

There  
are many  
colleges.  
There is  
only one  
**Oberlin.**





O!

Hello! We hope you will find many things in these pages that remind you of you. Feel free to start anywhere. Your path through this viewbook—like your path at Oberlin—is totally up to you.







## Five Important Things to Know About Oberlin:

01

**We offer one of the world's most relevant undergraduate educations.** In these pages, we'll show you the many ways in which we make connections between excellence, passion, and impact. The classroom represents only the beginning of an Oberlin education.

02

**Oberlin is a collaborative enterprise between students and professors.** You'll also learn about our academic culture, where students are known, valued, and mentored by astonishingly accomplished and accessible faculty.

03

**Having both a college and a music conservatory on the same campus changes everything.** The sociocultural magic that happens when you combine a renowned liberal arts college and an extraordinary conservatory of music benefits every student on our campus—in some ways obvious and others unexpected.

04

**Our location inspires innovation.** A palpable kindness permeates our campus and town. We'll show you what it's like to spend your college years in a place where you have room to breathe and the freedom to explore and apply new ideas.

05

**Think one person can change the world? So do we.** Our alumni—who were once exactly where you are now—have used their Oberlin educations to give the world more joy and hope, health and justice, and a more equitable, sustainable future.





# Oberlin at a Glance

CHANGING THE WORLD SINCE  
**1833**

Oberlin adopted a policy to admit students of color (1835) and granted undergraduate degrees to women in a coeducational program (1841) before any other college in America.



**80%** of students travel off campus for study, service, or internships.

**2,280** students attend the College of Arts & Sciences. | **560** students attend the Conservatory of Music.

**200** attend both the college and conservatory.

**80%** of classes have fewer than 20 students.

**#1** among liberal arts schools in the number of grads who go on to earn PhDs

**91.5 FM** Oberlin's student and community radio station

**500+** performances are given on campus each year.

**#11** on U.S. News and World Report's list of 50 "Most Innovative Schools"

**\$0** to visit the Allen Memorial Art Museum, among the top 5 college museums in the country

**80%** of students receive need-based or merit aid.

**350** student athletes compete in 21 NCAA Division III varsity sports each year. Plus, 19 club sports are open to all students.

**300** students receive funding from Oberlin each year to pursue summer internships.

**89** majors in the College of Arts & Sciences and the Conservatory of Music

**50** student-run Experimental College courses, classes taught by students, staff, and others

**175** student groups, ranging from hobbies, music, and sports to politics, faith, and identity



HEAD OF A WOMAN, ALEXEJ VON JAWLENSKY

**\$5** to hang an original Monet or Picasso in your room for a semester, courtesy of our art museum

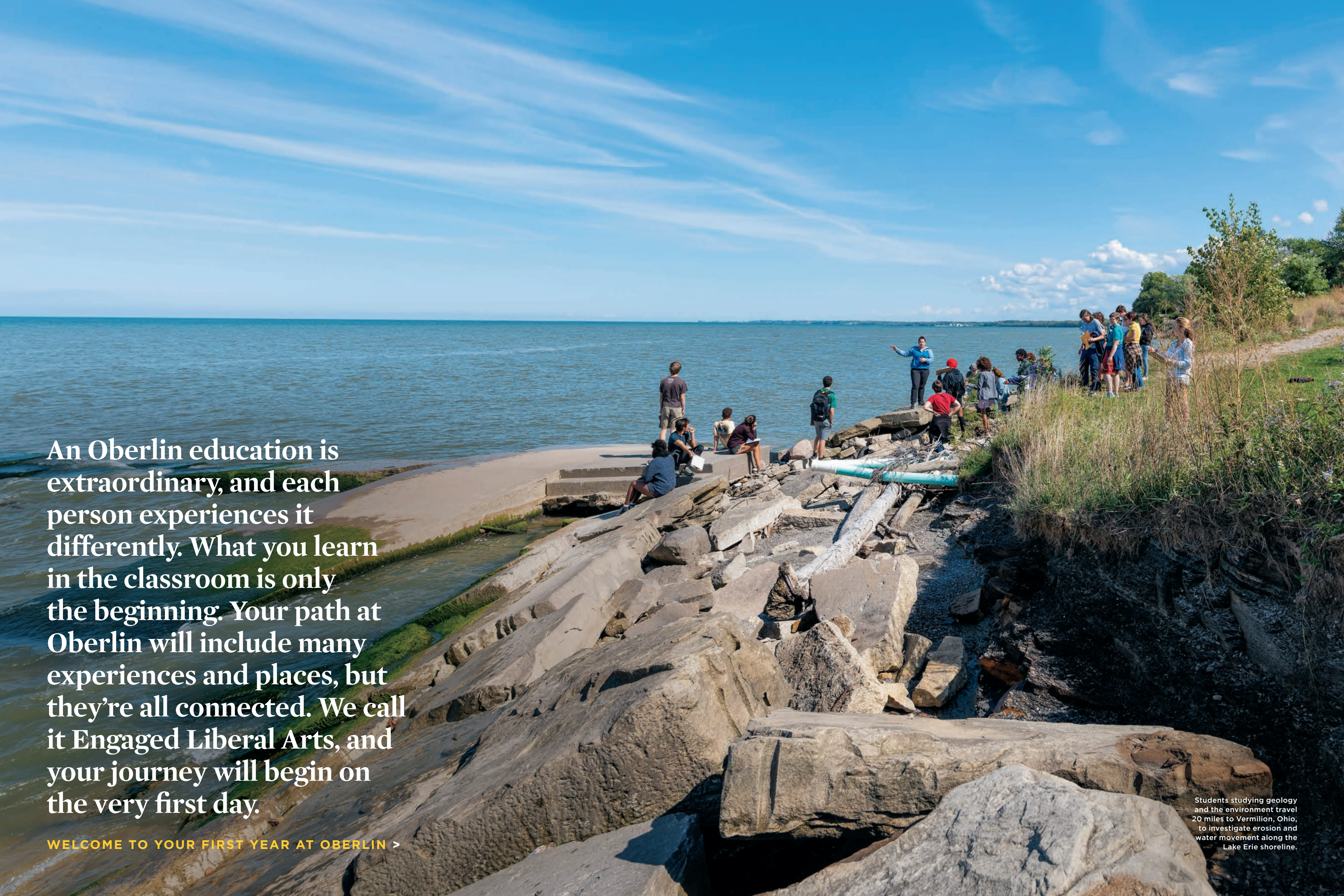
Obies come from **49** states and **44** countries.



Our alumni include **12** MacArthur "Genius" Fellows, **3** Nobel Laureates, **9** Pulitzer Prize recipients, and **countless** Grammy Award winners.

**Five** buildings are so environmentally sustainable that they've earned a LEED ranking of silver or above from the Green Building Council.





An Oberlin education is extraordinary, and each person experiences it differently. What you learn in the classroom is only the beginning. Your path at Oberlin will include many experiences and places, but they're all connected. We call it Engaged Liberal Arts, and your journey will begin on the very first day.

WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST YEAR AT OBERLIN >

Students studying geology and the environment travel 20 miles to Vermilion, Ohio, to investigate erosion and water movement along the Lake Erie shoreline.



## Welcome to Oberlin

As an Oberlin student, you'll spend quality time in the library (we have four of them), the science lab, the practice room, or the museum, but don't worry—your friends will be there, too. People come to Oberlin to learn.

But you'll have lots of time for other things. Maybe you'll write for one of our seven student publications, like the *Oberlin Review*, or the publication for neuroscience majors, or the literary magazine *Wildfire Voice*.<sup>1</sup> Maybe you'll host a radio show. You might work closely with a professor on a research project<sup>2</sup> or make dinner for 85 people at a co-op.<sup>3</sup>

At some point, you'll attend a football game or a yoga class, or participate in one of our 21 varsity sports. Maybe someone will hear you sing in the shower and ask you to join their pickup band. And whether you're a college student or a conservatory student (or both!), you'll definitely attend—or perform in—one of the 500 concerts Oberlin presents each year, from recitals and jazz workshops to the latest up-and-coming talents in hip-hop, rock, indie pop, shoegaze, or dream pop.<sup>4</sup>

Ohio has four seasons—sometimes over the course of two or three days. Pack well.



## Welcome to Your New Home

Your year will start with orientation—a chance to get to know Oberlin and other first-year students. You and your 800 new friends will take a trip to nearby Cleveland, where you might visit the city's amazing art museum, help out at a social service agency, or learn about the region's rich heritage in industry, philanthropy, and politics. Also during orientation, you'll learn about being a good citizen in a small (and incredibly charming) town. Oberlin has great coffee shops, bookstores, restaurants, and even a gallery that features local artists and doubles as a kitten rescue program.



<sup>1</sup> Between our writing majors and many student-created publications, writing is as ubiquitous as music on campus—and many students go on to writing careers as authors or publishers or with news outlets, podcasts, TV shows, and movies. <sup>2</sup> Oberlin students work closely with professors on research, sometimes sharing authorship on papers and traveling to conferences to present them. <sup>3</sup> Oberlin has student-operated dining and housing co-ops, allowing real-world work experience and a sense of community—about 600 students participate in a co-op. <sup>4</sup> Music is truly everywhere at Oberlin—from informal jam sessions in dorm rooms to large orchestra concerts to bands at our small club called the 'Sco.

## Welcome, Obie!

Your first year will go by fast. By the end, you'll know where the Arb is,<sup>7</sup> you'll know that an order of tater tots at the Feve is enough for two people, and you'll know how to engage your advisor, professors, and peers to help figure out your next semester's schedule. If you aren't yet sure of a major, no problem—you'll have plenty of time to decide.<sup>8</sup> You can even create your own.



## Welcome to What's Next

You might feel a little awkward being in a new place with new people. You might arrive with long hair and then cut it off by fall break. You might feel overwhelmed at first, but you'll soon realize you know more than you think. A Peer Advising Leader, an older student who knows their way around, can help you figure things out.<sup>5</sup> You may also choose to enroll in a First-Year Seminar, allowing you to hone your skills in critical thinking and writing.<sup>6</sup> In January, you'll have your first opportunity for a Winter Term experience—you might study the Mafia in Palermo, meet investment bankers on Wall Street, or fold proteins in a lab on campus.



<sup>5</sup> At Oberlin, every first-year student has a Peer Advising Leader (PAL). PALs are returning students who are trained to help new Obies make lasting friendships and develop the skills needed to succeed academically. <sup>6</sup> First-year seminars tackle diverse topics such as the nature of human language, the science and ethics of genetic manipulation, the meaning of jazz across time and place, and social justice in the United States. <sup>7</sup> The Arboretum, located at the edge of campus, is a beautiful preserve with trails, trees, and a reservoir that's split into two lakes. <sup>8</sup> Students declare a major by the end of sophomore year.





WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

**Choose from 47  
majors in the  
College of Arts &  
Sciences and 42  
in the Conservatory  
of Music—or  
create your own.**



**No, it doesn't snow in August!**  
We love our four seasons—even  
winter, when Oberlin hosts  
special visit days for prospective  
and admitted students. This is  
Tappan Square, a relaxing 13-acre  
green space that connects the  
college to the city of Oberlin.





## College of Arts & Sciences Majors

**Africana Studies**  
**Anthropology**  
**Archaeological Studies**  
**Art** (history, studio, and visual arts)  
**Biochemistry**  
**Biology**  
**Chemistry**  
**Cinema Studies**  
**Classics** (Greek, Latin, and classical civilization)  
**Comparative American Studies**  
**Comparative Literature**  
**Computer Science**  
**Creative Writing**  
**Dance**  
**East Asian Studies**  
**Economics**  
**Engineering, 3/2**  
**English**  
**Environmental Studies**  
**French**  
**Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies**  
**Geology**  
**German**  
**Hispanic Studies**  
**History**  
**Individual Major**  
**Jewish Studies**  
**Latin American Studies**  
**Latin Language and Literature**  
**Law and Society**  
**Mathematics**  
**Musical Studies**  
**Neuroscience**  
**Philosophy**  
**Physics**  
**Politics**  
**Psychology**  
**Religion**  
**Russian**  
**Russian and East European Studies**  
**Sociology**  
**Theater**

**Additional areas of study (minors or integrative concentrations):** Book Studies, Cognitive Science, Education Studies, International Studies, Journalism, Linguistics, Literary Translation, Middle East and North Africa Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, Statistical Modeling

## Conservatory Areas of Study

**Performance** (18 areas of private study)  
**Historical Performance** (11 areas of private study)  
**Jazz Performance** (8 areas of private study)  
**Composition**  
**Conducting**  
**Individual Major**  
**Jazz Composition**  
**Musicology**  
**Piano Technology**  
**Recording Arts and Production**  
**Technology in Music and Related Arts (TIMARA)**  
**Vocal Accompanying**

## Interdisciplinary Areas of Study

**Minor or concentration:** Arts Administration and Leadership, Arts and Creative Technologies, Interdisciplinary Performance, Music and Cognition, Music and Popular Culture



**No, it doesn't snow in August!**  
We love our four seasons—even winter, when Oberlin hosts special visit days for prospective and admitted students. This is Tappan Square, a relaxing 13-acre green space that connects the college to the city of Oberlin.





Students in a plant ecology course examine ferns and compare growth patterns in tulip poplar trees.

## Research Opportunities Surround You

On our small campus without graduate students, Obies can work one-on-one with professors to take part in cutting-edge research and even coauthor and present papers at academic conferences beyond Oberlin. In the sciences, students have access to equipment and labs that you would expect to find at a large research university.

### Samples of Student-Designed Projects

**Love & Relationships In The Digital Era**  
Philosophy and Studio Art

**Interactive and Immersive Sound Design in Video Games: 8-bit to Adaptive Virtual Reality**  
Musical Studies and Computer Science

**Effects Of Promoting Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability On Alzheimer's Disease Pathology**  
Neuroscience

**Cold Turkey: How The Political Climate Affects Family Interactions**  
Economics

**Women Workers and the Labor Movement in Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garment Industry**  
English and Politics

**IRIS: A Non-Tactile Electronic Musical Instrument for Solo and Collaborative Playing**  
Percussion and TIMARA

## Chart Your Own Course During Winter Term

You'll explore interests outside of your regular coursework during Winter Term. For four weeks in January, you can develop a new skill, study a topic related to your major, conduct research, or prepare for a future career. Winter Term projects can be done independently or in groups and can take place on campus or around the world.



In this Winter Term project on campus, neuroscience and psychology majors use EEG monitoring to conduct multi-sensory neuroscience research. The project takes a close look at what's happening within the brain.

### Recent Winter Term Projects

**Business for Life**  
Business basics taught by a Hollywood insider, focusing on finance, marketing, human resources, and law.

**A Road Trip Through the Deep South**  
An educational and community-building road trip from Memphis to Atlanta, visiting historical sites and museums particular to the African American experience, focusing on the Civil Rights era and the arts.

**Dresden (Germany) for Voice, Organ, and German Language Study**  
Voice majors interact with the coaching staff and singers at Opera Dresden; organ students explore instruments in Dresden and nearby cities; and German language students experience local culture and immersive study.

**Guadalajara (Mexico) Immersion Program**  
Increase your fluency in Spanish by taking classes at the Instituto Mexicano-Americano de Cultura, while living with a host family and enjoying cultural excursions around the state of Jalisco.

**Magazines: Past, Present, Future**  
What characterizes magazines of the past 250 years? How do they reflect and promote cultural and political views? Access Oberlin's outstanding collection of print magazines and create a magazine of your own.

**Design Your Own Project**  
Write, direct, and screen your own film; build a website; learn Japanese; work on a music collective project and record your own songs; intern at an architecture firm. The possibilities are endless!

**1,000**  
students study on campus during Winter Term.

**3**  
Winter Term projects are needed to graduate.

**57**  
group projects were offered during Winter Term 2020.

**\$0**  
to live on campus during Winter Term.





## We Have a Museum That Teaches

Oberlin's Allen Memorial Art Museum is considered to be one of the best college museums in the country. It's popular with visitors, yet also a treasured resource for students and professors in all majors.

15,000

artworks live in the museum's permanent collection, including works by Cézanne, Modigliani, Monet, and Picasso. Here, students in a theater class on costume design are touring the galleries for design inspiration.



## Make the Community Your Classroom

Oberlin's vibrant community of students and faculty believe in giving back. Sixty-three percent of students take part in community service each year. Oberlin also offers 50 community-based learning courses each semester, in which college students earn course credit while working directly with community partners.



### Community-Based Learning Courses Include:

**SITES (Spanish in the Elementary Schools):** Lead Spanish classes, plan lessons, and develop a curriculum for students in the local public elementary schools.

**Environment and Society:** Explore ways to transition local communities toward sustainability and resilience in the face of local and global change.

**Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Leadership:** Work in teams to identify a problem, brainstorm and test solutions, design a prototype, and develop a sustainable financial model.

**Strings at Grafton:** Create lesson plans and offer group music instruction for residents of a nearby correctional facility, helping to foster community-building and self-expression.

**The Cleveland Immersion Program:** Learn about the city's challenges and opportunities in themes ranging from social justice and sustainability to economics and the arts.

**Above and left:** Oberlin students perform service projects at a local retirement community and serve as America Reads tutors in the Oberlin City School District.

## Make the World Your Classroom

At Oberlin, we value what can be learned by engaging with the unfamiliar. Every year, more than 300 Obies study abroad for a summer, semester, or full year, taking on academically rigorous and culturally immersive experiences. You'll retain your scholarships and financial aid when you study away, and you can apply for funding to help cover travel costs.

### TOP 10 STUDY ABROAD DESTINATIONS

- London, England
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Paris, France
- Kyoto, Japan
- Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Córdoba, Spain
- Havana, Cuba
- Florence, Italy
- Christchurch, New Zealand

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABROAD?

- Attend classes at a university with local students
- Work at an internship
- Conduct research
- Engage with an international community



125

programs are offered in 40+ countries on 6 continents.

80%

of students travel off campus for study, service, internships, or Winter Term.

Each spring, two Oberlin faculty members accompany 25 Obies to **London**, making intensive use of the city—and nearby attractions such as Stonehenge—as the classroom. Obies also study food systems and sustainability in **Thailand**, take classes in **Singapore**, or remain in the U.S. to attend a border studies program in **Arizona** or hold internships in the heart of **Washington, DC**.





## Explore a Career With Other Obies

As a junior or senior, you can join a career community—a way to connect with other students, alumni, parents, and faculty to learn about a particular employment sector. The best part of belonging to a career community? You won't have to go through career prep alone—you'll take a semester-long course for credit, develop a network of potential mentors and employers, and be guaranteed funding for a summer internship.

### OBERLIN CAREER COMMUNITIES

- Arts and Creative Professions
- Business, Finance, and Consulting
- Education
- Law and Public Policy
- Medical, Public, and Global Health Professions
- Music Leadership
- Nonprofit and the Public Sector
- Science and Technology



**Above:** The Arts and Creative Professions career community includes internship opportunities in Los Angeles.

**Left:** The Ashby Business Scholars program helps prepare students for jobs and internships in a range of business disciplines.



**300**  
students receive funding from Oberlin each year to pursue summer internships.

### ACADEMICS IN ACTION

The Engaged Liberal Arts takes what you're learning in your coursework and puts it into practice through research, study away experiences, Winter Term, career exploration, internships, and beyond.

college, but whether you're a senior or an internship, grad school—our programs to help you. Most students can even apply for

### Especially for Sophomores

A program called SOAR (Sophomore Opportunities and Academic Resources) helps second-year students with their big decisions, such as declaring a major, exploring a career direction, or planning summer and Winter Term opportunities.

### Launch Your Next Step

An online program called Handshake is where Obies start for all things career-related. You can request an appointment with an Oberlin career advisor, access career development resources, and learn about career-related events on campus. You can also explore jobs and internships with more than 200,000 employers based on your profile and interests.

### A Network of Alumni

Oberlin alumni are an excellent source of career information. Our online Oberlin alumni network is designed specifically to help Oberlin students find and talk with alumni who are eager to share their advice and expertise.



### RECENT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

- Aspen Music Festival
- BBC America
- Brooklyn Museum
- City Club of Cleveland
- The Cleveland Orchestra
- Columbia Pictures
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- IBM
- Japan Airlines
- National Science Foundation
- NPR
- Opera Theatre of St. Louis
- Project on Middle East Democracy
- Salon.com
- Texas Legal Services
- U.S. Congress
- World Bank



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Science and Technology



## Sadie Keller '19

### HOMETOWN

Lawrence, Kansas

### MAJOR

Politics

### FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR

*She Works Hard for the Money: Women, Work, and the Persistence of Inequality*

### STUDY AWAY

Summer in Seville, Spain

### COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

El Centro, a local nonprofit that runs English communication and training classes for individuals preparing for the U.S. Citizenship Exam

### INTERNSHIP SITES

Democratic National Committee; New American Economy; Brookings Institution

### WINTER TERM PROJECTS

New Mexico Legal Aid; worked for an Obamacare call center in Kansas and wrote an article about it for the *Huffington Post*; studied for the LSAT

### RESEARCH

Research assistant for a politics professor; summer research assistant for an Oberlin alumna at Harvard Law School

### EXTRACURRICULARS

Club soccer, Student Senate, a cappella choir

### FELLOWSHIPS

Sadie is living and teaching in Mexico City on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. She was also awarded a \$30,000 Harry S. Truman Scholarship for graduate studies.

## Jump-Start Your Career With an Internship

You may be overwhelmed thinking about life after college, but you won't need to do it alone. Once at Oberlin—whether you're a sophomore deciding on a major, a junior hunting for an internship, or a senior starting your job search or applying to grad school—our Career Development Center has people and programs to help you.

We encourage all Obies to complete an internship; most students do them during the summer or Winter Term. You can even apply for funding if your internship is unpaid.



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Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
IBM  
Japan Airlines  
National Science Foundation  
NPR  
Opera Theatre of St. Louis  
Project on Middle East Democracy  
Salon.com  
Texas Legal Services  
U.S. Congress  
World Bank





## Your Professors Will Know You

Oberlin prepares its students for informed, creative, and productive lives through close connections with professors. In fact, faculty here rank among the top in the U.S. for undergraduate teaching. And when you ask Obies what they value most about their Oberlin experiences, most talk about their relationships with professors.

9:1

Student to faculty ratio

### Ruth Bieber-Stanley

**CLASS YEAR:** 3rd **HOMETOWN:** Albuquerque, New Mexico  
**MAJORS:** Psychology and German, Linguistics Minor

"Some of my favorite professors are fantastic instructors, lecturers, and discussion-facilitators who are incredibly engaging and clearly passionate about the subject matter. As a huge nerd, it's just fun for me to see my professors also be huge nerds. That kind of enthusiasm in a classroom is infectious. Our professors want to work with us to foster learning and growth, and they love it when we're as excited about something as they are. The ability to talk to a professor about academic and personal and career goals is a testament to the close relationships Oberlin students form with faculty."

### Jane Hsieh

**CLASS YEAR:** 4th **HOMETOWN:** McKinney, Texas  
**MAJORS:** Computer Science and Mathematics

"I met my academic advisor during my first semester of freshman year when I proposed a Winter Term project. They have been incredibly supportive of my endeavors in computer science ever since, and I'm grateful for all the wisdom and opportunities I've received since that encounter. Professors are always open to questions and are a great resource for connecting to alumni and to finding opportunities at Oberlin and beyond."



### Mikala Jones

**CLASS YEAR:** 2nd **HOMETOWN:** Silver Spring, Maryland  
**MAJORS:** Comparative Literature and Art History

"My advisor took me to lunch because she wanted to hear about my summer internship. She had written a reference for me, and she continues to connect me with alumni and other faculty who are involved in museum professions. During my first semester, one of my professors invited our class over for dinner and cooked us a really nice meal. I was feeling homesick at the time, and it felt nice to be in a home and to get to know my classmates and professor outside of the classroom. The meal was delicious, too! Faculty members here truly value students' thoughts and ideas. I take a lot of small, discussion-based humanities classes, and in those environments, professors are really intentional about building community."

### Seyquan Mack

**CLASS YEAR:** 3rd **HOMETOWN:** Boston, Massachusetts  
**MAJORS:** Vocal Performance and Politics

"My voice professor has shaped me into the artist I've aspired to be. Having him on my side has made me grow as a performer, as a professional, and as a person. Faculty members will challenge you as much as possible while also being very nurturing role models."

### Havi Carrillo-Klein

**CLASS YEAR:** 2nd **HOMETOWN:** Falls Church, Virginia  
**MAJORS:** Jewish Studies and Environmental Studies

"I applied for an internship last spring. My professor wrote a recommendation for me, so when I received an email saying I was accepted, I immediately told him. In that moment, I knew I had established a great relationship with my professor. While professors here challenge you, they also provide the support students need to succeed. I'm pushed intellectually but am simultaneously pointed to resources that will help me achieve the high bar that my professors set."

### Khalid McCalla

**CLASS YEAR:** 3rd **HOMETOWN:** Atlanta, Georgia  
**MAJORS:** Creative Writing and Africana Studies

"I've had a lot of great professors that have impacted me in some way. I think they're all brilliant and genuinely want to see you succeed. A professor saw me walking through the halls and asked me if everything was okay. I'd missed a couple of classes and was making a B in her class. She knew I was capable of an A and wanted to make sure nothing was wrong. On the next assignment, a group project, she told me I'd gotten back on track. That meant a lot."



## We Asked a Few Professors to Finish This Sentence: “My favorite Oberlin students are...”



**Cindy Frantz**  
PSYCHOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

“...those who have the humility to recognize they don’t know everything and the confidence to want to try.”



**Brian Alegant**  
MUSIC THEORY

“...driven to speak and understand music and art at a really high level—writing about, composing, performing, improvising, theorizing, analyzing, and interrogating it. They have the grit to persevere through difficulty, do not take themselves too seriously, and have a heart.”



**Mary Garvin**  
BIOLOGY

“...seeking to grow as a mindful and reflective people, are receptive to developing their capacity for humility and kindness, and possess the integrity to see, discuss, and learn from mistakes and failures, while allowing others to do so as well.”



**Charles Peterson**  
AFRICANA STUDIES

“...contentious, curious, creative, complex, and passionate. Their willingness to challenge themselves and others in the pursuit of understanding their interests, areas of study, community, and world is equaled by their willingness to act upon that understanding.”



**Pipo Nguyen-Duy**  
STUDIO ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

“...those with a willingness to learn, an outstanding work ethic, an astute intellect, and a dedication to the community. Oberlin students demonstrate an unwavering commitment to their academic and creative practice, and their enthusiasm for learning is infectious.”



**Tamika Nunley**  
HISTORY AND COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

“...thoughtful and curious. When they graduate, we bear witness to the ways that academic excellence, creativity, and passion invigorate the ideas that shape their contributions to the world around them. This is our scholarly tradition.”



**Alexa Still**  
FLUTE

“...technically accomplished and able to demonstrate their passion for music with a compelling voice. What sets our graduates apart from other schools is far beyond the usual technical prowess; it is the artistry, confidence, and readiness for collaborative risk-taking.”



**Sebastiaan Faber**  
HISPANIC STUDIES

“...ready to learn, creatively minded, and open to ways of thinking and seeing the world they may not ever have considered before. They bring something of their own to the classroom and are willing to share it: an interest, a passion, or just a reserve of creative energy still waiting to be channeled.”





**The Conservatory of Music at Oberlin opens a world of possibilities: esteemed faculty mentors, exposure to resident and guest artists, transformative programs, exemplary facilities, and countless opportunities to perform on campus and beyond.**

**ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE? >**

The Oberlin Orchestra performs on campus in historic Finney Chapel and on the road in storied venues such as Carnegie Hall.



## We Focus on Developing Undergraduate Musicians

At Oberlin, you won't line up behind graduate students for opera roles, ensemble placements, and competitions—you will seize these opportunities throughout your time here. Oberlin Conservatory students also benefit from being part of the intellectual ecosystem of a liberal arts college, and they emerge from Oberlin as informed artists with a broad worldview.

Students experience an Oberlin Conservatory education in three distinctive ways:

- As **pre-professional musicians** fully immersed in studies toward a Bachelor of Music degree.
- As **dedicated conservatory musicians** who also pursue coursework in the College of Arts & Sciences, including minors in college programs.
- As one of nearly 200 **participants in Oberlin's Double Degree Program**, through which they earn a Bachelor of Music from the conservatory and a Bachelor of Arts from the college, both in five years or fewer.



The Oberlin Sonny Rollins Jazz Ensemble made its New York City debut in 2019 with two sold-out sets at Dizzy's Club. Above: Oberlin Opera Theater presents two fully staged productions each year.

### TAKING THE STAGE

At Oberlin, you will perform. Students here assume essential roles from day one—in ensembles large and small, performing repertoire that spans from the masters to composers of today, in venues on campus, across the region, and around the globe.



Oberlin emphasizes individualized instruction. You will be guided by outstanding faculty-performers who devote countless hours teaching lessons, coaching ensembles, and offering mentorship in a multitude of ways. You will also benefit from residencies and master classes presented by preeminent guest artists throughout the academic year. It's one reason we like to say *the world comes to Oberlin*.





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## Oberlin Students Truly Perform on the World Stage

Recent tours, Winter Term projects, and other initiatives have included the following destinations and many others:

- Boston
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Los Angeles
- New Orleans
- New York
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Washington, DC
- Brazil
- China
- Germany
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Norway
- Panama
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Uruguay

### Conservatory Ensembles

- Oberlin Orchestra
- Oberlin Chamber Orchestra
- Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble
- Oberlin Sinfonietta
- Oberlin Baroque Orchestra
- Viola da Gamba Consort
- Oberlin Jazz Ensemble
- Oberlin Sonny Rollins Jazz Ensemble
- Genre Nova Ensemble
- Oberlin Percussion Group
- Brass Ensemble
- Trombone Choir
- Oberlin Improvisation and New Music Collective
- Oberlin Opera Theater
- Oberlin College Choir
- Gospel Choir
- Collegium Musicum Oberliniense
- Musical Union
- Arts & Sciences Jazz Ensemble
- Arts & Sciences Orchestra
- Javanese Gamelan



Oberlin emphasizes individualized instruction. You will be guided by outstanding faculty-performers who devote countless hours teaching lessons, coaching ensembles, and offering mentorship in a multitude of ways. You will also benefit from residencies and master classes presented by preeminent guest artists throughout the academic year. It's one reason we like to say *the world comes to Oberlin.*

**6:1**  
Student to faculty ratio in the conservatory

**9**  
inspiring performance venues

**240+**  
Steinway pianos

**150,000**  
music scores in the Conservatory Library







**150**  
conservatory  
practice rooms are open  
to all Oberlin students.

**300**  
college students enroll  
for credit in conservatory  
classes each semester.

**25+**  
recording spaces are  
available to students.

## When You Combine Music and the Liberal Arts, Amazing Things Can Happen

Studying music at Oberlin isn't just for conservatory students! You can be a serious musician in the College of Arts & Sciences, too. Both offer a wealth of opportunities for students who are interested in pursuits that unite their passions for music and the liberal arts.

One way is by majoring in musical studies in the College of Arts & Sciences. Its requirements span conservatory and college classes, providing a rigorous foundation in music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology, with plenty of opportunities to perform.

### FIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS AND CONCENTRATIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

- Arts Administration and Leadership
- Arts and Creative Technologies
- Interdisciplinary Performance
- Music and Cognition
- Music and Popular Culture

### SAMPLE CONSERVATORY CLASSES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

- Pop Music and Media
- Music Criticism
- Voice Class for Non-Majors
- Philosophy of Music
- Entrepreneurship
- Music Theory
- Western Art Music
- Jazz Aural Skills
- Baroque Violin
- Composition for Non-Majors

Music is an integral part of Oberlin's DNA. Whether or not you choose to study music formally, your opportunities to play and experience it will abound here.

**Private Lessons**  
Each year around 170 college students enroll in one-on-one lessons taught by conservatory faculty or advanced students. Need an instrument? If you're enrolled in lessons or a performance-based class, you are eligible to borrow an instrument for the semester or year.

**Ensembles**  
The conservatory offers more than two dozen ensembles, and college students are eligible to audition for any of them with the approval of a faculty member.

**Student Organizations**  
Opportunities abound to participate in music-making clubs, including Oberlin Taiko, Oberlin Steel Drum Ensemble, and numerous a cappella groups—and you can even create your own!

**Gear and Spaces**  
Before you start rehearsing for Cover Band Showcase at the 'Sco, check out the Gear Co-Op. This student-run organization provides the space, equipment, and educational resources you need to practice, perform, and record whatever you want. Need some good acoustics and maybe a Steinway? The conservatory's practice rooms are available to all students—you don't need permission or a key.

**Production and Promotion**  
Maybe your interests lie more behind-the-scenes? You can work for Conservatory Audio Services or Concert Sound, which support live music in venues all over campus. WOBC radio broadcasts 'round the clock, with programs of all kinds produced and hosted by students.





T-Rextasy, with lead singer Lyris Faron and bassist Annie Fidoten (both 2018 Oberlin grads), is one of many acts to have performed in the 'Sco, our campus nightclub.

**With an ethos that favors intellectual curiosity, creative risk-taking, and collaboration over competition, Oberlin lays the groundwork for students to pursue their own visions. The result is a campus alive with art and music, thoughtful discourse, and a ton of just plain fun.**

**HOW WILL YOU EXPERIENCE OBERLIN? >**





You may have heard about Oberlin's one-of-a-kind art rental program. Artwork by the masters—Monet, Picasso, and Warhol among them—are loaned to students for their rooms for \$5.



Obies love their food! Whether you're grabbing a snack to go as you run to class or sitting down with 90 of your friends for a co-op meal (homemade by members!), you'll always find something—much of it local and organic—to satisfy your stomach and soul.

## Create Your Campus Life to Suit Your Lifestyle

As a first-year student, you'll be able to choose from a variety of housing styles: traditional residence halls; program houses centered around a language, culture, or interest; or co-ops, in which students run the household and share meal prep. Dining choices include fresh, mostly local food to suit every eater and dietary lifestyle. You'll enjoy farm-to-fork meals, hormone-free proteins, cage-free eggs, and socially aligned coffee.



**90%**  
of students live on campus all four years.

**7**  
campus dining locations

**FREE**  
Cost of laundry in residence halls





A Green "EDGE" fund pays you for ideas and projects that promote environmental sustainability.

Our theater and dance departments present main-stage productions throughout the year.

The 'Sco, our campus nightclub, hosts acts just before they blow up (Kendrick Lamar, Snail Mail, Kero Kero Bonito, and SZA).

We host a huge variety of speakers who tackle the hottest topics in politics, pop culture, education, and more.

We have a campus culture in which people respect their peers and look out for one another.

We have fun, stress-reducing study breaks, like pancake breakfasts at midnight.

The world comes to Oberlin with guest performers from places such as Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, France, and the U.K.

Our Artist Recital Series presents some of the world's most acclaimed musicians here on campus.

Students have the opportunity to create new, campus-wide organizations or events, like a music and art festival that draws nationally known performers (like Lizzo).

Our incredible student-run writing outlets include literary magazines, science journals, the student newspaper, and, of course, an alternative student newspaper.

We have places for people to explore and pursue their faiths—and those of others.

We embrace winter! You can make the most of Ohio's chilliest month with project-based learning, cozy gatherings, and day trips out of town.

## You'll Never Be Bored

Obies go old-school analog when promoting the 500 performances, lectures, exhibitions, and student-produced events each year. This bulletin board gives a glimpse at what makes Oberlin special.





## Our Athletes Claim Victories On and Off the Field

What does it mean to be a scholar-athlete at Oberlin? It means being ready to step up and play big for the things and people that you believe in. It means standing up or taking a knee for inequalities. It means embracing the privilege and joy of competition.



**21** varsity sports  
**350** student athletes compete each year



Oberlin is an NCAA Division III institution and a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

### Men's Varsity Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field (Indoor and Outdoor)

### Women's Varsity Sports

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Volleyball

Athletics facilities include an artificial turf field with lights—home to football, field hockey, and lacrosse teams; baseball, softball, and soccer fields; a track and cross-country course; tennis courts; a large fieldhouse; a competition pool and diving well; two gyms for basketball and volleyball; and an indoor track and tennis courts.



## We Mix Fitness With Fun

Engage. Energize. Empower. This is the mission of health and wellness programming at Oberlin, where our brand-new facilities promote a culture of self-care and healthy living for students of all abilities. From spinning and swimming to boot camp and boxing, students can exercise with friends in a comfortable, low-pressure setting.



Spinning, yoga, and boxing are among two dozen walk-up group fitness classes offered each semester in Oberlin's new Shanks Health and Wellness Center. There's also a fitness studio that houses more than 50 stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines, cable weight machines, and free weights.

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club sports include Aikido, bowling, tennis, rugby, golf, Quidditch, and Ultimate.

\$0

Cost for YeoFit classes

All Obies can take part in a vigorous fitness and wellness program called YeoFit, which offers free, campuswide fitness challenges and classes at a wide variety of times.







Oberlin students enjoy the best of both worlds: the coziness of a small town and access to a major city just 35 miles away. Almost everyone stays for the weekends—making it easy to focus on academics, create friendships, and take part in campus life.

Downtown Oberlin has dozens of dining and shopping options.

[DINE, SHOP, EXPLORE >](#)



## Oberlin the Town

Just steps away from campus is the city of Oberlin, a quintessential college town with coffeehouses, bakeries, shops, galleries, a movie theater, health food markets, a yoga studio, and a public library. Restaurants in town offer nearly every type of cuisine, from pizza, ice cream, and tater tots to Korean, Chinese, Thai, Mexican, Middle Eastern, and vegan. Outdoors lovers will appreciate Oberlin's miles of wooded biking paths and its 22-acre nature preserve with lakes, trails, creeks, and bridges.



The city of Oberlin was named one of Ohio's Best Hometowns by *Ohio Magazine* because of its historic architecture, quaint shopping and galleries, and entertainment. Lots of students take part in annual community events such as a weekend-long Folk Fest and a springtime Big Parade with intricate floats and costumes.



The Apollo Theatre, Oberlin's 1913 art-deco moviehouse, is known for running first-run films at cheap prices—including Free Movie Monday for students. Renovated in 2011, the Apollo also serves as a space for the college's Cinema Studies Program. Students can record and edit their work in the media education center and show their films in a 61-seat screening room.



### 35 MILES FROM OBERLIN

Cleveland, Ohio, offers big-city amenities and great opportunities for exploring. A vibrant music, arts, and food scene reaches into galleries, studios, and restaurants tucked into all corners of the city.

## Sustainability is Integral to the Way We Learn and Live at Oberlin



water use in real time—using technology developed by students and faculty. We eat foods that are grown locally, and we reuse and recycle extensively. Over the last decade, the college has invested in a broad spectrum of energy-efficient technologies, installed a 10-acre solar array, and

worked with the city of Oberlin to secure green electricity for the entire town. Our goal? Carbon neutrality by the year 2025.

To learn more about Oberlin's commitment to sustainability, visit [go.oberlin.edu/sustainability](http://go.oberlin.edu/sustainability).



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## Cleveland by the Neighborhoods

### UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

A cluster of cultural institutions on Cleveland's east side, University Circle includes the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, the always amazing (and free) Cleveland Museum of Art, MOCA Cleveland, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and nearby Little Italy.

### GORDON SQUARE, OHIO CITY, TREMONT

These three neighborhoods offer coffee shops, tea rooms, breweries, galleries, the West Side Market, Cleveland Public Theater, the Happy Dog (a club and restaurant specializing in hot dogs), and Nate's Deli, which has the best hummus around. You'll also find the Transformer Station and Spaces, two galleries showing cutting-edge art.

### LAKESWOOD

This inner-ring suburb offers a wide range of dining options; the hip Mahall's bowling alley and concert club; sunset watching at the lakefront Solstice Steps; quirky boutiques and antique shops; and fun evening spots centered around gaming, nerd culture (think butter beer and blue milk), and Norse Mythology.

### CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

This east-side suburb includes a restaurant row, a movie theater showing first-run independent films, the Grog Shop music club for indie bands, and Tommy's, a neighborhood institution known for vegetarian options and milkshakes big enough for two.

### DOWNTOWN AND THE FLATS

Downtown is home to Cleveland's major league football, basketball, and baseball teams; riverfront dining and chef-run restaurants; the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; the House of Blues; the Cleveland International Film Festival; Playhouse Square (the largest performing arts center in the U.S. outside of New York); and nearby Edgewater Park, 147 acres of Lake Erie shoreline with a beach and hiking paths.

## Sustainability is Integral to the Way We Learn and Live at Oberlin



Climate change defines the world our students will inherit for generations to come. It must be a defining factor in how we operate our campus, how we educate our students, and how we plan for the future. To create an enduring ecological and human community, we shape our college

and curriculum to be responsive and responsible to the local, regional, and global environment.

In 2000, we opened the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, which helped launch the green building movement. On campus and in town, we monitor energy and

water use in real time—using technology developed by students and faculty. We eat foods that are grown locally, and we reuse and recycle extensively. Over the last decade, the college has invested in a broad spectrum of energy-efficient technologies, installed a 10-acre solar array, and

worked with the city of Oberlin to secure green electricity for the entire town. Our goal? Carbon neutrality by the year 2025.

To learn more about Oberlin's commitment to sustainability, visit [go.oberlin.edu/sustainability](http://go.oberlin.edu/sustainability).



## An Oberlin Education Can Take You Almost Anywhere

Employers know that students who study the liberal arts are able to reason, analyze, and communicate—skills that translate to the boardroom, the Peace Corps, the chem lab, the concert hall—and everywhere in between. Our alumni include 23 members of the National Academy of Sciences, nine Pulitzer Prize winners, three Nobel Prize recipients, and countless Grammy winners. Oberlin is also a top producer of Fulbright students, with 220 Obies having received grants to research and teach internationally.



### Top Alumni Career Fields

Business  
Cultural Institutions  
Education  
Entertainment or Film  
Fine and Performing Arts  
Healthcare and Medicine  
Law  
Publishing or Media  
Science or Research  
Social/Human Services  
Technology

### Popular Graduate Schools

Columbia  
Harvard  
Johns Hopkins  
Juilliard  
Rice  
UC Berkeley  
University of Michigan  
Yale

### Recent First Employers

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Facebook  
Google  
International Center of Photography  
Merrill Lynch  
Morgan Stanley  
MSNBC  
National Institutes of Health  
Netflix  
NPR  
Peace Corps  
Pew Research Center  
Sarasota Opera  
Smithsonian Institution  
Spotify  
St. Paul Chamber Orchestra  
Teach For America  
Twitter

92%

of new grads who applied to graduate school received two or more acceptances; 81% are at their top choice.

Every year since our founding in 1833, we replenish the world's supply of compassionate, rigorous, pragmatic visionaries—people who make an exceptional impact on the world. In every field, in communities across the street and the world, our graduates help people find a way forward.



FROM TOP LEFT: 1. **Sylvia Hood Washington '80** founder, president, and chief scientist at Environmental Health Research Associates and expert in environmental justice 2. **Jad Abumrad '95 & Robert Krulwich '69** Cohosts, *Radiolab* 3. **Claire Chase '01** flutist, contemporary music entrepreneur, and winner of a MacArthur Fellowship “Genius” Grant 4. **Alison Bechdel '81** graphic memoirist, author of *Fun Home* 5. **Billy Cohn '82** heart surgeon, inventor of an artificial “beatless heart” and other medical innovations, musician 6. **The Honorable Francisco X. Dominguez '89** judge, 205th District Court in Texas, founding member of the Oberlin Latino Alumni Association



**Because of Oberlin:** *The Lion King* on Broadway<sup>1</sup>  *The Princess Bride*<sup>2</sup> Inexpensive aluminum<sup>3</sup>  *Exile in Guyville*<sup>4</sup>  Eradication of smallpox<sup>5</sup> Computer mouse technology<sup>6</sup> *High Maintenance*<sup>7</sup> Technologies for people with disabilities<sup>8</sup> Andy Bernard on *The Office*<sup>9</sup>  *The Color of Water*<sup>10</sup> The Bechdel Test<sup>11</sup> Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream<sup>12</sup>  International Contemporary Ensemble<sup>13</sup> *Cheers*<sup>14</sup> Elmo's friend *Mr. Noodle*<sup>15</sup>  *Radiolab*<sup>16</sup>  First effective treatment for sickle cell disease<sup>17</sup> *Lucky* magazine<sup>18</sup>  First African American Major League baseball player<sup>19</sup> *99% Invisible*<sup>20</sup>  The novel *Girl with a Pearl Earring*<sup>21</sup>  *Encyclopedia Brown*<sup>22</sup> Officer Clemmons from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*<sup>23</sup>  First ordained female minister in the U.S.<sup>24</sup> *Cabaret* and *Chicago*<sup>25</sup> Artificial heart technology<sup>26</sup> Apartment Therapy<sup>27</sup>  ZipRecruiter<sup>28</sup> African National Congress<sup>29</sup> *Punch Brothers*<sup>30</sup> *Sesame Street*<sup>31</sup> 

1. Julie Taymor '74, director and filmmaker 2. William Goldman '52, novelist and screenwriter 3. Charles Martin Hall, 1847, chemist 4. Liz Phair '90, groundbreaking rock musician 5. D.A. Henderson '50, physician and director of international effort to eradicate the disease 6. Stuart Card '66, pioneer in human-computer interaction 7. Ben Sinclair '06, actor and writer 8. Ralf Hotchkiss '69, inventor 9. Ed Helms '96, actor 10. James McBride '79, author 11. Alison Bechdel '81, graphic memoirist, author of *Fun Home* 12. Jerry Greenfield '73, company cofounder and philanthropist 13. Claire Chase '01, founder 14. James Burrows '62, Emmy-winning TV show creator and director 15. Bill Irwin '73, actor and clown 16. Jad Abumrad '05 and Robert Krulwich '69, cohosts of the NPR show 17. Samuel Charache '51, hematologist 18. Kim France '87, founding editor 19. Moses Fleetwood Walker, 1881, baseball player 20. Roman Mars '94, show host and producer; founder of Radiotopia 21. Tracy Chevalier '84, novelist 22. Donald Sobol '48, series author 23. Francois Clemmons '67, actor and singer 24. Antoinette Brown, 1847, American minister and reformer 25. John Kander '51, composer who wrote scores for 15 musicals 26. Billy Cohn '82, surgeon and medical device inventor 27. Maxwell Ryan '89, company founder 28. Ian Siegel '95, cofounder and CEO 29. John L. Dube, 1890, founding president; South African writer and educator 30. Chris Eldridge '04, singer, guitarist, and founder of the bluegrass band 31. Lloyd Morrisette '51, founder of Sesame Workshop



This sculpture commemorates Oberlin as a major stop on the Underground Railroad. A student constructed the piece in 1977 as part of a class art project.



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## Contact Us

### Arts & Sciences Admissions

admissions.oberlin.edu/as  
college.admissions@oberlin.edu  
800.622.6243 or 440.775.8411

### Conservatory Admissions

admissions.oberlin.edu/con  
conservatory.admissions@oberlin.edu  
440.775.8413

### Office of Financial Aid

oberlin.edu/finaid  
financial.aid@oberlin.edu  
800.693.3173 or 440.775.8142

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## Visit Oberlin!

The college and conservatory admissions offices welcome visitors year-round for tours, information sessions, and interviews. Find planning information and register for your visit at [oberlin.edu/visitor](http://oberlin.edu/visitor).

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## Discover More

[www.oberlin.edu](http://www.oberlin.edu)  
[www.oberlin.edu/blogs](http://www.oberlin.edu/blogs)

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## Apply

### Arts & Sciences Deadlines

**EARLY DECISION I**  
**November 15**

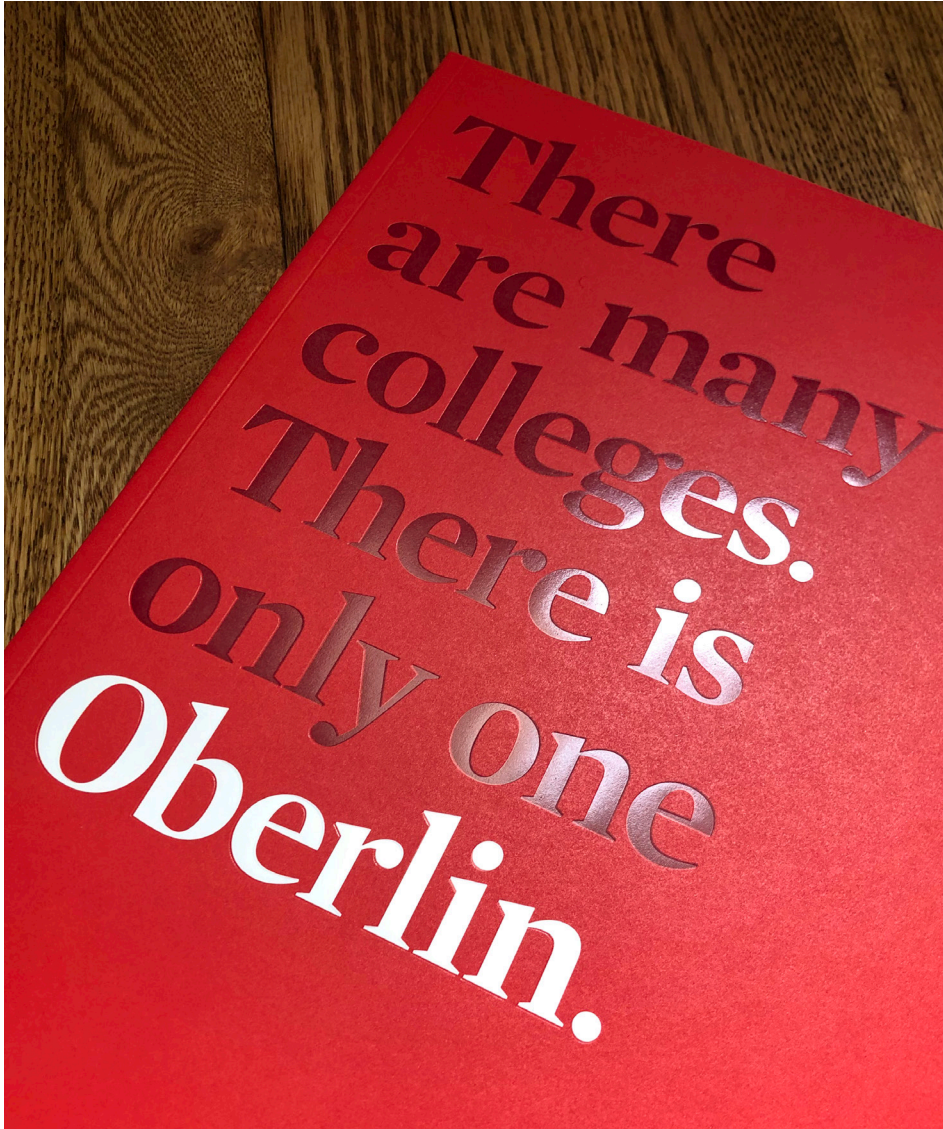
**EARLY DECISION II**  
**January 2**

**REGULAR DECISION**  
**January 15**

### Conservatory Deadline

**REGULAR REVIEW**  
**December 1**



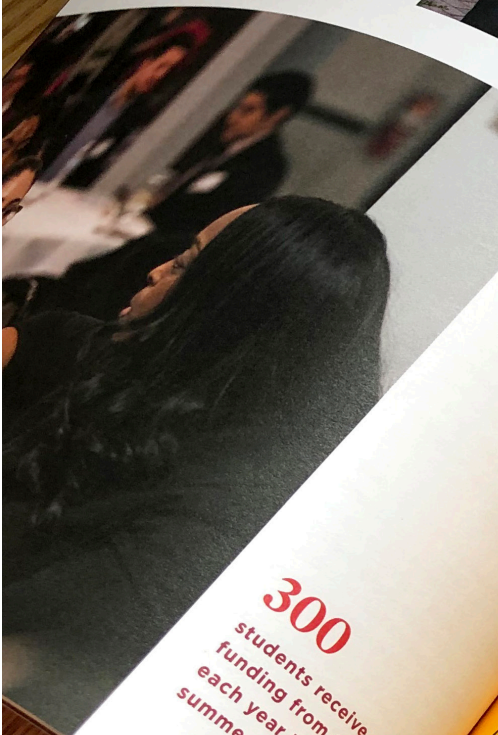








**OBERLIN CAREER COMMUNITIES**  
 Arts and Creative Professions  
 Business, Finance and Consulting  
 Education  
 Law and Public Policy  
 Health, Public and Global Health Professions  
 Humanities  
 Science and Public Policy  
 Technology and Design



**Above:** The Arts and Creative Professions Career community includes internships and opportunities in Los Angeles.  
**Left:** The Ashby Business Scholars program helps prepare students for jobs and internships in a range of business disciplines.

**300** students receive funding from Oberlin each year to pursue summer internships.

**ACADEMICS IN ACTION**  
*The Engaged Liberal Arts takes what you're learning in your coursework and puts it into practice through research, study away experiences, Winter Term, career exploration, internships, and beyond.*



17  
 LOOKING AHEAD

at life after college, but Oberlin—whether you're a job hunter for an internship, applying to grad school—our programs to help you. In Term. You can even apply for

**Especially for**  
 A program called Sophomore Opportunity Academic Resource Center helps second-year students make big decisions, such as a major, exploring a direction, or planning and Winter Term options.

**Launch Your Next Handshake**  
 An online program called Handshake is where Oberlin students can request an appointment with an Oberlin career advisor to discuss career-related events on campus. You can also explore jobs and internships with more than 200,000 employers based on your profile and interests.

**A Network of Alumni**  
 Oberlin alumni are an excellent source of career information. Our online Oberlin alumni network is designed specifically to help Oberlin students find and talk with alumni who are eager to share their advice and expertise.

**RECENT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS**

- Aspen Music Festival
- BBC America
- Brooklyn Museum
- City Club of Cleveland
- The Cleveland Orchestra
- Columbia Pictures
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- IBM
- Japan Airlines
- National Geographic
- NPR