

Campus Field Report

Ohio Northern University

Date of Report: June 28, 2016

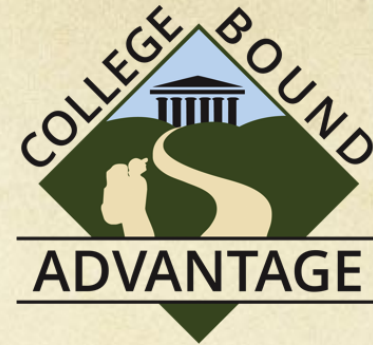
Address: 525 South Main St., Ada, Ohio 45810

Traditional Undergraduate Students: 2,262

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Hill Memorial Building

Introduction

Something other than corn and soybeans has been growing in the small village of Ada, Ohio. Since 1871, Ohio Northern University has been focused on integrating a strong foundation in the liberal arts with a commitment to developing “competent and employable practitioners.” Very few institutions in Ohio effectively combine small size, teaching focus, highly rated professional undergraduate and graduate programs, liberal arts core, and an active set of co-curricular options on a beautiful residential campus.

Organized into five colleges (law, pharmacy, business, engineering, and arts & sciences), ONU’s structure reveals clearly their emphasis on, and commitment to, excellence in the development of competent professionals as well as creative, critical thinking, and ethical individuals. Committing early in their history to “practical education,” ONU side stepped the “liberal arts versus professional program” identity confusion that confounds so many of Ohio’s private institutions.

With over 3,600 students, excellent academics, and a vibrant student life, ONU has a lot to offer.

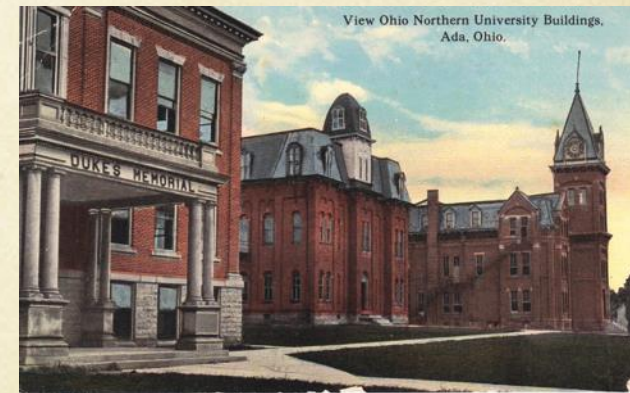
History

In 1871, Henry Solomon Lehr established Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. Lehr had been teaching college-level courses in the community since 1866. He served as the town schoolmaster and taught these more difficult classes to interested people in the evenings. By 1870, his evening classes had become so popular, Lehr convinced Ada residents to help him establish a college.

Ohio Northern University was originally known as the Northwestern Ohio Normal School. Originally, the school trained teachers, but very quickly Ohio Northern University began offering other majors designed to meet the needs of its students. Illustrating this expanded curriculum, the school was renamed the Ohio Normal University in 1885. From its beginnings, the institution was coeducational.



ONU's "College of Commerce," in 1911



ONU in the "Early Days"

History (Cont.)

By the 1890s, the school faced some financial difficulties. To place the university on sound financial footing, Lehr sold ONU to the Methodist Church. Since 1899, the Methodist Church has operated ONU, although students and professors of all faiths have always been welcome at the institution. In 1903, Ohio Normal University officially became Ohio Northern University.

Over the next several decades, ONU continued to evolve. However, during the Great Depression and World War II, enrollment declined dramatically and fears arose that the institution would not survive. Before the Great Depression, more than one thousand students usually enrolled at ONU every year. During World War II, enrollment reached a low of 156 students. Thanks to the G.I. Bill, which helped veterans enroll in college, ONU's enrollment skyrocketed after World War II, reaching nine hundred students in early 1946.

Since World War II, ONU has continued to grow. In 2014, approximately 3,600 students were enrolled, including 319 students in ONU's law school.

(*Copied with slight modification from Ohio History Central

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ohio_Northern_University?rec=2170)

Culture

Ohio Northern students are 75% from Ohio and 10% from contiguous states. The other 15% of students are from 25 countries and over 30 states. While ONU is somewhat diverse in terms of family SES, home town, rural vs. urban upbringing, it is not very ethnically diverse.

ONU is a residential campus with most students living on campus and remaining for weekends. ONU works hard to program weekend activities, performances, and speakers to provide students plenty to do. The large number of student organizations and rigorous academics also keep students busy.

Students talk about how friendly the campus is and how safe and comfortable the campus and town feel. For many students, ONU feels like home.



Student Theatre Performances are Excellent at ONU

Academics

Academics at ONU are organized into colleges, four of which represent professional disciplines (engineering, law, business, and pharmacy).

Additional professional programs are also offered within the College of Arts & Sciences including majors in Nursing, Education, Exercise Science, Public Relations, Advertising Design, and Graphic Design. These programs join a number of successful “special programs” in all the “Pre-’s” (Pre-Med, Pre-Dent, Pre-Law, Pre-Optometry, Pre-Physical Therapy; Pre Physician’s Assistant, Pre-Vet, etc.).

For each professional program ONU has built a web of internship opportunities, student organizations, and employer relationships. When coupled with a strong faculty, adequate resourcing, relevant accreditations, and excellent facilities, ONU offers a lot of value to its students.



Claude W. Pettit College of Law

Academics (Cont.)

Unique Majors

Risk Management & Insurance

Pharmaceutical Business

Engineering Education

Advertising Design (partner with minor in marketing, public relations, digital media production, social media, or professional writing)

Graduate Degrees

Law (JD)

3+3 Business & Law

Accounting (MSA)

Pharmacy (PharmD)

Large Majors:

The largest undergraduate program at ONU is Pharmacy. The top twelve most popular majors are:

Pharmacy

Mechanical Engineering

Nursing

Biology

Accounting

Management

Marketing

Exercise Science

Civil Engineering

Theatre

Pharmaceutical Management

Electrical Engineering

Manufacturing Engineering

Academics (Cont.)

Strong Majors

1. Pharmacy – ONU estimates that one in four Ohio pharmacists were educated at ONU. With current enrollment of 900, ONU's Pharmacy major is the largest on campus. Students are admitted as incoming freshmen directly into the program and complete 6 years of study on the way to earning a PharmD (Doctorate of Pharmacy). Starting salaries are in excess of \$100K.
1. Mechanical Engineering – The second largest major at ONU, ME is the broadest of all the engineering fields. In addition to a general ME curriculum, students can specialize in renewable energy, robotics, biomedical devices, or manufacturing. In terms of facilities, a new engineering building is about to break ground and should open within a few years. Graduates enjoy a nearly 100% placement rate and those who participate in a one-year Co-Op program (between junior and senior year), get one year of professional experience prior to graduation and are all employed by the time they graduate. ONU also offers strong Civil and Electrical Engineering Programs.



Academics (Cont.)

Other Strong Majors

- Nursing- Launched in 2008, ONU accepts 40 students per year into their Nursing Program. With sophisticated training equipment (automated manikins), excellent faculty, and solid clinical relationships, the program enjoys a 95-98% NCLEX first time pass rate.
- Political Science as well as Philosophy, Politics, & Economics - These two majors are often selected by students intending to enter law school. ONU's 3+3 Law program allows students to complete an undergraduate degree and J.D. all in 6 years. Approximately 50% of ONU's Law School students did their undergraduate work at ONU.
- Business Majors (all) - ONU offers a number of business majors, all of which are specialty accredited by AACSB International, the most highly regarded accreditor of business programs in the country. This level of accreditation is unusual for a college the size of ONU.



Dicke College of Business
Administration

Academics (Cont.)

Majors of Note

- Theatre- ONU accepts 40 students per year into their musical theatre program. It is competitive with many spending time in New York, Chicago, and Europe. Facilities, starting with the Freed Center for the Performing Arts are top notch. Concentrations are available in Acting/Directing, Technical Theatre, Arts Administration, and Dramatic Literature.
- Biology and Exercise Science - For many students these majors serve as Pre-Med, Pre-Dentistry, etc. Med School acceptance rates are high as are entry rates into other healthcare graduate programs.
- Chemistry and Biochemistry - ONU boasts one of the largest chemistry faculty in Ohio and even owns a Nuclear Spectrometer. While these are small majors, they offer interested students an unusual opportunity.



Freed Center for Performing Arts



ONU's Nuclear Spectrometer

Academics (Cont.)

Majors of Note

- Public Relations – The PR major is popular and the student chapter of PRSSA is extremely active on campus. Related minors are also offered and frequently integrated including Marketing, Digital Media Production, Social Media, & Professional Writing. (Advertising Design?)
- Engineering Education – A new program just four years old. Students graduate from this program with a teaching certificate for math as well as a solid engineering foundation. Many high schools now offer STEM programs and numerous engineering classes. These graduates are in demand.



ONU's Robotics Competition

Academic Support for Learning Challenges

While ONU doesn't have any unique programs supporting students with learning challenges, they do offer a number of academic support services. For example, they have a Writing Center in the Library that helps students write papers and strengthen their writing skills. The academic departments offer free peer tutoring for most classes. The Office of Disability Services provides reasonable accommodations for students with documentable disabilities.

Life Outside the Classroom

Many would argue that ONU is “in the middle of nowhere,” but Lima and Finley are close and several large cities, such as Dayton and Columbus, are within 90 minutes. Not to worry, there is plenty to do on campus.

ONU offers approximately 200 student groups including Greek life (17% of students involved) and athletics (25% of students involved). The Student Planning Committee provides a myriad of other entertainment options for students throughout the academic year.

There are 5 social fraternities and 4 social sororities. Greeks are housed on campus in residence halls.

Study Abroad programs are offered, with approximately 13% of students studying abroad during their time at ONU. ONU is working to increase student involvement in study abroad and are targeting 25% in future years.



Greek Life at ONU

Life Outside the Classroom

Among the many student organization options are several club sports of note including Fencing and Men's and Women's Rugby. Other organizations bring together students interested in chess, badminton, astronomy, yoga, dance and many more.

There is a 3 year on-campus housing requirement at ONU. They believe this helps students build friendships and connections that are important. There are two freshman dorms and a number of other housing options for upper class students including apartment style housing. There are multiple dining options on campus including a full service cafeteria, White Bear (fast options), 2 coffee shops, and a COSI restaurant.

The ONU Sports Center, opened in 1974, offers an indoor track, natatorium, work out facilities, and much more.



ONU Sport Center Track

Price

Estimated Costs for Academic Year 2015-2016*

Tuition	\$14,405 (\$28,810 stated tuition less average institutional scholarship of \$14,405)
Room & Board	\$ 10,890
Books/Supplies	<u>\$ 1,800</u>
Total	\$27,095

Pell Grant Eligible: 29%

Merit Aid can provide up to a 50% discount in tuition, but additional discounting is based purely on need.

* The above calculation is based on data provided by the National Center for Educational Statistics and is only an estimate. It does not include miscellaneous university fees or discretionary spending. Actual cost will vary by student and is subject to change by Ohio Northern University.

Just for Fun

ONU Observatory: The ONU Observatory was completed in 2010. The observatory is primarily used by ONU students in physics and astronomy classes, faculty, and by the ONU Astronomy Club. However, it is also opened up periodically for community observing sessions.



ONU Observatory

The Polar Bear Plunge: The Delta Sigma Phi fraternity at Ohio Northern University hosts an annual “Polar Bear Plunge” (ONU’s mascot is the Polar Bear) philanthropy event in February. More than 150 students and members of the community will brave the elements to take the plunge into the frigid waters of Polar Bear Pond with proceeds benefitting the American Red Cross.



Polar Bear Plunge

Ohio Northern University Data Sheet*

Fall 2014 Enrollment

Full-time Undergraduates	2,262
Part Time Undergraduates	592
Graduate Student Enrollment	841
Percentage UG Men	52%
Percentage UG Women	48%
Percentage UG Minorities (1% Hispanic, 3% AA)	15%
% Out-of-State	25%
Average Class Size	19
Student to Faculty Ratio	12:1
Number of full-time faculty	211

Fall 2014 Freshman Profile

Middle 50% ACT Composite	23-29
Average Freshman GPA	3.7
Number in freshman class	628
Percent freshmen receiving aid	100%

Campus Life

Religious Affiliation	United Methodist
Campus Setting	Rural
Fraternities/Sororities	Yes
Intramural Sports	Yes
% full-time students living on campus	63%
Percent registered w/disability services	3%

Athletics

NCAA Division III

Varsity Sports

Men: Track, Lacrosse, Cross Country, Basketball, Baseball, Football, Soccer, Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Golf

Women: Track, Lacrosse, Golf, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Swimming & diving, Tennis

Student Athletes: 727 (25%) + new Lacrosse program for men and women.

* Data provided by the National Center for Educational Statistics, 2015-2016 Counselors Guide by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, Forbes "Private College Financial Health Grades 2015," and the 2015 Endowment Market Value by the National Association of College and University Business Officers and Commonfund Institute.

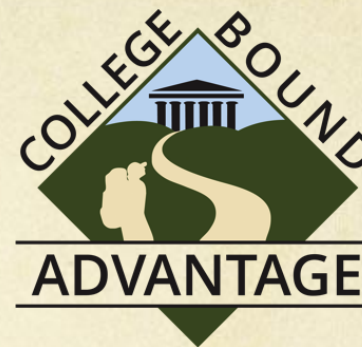
Ohio Northern University Data Sheet*

Academics

First to Second Year Retention	88%
Six Year Ave. Graduation Rate	69%

Financial Health

2015 Forbes College Financial Health Grade C	
2015 Endowment	\$167,000,000



* Data provided by the National Center for Educational Statistics, 2015-2016 Counselors Guide by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, Forbes "Private College Financial Health Grades 2015," and the 2015 Endowment Market Value by the National Association of College and University Business Officers and Commonfund Institute.