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**HANDBOOK  
FOR PARENTS  
AND FAMILIES  
OF NEW  
STUDENTS**

**FALL 2018**

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# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## FALL SEMESTER 2018

Residence halls open for new students  
Orientation begins  
New student academic advising  
and course registration

Classes begin  
Fall recess  
Parents Weekend  
Thanksgiving break  
Classes end  
Reading period  
\*Final examination period  
Fall semester ends  
Residence halls close

Monday, August 27, 9 a.m.  
Monday, August 27  
Tuesday, August 28  
Thursday, August 30  
Friday, August 31  
Tuesday, September 4  
Saturday, October 20–Sunday, October 28  
Friday, November 9–Sunday, November 11  
Thursday, November 22–Sunday, November 25  
Wednesday, December 12  
Thursday, December 13–Sunday, December 16  
Monday, December 17–Friday, December 21  
Friday, December 21  
Saturday, December 22, 9 a.m.

## WINTER TERM 2019

Residence halls open for students  
doing on-campus winter-term projects  
Winter term begins  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes  
Winter term ends

Wednesday, January 2, noon  
Thursday, January 3  
Monday, January 21  
Tuesday, January 29

## SPRING SEMESTER 2019

Residence halls open  
Classes begin  
Spring recess  
Classes end  
Reading period  
\*Final examination period  
Spring semester ends  
Residence halls close  
Commencement exercises

Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m.  
Monday, February 4  
Saturday, March 23–Sunday, March 31  
Friday, May 10  
Saturday, May 11–Tuesday, May 14  
Wednesday, May 15–Sunday, May 19  
Sunday, May 19  
Monday, May 20, 9 a.m.  
Monday, May 27

**\*Please Note:** Travel plans must be arranged to occur [after the student's last exam](#). The final examination schedule cannot be adjusted to accommodate travel plans.

For a more detailed academic calendar, visit the [Oberlin Online Events Calendar](#).

## WELCOME FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF STUDENTS

Classes will soon begin at Oberlin, and we hope that preparing for this transition has been smooth for you and your student. This may be your first experience with a student going away to college, or you may be familiar with the experience of preparing for such a departure. Whatever the case, please be assured that staff members in the Division of Student Life and a host of other offices are eager to welcome you to the Oberlin community. We are invested in the success of every student and to the extraordinary learning that will occur both inside and outside the classroom. I want to share a few fundamental principles that guide our interactions with parents, families, and students as we seek to facilitate every student's growth. You may find these principles helpful as you and your student embark on this important experience:

- We encourage students to become active learners and to take responsibility for their own college education, both inside and outside the classroom.
- We remind students, parents, and families that communities are built on trust, and that integrity in all matters—academic and personal, public and private—creates the foundation on which trust is built. This principle is the basis of Oberlin's Honor Code and provides the foundation for our residential learning community.
- We want students, parents, and families to be aware of the range of resources available at Oberlin that can smooth the transition and provide ongoing support.
- We expect students to take the initiative to explore the resources and services provided by Oberlin. These resources touch every aspect of students' lives, including academic and personal advising and mentoring, health and wellness services, and career planning.
- We believe it is of utmost importance for students, parents, and families to establish and maintain open lines of communication with each other. Think about creating a mutually agreed upon plan.
- We recommend that parents, families, and students have a clear understanding about their communication with administrators at Oberlin.

This handbook, designed to be a quick reference tool, directs you to more detailed information about Oberlin. Included are topics we have found to be of interest to families of new students as well as an abbreviated list of contacts. The education and well-being of every student is the primary focus of our work. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. I wish you well as we embark on this journey together.

Sincerely,

Meredith Raimondo  
Vice President and Dean of Students

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

**AUGUST 27–SEPTEMBER 3, 2018**

The orientation program is designed to introduce new students and their families to the basic services Oberlin offers and to the fundamental principles that guide our life as a community, as well as to information about academic programs at Oberlin. The full orientation schedule (Before Arrival, Orientation Week, and Once in Oberlin) is available on the [Orientation webpage](#).

New international students are invited to arrive on campus Friday, August 24, for a brief international student orientation. The orientation for all new students begins Monday, August 27, and ends on Monday, September 3. Residence hall staff members will be available to provide assistance. With the arrival of a large number of first-year students and their families, parking will be challenging, but the Oberlin Police Department officers, college safety and security officers, and other staff members will do their best to be helpful.

After check-in, students should go to the Academic Advising Resource Center (AARC), located in the Carnegie Building, to enroll and get their registration materials.

We have scheduled most of the first day's activities to be drop-in because we know students will want to get settled in their rooms. The first required event for students is a Financial Aid Information Session at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 27, for all new students who are first-time recipients of financial aid and a meeting at 3:00 p.m. with their Peer Advising Leader (PAL). The Class of 2022 will be welcomed by President Carmen Ambar in Finney Chapel at 4:00 p.m., followed by a picnic for students and families. We will end the day with a Conservatory Orientation Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Finney Chapel. We encourage students and parents to peruse online orientation at <https://www.oberlin.edu/admissions-and-aid/for-accepted-students/orientation>.

Students may arrive in Oberlin and realize they forgot to pack something. Bed, Bath & Beyond will have a tent sale on Monday, August 27, until 4:00 pm. Oberlin merchants carry many of the items students need, and their stores are within walking distance of campus. We encourage students to become familiar with the local merchants who also look forward to welcoming them. Visit the [mytownoberlin.com](http://mytownoberlin.com) website for more information.

## THE OBERLIN COMMUNITY

When students arrive on campus, they join a group of people—professors, administrators, staff members, and students from across the country and around the world—who are committed to fostering a sense of community in which students build lasting relationships based on the principles of ethical conduct, engaged and generous listening, an understanding of diversity in all its complexity, respect for self and others, patience with the process of learning, social justice and equity, and a commitment to promoting positive change in the world. Inherent in these values are the promotion and cultivation of the capacity for creativity, skills mastery, and critical thinking; intensive training in the discipline of a chosen area of knowledge; and expanding students' social awareness, social responsibility, and capacity for moral judgment.

Realizing these aspirations requires an environment that encourages the free and open exchange of information, thought, and opinion; appreciation for differing views; and commitment to generosity in discourse. Oberlin prizes these values.

### FINDING BALANCE

Leaving home for college marks an important milestone for students as well as for their families. Students will be able to make more academic and social choices than ever before, and much of the work of the first year will involve adjusting to the academic rigor at Oberlin and fostering friendships and relationships with groups and individuals.

We often hear from first-year students that time management is a major challenge during their first semester—finding balance among the many demands and opportunities and allocating appropriate amounts of time to academic work, other educational and artistic enterprises, recreation, and developing friendships.

In addition to the extraordinary educational experience students enjoy in the classrooms, studios, laboratories, and libraries, life at Oberlin is rich in the number and variety of opportunities to learn in other venues in the company of scholars who value each other as responsible, informed members of a lively and enlivening community.

This year Oberlin College will again host a number of renowned speakers, artists, and lecturers whose programs and performances will enrich and enhance the academic and cocurricular experience of this community. We encourage students to plan their time to include a wide variety of these events in their scheduled activities. Information about many of these events is now or soon will be available on [Oberlin Online's Calendar](#).

We encourage students to pursue academic excellence; attend to their own health and wellness; participate in such cocurricular activities as club sports, student organizations, and community-service projects, some of which are connected to academic work; and get involved in civic and political initiatives. Finding

the right balance among these opportunities is a life skill that has short- and long-term benefits that will stand students in good stead as they make their way into a career and life beyond Oberlin.

### COMMUNITY STANDARDS

We entrust considerable agency and personal freedom to Oberlin students, and we encourage students to develop a sense of independence. However, to help ensure public safety and the orderly functioning of the college, we have developed a set of rules and regulations to which students are held accountable. These policies assume that students are mature, possess personal integrity, and take responsibility for their own actions. The following policies deserve particular attention:

- Students are bound to a set of regulations concerning social conduct. These regulations and other rules for students are included in the [Student Regulations, Policies, and Procedures](#).
- All academic work pursued at Oberlin is done under an honor code that requires students to follow practices that ensure academic integrity. Information about Oberlin's honor code and system can be found in [here](#).
- Oberlin requires students to abide by state and local laws regarding alcohol and illegal drugs. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a concern on most college campuses in the United States, and Oberlin College is dedicated to strict adherence to state and local laws. For more information, visit the Office of Student Wellness [website](#).
- The regulations include Oberlin's [policy on sexual misconduct](#), which provides a means to protect all people on campus from unwanted sexual advances.

### Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination and Harassment

Oberlin College seeks to ensure an equitable and inclusive campus free of all forms of violence, harassment, and discrimination. The college affirms its commitment to these principles and describes the process used to resolve reports of sexual misconduct and/or discrimination and harassment in the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Policy on Discrimination and Harassment. [The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) provides support, resources, and assistance in resolving reports of discrimination and harassment.

The Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual and/or gender-based harassment, discrimination and violence, including sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence, in any college program or activity, including the academic, employment, or residential setting. The Policy on Discrimination and Harassment prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, religion, creed, national origin, disability, age, military or

veteran status, sexual orientation, family relationship to an employee of Oberlin College, and gender identity and expression. The full policies can be reviewed at <https://www.oberlin.edu/equity-diversity-inclusion>.

As is the case with the Student Conduct System and the Honor System, the efficacy of these policies depends upon the members of the community to embrace the concepts of inclusion, consent, and respect outlined in the policies. The college's ability to promote an educational and work environment free of sexual misconduct, discrimination, and harassment also depends upon the commitment of individuals to report behaviors that appear to constitute violations of these policies. The central goal of reporting is to ensure support for affected individuals and to protect campus safety.

A student or member of the Oberlin College community who experiences or witnesses a suspected incidence of discrimination and harassment, including all forms of sexual misconduct, may report directly to the Office of Safety and Security for immediate support with safety concerns. Reports of discrimination and harassment are forwarded or may be made directly to Rebecca Mosley in the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion provides information about support resources, and options for resolution to parties who report or are affected by discrimination and harassment (including sexual misconduct). A student may also choose to report sexual misconduct to the Title IX Student Advocate. Disclosures to the Advocate will not trigger a college investigation if the individual reporting the misconduct does not want to pursue a college process. For further information on or support for issues related to sexual misconduct, discrimination, or harassment, please contact:

**Rebecca Mosely**, Interim Title IX Coordinator and Director of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, (440) 775-8555

**Christopher Jenkins**, Deputy Title IX Deputy Coordinator, (440) 775-8200

**Erica Rau**, Section 504/ADA Compliance Coordinator, (440) 775-8462

**Thom Julian**, Title IX Hearing Coordinator, (440) 775-8788

**Safety and Security Office**, emergency: (440) 775-8911; non-emergency: (440) 775-8444

**Online reporting form**, [new.oberlin.edu/office/equity-concerns/report-now](https://new.oberlin.edu/office/equity-concerns/report-now)

Students are responsible for knowing these policies, as well as the other regulations contained in the [Student Policies, Regulations, and Procedures](#).

## ADVISING AT OBERLIN

Advising at Oberlin includes a wide range of resources to help students develop meaningful educational plans and goals, make the most of their educational choices, reflect on and synthesize their Oberlin experiences, and grow intellectually, artistically, and personally.

Faculty and members of the administrative and professional staff provide academic advising throughout the academic year.

The Academic Advising Resource Center (AARC) advises on academic policy issues, approves grades of incomplete for work due at the end of the semester, and advises students about taking leaves or withdrawing from the college. The AARC staff also provide registrar functions to all students, including measuring progress toward graduation and eligibility to march at commencement. For more information, please visit the AARC website: <https://www.oberlin.edu/aarc>.

The Center for Student Success offers students a central place to receive a range of academic support services and guidance. The Center for Student Success includes Disability Resources, Health Promotion for Students, and Student Academic Success Programs led by staff who provide targeted programs, services, and events that support and empower students as they work toward successful completion of their academic program.

The Office of Study Away and Winter Term coordinates advising for students wishing to study away for a semester or academic year and for students planning winter term projects.

The International Student Resource Center provides support to international students through developmental advising, community building, and assistance with visa and immigration paperwork.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic (educational) advising is coordinated by the AARC staff for students in the College of Arts and Sciences, and by the Office of Conservatory Associate Deans for students in the conservatory. Both offices support advising of double-degree students. Collaborating with other offices on campus, these two offices work together to help students succeed in their Oberlin careers and complete their degree programs in a timely way.

After the declaration of a major, students must choose an advisor from the department or program of the major. Double-degree students have two academic advisors—one in the College of Arts and Sciences and one in the Conservatory of Music.

## ACADEMIC STANDING

When a student encounters challenges with academic coursework, multiple offices are available to support the student. In the College of Arts and Sciences, an Associate Dean oversees the academic standing process of students in the Bachelor of Arts program; the associate dean's office in

the Conservatory oversees the process for Bachelor of Music students, and the two offices coordinate the process for double-degree students.

## ADVISING DURING ORIENTATION

Each new student is assigned an academic advisor. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences will learn who their academic advisor is and the time of their first advising appointment when they enroll on August 27, the first day of orientation. Conservatory students will receive their advisor/private teacher assignments during the summer.

During orientation, students attend several advising sessions, including one or more with their academic advisors, both before and after they complete the course registration process.

College of Arts and Sciences and double-degree students who completed summer course registration requests have already been registered in two or three classes during the summer. At the preregistration advising meeting, advisors will review students' choices and academic plans and help students choose additional courses. For most students, registering for their first-semester schedule of courses is a very high priority. While a student's initial registration session during orientation may not produce an ideal schedule, please keep in mind that during the add/drop period (the first eight days of classes), students have many opportunities to adjust their schedules, and many people to ask for assistance, including their academic advisors, deans in the AARC, and Peer Advising Leaders (PALs).

## PEER ADVISING LEADERS (PAL PROGRAM)

The PAL program aims to create a sense of community among first-year students and help them make the most of their first-year educational experience. Student Peer Advising Leaders (PALs) have been trained to support first-years to navigate orientation and also the fall semester. PALs will help first-year students use Oberlin's academic and developmental advising system to its full potential.

All first-year students have the opportunity to be involved with this program during Orientation and also fall semester by enrolling in LEAD 050, Introduction to Oberlin Life and Learning. Each student who chooses to participate will be one of no more than 15 first-years in a section of LEAD 050. Belonging to a team during Orientation and fall semester means students will go through new experiences with others by their side for support and timely information.

For more information, visit the PAL website: <https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/pal>.

## SHARE

Student Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary group whose purpose is to promote student success by providing a forum for faculty, staff, and students to share concerns, by supporting a collaborative approach, and by providing opportunities for meaningful interactions. SHARE

advisor are staff members from a variety of offices who can provide support and connect students to campus resources.

Students or family members who would like to consult with a SHARE advisor over the summer or during the academic year should complete the SHARE form. During the academic year, students can self-schedule with a SHARE advisor.

If you are unsure about a situation or have questions please visit the SHARE website (<https://www.oberlin.edu/dean-of-students/share>) or contact the SHARE director in the Office of the Dean of Students at 440-775-8462.

## FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Under the leadership of Adrian Bautista, assistant vice president for student life, a widely representative group of faculty and staff continues to develop a robust first year experience. This enterprise encompasses academic, residential, and social elements and provides a variety of programming that supports a smooth transition to living and learning at Oberlin.

The First Year Residential Experience (FYRE) cluster is an integral part of first year initiatives on Oberlin's campus. Students living in these communities—which include Barrows, Dascomb, and Kahn halls—will have programmatic and support resources specific to their needs in their first year at Oberlin. Social programs help students make connections and friends while educational programs allow students to learn valuable life skills outside the classroom.

Examples of first-year residential community building and learning opportunities include:

- Professor Props—a program involving first year students recognizing their favorite instructor, mentor and advisor
- In-hall academic/career support programs including: Planning Your Winter Term, The Pass/No-Pass Option, Resume Writing, and Mid-Term/Finals Study Breaks
- Tea and study parties
- Resident/group exercising
- Resident/group conservatory event attendance
- Adopt-A-Sport (athletic team support program)
- Hall Council

## CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center for Student Success is made up of three program areas to support access, achievement and well-being among all Oberlin students. These areas are Disability Resources, Health Promotion, and Student Academic Success Programs. As a part of the Division of Student Life, the Center for Student Success offers advising, programming, and resources available to all students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory of Music. More focused services are provided for Pell Grant-eligible students, students who are the first in their families to attend college, students with disabilities, and

students from groups that are typically underrepresented in higher education. For more information, visit the Center for Student Success website: <https://www.oberlin.edu/center-student-success>.

## **DISABILITY RESOURCES (CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS)**

Oberlin College has a long and rich history of recognizing and supporting diversity, including provision of services for students with disabilities. The college actively continues to support students with disabilities through the Office of Disability Resources, college staff, and college faculty.

The mission of Disability Resources (DR) is to facilitate access to all programs, services, and activities that are provided at Oberlin College while encouraging and helping students to develop self-advocacy.

Common questions:

- 1. Why is self-advocacy a goal?**

Students with disabilities may find self-advocacy new since they may be accustomed to having parents and teachers communicate on their behalf. In fact, that is the system in K-12. In college it is imperative that students develop skills of self-advocacy as they are now responsible for requesting accommodations. For example, DR expects students to provide accommodation letters to faculty and discuss specifics with them. However, students may ask DR for assistance in this process.
- 2. Will my student have an IEP or 504 plan?**

No. Significant differences exist between secondary and post-secondary laws, responsibilities, and expectations for the school, students, and parents. We encourage students and families to visit the Parents section of our [website](#) where we provide further information about these differences.
- 3. How will I know how my student is doing?**

Families are often primary players in solving problems in high school. Due to FERPA (Family Education Right and Privacy Act) regulations, DR is not allowed to share information related to the student's academic life with family members. Of course, Disability Resources welcomes students and families to contact us with general questions about our services and the accommodations process. In order to discuss specifics related to the student, we need a written release from the student. However, the person who is most likely to know how the student is doing is the student. We recommend that you encourage your student to talk with their professors and read the syllabi in order to gauge how they are doing.
- 4. My student is an incoming first year student. What should I know?**

Disability Resources has an orientation for new students with disabilities and their families during the first week of fall semester. We invite you to attend. We are also available for conversation during the Resource Fair (Tuesday, August 28), Parents Weekend (November 9-11), on the phone, and by appointment. Please recommend that your student make an appointment with us sometime during the first three weeks of the semester.
- 5. Other than accommodations, what do you have to help my student?**

For the 2018-19 school year, Disability Resources will have a peer disability leadership program to support registered students. In collaboration with the LEAD program in the Center for Student Success (CSS) Disability Resources will offer a weekly Executive Functioning group. Your student can sign up by contacting our office.
- 6. My student's disability makes it hard for them to organize. Do you have someone to help with time management and organization?**

Time management is often a challenge for first-year students, particularly for students with executive functioning problems. Without a set schedule and with large blocks of time, some students may have difficulty managing their time. Encourage your student to use a planner and stick to it. Help is always available upon request at Disability Resources or through a staff person in the Center for Student Success. The LEAD program in the Center for Student Success offers one-on-one help and coursework that will build time management skills. In addition CSS/DR staff offer a weekly Executive Functioning group session.
- 7. My student needs help with writing. What do they do?**

All Oberlin College students have access to the Writing Center, which is located in Mudd Library. Trained writing associates staff the center and are available to assist students with all stages of the writing process.
- 8. What services can my student request?**

For information about the types of accommodations available through Disability Resources, please see the Accommodations section of our website.
- 9. What is my role as a parent who has a college student with a disability?**

Students need the support, but not the control of parents and other family members. Appropriate parental involvement must take place within the boundaries set by law and with the long-term best interest of the emerging young adult in mind. Such involvement as it relates to college life most often involves advising and guiding the college experience from the sidelines.
- 10. What else should I know?**

Under the [For Parents](#) link on the DR website, parents will find useful information such as Letters Written By Parents To Parents, Differences Between High School and College, among other resources. We hope that you will have a chance to visit our website.



## 11. How can parents help to develop their students' self-advocacy skills?

Parents can assist their student to develop self-advocacy skills by doing the following:

- Collect recent documentation regarding your student's disability. Documentation should include recent psychoeducational evaluations or doctor's letters. Check the website for further information.
- Review that documentation with the student.
- Send the documentation (via fax, e-mail or mail) to Disability Resources.
- Make sure students understand their strengths, interests, and challenges.
- Help your student to learn what their best learning style is.
- Allow your student to practice stating their needs.
- Have the students make an appointment with Disability Resources within the first three weeks of the semester.

## HEALTH PROMOTION AT THE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Health Promotion supports the mission and vision of Oberlin College and the Division of Student Life by providing health education, prevention programming, and wellness initiatives for the student body. Success at Oberlin and in life starts with being healthy enough to pursue opportunities.

College life and the pursuit of success in college presents an unexpected challenge to maintaining health and wellness. For most of our students, college is the first time they have autonomy over their health decisions. We strive to instill students with the knowledge and skill set to be healthy during their college years and beyond. Our goal is to ensure that poor health and wellness doesn't prevent members of the Oberlin community from living long, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

To enable Oberlin students, faculty, and staff to be proactive about their wellness, we partner with various stakeholders, both on- and off-campus, to provide knowledge about priority health concerns and the relevant resources to address them. We support such peer programs as the Oberlin Bystander Initiative, the Peer Support Center, and PRSM (Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct, co-sponsored with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).

## OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Oberlin supports and encourages students to study away from campus; one-semester, year-long, summer, and winter-term educational programs are available, with information located in the Office of Study Away, Peters 205. Taking advantage of these opportunities involves advance planning, and we encourage students to make use of campus resources including the Office

of Study Away/Study Away Library, the annual Study Away Fair, information sessions offered throughout the year, and individual advising appointments with study-away advisors.

## CAREER, INTERNSHIP, AND FELLOWSHIP ADVISING

Oberlin College's Career Development Center helps students and recent alumni in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory of Music identify and achieve meaningful career objectives that build upon their Oberlin education and experiences. Center staff members offer group and individual counseling as well as experiential opportunities that complement all students' learning and experiences during their time at Oberlin. The Career Development Center supports the career development process through services that:

- Enhance self-awareness of interests, values, and talents
- Encourage exploration of future paths
- Provide opportunities to acquire knowledge and experience
- Develop skills for effective self-presentation

We encourage all students to visit the Career Development Center early in their time at Oberlin to learn about the many ways in which staff members support students.

The Fellowships and Awards office works with students and alumni interested in applying for nationally competitive programs in a broad range of fields. From physical science to music performance, we provide information about programs of interest to most. Some fellowships are only available to first- and second-year students. Many are available to alumni—three, five, or more years postgraduation.

## OTHER SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Students and their parents should always feel free to contact the Office of the Dean of Students with questions or concerns. When the office is closed, and if the matter cannot wait until business hours, Office of Safety and Security staff members are on duty around the clock and are able to communicate with professional staff members. In case of extreme emergencies, security personnel can also put parents through to a dean.

## STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY

Like you, we are committed to community safety, and we partner with every office and community members to provide a safe, secure environment.

### PROPERTY

Oberlin is like many other communities in relation to safety. City police officers patrol the town, and college safety and security officers walk the campus regularly. Students should nonetheless practice safe living habits by, for example, exercising good judgment in whom they invite into their living space, locking the door of their residence hall rooms, locking their bikes, securing their belongings in public spaces (e.g., the libraries and conservatory practice rooms), and paying attention to their surroundings.

Oberlin does not endorse any individual property insurance agency, but we do encourage parents and students to make sure they have adequate protection for student property. Insurance may cover lost, stolen, or damaged property. We suggest that you ask what the coverage limit is and what the deductibles are for property away from your principal residence, and that you secure in writing a statement that describes coverage of electronics and any other such items you would like to have included in your coverage. Many agents recommend separate coverage with low deductibles. If you want to supplement your coverage, College Student Insurance ([www.CollegeStudentInsurance.com](http://www.CollegeStudentInsurance.com), phone: 888-411-4911) is an insurance company that provides this kind of coverage. Please note that this company is neither affiliated with nor endorsed by Oberlin College. It is only one company that provides this service.

### PERSONAL SAFETY

For the safety of all members of this residential community, students should exercise judgment in inviting others into their living spaces. Doors to residence halls should remain locked at all times, and students should take advantage of services provided by the college to help increase their safety. Blue-light emergency phones are located in various places on campus, and those phones connect directly to the college's Office of Safety and Security.

Students can program the Safety and Security number, 440-775-8444, into their cell phones for convenient, 24-hour access. The safety and security office provides services, both walking and by vehicle, for students traveling around the campus after nightfall.

It may seem strange to remind college-age students how to cross the street safely, but this is an issue in this small town. Since Oberlin is a very small town, students are not always mindful of the fact that two state highways intersect on this campus and that caution needs to be exercised here just as in a metropolis. Students (and residents) who jaywalk put themselves and drivers in danger and pose a serious problem.

We encourage students to use crosswalks and attend to traffic as if they were in a city. We urge all bikers to respect cycling laws, to practice safety (e.g., wearing helmets and equipping bikes with lights and reflective tape) and courtesy (e.g., announcing passing) while biking, and to lock bicycles to bike racks.

The campus and the town do have occasional incidents that require interventions by the college's safety and security office and the city's police department. The Office of Safety and Security publishes crime statistics in compliance with the federal Clery Act. For more information, visit the [Safety and Security webpage](#).

The legal drinking age in Ohio is age 21. It is an unfortunate fact that students under the age of 21 both seek and provide each other with alcoholic beverages. Please consider having a conversation with your student about responsible interactions involving alcohol. Most student conduct and sexual misconduct cases involve the use of alcohol and/or drugs.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a student's personal emergency, the college will use the parent or guardian emergency contact number that you record with the Office of the Registrar. If that number or your home address changes, the student must notify the registrar's office in writing (Office of the Registrar, Carnegie Building 124, 52 W. Lorain St., Oberlin OH 44074).

### EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

In the event of an emergency or critical incident that is either imminent or occurring on campus, the Emergency Alert System (Blackboard Connect) will be activated. The Emergency Alert System may also be activated when a situation might impact our campus such as a tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service, or during a police or fire response requiring notice to shelter in place, or evacuate quickly.

All students' Oberlin College email addresses and student contact phone numbers are on file with the Office of the Registrar. The Emergency Alert System's database is exclusive to the system, so after the semester begins, updating information with the Office of the Registrar or in the Emergency Alert System does not update the other's database. Students are responsible for verifying and updating their personal contact numbers and email addresses stored in the database. This can be accomplished by going to [oberlin.edu/warn](http://oberlin.edu/warn) and following the link to update your information.

Parents cannot be added to the system separately, however students may have an additional email address and up to six additional telephone numbers stored in the systems data base. Parents wishing to be included in the Emergency Alert System may ask their student to add their email or phone numbers to the student's contact information in the system.

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Oberlin's Office of Student Health Services is staffed by a physician, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses; the physician is available by appointment two days a week. The staff is experienced in treating common medical problems seen on college campuses, providing primary care, initial diagnosis, treatment of illnesses and injuries, and follow-up care. The office provides pharmaceutical services on a limited number of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications; two full pharmacies are located within a half mile of campus. All students, no matter what health insurance coverage they have, are welcome to utilize Student Health Services. While there is a charge for some specialized services, appointments at Student Health Services are free. Students do not need the student health insurance plan in order to be seen at health services. For more information, visit the [Student Health Services website](#).

## COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center staff provides assessment, short-term counseling, and psychiatric care for students experiencing many of the issues related to being away from home during these significant developmental years. There is no cost to the student for counseling and psychiatric services. Referrals are sometimes made, often at the student's request, to private practitioners in the Oberlin community for conditions indicating a need for ongoing support and psychotherapy. The costs for these services are the responsibility of the student and frequently are supported by health insurance plans, including the student plan. For more information, visit the [Counseling Center's website](#).

In order to create a readily available support system and facilitate a smooth transition to college, students who have been in continuing therapy before coming to Oberlin should make arrangements to continue in therapy here with a local therapist. The Counseling Center website lists local therapists, and center staff will be able to advise callers about how to proceed when the center opens on or after August 15.

Likewise, students who have been prescribed medications for physical or psychological conditions should plan to continue those medications and to consult with Student Health Services and/or the Counseling Center about how to manage continuity of care. We recommend that the student bring an adequate (90-day) supply of regularly prescribed medications from home.

## STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

In early July, you received information with your term bill about Academic HealthPlans (AHP), Oberlin's student health insurance plan. We strongly recommend that parents and guardians of Oberlin students review and purchase this insurance; international students are required to do so. We have found that many health plans that work perfectly well for families in their home state or country often do not apply to students in this area. Negotiating with an insurance company long distance is challenging for students, staff, and families,

and doing so when a student is ill or in an emergency situation is especially difficult. Academic Health Plan works seamlessly in Oberlin and throughout the world. It is a 12-month program offering coverage worldwide. With a referral from the college's student health services or sports medicine staffs, it pays 100 percent of covered costs at Oberlin's Mercy Allen Hospital, which is adjacent to the college campus. Prescription drug coverage is included with a small co-pay and no deductible.

The plan now meets ACA compliance for student coverage and preventative care including immunizations, and preventative exams are now paid at 100 percent. Students do not need the student health insurance plan in order to be seen at Student Health Services. No matter what health insurance plan students have, they are welcome to utilize all services available at Student Health.

If you decide to buy this plan as a supplement to insurance you already carry, the student health plan pays on a primary basis. Please call 888-308-7320 for any questions on the policy or log on to <https://oberlin.myahpcare.com/>

## CONTINGENCY PLANS

Oberlin College health care providers and administrators have worked with local and regional agencies to ensure good communication and preparedness for health emergencies that might have broad impact on the college community. In this as in other arenas, we want to strike the right balance between being calm and being prepared. We think it is always advisable to have thought about what arrangements might need to be made if a student must go home at a time that was not previously scheduled. For that reason, we encourage you to have a contingency plan should such a need arise. We will take every necessary measure to encourage good hygiene and practices that promote health and wellness with the intent that we need not effect such plans, but we believe that having a plan in place can be helpful.

## TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no need for a car to travel in Oberlin. Our small campus is easily walkable and bikable. Moreover, the college espouses environmentally sustainable practices and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. Having fewer cars on campus reduces carbon dioxide emissions, eliminates the need to pave green space for additional parking, and reduces the need to use fossil fuels. Although Oberlin does not forbid first-year students from bringing cars to campus, we strongly discourage it unless there is a justifiable need. Students who live in Robert Kahn Hall must sign a pledge not to have a car on campus while they are assigned to that hall.

Many students, faculty, and staff members use bicycles for on-campus and in-town travel. Bike rentals and maintenance classes are available through the Bike Co-op, an Oberlin

College student organization. A full-service bike store is located in town.

Want to drive to Cleveland, need to get to a doctor's appointment out of town? There are multiple vehicles on campus available for rent via Oberlin's [Enterprise CarShare program](#). You only have to be at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license. Visit the website for more information.

Several options are available for traveling out of Oberlin during breaks. Information about these options and service to and from the airport can be found on the [transportation webpage](#).

## COMMUNICATION AMONG STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND THE COLLEGE

The Oberlin College parents website offers answers to practical questions and links to relevant information. Parents and guardians can, for example, find the dates when residence halls open in the fall and when exams are over at the end of each semester, find schedules for such events as Parents and Family Weekend and Commencement, or learn how to get to Oberlin. The site offers myriad ways to stay in touch with your student—from sending an e-postcard to sending cookies at exam time—and to keep abreast of happenings on campus by subscribing to the Oberlin Online e-newsletter. The site will also help direct you when you need to talk to someone at Oberlin. For more information, visit the [parents webpage](#).

### COMMUNICATION

Student success at Oberlin is of primary importance to us, as it is to you, and we can work together to ensure that success. We have found that it is most beneficial for parents, families, and students to establish and maintain open lines of communication with each other and to be clear about when and how parents and families will communicate with their Oberlin student and with administrators at Oberlin. We understand that this is a balancing act, and we know that it is not always easy to determine when to intervene and how to be most helpful.

Faculty and administrators send messages to students' oberlin.edu e-mail accounts and to the Oberlin College Mail Room mailboxes to inform them of academic and advising deadlines, academic standing and progress, and announcements related to housing, dining, and other important issues. Students are expected to monitor their assigned e-mail accounts and mailboxes, and they are expected to respond in a timely way to communications from faculty and staff. Students must be accountable to the individuals and systems that provide the support and direction that will lead to their success.

A good body of research indicates that college students have a better chance of succeeding academically and socially when they themselves discover and initiate contact with the campus offices and departments that offer services and resources for students.

We also know that the problem-solving skills and resiliency students develop during the formative years at Oberlin are an important part of their education.

For these reasons, we encourage students to take the initiative and seek available on-campus resources; we also urge parents and families to familiarize themselves with the same services. Please know that if you have questions or concerns, we will be happy for you to contact us. Many parents express concern that they will be viewed as what is popularly termed "helicopter parents." Please be assured that we understand and sympathize with the challenge that you face in determining when to let the student solve the problem and when to intervene. It is often a hard call to make, and we trust that both parents and administrators will work with each other in good faith to decide when and how much intervention is appropriate. Books on these issues abound and attempt to address this problem from many angles. Two books that we have found particularly helpful are *Letting Go, A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years* by Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger and *The Parents We Mean to Be* by Richard Weissbourd. *Letting Go* is a classic that has been recommended to parents with good reason for many years. *The Parents We Mean to Be* is a relatively new book that begins with the premise that we all aspire to be the best parents we can be, an approach that we find refreshing and one that creates a good platform for dialogue. This is not assigned reading, but it may be helpful.

### STUDENTS' RIGHT TO PRIVACY

As you may know, federal laws such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) may prohibit the college from sharing students' academic, personal, and medical information with their parents without the individual student's consent. Hence, it is of the utmost importance that students and families share an understanding of how to remain in good and clear communication about these and other issues.

# CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

## **Academic Advising Resource Center (AARC)**

440-775-8450

[aarc@oberlin.edu](mailto:aarc@oberlin.edu)

## **Center for Information Technology**

440-775-8700

[cit@oberlin.edu](mailto:cit@oberlin.edu)

## **Career Development Center**

440-775-8140

[career@oberlin.edu](mailto:career@oberlin.edu)

## **City of Oberlin**

440-775-8140

## **Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**

440-775-8410

## **Dean of the Conservatory of Music**

440-775-8200

## **Conservatory Associate Deans**

440-775-8293

[condeans@oberlin.edu](mailto:condeans@oberlin.edu)

## **Counseling Center**

440-77-8470

## **Dean of Students**

440-775-8462

[dean.of.students@oberlin.edu](mailto:dean.of.students@oberlin.edu)

## **Office of Disability Resources**

440-775-5588

[drcss@oberlin.edu](mailto:drcss@oberlin.edu)

## **The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

440-775-8555

[edi@oberlin.edu](mailto:edi@oberlin.edu)

## **Financial Aid**

440-775-8142

[financial.aid@oberlin.edu](mailto:financial.aid@oberlin.edu)

## **International Students**

440-775-8540

[international.students@oberlin.edu](mailto:international.students@oberlin.edu)

## **Multicultural Resource Center**

440-775-8802

[mrc@oberlin.edu](mailto:mrc@oberlin.edu)

## **Registrar**

440-775-8450

[registrar@oberlin.edu](mailto:registrar@oberlin.edu)

## **Religious and Spiritual Life**

440-775-8103

[religious.spiritual.life@oberlin.edu](mailto:religious.spiritual.life@oberlin.edu)

## **Residential Education and Dining Services**

440-775-8472

[resed@oberlin.edu](mailto:resed@oberlin.edu)

## **Safety and Security**

440-775-8444

## **Student Academic Services**

440-775-8464

<http://new.oberlin.edu/office/student-academic-services/>

## **Student Accounts**

440-775-8457

[student.accounts@oberlin.edu](mailto:student.accounts@oberlin.edu)

## **Student Conduct and Community Standards**

440-775-8788

[tjulian@oberlin.edu](mailto:tjulian@oberlin.edu)

## **Student Health Services**

440-775-8180

[student.health@oberlin.edu](mailto:student.health@oberlin.edu)

## **Student Mail Room**

440-775-8115

[stumail@oberlin.edu](mailto:stumail@oberlin.edu)

NOTE: If an academic department or administrative office is not listed here, you can locate pertinent information by going to [www.oberlin.edu](http://www.oberlin.edu), and clicking on the appropriate links or using the search button.

## Other Useful Links

### **Academic Health Plan**

(student health insurance)

### **Campus Map**

### **City of Oberlin Map**

### **Community Service**

(Bonner Center)

### **Directions and Accommodations**

### **Emergency Alert System**

### **Events Calendar**

### **New Students Website**

### **Overview**

### **PALS**

### **Parents Website**

### **Sports Medicine**

### **Student Policies, Regulations, and Procedures**

(Student Handbook)

### **Student Wellness**

### **Transportation**

## DIRECTIONS TO CAMPUS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The college is close to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, an Amtrak station, a Greyhound bus terminal, and several interstate highways, including I-80 (the Ohio Turnpike), I-480, and I-90. Oberlin is located at the junction of Ohio Routes 58 and 511.

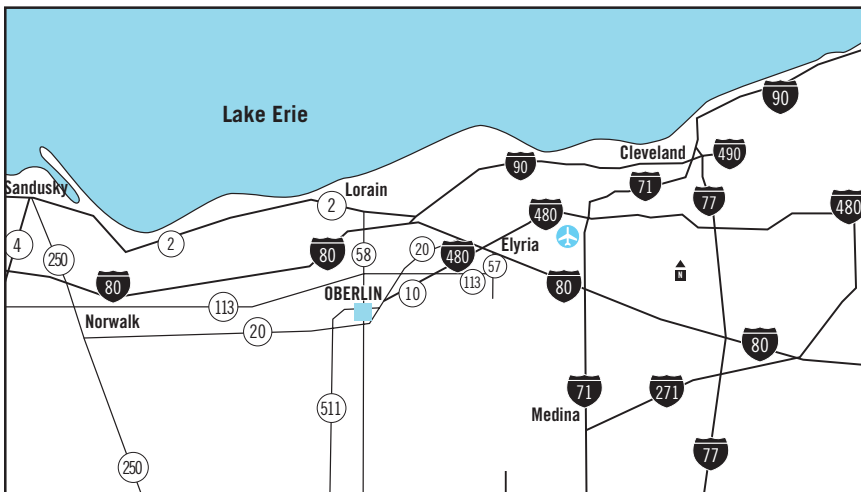
Convenient accommodations are available in Oberlin and the surrounding area. These include the [Hotel at Oberlin](#) at (440) 775-7001 and the [Hyatt Place—Cleveland/Crocker Park](#) at (440) 871-3100

During Orientation, the Oberlin Heritage Center sponsors a bed and breakfast program for parents and families who wish to stay in private homes in Oberlin. The program raises funds for the organization. Costs range from \$70 to \$90 per night, breakfast included. For more information, send an e-mail to [OHCbNB@gmail](mailto:OHCbNB@gmail) or call (440) 774-1700.

Detailed directions and a lengthier list of accommodations are available on the [Visiting Oberlin webpage](#).

*\*A listing here and on Oberlin College's website does not constitute an endorsement of these accommodations by Oberlin College.*

### NORTH CENTRAL OHIO



# OBERLIN COLLEGE

- 1 Admissions, Arts & Sciences (& StudioOC)
- 2 Allen Memorial Art Museum
- 3 Allencroft (Russian House)
- 4 Apollo Theatre
- 5 Art Building & Studios
- 6 Asia House (Quadrangle)
- 7 Bailey (French House)
- 8 Baldwin Cottage
- 9 Barnard House
- 10 Barrows Hall
- 11 Bookstore
- 12 Bosworth Hall (& Fairchild Chapel)
- 13 Burton Hall
- 14 Carnegie Building (Financial Aid, Registrar)
- 15 Chabad House
- 16 Charles Martin Hall House
- 17 Conservatory of Music
  - 17A Bibbins Hall
  - 17B Central Unit
  - 17C Robertson Hall
  - 17D Kohl Building
- 18 Conservatory Admissions (Con Annex)
- 19 Cox Admin. Building
- 20 Creative Writing
- 21 Dascomb Hall
- 22 Daub House (Bonner Center)
- 23 East Hall
- 24 Fairchild House
- 25 Finney Chapel
- 26 Hales Gym (College Lanes, Cat in the Cream)
- 27 Hall Annex
- 28 Hall Auditorium
- 29 Harkness Hall
- 30 Harvey (Spanish House)
- 31 Hotel at Oberlin (& Birenbaum)
- 32 Johnson House (Hebrew Heritage House)
- 33 Kade (German House)
- 34 Kahn Hall
- 35 Keep Cottage
- 36 King Building
- 37 Knowlton Athletics Complex
- 38 Langston Hall (North)
- 39 Lewis Center & Annex, AJ, (Environmental Studies)
- 40 Lewis House (Ombuds & Multifaith Center)
- 41 Lord-Saunders (Afrikan Heritage House)
- 42 Mudd Center (Terrell Main Library)
- 43 Multicultural Resource Center (MRC)
- 44 Noah Hall
- 45 Old Barrows
- 46 Peters Hall
- 47 Philips Physical Education Center (& Shanks Health & Wellness Center)
- 48 President's House
- 49 Price (Third World House)
- 50 Rice Hall
- 51 Safety & Security
- 52 Science Center
- 53 Severance Hall
- 54 Shansi House
- 55 South Hall
- 56 Stevenson Hall
- 57 Talcott Hall (Kosher Halal Co-op)
- 58 Tank Hall
- 59 Union Street Housing
- 60 Ward Alumni Center
- 61 Warner Center
- 62 Wilder Hall (Student Union)
- 63 Williams Field House
- 64 Wright Lab of Physics
- 65 Zechiel House

