

## If You Apply To ➤

**Lake Forest:** Early decision and early action: Dec. 1. Regular admissions: Feb. 15. Financial aid: Mar. 1. Campus interviews: recommended, evaluative. No alumni interviews. SATs or ACTs: optional. Subject Tests: optional. Accepts the Common Application. Essay question: Personal statement. Applicants must also submit a graded paper.

## Lawrence University

711 East Boldt Way, Appleton, WI 54911

**One of three small colleges in the nation that combines the liberal arts with a first-rate music conservatory (Bard and Oberlin are the others). Lawrence is half the size of Oberlin and comparable to Beloit and Grinnell, though Lawrence's personality is more mainstream than any of the three. Occupies a scenic bluff in northeastern Wisconsin. Remote location limits national appeal.**

Lawrence University is an unpretentious school that can appeal to both the left and right side of students' brains. For those with an analytical bent, there is Lawrence's uncommon physics program. More creative types can take advantage of the school's renowned Conservatory of Music. "I came to Lawrence because I found no other school where I could seriously study music and academics," says a senior. "At all the other schools, you had to pick one or the other." It's this eclectic approach to learning that attracts interested and interesting students from around the world. "I think what makes Lawrence students stand out is that they are involved with such a wide range of activities," says a physics major. "When someone explains all the things they are doing on campus, it sort of blows your mind."

Lawrence's campus is on a wooded bluff above the Fox River, perfect for long walks, jogging, or simply meditating underneath the trees. It was chosen in 1847 by one of Appleton's earliest settlers. The pristine 84-acre campus reflects several architectural styles of the past 150 years, including classical revival, 1920s Georgian-inspired, and 1950s and 1960s institutional, unified by their limestone color. The award-winning Wriston Art Center and the Conservatory's Ruth Harwood Shattuck Hall of Music (both designed by Lawrence graduates) bring contemporary architectural touches to the campus. A campus center provides more than 100,000 square feet of space for food services, student organizations, a campus store, and a movie theater.

The second coeducational college established in the nation, Lawrence was founded to educate German immigrants and Native Americans. While coeducation was shocking, innovators at Lawrence didn't stop there. More than 50 years ago, administrators introduced the Freshman Studies program, a required two-term course focusing primarily on the great works of art, music, and literature of both Western and non-Western origin. These days, general education requirements at Lawrence include freshman studies; distribution requirements; and diversity, foreign language, and writing-intensive courses. There is also a senior capstone experience.

At the school's Conservatory of Music, the instrument collection includes an 1815 Broadwood piano identical to Beethoven's Broadwood, and a Guarneri violin. There are first-rate jazz ensembles along with classical and world music programs; the college offers a bachelor's degree in music within its liberal arts environment. "Music is the unifying theme at Lawrence," says one student. "Almost everybody plays it or studies it or likes to listen to it and talk about it." The most popular major

**Website:** www.lawrence.edu

**Location:** Small City

**Private**

**Total Enrollment:** 1,445

**Undergraduates:** 1,445

**Male/Female:** 46/54

**SAT Ranges:** CR 600-710,  
M 580-690

**ACT Ranges:** 27-31

**Financial Aid:** 93%

**Expense:** Pr \$ \$ \$

**Phi Beta Kappa:** Yes


**Applicants:** 2,666

**Accepted:** 53%

**Enrolled:** 23%

**Grad in 6 Years:** 76%

**Returning Freshmen:** 89%

**Academics:**    

**Social:**   

**Q of L:** ★ ★ ★

**Admissions:** (920) 832-6500

**Email Address:** excel@  
lawrence.edu

### Strongest Programs:

Music

History

Biology

Physics

Psychology

English

is music, followed by biology, psychology, English, and history. Students are encouraged to spend at least one term of their college career off campus and 30 percent of undergrads do so during their time at Lawrence. The university is known for its London Study Center, which allows students to take classes “across the pond” while taking advantage of the city’s many cultural activities. Other off-campus programs involve the Kurgan Technical Pedagogical Institute in Russia, Waseda University in Japan, and the Écoles des Beaux Arts in France. Programs in marine biology research are held in the Cayman Islands. In all, 45 off-campus programs are available in more than two dozen countries.

Back on campus, Lawrence students appreciate their professors’ expertise and experience. “Overall, I have experienced fantastic teaching,” a junior says. “There is an expectation that professors will be prepared to present the material in an engaging way, and will be able to field questions requiring in-depth knowledge of a topic.” Because of the three-term calendar, the academic climate is intimate and intense. “The courses are very rigorous here, but students do a great job of encouraging others,” a student says. Languages offered include Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic. All seniors—in all degree programs—are required to produce a final project demonstrating proficiency in their major field of study.

Most of Lawrence’s students hail from Wisconsin or elsewhere in the Midwest. Seventy-one percent attended public high school, and 81 percent graduated in the top quarter of their class. “Students don’t try too hard to reject social norms, and that creates a really welcoming environment for everyone,” says one student. A biochemistry major adds, “LU students are involved in everything, sometimes to the point where we don’t know how all of our activities could possibly fit in one day, but we love what we do and we’re passionate about the groups we join and establish.” African Americans and Asian Americans each make up 3 percent of the student body, and Hispanics comprise another 4 percent. There is a sizable international population representing more than 40 countries. The political climate on campus is somewhat liberal—there’s a leftist newspaper—and students are “knowledgeable about current social and political issues,” according to one student. There are no athletic scholarships, but brainy types vie for merit scholarships averaging \$12,500 each.

The dorms at Lawrence are well populated; all but 2 percent of students live on campus. “The housing is well-maintained,” says one dorm dweller, and “vary a little in amenities (some have sinks in the rooms, some have closets), but all are comfortable.” Greek life attracts 18 percent of Lawrence men and 9 percent of the women. One dorm is reserved for upperclassmen, and 15 small university-owned houses are devoted to special-interest groups. All halls are co-ed, by room or by floor, and all have laundry facilities, kitchens, televisions, Internet links, and lounges. Students praise the variety of housing choices. They report the older halls are more elegant, but the newer ones are more practical, with extra storage space and other amenities. On-campus students have a choice of meal plans and report that the food is edible and diverse. Students report feeling safe on campus, thanks in part to the surrounding area. “Appleton is ridiculously safe,” says a student, “and campus security is always on call and willing to escort anyone who feels unsafe.”

Social life at Lawrence is as varied and eclectic as the students. “The social life is mostly contained on campus, as there is always a music recital or a theater production or movie showing or party going on,” a psychology major says, “sometimes all at once!” Alcohol policies aren’t enforced, according to many students. Although it’s almost impossible for underage students to be served at the on-campus bar, the story is different at private parties and dorm rooms. The school radio station also broadcasts a 50-hour trivia contest in January, in which each hall has its own team, and

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students stay up for the entire weekend answering offbeat questions. Oktoberfest is also a big weekend event, held in conjunction with the city of Appleton, which draws people in from nearby cities. A Shack-A-Thon has become a popular way to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

There are good relations between Lawrence and Appleton. "The town is safe and has lots to do," says a student, including "cafés, restaurants, shops, nightlife, performing arts, and farmers markets." The nearest grocery store is a five-minute drive away, as is the nearest theater, and many students see a car as a necessity. Volunteerism

**"The social life is mostly contained on campus."**

is popular, and students regularly take part in activities such as tutoring at local schools. The best road trips are to Milwaukee (two hours), Green Bay (half an hour), and Chicago (four hours). There are also weekend seminars at Bjorklund, the college's 425-acre estate on the shores of Lake Michigan.

And what would a Midwest fall Saturday be without football? The Lawrence Vikings draw good crowds almost every weekend. Women's soccer claimed the 2011 Midwest Conference North Division championship; men's cross-country brought home a title in 2012. The sparkling recreation center helps students fend off mid-winter blues. Participating in a rousing game of intramural broomball, which is ice hockey played on shoes with brooms as sticks and kickballs as pucks, is a must for students, even if all you do is watch. Ultimate Frisbee is a popular club sport. "There are lots of fun intramural and club sports open to everyone," says a sophomore, "though not everyone participates."

With its outstanding liberal arts curriculum, knowledgeable and caring faculty, an administration that treats students like adults, and a charming country setting, Lawrence University is easily one of the best little-known schools in the country. "The people are just so nice and warm and welcoming here," raves a sophomore. And for students with a musical ear, Lawrence's symphony of offerings strikes just the right chord.

## Overlaps

**Beloit, Carleton,  
Grinnell, Illinois  
Wesleyan, Knox,  
Macalester, St.  
Olaf, University of  
Wisconsin**

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# Lehigh University

27 Memorial Drive West, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Built on the powerful combination of business and engineering, Lehigh occupies a middle ground between techie havens such as Drexel and Rensselaer and the liberal arts/engineering institutions such as Bucknell and Union. By graduation, students are primed for the global job market. Hillside campus means that students get plenty of exercise. A wrestling powerhouse.**

**Website:** www.lehigh.edu  
**Location:** Small City  
**Private**  
**Total Enrollment:** 5,904  
**Undergraduates:** 4,796

From the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Business and Economics, Lehigh University combines the academic resources of a large research university with the collegial atmosphere of a much smaller institution. "It is so easy to make a difference during your four years here at Lehigh," says one happy student. "Your professors want to help you every step of the way and the Lehigh community is always supporting you."