

Ohio Wesleyan University



Address: 61 South Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740-368-3020

E-Mail: owuadmit@owu.edu

Web: www.owu.edu

Then and Now

Established in 1842, Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) is located on the edge of Delaware, Ohio's historic downtown. OWU is a proud member of the "Five Colleges of Ohio," a consortium of renowned Ohio liberal arts colleges that also includes Kenyon College, Oberlin College & Conservatory, The College of Wooster, and Denison University. OWU is also one of Loren Pope's *Colleges That Change Lives*.

OWU opened its doors to 29 students in 1844. By the turn of the century, the liberal arts college had added a School of Music (1877), School of Fine Arts (1877), School of Oratory (1894), and Business School (1895).

Today, with about 1,600 students from across the country and beyond (45 states and 26 countries represented), this selective liberal arts university offers 90 majors (far more than most national liberal arts colleges) and a student / faculty ratio of 11:1. Over 27% of OWU students double major. Additionally, the university offers 25 Battling Bishop varsity sports (NCAA Division III), and 100 clubs and student organizations.

Academics are strong and focus on the liberal arts, although, unlike other members of the “Big 5,” a few professional programs, such as Education (with licensure), Business Administration, and Accounting enrich options provided students. As expected, the Sciences, Arts, and languages are all strong. OWU even offers the only “Planetary Science” undergraduate program in the state.

Ohio Wesleyan offers unique Theory-to-Practice grants totaling over \$250,000 in benefits to students each year. 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.

The grants are part of The OWU Connection, the university’s guided, personalized, four-year degree path that combines interdisciplinary learning with international, hands-on internship, research, and study-abroad opportunities.

Stand Out Programs

Accounting & Business Administration (Management & Marketing Concentrations available): Unusual at a pure liberal arts institution, OWU offers business majors and minors. They are popular at OWU.

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.

Early Childhood Education: Unusual at a pure liberal arts institution, this major is fully NCATE accredited and offers licensure. The program was one of 35 colleges in the United States 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 also offers a Special Education major that prepares students to earn an intervention specialist, kindergarten-grade 12 teaching license.

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 semester-long internship experiences in New York City.

Genetics: An unusual undergraduate major, OWU students take three required courses in Genetics and then take courses in Zoology, Botany/Microbiology, and Chemistry that interest them most.

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 5% 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 in Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Genetics, Physical Therapy, Environmental Studies, or Neuroscience. The faculty members 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.

Outside the Classroom

While academics are strong, OWU also offers more than 100 clubs and organizations including an active Greek system (40% of students), 25 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, including an annual “A Cappelloza” voices-only concert. Weekends are packed with activities and most students stay on campus. The weekend we visited, OWU’s Sagan National Colloquium featured 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. The office also coordinates Theory-to-Practice Grants, processing student applications and managing awards. The office, including student-mentors, also help students identify and plan study abroad opportunities. Study abroad is emphasized at OWU and many students participate.

Because OWU sees tremendous value in the living and learning environment created on a residential campus, there is a 4-year, live-on-campus requirement for students unless they reside 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 12 students in a small house. These are often organized around themes such as, “Interfaith,” “Peace and Justice,” “Sexuality and Gender Equality,” and others. In terms of dining, there are 2 cafeteria-style dining halls as well as 4 cafes and a convenience store.

Vital Statistics*

Fall 2016 Enrollment

Full-time Undergraduates	1,623
Part Time Undergraduates	15
Graduate Student Enrollment	0
Percentage UG Men	48%
Percentage UG Women	52%
Percentage UG Minorities (4% Hispanic, 7% AA)	22%
% Out-of-State (6% International)	43%

Fall 2016 Freshman Profile

Middle 50% ACT Composite	22-28
Average Freshman GPA	3.46
Number in freshman class	486
Percent freshmen receiving aid	100%

Academic

1 st to 2 nd Year Retention Rate	81%
6-Year Graduation Rate	67%
Average Class Size	17
Student to Faculty Ratio	10:1
Number of full-time faculty	138

Campus Life

Religious Affiliation	United Methodist (OWU has its roots in Methodism, but welcomes and supports students of all faiths)
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 (Battling Bishops)

Varsity Sports

Men: Track, Cross Country, Lacrosse, Basketball, Baseball, Football, Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Golf (Wrestling, as of fall 2018)

Women: Track, Cross Country, Lacrosse, Golf, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Swimming & diving, Tennis, Field Hockey (Rowing, as of fall 2018)

* Data provided by the National Center for Educational Statistics, 2017-2018
Counselors Guide by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio, and Ohio Wesleyan University