



## CARLETON COLLEGE, NORTHFIELD, MN

Built in the late 1890s, Goodsell Observatory houses three historic telescopes (all more than 110 years old) as well as modern telescopes used for classes and open houses. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Once the center of the Holstein cattle industry, it's no surprise that, "The City of Cows, Colleges, and Contentment," is the first thing you see on the sign welcoming you to Northfield, MN. Nestled in this small city of 17,000, lies Carleton's 1,040-acre campus, annually attracting the most talented and intellectual students in the country. Located only 35 miles from Minneapolis and St. Paul and just across the Cannon River from St. Olaf College, Carleton is home to 1,986 students from 49 states and 45 countries.

The school's website states that, "Carleton College is committed to providing a true liberal arts education, a curriculum that challenges our students to learn broadly and think deeply. Instead of training for one narrow career path, Carleton students develop the knowledge and skills to succeed in any walk of life... The most important thing our students learn is **how to learn for a lifetime**. Critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, effective communication: these are the tools that transform a collection of facts and figures into a way of understanding the world." Some of the most popular majors found here include biology, political science/international relations, economics, English and Psychology. According to the Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges, these majors are popular for a reason: "students are attracted to the depth of study in which they can engage in each department, and the quality of professors and the breadth of subjects they teach."

What factors are important in the college planning process? Dean of Admission, Paul Thiboutot has remarked that, "There is an interplay among our evaluation of the strength of the curriculum taken and the grades obtained, impressions from the essay and the overall assessment of the person's engagement in the larger life of their school." Carleton's admission officers believe that the applicant's high school transcript is one of the most important components of the college admission process, specifically wanting to see challenging courses reflected there. Dean Thiboutot further stresses how essential the student essay is, as it allows them to "get a glimpse" into the applicant's "interests, sense of humor, ideas and perspective on life." It is also an opportunity to demonstrate their writing abilities. Students that apply to Carleton tend to also apply to Brown, Harvard, Macalaster, Swarthmore, Williams and Yale according to the Fiske Guide to Colleges 2009.

The most recent statistics show that 74% of the class of 2012 were in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and the range of SAT scores were 650-750 for Critical Reading and 660-740 for Mathematics. Tuition, room and board for 2009-2010 totals \$49,974, however, the average financial aid package is over 33,500, with 65% of these awards in the form of need-based grants and scholarships. Approximately 70% of Carleton alumni continue on to graduate school within five years.

Prominent graduates include Pierce Butler, 1887, U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Michael Armacost, '58, Former U.S. Ambassador; Jane Hamilton, '79, Author of The Book of Ruth, winner of many awards; and Jonathan Capehart, '89, Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist.