



EducationUSA Canada Spotlights

Occidental College

In Los Angeles, California

Founded in 1887, Occidental College (affectionately called Oxy) provides a private, liberal arts education with opportunities unique to Los Angeles. Global engagement, community partnerships, interdisciplinary study, and undergraduate research are all hallmarks of the college.

Occidental's educational philosophy is focused on putting theory into practice. Oxy students do this locally by volunteering in the surrounding neighborhoods through the [Office of Community Engagement](#), and taking internships in multiple fields all over Los Angeles through [the Career Development Center](#). Every department at Occidental offers classes that do field work in Los Angeles, thanks to numerous partnerships with museums, movie studios, research hospitals, and more.



Students at Oxy have access to study away programs within the United States, such as the [Campaign Semester](#) and the [Kahane United Nations Program at Occidental](#), that help students apply what they've learned in the field. The Campaign Semester allows students to work on an active political campaign somewhere in the United States for a semester's worth of credit, and the UN Program is the only full-time residential internship at the United Nations available in the United States.



Three-quarters of Oxy students study abroad at some point during their time in college. Mostly, they spend an entire semester studying on another continent, but sometimes they take advantage of a [summer research grant](#) that pays for original research to be conducted anywhere overseas. Others are enrolled in a class at Occidental that spends two weeks abroad after the semester ends in order to further the class' subject matter.

Occidental has a close relationship with Canada. More Occidental alumni live in Canada than in any other country outside the United States, and they are spread across seven different provinces. Geology professor [Margaret Rusmore](#) specializes in British Columbia's Coast Mountains, and has facilitated original research in BC for multiple students in recent years. Diplomacy & World Affairs professor and former Ambassador Derek Shearer has collaborated on past on-campus events with the Consulate General of Canada.



At Occidental, undergraduates are challenged intellectually and academically. They are pushed to draw connections between disciplines and to test new theories in the real world, all in the heart of one of the greatest cities in the world.

You can [request more information](#) on the Oxy website and [schedule a visit](#). To learn more about campus, check out [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).