

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has provided a distinctive education that, in the words of its mission statement, *challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition.* Our Fall 2018 first-year class of 809 includes 16% who are international students; 22% who are domestic multicultural students; and 18% who are first-generation students. St. Olaf offers 42 majors in its Bachelor of Arts degree program, five majors in its Bachelor of Music degree program, and 21 interdisciplinary concentrations. All St. Olaf students complete courses in Biblical studies, Christian theology, and ethics, as well as in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics. Three-quarters of St. Olaf students participate in one or more of the college's 123 domestic and international off-campus study programs. With support from the Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career and the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry program, approximately 85% of Oles participate in an internship, research, practicum, long-term shadowing, or similar experiential learning opportunity. The college is home to seven choirs, two bands, and two orchestras, as well as jazz, handbell, early music, and student-led ensembles. More than 700 student-athletes participate in the college's 27 varsity sports, and many more choose from among 49 other club sport and intramural programs. Other co-curricular opportunities are provided by 220 student organizations ranging from Amnesty International to Women in Science. St. Olaf continues to be among only a handful of U.S. colleges that meet the full demonstrated need of all admitted students. Its academic rigor, vibrant residential life and global reach are animated by Lutheran commitments to community, hospitality, love of neighbor, and public engagement.

St. Olaf has both an ELCA student congregation that gathers for Sunday worship, and morning chapel services Monday through Friday. All services are streamed live and archived on the college website (stolaf.edu/multimedia/streams/archive/chapel). In addition to the student congregation, St. Olaf is home to more than fifteen different student religious organizations, from Fellowship of Christian Athletes to the Muslim Student Association. Thanks to endowment funds raised through the college's current campaign, St. Olaf is launching a new Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, an initiative that will both draw upon and deepen the synergy between the college's Lutheran tradition and its rich religious diversity. The mission of the new Center is to engage people of all backgrounds and beliefs in deep exploration of core commitments and life choices in ways that foster inclusive community. Its vision is to enrich the spiritual and relational well-being of members and friends of the St. Olaf community; strengthen St. Olaf's contributions to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and other religious traditions; and extend the college's visibility and impact as an institution that is both religiously-affiliated and religiously-inclusive. In addition to developing new programming for students, faculty, and staff, the Lutheran Center will become the home for the nationally-distributed Sing for Joy radio program (stolaf.edu/singforjoy/) and the biannual St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts (stolaf.edu/cwta/), which will host its next conference July 27-30, 2020.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Olaf. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps, or participate virtually via the St. Olaf multimedia website (stolaf.edu/multimedia/). We encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, we thank you for your prayers and support, and we offer you ours as well.