STUDENTS
Total enrollment (Fall 2021) 1,992
Women 1,155  (58%)
Men 837  (42%)
Black or African-American 4.5%
Asian 13.5%
Hispanic or Latinx 15.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.2%
Two or more races 11.0%
White 46.2%
Race and ethnicity unknown 2.7%
International students 6.2%
Graduation rate 82.5% (6-year rate)
First-year retention rate (2020-21) 91.8%

Origins of students
48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands
27 countries

Student and alumni honors (2020-21)
Fulbright Scholarships (8)
NSF Graduate Fellowship (1)
Capital Fellows (2)
Luce Scholarship (1)

Off-campus study (2020-21)
Because of pandemic disruptions, off-campus study programs served about 14% of a typical year. Campaign Semester and Oxy at the U.N. operated remotely. With our long-time partner in China we developed an in-person semester for 14 students barred from the U.S. by travel restrictions. Three juniors participated in pandemic-adapted semesters abroad in Ghana, Iceland and France.

Class of 2025
Number applied 6,495
Number entering 535
Median combined SAT score 1390
Median ACT score 32
First-generation college 13.1%

Financial aid (2020-21)
Receiving aid 75.7%
Average package $40,408
Annual and endowed scholarships 497
Pell Grant recipients 17.8%

Top five majors (2020-21)
Economics, Diplomacy & World Affairs, Psychology, Biology, Computer Science

MISSION
Occidental College, a private, coeducational college of the liberal arts and sciences, seeks to provide its students with a total educational experience of the highest quality—one that prepares them for leadership in an increasingly complex, interdependent and pluralistic world. The distinctive interdisciplinary and multicultural focus of the College’s academic program seeks to foster both the fulfillment of individual aspirations and a deeply rooted commitment to the public good.

FACULTY (2020-21)
Full-time faculty 194
Full-time faculty of color 32%
Student-faculty ratio 9:1
Average class size 18.3

FINANCES
Annual budget $115,707,367
Endowment (as of 6/30/21) $575,809,817
Endowment per student $289,061
Tuition $57,830
Comprehensive charges (tuition, room, board, fees) $75,138

FUNDRAISING (2020-21)
New Commitments $31,116,691
The Oxy Fund $5.4 million
HISTORY

Founded in 1887, Occidental was one of the first liberal arts colleges in California and remains one of the small number of colleges nationwide focused strictly on undergraduate education. Its first Rhodes Scholar was named in 1907, and its Phi Beta Kappa chapter was established in 1926 – one of the first at a western liberal arts college. Although established by a group of Presbyterian ministers and laymen, the College has been nonsectarian since 1910. The Eagle Rock campus opened in 1914.

LOCATION

The College is located in the Eagle Rock section of Los Angeles, between downtown and Pasadena. It is one of the few liberal arts colleges in an urban setting, with courses, programs and partnerships that encourage students to engage with Los Angeles’ unmatched cultural, scientific and social resources.

THE CAMPUS

Designed by noted architect Myron Hunt and landscaped by Beatrix Farrand, the heart of the 120-acre campus is the oak-studded Quadrangle and the College’s original Beaux Arts academic buildings. Some 13 student-governed residence halls house 78 percent of the student body. The campus has been used as a Hollywood location since 1919 and featured in scores of films (including 2011 Best Picture nominee The Kids Are All Right), TV shows (including “NCIS” and “The Good Place”), and commercials.

CURRICULUM

Occidental’s brand of the liberal arts and sciences produces students who can analyze and synthesize complex materials, develop and communicate new knowledge, take risks, tolerate ambiguity, and embrace difference. Students choose from 45 majors and minors. Each major culminates in a comprehensive examination or project. Course work is integrated with opportunities for independent study, original research, study in dozens of foreign countries, and participation in one of the country’s few United Nations programs and the country’s only Campaign Semester and Rebellious Lawyering programs for undergraduates.

FACULTY

Occidental’s greatest strength is its superb, award-winning faculty. The relationship between teacher and student is at the heart of everything we do. Although Oxy’s 194 full-time faculty members regard teaching as their primary responsibility, all are actively engaged in research or creative work that informs their teaching. Occidental is a national leader among liberal arts colleges as measured by federal research awards. Some 32 percent of full-time faculty are people of color.

STUDENTS

Since 1990, Occidental students and alumni have won more than 280 major scholarships and fellowships, including Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Fulbright, CORO and Goldwater scholarships. Occidental is one of the country’s top producers of Fulbright scholars and students who go on to receive Ph.Ds. Since 1980, more than 820 graduates have attended medical or dental school. Occidental is regularly ranked as one of the most diverse of the country’s top liberal arts colleges.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Occidental’s Undergraduate Research program, which embraces a wide array of disciplines, was the recipient of the Council on Undergraduate Research’s 2019 Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments. Occidental students regularly publish their results in professional journals and present their work at scientific conferences. Over the past decade, more than 200 Occidental students have been invited to present their work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Occidental is also one of the few undergraduate institutions that offers its students the opportunity to pursue fully-funded research overseas.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Occidental’s long history of community partnerships dates back to the mid-1960s, when the College opened its Community Literacy Center and one of the country’s first Upward Bound programs. Today, half of Occidental’s students participate in some kind of community project, most through the College’s Center for Community Based Learning and Center for Community Engagement. These efforts include partnerships with elementary, middle, and high schools in northeast Los Angeles. Occidental was one of the first liberal arts colleges selected as community engagement institutions by the Carnegie Foundation.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

One of the founders of intercollegiate sports in Southern California, Occidental is part of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) at the NCAA Division III level. Students participate in 20 intercollegiate sports (9 for men, 11 for women) and numerous club and intramural sports. Arts programs include glee club, concert band, jazz ensemble, theater, dance, film, painting, drawing, printmaking, graphics, and sculpture. Students belong to more than 100 clubs and organizations.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Academic Commons, Information Technology Services, and the Center for Digital Learning provide work spaces, services, technologies, and materials that support the work of students and faculty in networked and increasingly digital learning environments. Partnering with other libraries, institutions, and organizations extends the reach of Information Resources far beyond the campus.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Main Switchboard ..........323-259-2500
President’s Office, ..........323-259-2691
Dean of the College ..........323-259-2634
Academic Commons ..........323-259-2640
Admission, .................323-259-2700
Alumni, ......................323-259-2601
Athletics, .....................323-259-2608
Bookstore, ....................323-259-2630
Career Development ..........323-259-2623
Center for Community
Based Learning ..........323-259-2904
Conference Services /
Campus Filming ..........323-259-2795
Financial Aid .................323-259-2548
Human Resources ..........323-259-2613
Institutional Advancement,323-259-2961
Intercultural Community
Center, ........................323-259-2522
Interfaith Center ..........323-259-2621
Registrar, ......................323-259-2686
Student Affairs ..........323-259-2661
Undergraduate Research ......323-259-1414

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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