Welcome to Occidental College! We’re excited you’re visiting Oxy and we want your experience to give you a good feel for life on campus. With that in mind, we’ve created a self-guided tour designed to provide you with information specific to your interests and passions. We hope you will enjoy information about our rich heritage, art, intellectual community, civic engagement, and on- and off-campus opportunities. Using this as an exploratory tool, refer to our campus map to navigate your way through campus. For quick facts and figures, please refer to the back of our campus map and the Oxy website (www.oxy.edu).

WHAT IS OCCIDENTAL?

Occidental College is a private, residential liberal arts and sciences undergraduate institution located in the city of Los Angeles. Founded on a commitment to excellence, equity, community, and service, our academic offerings and social engagement opportunities expand beyond Campus Road. Oxy students have access to Los Angeles, while still enjoying a tight-knit community. Oxy students are passionate, motivated, collaborative, and highly involved in their own education. Our student body is civically engaged, globally aware, and in pursuit of hands-on learning.
TAKE A STEP: Beginning at the Office of Admission, walk to Gilman Road and head down the hill. Your first stop is Weingart Center for the Liberal Arts, Building 17. Explore the galleries inside Weingart or sit down outside and enjoy the shade.

WEINGART CENTER FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS

Weingart is home to one of our most unique majors at Oxy (Critical Theory and Social Justice) and to one of our most popular ones (Media Arts and Culture). Weingart includes one of two on-campus art galleries, both of which routinely show the work of students, faculty, and alumni, in addition to hosting Los Angeles artists in residency.

Spotlight on a Major

MEDIA ARTS AND CULTURE

Occidental’s Media Arts and Culture (MAC) program combines film, media, and cultural theory with digital production, allowing students to integrate their studies with today’s media-centric world. MAC students are able to utilize the diversity of art in Los Angeles by pursuing valuable internship and networking opportunities—students are encouraged to pursue independent research or internship opportunities ranging from Film Independent and LA Freewaves to Sony Production Studios and DreamWorks. The program prizes story, originality, and ingenuity over the idea that artistic media requires large budgets or special equipment. However, Oxy’s program has some of the most up-to-date equipment around, and students are expected to follow professional guild standards while working on their projects. Raffy Cortina ’13 can tell you, being at a small school doesn’t mean your film career won’t flourish; Raffy won a Student Academy Award for his short film Bottled Up in June 2013.

TAKE A STEP: Continue toward Arthur G. Coons Administrative Center, building 1 on your campus map.

ARTHUR G. COONS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

The Arthur G. Coons Administrative Center (AGC) is home to a variety of administrative and student-service offices, including: the Financial Aid Office, the Hameetman Career Center, the Registrar’s Office, the Dean of Students Office, the Dean of the College, and the President’s Office.

HAMEETMAN CAREER CENTER

The Hameetman Career Center assists current students and alumni with opportunities including graduate school, employment, fellowships, student-alumni networking, career panels, and resume writing and interview skill training workshops. The Hameetman Career Center has piloted Intern LA, a program designed to pay students a salary for their work in an unpaid summer internship in the private sector. Semester long internships for credit are also an option through the Washington Internship in our nation’s capital.
PENTIMENTO MONTAGE

This art installation was commissioned by President Veitch upon his inauguration in 2009 to celebrate the rich history, community, commitment to diversity, and excellence of Occidental College. Created by Art History and Visual Arts professor Linda Lyke, this mural incorporates images of our original campus in Boyle Heights in East Los Angeles; significant figures of social change who have visited our campus, including Theodore Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr.; representations of our commitment to the arts and sciences; the "activist" nature of our community as demonstrated by a 1981 protest of South African politics and apartheid—a movement in which President Obama ’83 was involved; as well as poetry of the late Robinson Jeffers, class of 1905.

JOHNSON AND FOWLER HALLS

Johnson and Fowler Halls are two of the three original campus buildings designed by Myron Hunt and constructed in 1914. Serving as the main academic buildings, these halls are comprised mostly of small seminar and lecture rooms, as well as computer labs and faculty offices.

THE MCKINNON FAMILY CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Johnson Hall houses the McKinnon Family Center for Global Affairs, a nexus of international and intercultural connection between Occidental and the world. With state-of-the-art technology as well as significant learning spaces, Johnson Hall evokes a progressive, collaborative, interconnected learning environment. The Center houses Oxy’s Global Crossroads (web application for composing digital projects on matters of global relevance), as well as the Diplomacy & World Affairs Department, Politics Department, International Programs Office, and the Keck Language and Culture Studio. The Keck Language and Culture Studio is a language studio that provides students with the opportunity to pursue language and linguistic development through interactive social and multimedia learning opportunities. The studio includes native-speaking tutors, self-study opportunities, and technology integration for all members of the Oxy community.

SPOTLIGHT ON A MAJOR:

DIPLOMACY & WORLD AFFAIRS (DWA)

DWA is Occidental’s nationally recognized international relations program. An interdisciplinary major, it requires classes in a variety of areas, including: history, politics, economics, religious studies, foreign language, and sociology. DWA, in conjunction with our International Programs Office, sponsors the Kahane United Nations Program—a semester-long, for-credit internship for approximately 16 high achieving seniors. These students spend the fall semester of their senior year taking classes and working with country missions and branches of the U.N. Occidental’s combined academic and internship program with the United Nations in New York City is completely unique.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE (IPO)

The mission of the IPO is to educate students in cross-cultural perspectives by providing academic opportunities to engage with global cultures through study and research abroad. All students have the option to apply to multiple programs. More than three quarters of Oxy students take advantage of at least one of the great opportunities offered by our International Programs Office.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Students are encouraged to apply to study internationally for a semester in an environment that will enrich their overall college experience and cultivate responsible participation in a global, multicultural society. The College is committed to offering equal access to off-campus study opportunities, and therefore all financial aid assistance (need-based or merit) remains the same while a student is abroad during a semester, and may even be adjusted to consider higher travel costs. We offer over 160 study abroad programs throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and Oceania. While students in every academic discipline have the opportunity to study abroad, we do have major-specific partnerships with the London Dramatic Academy and the James Cook University for Marine Biology in Townsville, Australia. Oxy students also have the ability to apply to our distinctive programs like the Kahane United Nations program in New York City and our Campaign Semester, where students receive credit for assisting in election campaigns all over the country.

Research Abroad

Occidental’s undergraduate research abroad program is one of a handful in the nation that awards fellowships to undergraduate students across all disciplines to pursue fully funded independent research or creative work abroad for eight to 12 weeks during the summer. Past research topics include: Drug Resistant HIV Surveillance in South Africa (Biology), Serbia Amongst Turmoil: Gender Constructions in WWII Political Posters (History and Sociology), and Language Maintenance and Shift among the Polish Community of Georgia (Group Language).

Ask a Tour Guide:

Lisa Chang
Religious Studies Major
San Diego, CA

Studying abroad in Rome made me a more independent and adaptable individual. I got to stroll by St. Peter’s Basilica on my way to school, and see astounding artwork by Michelangelo throughout the city. When in Rome, I ate like a Roman; gelato and pasta and gelato again (to cleanse my palate). I even interned as an English Teaching Assistant in a high school in Rome. Ultimately, studying abroad equipped me as a global citizen, ready to face diversity with openness and curiosity.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

For students interested in undergraduate research but looking to stay closer to campus, the Undergraduate Research Center provides on- and off-campus research experiences both during and outside of the academic year. Students take advantage of a variety of institutional and outside research grants and fellowships to conduct original research. Working with faculty, students explore topics such as An Asymmetric Synthesis of Prozac in Chemistry, to The Dynamic of Nature of State Courts in Education Rights Litigation in Politics. At Oxy we encourage all students to participate in undergraduate research during their time at Oxy.

TAKE A STEP: You are now approaching the Academic Quad, number 126 on the campus map—an Oxy student favorite. Take a seat under a 100-year-old oak tree, enjoy the serenity of the campus, and read more about Oxy’s intellectual community.

CORE PROGRAM

Occidental’s Core Program emphasizes global literacy, writing, and interdisciplinary study to propel students into an ever-changing and complex world. Through the flexible requirements of our Core Program, students take courses that incorporate cross-cultural study, the arts, pre-1800 history, science, mathematical reasoning, and foreign language. First-year students participate in our Cultural Studies Program (CSP), where they study topics they find exciting, while learning how to write analytic and research-based college papers. Examples of recent CSP offerings include:

- “From Zorro to J.Lo”: The History of Latinx Representation in U.S. Film and Television
- Art in the Arroyo: Bohemian Cultures of Northeast L.A.
- Contagion: From Plague Narratives to the Literature of Public Health
- The California Immigration Semester

Ask a Tour Guide: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Julius DiLorenzo
Politics Major
Chicago, IL

After a course with Professor Ford my sophomore year on African Diasporic surrealist writings of the early 20th century, I wanted to pursue this topic in more depth and explore the international politics influencing these authors. In addition to the URC’s weekly summer luncheons, which feature different Oxy professors presenting their research, participants meet frequently with faculty mentors for support and guidance on their project.

Ask a Tour Guide: THE CORE PROGRAM

Maddy Farkas
Media Arts & Culture Major
Thousand Oaks, CA

I am so thankful for Oxy’s CORE requirements. I came into Oxy thinking I wanted to major in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing, as I want to write for television. I took a course called “Intro to Media Studies” to fulfill my Fine Arts requirement, and I immediately fell in love. I discovered the Media Arts & Culture major because of this course and am now majoring in it and taking screenwriting courses that the college offers.
Academic Majors

Occidental offers 33 majors, an Independent Pattern of Study, and eight minor-only programs across 41 departments. While some students know exactly what their major will be and remain steadfast, the majority of students explore Occidental’s academic offerings prior to declaring their major. The Core Program can be intrinsic to this exploration and Oxy’s Advising Center is always available if you want to meet with faculty to discuss your options.

Oxy students are curious, innovative, and proactive in their academic endeavors. Students are required to complete a senior comprehensive project for their major; for some that means composing music, producing a short film or documentary, writing an extensive paper, or conducting original research. If you have any questions or would like more information on academic majors, please consult additional materials on our website, or visit our online course catalog!

Take a Step: The next stop is Hameetman Science Center, building 39. Walk past the front of Norris Hall of Chemistry (building 4) and cross Weller Road.

Hameetman Science Center

Hameetman Science Center is our newest academic building and was completed in 2005. It houses our Physics and Geology departments. Some of Oxy’s other science departments are housed in the Bioscience Building (building 44) and Norris Hall of Chemistry (building 4).

Foucault Pendulum

As you enter the building (or peer through the glass) you will notice the perpetually swinging and hypnotic pendulum. This is a replica of a physics experiment originally conducted by Leon Foucault to demonstrate the Earth’s rotation. For more information, please refer to the plaque in the lobby.

Spotlight on a Major

Biology

Occidental’s Biology Department aims to engage students in scientific investigation of the natural world by ensuring that education is not limited to lectures. From introductory classes to upper-division and advanced courses, the Biology Department focuses on spending time in lab and out on field trips. The Moore Laboratory of Zoology hosts one of the world’s largest research natural history collections, including approximately 68,000 bird and 2,000 mammal specimens. The department is also home to the Vantuna Research Group, which has been monitoring and researching the marine environment of southern and Baja California since 1966 and features many student researchers. The Vantuna Research Group has the most published, peer-reviewed articles on marine biology of any southern California research group. Biology majors can also choose an emphasis in Cell & Molecular Biology, Environmental Science, or Marine Biology.

Ask a Tour Guide: Oxy Professors

Nguhi Muturi
Politics Major
Rowlett, TX

My professors at Oxy have been invaluable. While I was participating in Campaign Semester, my candidate, who I’d been preparing to work with, lost in their primary race! Professor Dreier reached out to his political contacts around the country to find me a place on another campaign within two days! This is just one example of many times my professors at Oxy have made me feel valued as a student shown their willingness to assist me beyond the classroom.
**TAKE A STEP:** Walk back toward the Academic Quad to the Academic Commons (Mary Norton Clapp Library), **building 5.** You are welcome to enter the building, if it is open, and explore the main floor of the space.

**ACADEMIC COMMONS**

More than a library, the Academic Commons provides academic enrichment and support for members of the Occidental community. The space houses information resources, library services, a research advising center, and academic support programs. The space is open 24/5, meaning it is only closed Friday and Saturday nights from 10 p.m.–10 a.m. and houses hundreds of study cubbies and corners in addition to multiple student computer labs and creative spaces.

**CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (CAE)**

Located on the ground floor, the CAE is a support system for students of all abilities to maximize their academic potential. Peer advisors from every major are available afternoons, evenings, and late at night to help students with questions in a specific discipline (e.g. economics, chemistry, mathematics, sociology). Student-staffed groups like the Academic Mastery Program (AMP) offer students extra homework help and practice tests. Peer and faculty writing advisors are also available to help you with your papers. Whether it’s your first or what you thought was your final draft, the CAE will set you on the route to a smoother paper.

*More information about the Academic Commons and its services and resources can be found in the foyer of the building. Please take a few moments to wander around the main level and sneak a peek at the Ahmanson Reading Room (through the hall on the left) and the current gallery and information displayed in the Old Wing.*

**TAKE A STEP:** As you exit the Academic Commons, walk through the Academic Quad towards the Rose Hills Foundation Student Activities Center, **building 15.**

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**Ask a Tour Guide:**

**LGBT RESOURCES AND THE CGE**

Alexis Morse  
*Undeclared Major*  
Phoenix, AZ

There are many resources for LGBTQIA+ students who come to Oxy! The Center for Gender Equity (CGE) offers programming and advocacy for students, including Ally Training for faculty and staff to make the academic environment safe and welcoming. Housed in the CGE is Lead with Pride, a mentor program for incoming students and the Queer Student Alliance, a student-run club. ResEd offers options for queer-centered living: gender neutral housing, Queer House, and the choice to live with another LGBTQIA+ identified student or committed ally. Every year in April, campus celebrates Gaypril, a month of LGBTQIA+ programming!
ATHLETICS

Occidental’s Athletics Department provides all-encompassing athletics programs and wellness activities ranging from intercollegiate, NCAA Division III competition to community fitness and wellness classes. The Tigers are a member of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (SCIAC) and compete at the varsity level in 21 sports, and at varying regional and national levels for eight club sports. While approximately 25% of our students participate at the varsity level, 50% of students participate in other athletics opportunities, including intramural sports ranging from 5-on-5 basketball to wiffle ball leagues, and wellness courses such as Zumba, spin, and yoga. Students can enjoy our outdoor pool and sport courts, fitness center, dance studio, track, multiple fields, and indoor courts. If you are interested in learning more about Oxy athletics, or contacting one of our coaches, check their website at: www.oxyathletics.com.

Ask a Tour Guide: THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

Maddie DiMarco
Sociology Major
Seattle, WA

Joining the swim team at Oxy was the best decision I’ve made in college. Waking up for practice at 5:30 in the morning teaches you discipline. The sheer amount of yardage that you swim each day teaches you resilience. Having to balance a rigorous academic schedule with 20 hours of practice a week teaches you unparalleled time management skills. You learn to be both a leader and a follower when appropriate. Most people think of swimming as an individual sport, but the only way to get through brutal practices, training camp, and that last lap of a really close race is to have the support of a team behind you.

TAKE A STEP: As you walk through the quad, you see Swan Hall (building 7 on your campus map) on your left.

SWAN HALL

Swan Hall is the third original campus building, and houses 40% of faculty offices, including the American Studies, English, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Cognitive Science and History Departments. It also holds seminar rooms, meeting spaces, and Psychology and Cognitive Science labs.

TAKE A STEP: Directly ahead of you is the Johnson Student Center, (building 15 on your campus map) which includes our Rose Hills Foundation Student Activities Center, more affectionately referred to as “The MP” by our students, as it houses The Marketplace, our main dining facility on campus. Please feel free to head up the stairs and take a look at Branca Patio, where you can find our Green Bean Coffee Lounge and take a peek at the Marketplace! Take a seat and read about our campus dining.
EATING ON CAMPUS

All students who live on campus have a meal plan, which works like a debit system and ranges in value. The meal plan is linked to the student’s campus ID and can be used at any of our four dining establishments: the Marketplace, the Green Bean Coffee Lounge, the Tiger Cooler (in Samuelson Pavilion, building 16) and the Coffee Cart in Berkus Hall. Aside from the tasty goods we bring in from local cafes and bakeries, all of our food is prepared in house by our dining staff, so we know it’s fresh and made with love.

BRANCA PATIO

Branca Patio offers covered outdoor seating for students and provides access to our main dining facility, the Marketplace, as well as to the Green Bean Coffee Lounge, our student-run coffeehouse. In 2009, a group of students took initiative and gained support from our administration to start an on-campus coffeehouse. The students’ vision became a reality, and it remains one of the most popular spaces on campus. The Green Bean is a self-sustaining, student-run business and participates in campus-wide composting and sustainability efforts. Student art is frequently on display in the Green Bean, so be sure to take a peek! Have some extra time? If they are open, grab a bite to eat at the Green Bean or Marketplace—just remember that our dining facilities are cash-only for visitors (there is an ATM in the mailroom, located on the bottom floor of the Student Center).

SPECIALTY MEALS

Students look forward to the themed meals and special holiday treats at the Marketplace. A favorite is Thanksgiving Feast, put on the Friday before students leave for Thanksgiving break. The Marketplace staff dish out a festive meal of free-range turkey, fluffy mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce.

Campus dining is always responding to student requests and tastes, whether it’s something as small as adding BBQ sauce to the condiments bar, or something larger like the addition of a new make-your-own organic smoothie bar.

TAKE A STEP: If the gated staircase on Branca Patio next to the Card Office is open, head down into Student Activities Center. If it’s locked, take a seat and read on about student clubs and organizations.
ROSE HILLS FOUNDATION STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Rose Hills Foundation Student Activities Center is home to many important office spaces on campus. It also has some great work areas for anything from studying to club meetings. Feel free to look around a little.

STUDENT CLUBS

There are over 120 student-run clubs and organizations on campus. These groups range from religious organizations and clubs (Muslim Student Association, Intervarsity, Hillel), community service organizations (Peer Health Exchange, Colleges Against Cancer), to purely fun clubs (Beekeeping Club, Flat Surfaces Gaming Club). Students can also participate in campus Greek Life by joining one of our 8 fraternities and sororities. For more on campus clubs and organizations, visit the Getting Involved page on the Oxy website!

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (OCE)

Rooted in Oxy's commitment to community and service, the OCE aims to provide ways for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators to develop relationships with the city of Los Angeles. Oxy has a variety of service clubs that contribute to sustained community involvement throughout the school year. The OCE's major charge is sponsoring large-scale service events and projects, like our annual 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, MLK Day of Service, and an alternative spring break experience.

TAKE A STEP: As you leave the Student Center/Marketplace area, you will see Thorne Hall (building 13 on your campus map) to your left. (If you leave back down the stairs from Branca Patio, go around the building, towards Thorne)

THORNE HALL

Thorne Hall is our main auditorium and is used for some of Oxy traditions such as Convocation, Dance Production, and Apollo Night (Oxy's annual talent show), as well as community events like the Vagina Monologues. Additionally, Thorne is used for the variety of speaker series that Occidental hosts. Recent speakers include Junot Díaz (Pulitzer Prize winning author), Jackson Katz (anti-gender violence advocate), Kevin Powell (political activist, poet, and entrepreneur), Dolores Huerta (labor and civil rights activist), Kirby Dick (director of The Invisible War), and Ruth Kluger (Holocaust survivor).
TAKE A STEP: Taking the path to the left of Samuelson Pavilion (building 16 on your map) you will pass through a wooded grove and approach the main roads. As you cross the street, you will see two residence halls, Newcomb Hall (building 18) to the left, and Erdman Hall (building 24) to the right.

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION: NEWCOMB AND ERDMAN HALLS

Newcomb and Erdman Halls are two of Occidental's 13 residence halls. Currently our Residence Education program requires students to live on campus for their first three years, and students are able to continue living in campus housing through their senior year. All residence halls provide kitchens, laundry facilities, computer labs with free wireless printing, and an in-room Microfridge. With regular hall meetings and a peer Resident Advisor always on duty, residential living is intended to provide all students with a safe place to grow, develop a strong support network, and be a part of a tight-knit community.

THEMED LIVING COMMUNITIES

At Oxy, we believe that residential life is intrinsically related to a student’s college experience. The intentional nature of our housing plan is reflected through RA programs and events, roommate matching, and themed living communities such as Queer House, Food Justice House, and the Norris apartments.

Gender-inclusive housing is an option for all students, including first-years. We also have a substance-free hall, multicultural hall, a social justice floor in Pauley Hall, and Global Diversity Floor in Newcomb Hall. With these options in mind, it makes sense that so many student elect to live on-campus all four years.

Ask a Tour Guide:
P AULEY, THE MULTICULTURAL HALL

Denzel Tongue
Sociology Major
Oakland, CA

To me, Pauley residents were like family. Whether it was making food together, watching movies, or even helping me when I was sick; I always had the support I needed. I also truly appreciated the intense discussions fostered in Pauley. The ability to freely discuss a variety of serious topics ranging from family to government is something I will cherish even after leaving Oxy.
LIVING IN LOS ANGELES

A mere eight miles from downtown, Oxy is perfectly positioned to enjoy all of the opportunities a city like Los Angeles offers. We take great pride in our hands-on learning approach at Oxy, and classes from every department take to the city at some point in the year to experience what they've been learning about. Whether it's studying the urban planning of Los Angeles, seeing a theatrical show, or heading to the Pacific Ocean to study the marine life there, field learning is never limited to one major.

Students also go off campus into our surrounding areas! Eagle Rock and Highland Park have great coffee shops, restaurants, stores, and food trucks. We also have everything from grocery stores to shopping malls not too far away. All students with cars are allowed to park on campus for free. Other transportation options include ZipCar, our Bike share program (or bring your own!), Bengal Bus (our student run shuttle system), or public transportation (Metro TAP cards are available through the Student Activities Center). There are also plenty of attractions within walking distance from campus. Whether it’s a quick errand, a beach trip, or a learning opportunity, Oxy students take advantage of their location.

THANK YOU!

This concludes your walking tour of Occidental College. While this guide provided some basic information about the academic, residential, and social lives of our students, there is a lot that we did not cover.

If time permits, please continue to explore our campus! On upper campus you will find: the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute (building 21); Remsen Bird Hillside Theater (22); Keck Theater (45); Anderson Field (104), which is our baseball field; and several residence halls. On lower campus you will find: Booth Hall (14), which houses our Music and Education departments; Samuelson Pavilion (16), for quick on-campus eating; Herrick Memorial Chapel and Interfaith Center (6); the Bioscience Building (44); Mosher Hall of Chemistry (4); and our Athletics Complex (8, 9, 10).

Thank you for spending time on our campus today! If you would like to reach our office, you can do so by calling (323) 259-2700 or emailing admission@oxy.edu.