and society, the Institute aims to challenge presuppositions, question easy answers, and foster constructive dialogue among those with differing values and contending points of view. Established at St. Olaf College in 2014, the Institute offers a distinctive opportunity to cultivate civil discourse within a liberal arts setting.

The Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community

Encourages the interreligious exploration of faith, values, and vocation and provides opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to connect with each other around questions of belief, meaning, purpose, and life choices. The Lutheran Center also provides programming and guidance to ELCA congregations, as well as other denominations, faiths, and higher education institutions.



St. Olaf students at the Piper Center Connections program in Seattle



St. Olaf's Campus Ministry team includes an Associate Chaplain of Muslim Life and Associate Chaplain of Jewish Life



Members of the Taylor Center's "Creative Collective" initiative contribute to the Bouquet of Humanity mural in the Center for Art and Dance. From left to right: Joanna Perez '24, Tija Atkins '21, Sophia Evans '23, and Allyvia Garza '21.

Piper Center for Vocation and Career

Provides resources and experiences designed to help students leverage their liberal arts education to achieve their full potential. The Piper Center for Vocation and Career helps students explore careers, gain experience outside of the classroom, and pursue meaningful post-graduate work, service, and education.

The Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion

Aims to foster an inclusive environment through intentional support for and a focus on underrepresented students. The Taylor Center offers programming for students of color and international students, as well as the entire college community, ranging from speakers and cultural celebrations to graduation celebrations for multicultural, international, and LGBTQIA+ students.

THE COMMUNITY

More than a campus, a community

97% of students live on campus

200+ Student organizations and clubs

1/3 of students participate in music

54% of students participate in either intramural, varsity, or club sports

Oles Can. Oles Will.

Students at St. Olaf call themselves Oles (that's Oh-lee's). Oles share a desire to create the kind of community and world we all want to live in — and the will to work toward it. Where others see problems, Oles see solutions.

Location



Known as “The Hill,” St. Olaf College’s picturesque 300-acre campus is home to 16 academic and administrative buildings and 10 athletic facilities, along with student residences. As a residential college, 97 percent of St. Olaf students reside in one of 11 existing residence halls or one of several academic honor houses. Opening in the fall of 2022 are a new, 300-bed residence hall and 14 townhouses, each with 10 beds. Adjacent to campus are 325 acres of restored wetlands, woodlands, and native tallgrass prairie owned and maintained by St. Olaf. The college also has a utility-grade wind turbine, and 40 acres of college-owned land are blanketed with solar panels. The college’s solar subscriptions, combined with the energy generated by its wind turbine, have enabled St. Olaf to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electrical power.



LEARN MORE
THE COMMUNITY

Northfield

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. Historic downtown Northfield, within walking distance of campus, features coffee-houses, 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.



Twin Cities

Just 45 minutes north are the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, a thriving metropolitan area of more than 3 million people and home to world-class restaurants, museums, theaters, and a vibrant business community that includes 18 Fortune 500 companies. More than 3,000 St. Olaf alumni call the Twin Cities home, providing vital connections and opportunities for current students. The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is a quick bus ride or carpool away from campus.

Students

St. Olaf's 3,000 students come from all over the U.S. and across the world, representing diverse backgrounds and experiences. Members of the Class of 2025 hail from 47 states and 63 countries. Eighteen percent are first-generation college students and 23 percent are domestic students of color and 15 percent are international. Oles come from a wide range of religious traditions; of the Class of 2025, the largest share of students (36 percent) have no specific religious preference. About 20% identify as Lutheran.



Faculty and Staff

The college employs more than 300 full- and part-time faculty members and has a student-faculty ratio of 12:1. In addition, St. Olaf has nearly 500 staff members who support the college's mission and its many functions.

CAMPUS LIFE

Music and the Arts

St. Olaf is one of just three liberal arts colleges in the country that offer fully accredited majors in art, dance, music, and theater. Its bands, choirs, and orchestras are world-renowned and central to campus life. The college has eight choirs, two orchestras, two concert bands, 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. Student musicians perform in more than 150 recitals and concerts each year. 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 nationally on PBS.



Anton Armstrong '78, Tosdal Professor of Music and Conductor of the St. Olaf Choir



Hakeem Morgan '24 (#16) celebrates with his teammates. After winning the program's first MIAC regular-season championship since 2014, St. Olaf earned an at-large berth into the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship and hosted the first two rounds of the tournament. The Oles beat Dominican University and Loras College, moving to the tournament's Sweet 16, where they lost to North Park University. The run to the third round matches the 2015 team for the deepest NCAA Tournament run in program history, and closes the season with a school-record 19 wins.



Athletics

Twenty-six varsity teams, 13 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), and volleyball. 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 Alpine and Nordic skiing. Since the start of the 2019-20 academic year, St. Olaf has won MIAC regular-season or playoff titles in four different sports (men's soccer, men's hockey, women's cross country, and softball), has made NCAA team appearances in six different sports (men's soccer, men's hockey, men's cross country, women's cross country, softball, and volleyball), and has had individual NCAA national qualifiers in men's and women's swimming and diving and men's and women's track and field.



St. Olaf students around the Quad during the co-curricular fair organized by SGA

Student Organizations

St. Olaf has 200+ registered student organizations, 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 Olaf Messenger* is the student newspaper and KSTO 93.1 FM is the student-operated radio station.

Ole Network

The college has a network of over 35,000+ St. Olaf alumni who are highly engaged in their communities, professions, and in their ongoing relationship with the college. Oles leave campus ready and eager to change the world; 97% are employed, in graduate school, or engaged in full-time service work within nine months of graduation.



Neurosurgeon Gaylan Rockswold '62 created a program that gives current St. Olaf students mentorship, and hands-on medical and research experience

Flowers in a student's P.O. Box during Friday Flowers, a St. Olaf tradition



STRATEGIC PLAN

The college's October 2020 Strategic Plan sets five key priorities for the period ending in Fall 2023:

Priority I. Ensure and sustain robust and equitable engagement with high-impact educational practices, both for students overall and for students from underrepresented groups.

Priority II. Enrich student experiences in co-curricular and residential life, both for students overall and for students from underrepresented groups.

Priority III. Continue to increase the racial and cultural diversity of St. Olaf students, faculty, and staff.

Priority IV. Advance retention and graduation rates.

Priority V. Enhance programs and processes for faculty and staff development.



Visioning Task Force Report

The Board of Regents' Visioning Task Force released a report in October 2021, outlining a vision statement and four specific commitments for the college's future.

Vision statement

St. Olaf College will be known as one of the country's best liberal arts colleges, nationally and internationally recognized for excellence, academic rigor, and community inclusivity, while developing and preparing students of character to lead lives of substance as contributing citizens of the world.

Commitments:

1. Developing the Whole Person
2. Improving St. Olaf Culture and Living Out Our Values
3. Empowering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
4. Becoming an Agile and Focused St. Olaf



St. Olaf students sled down Old Main Hill



Tesfa Wondemagegnehu serves as the conductor of the Viking Chorus and the Chapel Choir at St. Olaf College.

THE FINANCIAL PLAN

St. Olaf's nearly \$750 million endowment supports many aspects of the life of the college, including financial aid for students, professorships, and academic and co-curricular programs. Sinking funds, set aside to meet long-term debt service obligations, are included in the Endowment.

The Endowment is broadly diversified with allocations to domestic and international equities, private equity, fixed income, hedge funds, and real assets.

The college is committed to meeting the demonstrated financial need of every student. In the 2021-22 academic year, 98% of students received need- or merit-based financial aid. Any student who applies and is admitted through early decision receives a minimum of \$20,000 in St. Olaf scholarships.

For the 2021-22 academic year, gift revenue totaled \$45.9 million, including \$13.4 million in cash gifts. The college has nearly 38,000 alumni of record, with an alumni participation rate of 22 percent.



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