Diversity and Inclusion at Oberlin
For Obies, there is no typical college experience—Oberlin means different things to different students. Yet all who are attracted to Oberlin find an environment that is supportive, intellectually challenging, engaging, socially active, artistic, and exciting.

Students come to Oberlin from across the nation and around the world to pursue a relevant, extraordinary education. They come for opportunities to learn and grow in their personal lives. They come because they believe in Oberlin’s legacy of inclusion and diversity.

Leina Fieleke ’21, an art history and psychology major, is cochair of the Japanese Student Association and a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow.
Multicultural Offices, Organizations, and Housing Communities

At Oberlin, we provide academic and personal support to students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds and people of color. We recognize the unique set of challenges and concerns students may face in their academic and professional lives.

**Career Development Center**
Assists all students in their professional endeavors and exploration and offers information and guidance specific to the experiences and needs of students of color.

**Center for Student Success**
A central place to receive academic support and guidance. The center includes staff-led services, programs, and events promoting academic success and student health and wellness.

**Disability Services**
Facilitates equal access to all programs, services, and activities that are provided at Oberlin while encouraging and helping students to develop self-advocacy.

**International Student Resource Center**
Provides international students with direct guidance on VISA regulations and immigration paperwork, as well as self-exploration and reflection with the goal of reaching their long-term personal and professional aspirations.

**Multicultural Resource Center (MRC)**
Committed to creating a climate in which all students belong and have equitable opportunities and outcomes. Works to affirm and promote equity for students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and first-generation college students.

**Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**
Upholds non-discrimination policies that reflect campus culture and federal guidelines, responding to discrimination and harassment reports with a clear review process. Offers support and information to any members of our community who are involved in discrimination or harassment reports.

**Office of Religious & Spiritual Life (ORSL)**
Promotes and supports multifaith dialogue, understanding, religious practice, education, service, and activism while providing spiritual support and counseling to students.
The Engaged Liberal Arts

The Engaged Liberal Arts takes what you learn in your Oberlin courses and puts it into practice through living/learning communities, internships, research, study away experiences, winter term, career exploration, and beyond.

Cohort Programs
Oberlin offers many cohorts—including some specifically for students from underrepresented backgrounds, such as students of color, low-income students, or first-generation college students. We offer programs based on academics, research, community service, and general student support. All programs come with financial compensation, community, and one-on-one guidance in navigating college:

- Bonner Scholars Program
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)
- Oberlin FIRST/Brenda Grier-Miller Scholars Program (BGM)
- Oberlin College Research Fellowship (OCRF)
- Science and Technology Research Opportunities for a New Generation (STRONG)

OTHER WAYS IN WHICH STUDENTS HELP STUDENTS

- Center for Learning, Education, and Research in the Sciences (CLEAR)
- Yeworkwha Belachew Center for Dialogue (YBCD)
- Oberlin Workshop Leaders (OWLS)
- Peer Advising Leaders (PALS)
- Peer Mentors
- Peer Writing and Speaking Associates
Housing Communities

Oberlin offers identity- and theme-based communities that cover a variety of interests and identities. These include language-based houses; healthy living (substance-free) housing; identity-based houses; and theme/living, learning, or academic communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence Hall Name</th>
<th>Living/Learning*</th>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikan Heritage House (Lord-Saunders)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Asia House (Quadrangle)</td>
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<td>Brotherhood Wing (Afrikan Heritage House)</td>
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<td>French House (Bailey: Maison Francophone)</td>
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<td>German House (Kade: Deutsches Haus)</td>
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<td>Hebrew Heritage House (Johnson)</td>
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<td>Latinx Heritage House (Zeke)</td>
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<td>Obie-Xings/First Gen Commons (Third World House)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiet Hall (Noah)</td>
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<td>Roots in STEM (Burton Hall 1st Floor)</td>
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<td>Russian House (Allencroft)</td>
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<td>Sci-Fi House (Barnard House)</td>
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<td>Sisterhood of the Yam (Afrikan Heritage House)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish House (Harvey: La Casa Hispanica)</td>
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<td>Substance Free Hall (Noah)</td>
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<td>Third World House (Price)</td>
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<td>Women and Trans Collective (Baldwin)</td>
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<td>World Cultures Wing (Dascomb)</td>
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</table>

*Living/Learning: Residence halls that have a connection to an academic department. Most academic-based program houses have a faculty member in residence who teaches within the major. This creates a living/learning community in which students can practice their skills and increase cultural knowledge through various academic and cultural offerings. These programs often include lectures, art exhibits, dance, and theater groups from the regions.
Multicultural Student Organizations

Oberlin supports more than 35 multicultural student groups that host 150-plus events each year. You’ll never have a shortage of opportunities or communities to engage with!

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT GROUPS: 35+
Identity-based: 25+
Academic: 5
Art and Music Groups: 6
Faith Based Groups: 5
Events: 150+
Non-binary athletic teams: 2

ABUSUA
African Students Association (ASA)
And What?!
As I AM (literary journal focused on APA communities)
Asian American Alliance (AAA)
Black Scientist Guild (BSG)
Chabad Jewish Student Group (CJSG)
Chinese Student Association
Christian Fellowship, Oberlin (OCF)
Conservatory Black Musicians Guild
Drag Ball Committee
Eclectic Christians of Oberlin
Femme Artists Breaking Boundaries (FABB)
Filipinx American Students Association (FASA)
Gender Inclusivity in Music (SGIM)
Hillel (HLEL)
International Students’ Organization (ISO)
Japanese Student Association (JSA)
Korean Student Union, Oberlin (OKSA)
La Alianza Latina (LAL)
LAMBDA Union
Latinx Music Union
Lilac
Movimento (Latinx dance group)
Muslim Student Association (MSA)
Muslim Student Group (MSG)
Oberlin Korean Student Association (OKSA)
Obies for Undocumented Inclusion (OUI)

Obility, Dis/Ability Solidarity
Organization for Students of Multiple Ethnicities (OFSOME)
Pan-Asian Community
Preying Manti (Womens and Trans Ultimate Frisbee)
Queer & Formal Reasoning (QFR)
Rhinos Rugby (Trans-inclusive Women’s Rugby Team)
Sisters of the Yam
Students of Caribbean Ancestry (SOCA)
South Asian Students Association (SASA)
Students of Caribbean Ancestry
Vietnamese Students Association (VSA)
Zami

*Not all student organizations are listed here.*
Naeisha McClain ’20, a native of Columbus, Georgia, studies sociology and cinema studies. She is an Academic All-American on Oberlin’s track and field team, a Mellon Mays research fellow, a Bonner Scholar, a member of the Heisman Club board, a Village Housing assistant, and treasurer of the million-dollar budget of the Student Finance Committee.

“My first and only visit to Oberlin was through the Multicultural Visit Program. I knew little to nothing about Oberlin prior to the visit, so I was not expecting much. However, once here, I fell in love. I was taken to Afrikan Heritage House, got to go to a Noname concert, and hung out with people who would later become my closest friends/mentors. Since being at Oberlin, I have been given endless opportunities to succeed academically, athletically, and personally. Yet, the thing that makes me the happiest about being at Oberlin is the community I’ve formed while here. I’ve met people that I consider family. People who push me, support me, and love me in ways that one could only dream of. While colleges often talk about the institutional support you can receive, at Oberlin I have found that the people and other students make it the place that I have come to love.”

Oberlin’s Multicultural Visit Program (MVP)

Oberlin’s MVP program is a selective, all-expenses-paid visit program for high-achieving high school seniors interested primarily in the College of Arts & Sciences. Visit oberlin.edu/mvp to learn more.

MVP Participants Describe Oberlin with One Word

“I was blown away by the respect students and staff showed for one another and their identities. I would describe Oberlin as really RESPECTFUL.”

“INCLUSIVE. Oberlin really tries to be respectful about each person’s circumstance, whether it is race, gender, or sexuality.”

“COMMUNITY. I don’t think anyone can really appreciate what Oberlin has to offer until they are immersed in the community. Everyone was so understanding and eager to help!”

“OPEN: It has been the single word I have heard most often from students. It really seems like a place with great flexibility for all types of people.”
Notable Alumni
They came and succeeded, you can, too!

Lauren V. Wood ’84 is an allergist, immunologist, and staff physician at the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where she has served as a principal investigator. She holds the rank of captain in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Chris Broussard ’90, a sports analyst, commentator, and writer for Fox Sports, is best known for his coverage of the NBA. He previously worked for ESPN and the New York Times. An English major at Oberlin, he played point guard on the basketball team.

Alison Bechdel ’81 is a cartoonist and recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award. Bechdel’s graphic memoir Fun Home was adapted as a musical and won a Tony Award for Best Musical in 2015. They are also known for the Bechdel test, which is a measure of the representation of women in fiction.

Zhiyi Wang ’04, an award-winning composer of contemporary classical and film genres, composed various music programs for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Nachie Marsham ’98 is executive editor at Disney Publishing Worldwide, the publishing subsidiary of Disney Parks, Experiences, and Products. Imprints include Disney Editions, Disney Press, Kingswell Freeform, and Hyperion Books for Children. He was previously an editor for DC Comics.

Stephanie Rawlings Blake ’92 served as the mayor of Baltimore from 2010 to 2016, the second woman to hold that office, and later as secretary of the Democratic National Committee. “So far, I’m not jaded enough to lose the idealism that is pumped into the food at Oberlin,” she says. “Whatever makes people care enough to be active and think they can do better, is found at that school.”
Our Students

U.S. Students of Color: 27%
International Students: 12%
(representing nearly 50 foreign countries)

Mid-Atlantic 25%
Midwest 20% (6% from Ohio)
Western 18%
New England 11%
South 9%
Outside of US 13%

Need More Information?

Contact us.
We're happy to help!

Office of Admissions
38 East College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
W: admissions.oberlin.edu/as
P: 800.622.OBIE or 440.775.8411
E: college.admissions@oberlin.edu

Oberlin’s annual Black History Month Fashion Show is a celebration of black beauty and style and its impact on popular style and culture.