Enrolling the Best Students

Carleton believes strongly in providing need-based aid to students and families who would not otherwise be able to afford the school’s transformative education. This practice is rooted in the college’s liberal arts identity. We value exposing students to varying backgrounds and viewpoints, and we believe we should not limit the student body to one demographic or mindset. For this reason, it is crucial the college position itself to help students from all economic classes. We are committed to meeting 100 percent of all students’ demonstrated financial need for four years, which means for families with lower incomes, net costs to attend Carleton will be lower.

In academic year 2018-2019, 55 percent of all Carleton students are on need-based aid, totaling $43.5 million in scholarships and grants. We’re proud that 26 percent of our students come from families with incomes below $100,000 annually, 15 percent of our students are Pell Grant recipients, and 11 percent of our students are international. To continue attracting the very best students, Carleton needs to offer competitive financial aid packages.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Making education affordable is only the beginning.

- 94 percent of Carleton students graduate within the national standard measurement of six years (compared to 71.9 percent average among private non-profit colleges)
- 98 percent of students from middle-income families receiving need-based aid graduate within six years
- 91 percent of students receiving Pell Grants graduate within six years (compared to 44.4 percent nationally)
- 89 percent of first-generation college students graduate within six years (compared to 41.3 percent nationally)
- 90 percent of international students graduate within six years (compared to 70 percent nationally)

Carleton’s extraordinary commitment means our students graduate with lower debt than national averages. Our scholarships and the supporters who fund them are essential to ensure that Carleton continues to enroll exceptional students, regardless of economic status.
STUDENT PROFILE

Brittany Dominguez ’21 is going to change the world. Maybe not in monumental ways, she says, but as much as a single person can, she is determined to make life better for people—and her Carleton education is the start.

Yet she almost didn’t make it here. Wearing a thin gold necklace with a charm of the state of Texas, the Houston native admits Carleton was maybe fourth on her list. “I was not expecting to leave Texas at all,” she says. “It wasn’t that I didn’t think Carleton was a great school—I just don’t handle cold weather very well!”

But thanks to the generous financial aid package Carleton offered, the choice to head north was obvious. “And it was the best decision,” she says. “I love my classes and the close-knit relationships.”

A prospective sociology/anthropology major, Brittany says her classes have helped her better understand urban education. She started thinking about food insecurity, financial instability, familial struggles, and other issues that hinder children’s learning.

“Every time I go back to Houston, I take everything I learn here with me,” Brittany says. “I realized that there’s a gap in education because often policy makers aren’t teachers. I think teaching will be a good foundation for my career so I can later help people through policy change.”

Though her heart is in Houston, Brittany has embraced her time in Northfield. She volunteers with the CCCE’s Food Recovery Network, sings in the choir, and is active with Fellowship for Christ. And even when temperatures dip below zero, she braves the cold to play in the snow with her friends.

“I wouldn’t be here without financial aid,” Brittany says. “It made it possible for me to get ready to go out and make all the difference that I can in the world.”

CARLETON’S PLAN

• $100 million to enroll the best students
  We are fiercely committed to recruiting and educating a diverse student body, and to do so, we must significantly increase our resources for financial aid

• $20 million for high-need students
  This goal reaffirms our dedication to offer affordable education for all students who deserve to be Carls, regardless of income

• $20 million for middle-income students
  Historically, we have drawn students from a broad socioeconomic band, and this target will keep Carleton’s education affordable

• $10 million for international students
  Carleton plans to double the number of international students we are able to support as well as expand representation of geographic areas on our campus

To learn more, visit give.carleton.edu or contact a development officer at 800-492-2275.