“Carleton College is one of the finest, strongest liberal arts colleges in the United States; its purposes are clearly understood and subscribed to enthusiastically by all constituents . . . its graduates take their place in leadership professions . . . and in national life. The best attainments of liberal arts education are measured by the Carleton experience.”

North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

“Carleton’s most refreshing characteristic is its genuineness and utter lack of pretension. In our academic endeavors, this sincerity is a major contributor to collaborative learning, and it explains our discomfort with gamesmanship or artifice. Such authenticity also leads to a hunger for unvarnished explanations and real understanding and a glad exuberance in learning for the sake of learning. If you take that kind of exuberance beyond the purely academic realm as we regularly insist on doing at Carleton, you will begin to grasp the purposefully playful, even zany, sense of humor that imbues this college. We carry out our practical jokes, hold silent dance parties on tables in the library, and run in madcap pursuit of busts of German literary giants. By making a point of not taking ourselves too seriously, we show ourselves honestly to friends and colleagues and create community across boundaries that might otherwise divide us.”

President Steven G. Poskanzer
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location: Northfield, Minnesota, population 20,581, 40 miles south of Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Founded: 1866, a private, coeducational, residential liberal arts college
- Total enrollment fall 2015: 1995 (49% men, 51% women)
- Geographic distribution of student body: Midwest–38.5%, West–22.0%, East–19.4%, South–8.9%, International–11.2%

CARLETON FEATURES

- A student-faculty ratio of 9:1
- An average class size of 16; 71.1% of class sections had under 20 students
- Thirty-two majors and several interdisciplinary programs with more than 1,000 courses offered
- A full-time faculty of 205, 100% of whom hold the most advanced degree offered in their field
- Lecture series that include prominent writers, scientists, artists, philosophers, and politicians; Carleton theater and musical productions, exhibits, and weekly convocation
- Our 91% four-year graduation rate places us in a tie for second among national liberal arts colleges and national universities (U.S. News & World Report)
- Member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with 20 NCAA Division III varsity athletic programs, as well as a wide variety of intramural and recreational sports programs
- One of the largest undergraduate libraries in the United States
- A 1,040-acre campus, which includes an 800-acre arboretum
- An 80,000-square-foot Recreation Center

FUN FACTS

- 9 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships, 1 Davis Projects for Peace, 12 Fulbright Fellowships, 1 Minnesota Space Grant Consortium Award, 2 Critical Language Scholarships, 4 Mellon Graduate School Exploration Fellowships
- Thanks to an active off-campus studies program, some of the College’s best classrooms are halfway across the world in countries such as India, New Zealand, Ethiopia, and Peru. In 2015–16 Carleton students studied on 106 different off-campus programs in 52 countries and territories. Seventy percent of the students in the Class of 2016 participated for academic credit in at least one program during their undergraduate years.

CLASS OF 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 567 students in this year’s entering class:

- 9% come from countries outside the United States
- 30% identify themselves as people of color
- 13% are among the first generation of their families to attend college
- 54 are National Merit and 4 are National Hispanic Recognition Scholars

CARLETON ALUMNI

- Approximately 80% of all alumni go on to graduate school within 10 years (according to the most recent Alumni Survey)
- 20%–25% of alumni go directly to graduate school in the fall after graduation
- 50% of alumni graduates gave to the college in FY 2015
- Carleton ranks second among baccalaureate colleges in the number of alumni who have gone on to earn academic doctorates (1966–2014)

Carleton alumni go on to work in a variety of fields and industries, including:

- 28.9% Education
- 18% For-profit Organizations
- 10.6% Health Care/Medical
- 8.5% Nonprofit Organizations
- 5.8% Law/Legal Services/Courts
- 4.3% Counseling
- 4.3% Media/Entertainment

FINANCIAL AID

- Carleton meets the full financial need of every admitted student for all four years
- 88% of students work on campus, including those not receiving need-based aid
- Carleton students typically graduate with less average loan indebtedness than students graduating from other private institutions in the country

RANK THIS

U.S. News & World Report America’s Best Colleges, 2017 ed. (Fall 2016)

- #1 Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching (for 4th year)
- #7 National Liberal Arts Colleges (#8 in 2016 ed.)
- #4 Graduation and Retention factor
- #7 Alumni giving factor
- #12 Faculty resources
- #14 Selectivity factor

Washington Monthly, Fall 2016 (national liberal arts colleges)

- #3 Research rank
- #3 Bachelor’s to PhD rank
- #1 Peace Corps rank

Forbes America’s Top Colleges 2016:

- #4 in the Midwest
- #11 in Liberal Arts Colleges

CollegeFactual.com/USA Today:

- 4/1143 Top 1% in physical sciences
- 5/1087 Top 1% in chemistry
- 7/722 Top 1% in physics
- 15/1240 Top 5% in mathematics and statistics

Brookings Institute, 2015:

- #5 in “added value” among four-year colleges

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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