Carleton’s strength lies in its ability to integrate many different disciplines and to connect broad theoretical frameworks with individual student experience. Carleton’s historic strength in the sciences is matched by tremendous depth in humanistic inquiry, breadth in the social sciences, and distinction in the arts.

“Students engage with this dynamic curriculum by working closely with faculty members through independent research, in faculty-led study-abroad courses, and in programs that connect coursework with important community questions and concerns. Carleton students bring a strong spirit of intellectual inquiry, as well as a spirit of fun, that makes the classroom sparkle.”

—Alison Byerly
Carleton College President

AT A GLANCE
2020–2021
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location: Northfield, Minnesota, population 20,581, 40 miles south of Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Founded: 1866, a private, coeducational liberal arts college
- Total enrollment fall 2020: 1,918 (52% women, 48% men)
- Geographic distribution of student body: Midwest–40%, East–21%, West–26%, South–13%, International–10%

CARLETON FEATURES

- A student-faculty ratio of 8:1
- An average class size of 15; 65% of class sections have fewer than 19 students
- 33 majors, 37 minors, and several interdisciplinary programs with 967 courses offered
- A full-time faculty of 207, 93% of whom hold the most advanced degree offered in their field
- Lecture series that include prominent writers, scientists, artists, philosophers, and politicians; Carleton theater and musical productions, exhibits, and weekly convocations
- 88% four-year graduation rate
- 72% of the student body participates in varsity, club, or intramural sports. Carleton is a member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with 20 NCAA Division III varsity athletic programs.
- One of the largest undergraduate libraries in the United States
- A 1,040-acre campus, which includes an 800-acre arboretum
- An 80,000-square-foot Recreation Center

FUN FACTS

- In 2020–21 Carleton graduates earned many honors and awards including: 3 Fulbright Fellowships, 5 Davis Projects for Peace, 11 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships, 2 Minnesota Space Grant Consortium Fellowships, 16 Robert J. Kolenkow and Robert A. Reitz Fellowships for Student Scientific Research, 6 Larson International Fellowships, 4 Chang-Lan Fellowships
- Carleton has an incredible worldview. Thanks to an active off-campus studies program, some of the college’s best classrooms are halfway across the world in countries such as New Zealand, Senegal, and Chile. In 2020-2021 Carleton students studied on 11 different off-campus programs in 9 countries and territories. Sixty-nine percent of the students in the Class of 2021 participated for academic credit in at least one program during their undergraduate years.

CLASS OF 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 567 students in this year’s entering class:
- 12% come from outside the United States
- 52% identify as people of color (U.S. citizens only)
- 13% are among the first generation of their families to attend college
- 71% graduated in the top 10% of their high school class
- 34 are National Merit Scholars and 2 are National Hispanic Recognition Scholars
- Someone in the student body speaks: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Burmese, Cantonese, Chinese, Creole,Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Igbo, Indonesian, Italian, Jamaican, Japanese, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Korean, Latin, Luganda, Magahi, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Nepali, Norwegian, Oromo, Punjabi, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Rwandan, Sindhi, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Telugu, Thai, Tigrigna, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Wolof, Yiddish

CARLETON ALUMNI

- 70% attended graduate or professional school within eight years of graduation and 18% of 2019 graduates were enrolled in a graduate school program within six months of graduation, of those reporting
- The Alumni Annual Fund raised $9.5 million for Carleton in FY21, which represents contributions from 9,579 donors and 36% of alumni
- Carleton ranks #1 among arts and sciences baccalaureate institutions for college of origin of PhDs conferred since 2007
- Carleton alumni go on to work in a variety of fields and industries. The most common fields include:
  - 20% Business/Finance/Sales
  - 19% Education
  - 11% Health Care
  - 11% Computing

FINANCIAL AID

- Carleton meets the full financial need of every admitted student for all four years.
- 70% of students work on campus, including those who do not receive need-based aid.
- Class of 2021 average indebtedness upon graduation: $17,065 (national average: $33,700, collegeboard.com)

RANKINGS

U.S. News & World Report, America’s Best Colleges
- #1 Best undergraduate teaching faculty for the past decade
- #9 National liberal arts college
- #5 Most innovative school

Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education U.S. College Rankings
- #7 Best liberal arts college

Washington Monthly, Liberal Arts College Rankings
- #3 Research
- Peace Corps
- A top 25: small school participation