

Campus Field Report – Ohio Wesleyan University

Date of Report: August 25, 2016

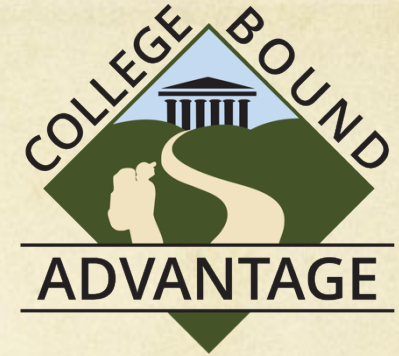
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Introduction

Established in 1842, Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) is a member of the Ohio “Big 5” liberal arts colleges that includes OWU as well as Kenyon College, College of Wooster, Oberlin University, and Denison University. They are also one of Loren Pope’s *College’s That Change Lives*.

With around 1,700 students from around the country and beyond (46 states and 43 countries represented), this selective university offers 90 majors, 23 varsity sports (NCAA Division III), and 100 clubs and organizations.

Academics are strong and focus on the liberal arts, although, unlike the other members of the “Big 5” a few professional programs, such as Education (with licensure), Business Administration, and Accounting snuck in. The Sciences, Arts, and languages are all strong. They even offer the only “Planetary Science” undergraduate program in the state.

With so much to offer, I still have to warn you that they are one of the most haunted campuses in the country and even sport their own student paranormal society.



History

Ohio Wesleyan University was established with community support in 1842, when the Methodist Rev. Adam Poe, pastor of Delaware's William Street Church, encouraged the citizens of Delaware to raise funds to purchase a building and establish a university "of the highest order" in central Ohio.

Together, 172 citizens raised a \$10,000 contribution to help purchase the former Mansion House Hotel, now known as Elliott Hall. The University's official charter was granted from the Ohio Legislature on March 7, 1842.

Ohio Wesleyan opened its doors in 1844, when the College of Liberal Arts accepted an enrollment of 29 male students taught by three professors. In 1853, the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, an independent institution, was established in Delaware and four years later moved into the new Monnett Hall. In 1877, the Female College and the University merged,

By the end of the 19th century, Ohio Wesleyan had added a School of Music (1877), School of Fine Arts (1877), School of Oratory (1894), and Business School (1895) to the original College of Liberal Arts (founded in 1844).¹



Elliott Hall - then and now



History (Cont.)

The administration adjusted the curriculum during the early 1930s to address financial challenges brought on by the Great Depression. Greek and Latin declined, while business administration and economics thrived and the highest enrollments were in the social sciences, English, pre-medicine, and history. The registrar reported that, in these years, the number of students from New England states, urban Ohio areas, and from international locations increased. By the 1930s, the Methodist students were a minority among the student body; formal ties to the Methodist church were severed in the 1920s and led to debate among Board members in the 1930s, eventually resulting in the university's current active but loose historical affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

Today, Ohio Wesleyan University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, and is a member of the Great Lakes Colleges Association, the Oberlin Group, and the Five Colleges of Ohio, a consortium of Ohio liberal arts colleges which also includes Kenyon College, Oberlin College, The College of Wooster, and Denison University.

(*Copied with slight modification from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Wesleyan_University)

Academics

OWU is a member of the Ohio “Big 5” liberal arts colleges that includes Kenyon College, Ohio Wesleyan University, College of Wooster, Oberlin University, and Denison University. Families that value a “liberal arts” education, from around the country, often tour all five of these selective colleges.

Academics at OWU are organized into 33 departments and organized by general discipline. This is somewhat traditional structure for a liberal arts institution. OWU offers nearly 90 majors and the student / faculty ratio is only 11:1. Over 27% of OWU students double major.

Academic programs at OWU are augmented by a wide variety of partnerships, student organizations, study/research abroad, and internship opportunities.

OWU offers over 60 Theory to Practice grants to students each year totaling \$250,000 in benefits in 2015. Students apply for grants that allow them to pursue enrichment opportunities relevant to their area of study and professional aspirations. Most of these tend to be science-based.



Academics (Cont.)

Unique Majors

Music Composition
Planetary Science
Neuroscience
Astrophysics
Botany & Microbiology
Genetics

Partnerships

Computer Science/Engineering 3+2
Physics/Engineering 3+2

Language Majors

East Asian Studies: Japanese or Chinese
French
Spanish
International Studies: Europe
International Studies: Developing Countries
German Literature
Ancient Studies
German Studies
Latin American Studies
Medieval Studies

Large Majors:

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

Business Administration
Psychology
Zoology
Health and Human Kinetics
Economics
Politics and Government
Fine Arts: Visual Arts &
Performing Arts
English: Creative Writing
English: Literature

Academics (Cont.)

Strong Majors

- **Zoology** - OWU boasts one of only a few undergraduate programs in Zoology in the state (most are graduate programs). This large program offers four tracks including Genetics, Pre-Vet, Biology, and General. Additionally, this major integrates required courses for admission to graduate school - Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Genetics, Physical Therapy, Environmental Studies, and Neuroscience. The faculty have a good relationship with the Columbus Zoo and some students complete internships there. Many students acquire OWU's Theory to Practice grants and work on projects in Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and many other international locations.
- **International Studies / Languages** - Ohio Wesleyan has upheld academic internationalism since the 19th century. In addition to a number of partnerships with international colleges and an international student population comprising 7% of the student body, OWU offers many related curricular options. First, students can major in French, Spanish, and German. Additionally, a wide variety of international "studies" majors are available. A few examples include East Asian Studies (Chinese or Japanese options), German Studies, International Studies (Europe or Developing Countries options), Latin American Studies, Black World Studies, Renaissance Studies, and others.



Academics (Cont.)

Strong Majors

- **Music**: Professional options include Composition (BM), Music Education (BM), and Music Performance (BM). Auditions are required for entry into the program and special scholarships are available as well. Performance majors can focus on voice, piano, organ, guitar, and all band and orchestral instruments. Music Education majors will earn K-12 licensure. Composition majors will work to combine their personal voice as an artist with contemporary art music techniques and live performances of their compositions. A Bachelor of Arts degree in Music is also an option. Students working toward a BA in Music typically double major in another discipline outside of music. The New York Arts Program allows students to apprentice in New York city with practicing professionals. Facilities are top notch and related student organizations and performance opportunities abound on campus.
- **Fine Arts**: Options include Art Education, Art History, Studio Arts (BA) and Studio Arts (BFA). Options are available for those wishing to be a professional artist, teacher, or graphic designer. Studio Art offers concentrations in Ceramics, Computer Imaging, Drawing, Figure Drawing, Graphic Design, Metals, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, Fine Arts Education (with licensure). The BA in Fine Arts allows students to double major in another discipline. The New York Arts Program partners students with professionals for internship experiences in New York City.



Gray Chapel, an outstanding concert hall on campus at OWU



Gallery space at OWU

Academics (Cont.)

Other Strong and Unique Majors

- **Microbiology**: OWU is one of only a small number of Ohio colleges to offer this degree at the undergraduate level. Students study small forms of life like bacteria, fungi, and viruses. OWU sports a scanning transmission electron microscope.
- **Planetary Science**: This small, unusual undergraduate major (the only one of its kind in Ohio) integrates physics, astrophysics, geology, and biology. Students typically double major with one of the above disciplines. Incidentally, OWU has strong programs in **Astrophysics**, **Geology**, and **Geography** as well.
- **Genetics**: An unusual undergraduate major, OWU students three required courses in genetics and then take courses in zoology, botany/microbiology, and chemistry that interest them most.
- **Accounting & Business Administration** (Mgmt. & Marketing Concentrations available) – Unusual at a liberal arts institution, OWU offers business majors. They are popular at OWU.
- **Early Childhood Education**: Unusual at a liberal arts institution, this major is fully NCATE accredited and offers licensure. The program was one of 35 colleges in the US to earn an “A” grade from the National Council on Teacher Quality. Middle childhood licensure is also offered. Students wanting licensure for 7th-12th grade major in a content discipline and minor in Education.



OWU's Perkins Observatory

Academics (Cont.)

Other Strong and Unique Majors

- **Astrophysics** - With 5 full-time faculty, the Physics, Astrophysics, and 3+2 Engineering partnership programs are well supported. Plenty of student research opportunities are available for those motivated to do so.

Academic Support for Learning Challenges

While OWU doesn't have any unique programs supporting students with learning challenges, they do offer a number of academic support services. For example, they have Writing and Quantitative Centers to support student learning in Math and writing. Peer tutoring services are available to students as needed. The Office of Disability Services provides reasonable accommodations for students with documentable disabilities.



Campus Culture & Life Outside the Classroom

As of 2015, OWU's 1,671 students come from 46 states and 43 countries; 47% are from Ohio, 7% are international, and 52% are women. The student body is about 4% Hispanic and 7% African American. Ohio Wesleyan is generally known for its more liberal than not student body and an administration with a "permissive" attitude.

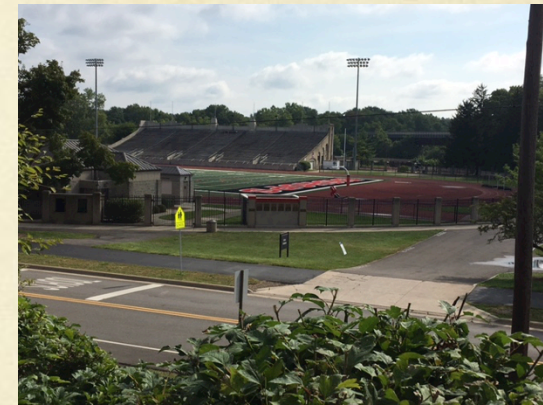
OWU offers over 100 clubs and organizations including an active Greek system (40% of students), 23 varsity sports (33% of students), and active intramurals. The Campus Programming Board, a large student organization, is charged with putting together a wide variety of events across the academic year. Weekends are packed with activities and most students stay on campus. The weekend we visited, they were planning to have a campus-wide Skype session with Edward Snowden. Programming varies widely from comedians to musical groups to politics.

The campus is divided by Sandusky Street into the "academic side" and "residence side." So, students walk across Sandusky to get to classes and back to get home. The campus is fairly compact however, so distances are reasonable.

The "OWU Connection" office coordinates the Travel Learning courses that combine a classroom component with travel for a single course. They also coordinate the Theory to Practice Grant Process, process student applications, and manage awards. Finally they help students identify and plan study abroad opportunities. Study abroad is emphasized at OWU and many students participate.



Recreation Center



Life Outside the Classroom

There is a 4 year live-on-campus requirement for students unless they live at home and commute no more than 30 miles. OWU offers students a variety of housing choices including 7 residence halls (suite style and dormitory options), 7 SLUs, and 4 themed houses. SLUs (small living units) house 10-16 students in a small house. These are often organized around themes such as, “Interfaith,” “Peace and Justice,” “Gender Equality,” and others. In terms of dining, there are 2 cafeteria-style dining halls as well as 4 cafes and a convenience store.



A Small Living Unit (SLU)



Stuyvesant Hall was built in 1930 and recently renovated.

Price

Estimated Costs for Academic Year 2015-2016*

Tuition	\$ 18,497 (\$42,910 stated tuition less average institutional scholarship of \$24,413)
Room & Board	\$ 12,030
Books/Supplies	<u>\$ 1,300</u>
Total	\$ 31,827

Pell Grant Eligible: 25%

OWU offers a wide range of scholarship options, most of which are related to high school GPA and ACT scores. Average award was \$24,413.

* 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 Wesleyan University.

Just for Fun

- **GHOSTS!** – At OWU, the Paranormal Research Society is a group of students that meets to discuss the paranormal, whether it's on campus or beyond. They also intend to investigate the locations on campus that are reported to be haunted and see what they can find. Keep in mind that OWU is considered to be one of the most haunted campuses in the country. The local paranormal expert, Public Safety Officer John Ciochetty claims that Elliot Hall, Stuyvesant, Monnett Gardens, the Peace & Justice House, Edwards Gymnasium, Perkins Observatory, and University Hall all have ghosts.
- **Amato's Wood Fired Pizza** – The CBA staff enjoyed lunch with Dr. Dwayne Todd, the new VP of Student Services at OWU. Dr. Todd, previously with CCAD, is a well known higher education innovator and superstar. Even so, we were torn as to whether he or the pizza was the most interesting. Seriously – try Amato's.



Ohio Wesleyan University Data Sheet*

Fall 2014 Enrollment

Full-time Undergraduates	1,717
Part Time Undergraduates	17
Graduate Student Enrollment	0
Percentage UG Men	47%
Percentage UG Women	53%
Percentage UG Minorities (4% Hispanic, 7% AA)	25%
% Out-of-State (7% International)	53%
Average Class Size	19
Student to Faculty Ratio	10:1
Number of full-time faculty	142

Fall 2014 Freshman Profile

Middle 50% ACT Composite	22-28
Average Freshman GPA	3.46
Number in freshman class	458
Percent freshmen receiving aid	100%

Campus Life

Religious Affiliation	United Methodist
Campus Setting	Town
Fraternities/Sororities	Yes
Intramural Sports	Yes
% full-time students living on campus	98%
Percent registered w/disability services	3%

Athletics

NCAA Division III

Varsity Sports

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

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

Student Athletes: 628 (37%)

* 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 Wesleyan University Data Sheet*

Academics

First to Second Year Retention	79%
Six Year Ave. Graduation Rate	66%

Financial Health

2015 Forbes College Financial Health Grade	B
2014 Endowment	\$211,723,000

* 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.