“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
CARLETON ALUMNI

Approximately 80% of all alumni go on to graduate school within 10 years of graduation and 20–25% of alumni go directly to graduate school in the fall after graduation.

The Alumni Annual Fund raised $8,009,126 for Carleton, which represents contributions from 11,693, or 45%, of alumni.

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. Here is a sampling of the most common employment:

- 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.

78% 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, 2018 ed. (Fall 2017)

- #1 Commitment to undergraduate teaching (for 5th year)
- #8 National liberal arts colleges (#7 in 2017 ed.)
- #5 Graduation and retention
- #5 Alumni giving
- #12 Faculty resources
- #12 Selectivity
- #23 “Great Schools, Great Prices”
- #32 Financial resources

Washington Monthly, Fall 2017 (national liberal arts colleges)

- #3 Research
- #3 Bachelor’s to PhD
- #3 Peace Corps
- #14 national liberal arts colleges (#14 in 2016, #2 in 2015, but by different methodology)

Forbes, America’s Top Colleges, 2017

- #5 in the Midwest
- #15 Liberal arts universities
- A+ Financial grade

Brookings Institute, 2015

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