THINK ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE THE WORLD?

SO DO WE.

OBERLIN
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So You’re Representing Oberlin at a College Fair…

Whether you’re staffing a college fair for the first time or you’ve done the same fair year after year, this handbook should make the experience easier for you. You’ll find useful information to use when speaking with students and parents so that they come away from the fair thinking, “I have a better sense of what Oberlin is really about.”

Your role at the fair is to provide general information to interested students and family members. You’re likely to be able to answer many of the questions they might have but don’t worry if you can’t — we don’t expect you to know all the answers. Students and family members will appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to represent your alma mater.

For the past decade we have sent only our basic travel piece for distribution at college fairs. We know that you will have less material to hand out to interested students but we have found that only having the introductory piece cuts down on wasted literature. **It is therefore very important that every student who visits your table completes the information request card fully and legibly.** We will send information to students so long as they request specific information.

**Before the fair starts…**
Please look over the materials we send you before going to the fair. While you will not receive lots of materials to be distributed, it is important to familiarize yourself with the information that you do have.

Try to arrive at the college fair early so you have time to set up your table.

If there are refreshments provided by the organizing institution, please help yourself.

**Remember…**
There is no guarantee that you will be busy at the fair. An admissions counselor felt that Oberlin should be represented at the fair. It is possible that few students will have heard of Oberlin – for these students, simply telling them about what we have to offer is the way to get Oberlin’s name out there. For students who already know about Oberlin, please try to answer their questions as best you can.

**The most important thing is to have interested students complete an information request card.** When this card is returned to our office, the student’s information is entered into our database and they are added to the mailing list. While students can do this online as well, having the completed cards also gives us a sense of how many students are being seen at these fairs. It also allows us to gauge whether or not attending a particular fair is worthwhile.

**When the fair is over…**
After the fair has ended, we ask that you do one simple thing: please use the enclosed business reply envelope to return the tabletop banner, the completed information request cards, and the fair evaluation form to us. If there are materials left over, please keep them to use at the next fair you attend.
Troubleshooting
The most common complaint we hear from alumni volunteers is that we did not send enough materials for the fair. We do our best to provide you with enough materials to cover the fair, but we can never know precisely how many students will want information. If you do run out of materials, please let us know on the fair evaluation form.

If you find that you are running low on the information request cards, please take a sheet of paper and have the students provide the following information: name, mailing address, email address, high school, and graduation year. We can enter them into our database with this information.

In Conclusion
Thank you very much for representing Oberlin at this college fair. The time you spend speaking with prospective students and their family members is extremely important in the recruiting process — your willingness to share your Oberlin experiences and the enthusiasm with which you speak about Oberlin really makes an impression on students today. Without your help, we would never be able to reach out to and recruit as many talented students as we do.
Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Oberlin? Oberlin is located approximately 35 miles southwest of Cleveland and approximately 25 miles from the Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport. It takes around 30 minutes to drive to the airport and around 50 minutes to drive into downtown Cleveland.

How big is Oberlin? Oberlin’s student population is approximately 2900 (2300 in the College of Arts and Sciences and 600 in the Conservatory of Music). The population of the town of Oberlin is around 8000 people.

What are the most popular majors at Oberlin? For the period of 2015 to 2018, the most popular majors were Politics, Biology, Economics, Environmental Studies, English, Psychology, History, Computer Science, Creative Writing, and Neuroscience.

What are the strongest departments? Everything at Oberlin is taught very well; there are no “bad” departments on campus. There are larger and smaller departments but the number of faculty and majors does not reflect on how “good” the department is.

What is a normal class load for students? Students are required to take 32 courses to graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences. A typical class load is 4 courses each semester. To graduate in 4 years, students will have to average 4 courses per semester.

Is there a core curriculum? Oberlin does not have a set of classes that every student is required to take. Students must complete a few simple distribution requirements to graduate: 1) Curricular Exploration → students are required to take a minimum of 2 classes in each of the three divisions — humanities, social sciences, and natural science and math; in additional, students must complete two additional classes outside of the division in which they have completed the greatest number of classes; 2) Cultural Diversity → students are required to take 3 classes that would be considered culturally diverse – classes that expose students to other cultures and ways of thinking; 3) Quantitative and Formal Reasoning and Writing Requirement → these have the student understand that quantitative and writing skills are fundamentally important for engaging with issues and themes regardless of one’s occupation.

If I have taken AP or IB exams, can I get credit for them? That depends on the score earned by the student. The guidelines for approval of AP credit vary from department to department. Some departments will grant general credit while others will grant departmental credit and exempt students from certain classes. Generally speaking, a 5 on an AP exam will result in some credit being awarded; as for a score of a 4, it’s possible. For students taking IB exams, credit is awarded for students receiving a 5, 6, or 7 on a Higher Level exam. For complete information, students should consult individual departmental web pages.

Can I transfer credits from a local college class I took? If a student has taken a class that falls within the scope of a liberal arts curriculum and has achieved at a C- level or better, it is possible but not guaranteed that the credit will transfer. The Registrar’s
Office makes the final determination of what will transfer in the summer before the student enrolls at Oberlin.

*Is there a limit to the number of credits I can transfer?* Yes. Students are permitted to transfer in up to 5 courses from pre-matriculation programs (such as local college classes or AP exams).

*What is Winter Term?* Winter Term is the month of January. It is a time for students to do an independent or small-group project that involves a commitment that is not possible during the semester. Students are required to complete three Winter Term projects to graduate; they are not required to stay on campus for their project. Many students will complete a project that will have some benefit for a potential career (science internship, internship on Capitol Hill, following a newspaper reporter for the month, shadowing a doctor, etc.) while others will steer towards something that would be considered personal development (learning self defense, acting in a play, singing in a choir, etc.).

*I’m interested in medical school. What’s Oberlin’s track record?* Oberlin has a very strong record of placing graduates in excellent medical schools. 84% of students with a minimum 3.3 GPA and a 30 MCAT score were accepted to one of their medical schools last year.

*What is Oberlin doing to help with post-Oberlin career opportunities?* Very good question. There are two new programs that have been launched by the Career Development Center to assist students in their post-college plans.

1. **Career Communities.** Career Communities are a way for students to connect with other students, alumni, parents, and faculty who share an interest in a particular employment sector. Students work with a team of mentors to learn about a particular field and to develop their communication, problem-solving, and intercultural skills. Students are guaranteed a financially supported summer internship as well. The current Career Communities are: Finance, Business, and Consulting; Non-Profit and the Public Sector; Arts and Creative Professions; Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Future Communities will include: Medical, Public, and Global Health Professions; Science and Technology; Education; Law and Public Policy; Professions in Music.

2. **SOAR.** SOAR (Sophomore Opportunities and Academic Resources) is a program to support sophomores as they begin making decisions about their academic and post-Oberlin futures. The program begins with a weekend retreat and continues with mentor meetings over the spring semester. Students develop an educational plan – both on-campus classes and summer or Winter Term career-building opportunities – to help them see how their educational interests can translate into professional opportunities.

*What music opportunities exist for non-Conservatory students?* There are four general areas in which College students can be involved in Conservatory life:

1. Auditioning for secondary or private lessons
2. Taking Conservatory classes
3. Auditioning for ensembles
4. Using the practice rooms
In addition, there are some ensembles that are intended for College students and faculty/staff/townspeople – Musical Union and the College of Arts and Sciences Orchestra are the two most popular. Finally, many students find friends and form their own ensembles, whether is a rock band or a string quartet, and then play for fun.

*What study abroad opportunities exist?*  Students interested in studying away from Oberlin can choose from an Oberlin program, consortial programs, or over 100 affiliated programs. If students want to go somewhere else, they can speak with faculty members and the Study Abroad Office to find other programs. In short, Oberlin wants to help all students, regardless of their major, to have the opportunity to study away from campus.

*What is the student-to-faculty ratio?*  11:1 in the College of Arts and Sciences.  8:1 in the Conservatory of Music.  10:1 overall at Oberlin.

*What is the average class size?*  The average class size is around 20.  78% of the classes have fewer than 20 students; 90% of the classes have fewer than 30 students.

*What is diversity like on campus?*  Diversity can be interpreted in many different ways: racial, socio-economic, geographical, political, etc.  Depending on what the student or parent wants to know, you’ll want to answer differently.

- Students from almost all 50 states and approximately 45 nations are enrolled at Oberlin.
- Approximately 25% of the entering class self-identifies as a student of color.
- Geographically, our students are from New England (12%), Mid-Atlantic (28%), Midwest (18%), West (18%), South (8%), and Southwest (3%).  The remaining 13% are from overseas.
- We have students at Oberlin from across the socio-economic spectrum.  There are full pay students and there are first generation students whose families are paying nothing for them to be at Oberlin.  The majority of Oberlin College students fall in the middle of the socio-economic spectrum.
- Politically, there are students from all backgrounds.  While it is true that the student body leans left politically, there are active student organizations for more conservative-leaning students as well.

*What is the co-op system?*  Oberlin has a series of student-run, cooperative residence halls and dining halls.  The first co-op opened in 1950 to practice social and political goals while preparing members for a future as productive and resourceful members of society.  Today, the students who live and eat in co-ops use the opportunity to forge strong community bonds in a fun atmosphere.  There are 8 co-ops on campus: Keep, Tank, Harkness, Old Barrows, Pyle, Fairchild, Third World, and Kosher-Halal.

*What is ExCo?*  ExCo (short for Experimental College) is an ever-changing set of classes taught by students, faculty, staff, or townspeople for Oberlin students.  Classes may not be part of the existing curriculum.  Classes are proposed by someone who has extensive knowledge of a subject; if the class is accepted, it is offered the following
semester. Classes cover a wide range of topics – in the Fall 2019 semester, ExCo classes include Queer Women on Screen, ChessCo, Oberlin College Wind Ensemble, Politics of Palestine, Beginning D&D, BakeCo, Introduction to Pottery, Steel Pan, BreadCo, Introduction to Jazz Dance, Video Games as Art, Tolkein 101, A Brief History of Westeros, Introductory Wolof, and Introduction to ASL.

What do students do in their free time? LOTS! There are more than 500 concerts annually, plenty of speakers to hear, athletic events, almost 200 active student organizations with their activities, a bowling alley on campus, a single-screen movie theater in town, and much more. It’s rare to find a student bored in the evening. It’s common to find a student with several things to do at the same time. Students should explore the Daily Events Calendar on-line.
“Did You Know?”

Some Interesting Bits of Information about Oberlin

- In October 2018, Oberlin officially opened the Patricia ’63 and Merrill 61 Shanks Health and Wellness Center, adjacent to the south end of the Jesse Philips Physical Education Center. It contains a dedicated spinning room, a fitness studio with more than 50 exercise machines, a multipurpose room for yoga and group fitness classes, and a renovated pool. The center was designed to encourage health connections between mind and body with these spaces that offer mental and physical activities.

- The Theater Department got a much-needed upgrade to facilities between 2016 and 2018. Hall Auditorium is now part of an interconnected performing arts complex that includes: Hall Annex, which houses Kander Theater, a 75-seat black box performance space; and the Erik Baker Nord Performing Arts Annex, which houses the Irene and Alan Wurtzel Theater, an adaptable space that seats up to 300 guests.

- Following a year-long review of everything happening at Oberlin College, a group of 31 faculty, staff, students, and alumni released the AAPR recommendations to the community. This Academic and Administrative Program Review suggestions were accepted by President Ambar and she has shared them with the Board of Trustees. These suggestions are aimed at helping Oberlin reduce its annual operating deficit.
  - Think differently about the College/Conservatory relationship
    - Reduce the size of the Conservatory by 25 each year for four years while increasing the size of the College by 25 each year for four years.
    - Increase the number of interdivisional concentrations and music opportunities for A&S students.
  - Restructure the College so that much administrative work currently being done repetitively by department chairs is done by larger administrative divisions.
  - Make Winter Term more robust by having more students on campus, increased programming, and more faculty engagement.
  - Reduce personnel costs.
  - Work with OSCA to make it self-sufficient financially.
  - Improve the College’s use of its space and facilities.
  - Add new academic concentrations in Business (likely housed in Economics) and Global Health.
  - Enhance the Career Development Center

- Launched in Spring 2019, Oberlin’s Career Communities provide students with an opportunity to connect with other students, alumni, parents, and faculty who share an interest or expertise in a particular employment sector. Open to juniors and seniors, the program will allow students to gain skills and experience relevant to a career interest that might not be met in the traditional academic setting. Participants work with a team of mentors to hone communication, problem-solving, and intercultural skills so that students understand how their skills can transfer to real-
world situations. All participants are guaranteed a financially supported summer internship as part of the program.

- Current Career Communities are:
  - Finance, Business, and Consulting
  - Non-Profit and the Public Sector
  - Arts and Creative Professions
  - Entrepreneurship and Innovation

- Future Career Communities will be:
  - Medical, Public, and Global Health Professions
  - Science and Technology
  - Education
  - Law and Public Policy
  - Professions in Music

- In February, 2019, the Career Development Center launched SOAR, the Sophomore Opportunities and Academic Resources program, to support sophomores as they start to make decisions about their major and postgraduate future. SOAR will provide students with academic blueprints and will help students see how their academic interests can translate into professional opportunities. Students will meet with professors in their major areas of interest to learn more about how a specific academic path does not necessarily lead to a specific job or career.

- In June 2017, Oberlin was named one of twenty-four colleges and universities to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant in the amount of $1 million. The money will be used to promote the success of students in STEM fields.

- Oberlin students continue to win graduate fellowships at a remarkable rate. For the 2019-2020 academic year, Oberlin has:
  - 9 Fulbright Fellowship winners (Malaysia, Mexico [2], Colombia, South Korea [2], India [2], Taiwan, and Switzerland)
  - 2 Goldwater Scholarships
  - 1 Truman Scholarship
  - 1 AICUO Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts
  - 1 Nexial Prize
  - 1 US-UK Fulbright Commission Summer Fellow
  - 1 Davis Projects for Peace award to two students
  - 1 GatesCambridge Scholar
  - 1 Beinecke Scholar
  - 6 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

- Some athletics highlights:
  - The women’s cross country team won the conference title for the first time since 2014. They placed third at regionals and 28th at Nationals. Seven runners earned All-NCAC honors and Head Coach Ray Appenheimer was NCAC Coach of the Year.
The men’s cross country team placed fifth at the conference championships. One senior was first-team All-NCAC; the other six top runners will return for 2019-2020.

The football team had four All-NCAC selections. Junior quarterback Zach Taylor became the all-time Oberlin leader in total offense.

Senior Kennedy Kline led the NCAC with 183 field hockey saves.

The women’s basketball team had its fifth straight season of double digit wins. Senior Olivia Canning earned All-NCAC for the second consecutive season and was also the NCAC Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight year.

The men’s basketball team set a record for the most NCAC wins in a season.

The women’s indoor track and field team had an amazing year:
- Third consecutive NCAC championship
- Senior Linnea Halsten was NCAC Distance Runner of the Year
- Head Coach Ray Appenheimer was NCAC Coach of the Year
- Freshman Sarah Voit set a school record for pole vault

The men’s indoor track and field team was quite successful too:
- Seven team members were named to the All-NCAC team.
- Senior Hank Sinn set a school record in the weight throw.
- Sophomore Adriano Atallah set a school record in the heptathlon.

Softball player Cat Moruzzi ’22 was NCAC Newcomer of the Year and All-NCAC first team. Her teammate Emma Downing graduated as Oberlin’s all-time leader in batting average (.374).

Senior baseball player Brendan Mapes set an all-time single-season hits record with 63. He was named to the All-NCAC first team. The team hit .331 as a team, a new school record.

The women’s lacrosse team had five all-NCAC selections.

Both tennis teams finished fourth in the NCAC.

The women’s outdoor track and field team won the NCAC Conference for the third consecutive year. Freshman Sarah Voit qualified for Nationals on the pole vault while junior Oona Jung-Beeman did the same for the 3,000 meter steeplechase. Six members of the team were conference champions.

The men’s outdoor track and field team posted their highest point total at a meet in the program’s history. NCAC hammer throw champion Hank Sinn qualified for Nationals and sophomore Adriano Atallah set the school record in the decathlon.
Admissions Guidelines and Timelines

Oberlin received approximately 6300 applications for the Class of 2023. Of these, approximately 38% were ultimately offered a spot in the class. Approximately 35% of the entering class enrolled through our Early Decision application plan.

Here are some helpful words of advice that can be shared with prospective students and their family members:

- Oberlin engages in holistic review. We look at and read carefully everything that is submitted by and on behalf of an applicant. Decisions are not based on one piece of the application; they are made with everything in mind.

- The high school transcript is very important. We want to see students taking challenging classes and doing well in them. Students are not going to be penalized if their high school does not offer AP classes.

- Oberlin has found that the best-prepared candidates will have taken 4 years of English, 3 years of the same foreign language, 4 years of math through precalculus, 3 years of science, and 3 years of social studies. Failure to take this many classes in these areas will not automatically mean a student is not admitted; the reality, however, is that more students are taking classes in each of these areas every year in high school, regardless of their academic interests.

Some frequently asked question that you'll hear:

Is Early Decision binding? Yes, Oberlin’s Early Decision plan is binding. If you apply and are admitted, we expect to see you in the fall.

I want to apply ED but financial aid is a concern. What do I do? Oberlin offers an Early Financial Aid Estimator Form. Here’s how it works:

- Students must begin completing the Common Application and add Oberlin to their “My Colleges” list. Then students must complete the Oberlin Questions section to indicate an interest in applying Early Decision.

- Students must complete the Online Early Estimate Request Form, found in the “First-Year Applicant” section of the Admissions Office website.

- Families must submit the CSS Profile and the FAFSA to Oberlin’s Financial Aid Office.

- Students must submit a high school transcript and a record of SAT or ACT scores to the Admissions Office (unofficial copies are acceptable).

- All of this information is evaluated and both need-based and merit-based aid is determined. The family is emailed their financial aid estimate before the Early Decision application deadline.

- If the financial aid package is acceptable, the student completes the Common Application along with the required forms for Early Decision applicants. This is where the student, a parent, and the guidance counselor sign a paper that serves as the binding Early Decision agreement.
What is required for the application to Oberlin? Oberlin accepts the Common Application or the application from the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success. Everything you must fill out is available online at their websites. In addition to the application and essay, we require a high school transcript, a guidance counselor letter of recommendation, two teacher letters of recommendation, and official or self-reported results from either the SAT or the ACT; the Writing section is not required for either exam.

Which standardized test is preferred? Oberlin accepts either the SAT or the ACT and we will superscore the student’s exam results. If a student takes both, we will “use” the higher result in our deliberations.

What is the average profile for an admitted student? For students admitted to the Class of 2023, the average SAT score was 1421 and the middle 50% scored between 1430 and 1530 on the SAT or between 32 and 34 on the ACT. The average unweighted GPA was 3.67.

When students choose to enroll somewhere other than Oberlin, where are they going? Recent admitted student surveys have showed that if students are choosing to enroll somewhere other than Oberlin, they are enrolling at Kenyon, Carleton, University of Southern California, Michigan, St. Olaf, Berkeley, Vassar, Macalester, Northwestern, Smith, Wesleyan, Carnegie Mellon, New York University, and Grinnell.

Are interviews required? Interviews are not a required part of the application process. They are recommended as a way for us to learn more about the applicant while also giving the applicant an opportunity to ask us questions about Oberlin.

How do I set up a visit to campus? If you want to visit campus, you are welcome to come at any time you are available. The best time to come is when classes are in session so you can have a sense of what the academic experience is like at Oberlin. When you’re on campus you can take a tour, attend our general information session, and have an interview. We ask that all students sign up for their visit in advance of coming to campus; this is done on the Admissions Office website, in the section called “Visit Our Campus.”

Admissions Deadlines and Notification Dates for First-Year Students

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Financial Aid and Tuition Information

Oberlin College meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for every student. We ask every family applying for financial aid to complete two forms (the FAFSA and the CSS Profile) and based on these forms, the Financial Aid Office determines what is reasonable for the family to pay towards an Oberlin education. The difference between what the family pays and the total cost is the financial aid package.

Useful information concerning financial aid:

- The cost for tuition, room, board, and fees at Oberlin for the 2019-2020 academic year is $73,694.
- The average financial aid package for the Class of 2023 is approximately $37,000 and approximately 80% of our students receive some form of financial aid.
- Financial aid packages consist of three components
  - Scholarship and Grant money: this is money that is never repaid. Approximately 75-80% of the average financial aid package is grant money.
  - Work study: this is money earned from an on-campus job.
  - Loans: this is money that is borrowed, whether from the government or another source, and repaid subject to an interest rate.
- Again, approximately 75-80% of the average financial aid package is grant money.
- As a family demonstrates that it needs more financial aid, the grant portion of the package changes. The loans and work study are limited.

Oberlin College also offers merit scholarships. These are awarded by the Admissions Office on the basis of a student’s performance in high school and on standardized tests. There is no magic GPA or SAT/ACT score that will guarantee a student will receive a merit scholarship. The merit scholarships range from $10,000 to $25,000 and are awarded annually so long as they remain in good academic standing.

Finally, if a student achieves the status of National Merit Finalist and they designate Oberlin as their top choice, they will receive between $1,000 and $2,000 in additional scholarship money.

It is important to remember that only the most talented admitted students receive a merit scholarship. It often happens that a student is admitted to Oberlin without merit scholarships while they receive merit scholarships from other schools. There is no GPA or SAT/ACT score that will guarantee a student will receive a merit scholarship.
Athletics Information

Oberlin College is a Division III school and is a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), a group of colleges dedicated to fostering a complementary relationship between intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. As a result, Oberlin’s athletes are still talented students. They have simply chosen to make athletics their top priority in terms of extracurricular activities. 10 schools make up the NCAC: Allegheny, Denison, Earlham, Hiram, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash, Wittenberg, and Wooster.

Oberlin fields 21 varsity athletic teams, 10 for men (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, and track and field) and 11 for women (basketball, cross country, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball).

For students interested in athletics but at a different level, Oberlin offers a variety of club and intramural sports. The club sports are: aikido, bowling, equestrian, fencing, ice hockey, marching band, women’s rugby, scuba diving, table tennis, tumbling, men’s and women’s ultimate frisbee, and water polo. Intramural sports tend to vary from year to year, but will often include: bowling, soccer, softball, racquetball, squash, pool, dodgeball, badminton, and volleyball.

Approximately 13% of the incoming class intends to play varsity athletics. If you are asked a question about athletics and can’t answer it, it is critical that you not speak negatively. Please use the information elsewhere in this document to speak generally about successes seen by teams and individuals. We would also suggest directing students to the Athletics Department website (www.goyeo.com) where they can find contact information for all of the coaches.
Admissions Staff

Manuel Carballo, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico

Thomas Abeyta, Senior Associate Director of Admissions
Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico

Leslie Braat, Associate Director of Admissions
New York (New York City and Westchester County), Wisconsin

Joshua Levy ’94, Associate Director of Admissions
Massachusetts, Ohio (northern)

Jim Caldarise, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Jessica Cummings ’10, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania (eastern)

Sophie Mettler-Grove, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
International

Rhett Rybarczyk, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
Delaware, Maryland, Ohio (central and eastern), Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia

Brittnei Sherrod ’11, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina

Chelsea Kinjorski, Assistant Director of Admissions
Florida, Michigan, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands

Cora Hasegawa, Admissions Counselor
Alaska, Arkansas, Guam, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas (outside of Houston), Washington

Julian Ireland, Admissions Counselor
Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York (upstate and Long Island), Pennsylvania (western), Rhode Island, Vermont

Ana Richardson, Admissions Counselor
Alabama, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio (southwestern), Tennessee, Texas (Houston)
Alumni Recruiting Network
Contact Information

Joshua Levy ’94
Alumni Recruiting Network Director
joshua.levy@oberlin.edu

Jennifer Harris
Alumni Recruiting Network Administrative Assistant
jennifer.harris@oberlin.edu

Alumni Recruiting Network
Office of Admissions
38 East College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
800.622.6243
440.775.8412
440.775.6905 (fax)
arn@oberlin.edu

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