THE EXPERIENCE

ACADEMICS

Colby has one of the most expansive academic curricula for a school of its size in the country. We offer 58 majors and 35 minors, as well as an option to design your own major. Students take courses in everything from art history to managerial economics to science, technology, and society.

Colby was the first college to pioneer a 4-1-4 academic calendar where students take four classes in the fall, pursue one intensive academic or career experience during our January term—Jan Plan—and take four classes again in the spring.

Colby students have extraordinary access to faculty who challenge, inspire, and support them along the way.

A recent grant from the National Science Foundation to build a state-of-the-art computing and research network between Colby, the University of Maine, and the Jackson Laboratory—the world’s premier genomics research facility—located in Bar Harbor—places our students and faculty at the forefront of research on human health, evolution, and biological discovery.

Colby is the only liberal arts college in the country to have a computational biology major, a combination of biology, computer science, statistics, and mathematics to model and analyze biological processes using big data and technological tools.

As one of the few carbon-neutral campuses in the country, Colby is a leader in scholarship, teaching, and student experiences related to the environment and climate change. The Buck Environment and Climate Change Lab grants students access and funding to outstanding research experiences and internships. On the Belgrade Lakes and at the Maine Lakes Resource Center, our students make an impact analyzing regional water quality and educating residents and visitors. At the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, a marine research facility, our students spend a term studying alongside leading oceanographic scholars.

Our community is at the center of national politics with Colby’s Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs, which links students and faculty with national and international leaders to explore contemporary political, economic, and social issues. Recent on-campus speakers have included Washington Post columnists E.J. Dionne, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, and former Acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates.

THE COMMUNITY

Our 2,000 students represent more than 48 states and territories and more than 80 countries. More than 10 percent of students are the first in their family to attend college and nearly half receive financial aid. Colby’s campus culture supports and is shaped by the arts and creativity, is centered on a healthy, active lifestyle, is committed to local, state, and national engagement, and is defined by shared success.

ARTS AND INNOVATION

The Colby College Museum of Art is the finest college art museum in the country. It serves as a remarkable resource for a diverse array of departments and programs from art history to geology to Jewish studies. The museum is a dynamic teaching center impacting the Colby experience inside and outside the classroom.

The Lunder Institute for American Art is the only research institute centered on American art at any college of Colby’s size. It leverages our extensive collection of American art, including works by James McNeill Whistler, Pablo Picasso, Rockwell Kent, Georgia O’Keeffe, and many others, and brings top American-art scholars to campus to conduct research and engage in discussion with our community.

Students develop and explore creative expression and exploration through theatrical productions, vocal and instrumental groups, and broader creative and performing arts. Two Colby students recently wrote and produced a play that was performed in New York City, thanks to a connection with one of our 25,000 alumni.

A planned arts and innovation center will support an array of creative endeavors such as theatrical and dance productions, movement laboratory analysis, and innovative maker-space work.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In fall 2018 Colby will open a mixed-use development in downtown Waterville with housing for 200 students, faculty, and staff, first-floor retail, and community space for civic involvement. Students living downtown will all participate in civic engagement initiatives that will build on Colby’s active existing program, including our Colby Cares About Kids mentoring program, in which more than 500 students participate.

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

In 2020 Colby will open a new 350,000-square-foot athletic complex. This state-of-the-art center will be one of the premier sports venues in the country with an indoor 200-meter track, the only Olympic-sized, Myers pool in New England, and exceptional competition spaces for varsity, club, and intramural sports. The complex will feature a multi-level, 13,500-square-foot fitness center for the entire Colby community.

LUNDER INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN ART

The digital humanities labs designed in our Center for the Arts and Humanities create opportunities for students to connect new and emerging technologies with humanistic study.

DAVISCONNECTS AND POSTGRADUATE SUCCESS

DavisConnects advises students beginning their first year to leverage the College’s extensive partnerships with businesses and nonprofits to provide exceptional internship and research opportunities. Colby’s connections to world-renowned institutions such as the Jackson Laboratory, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and the Art Institute of Chicago, provide research experiences rarely accessible to undergraduates.

Within one year of graduation, 93 percent of Colby graduates are employed, in graduate school, or pursuing a fellowship or scholarship. In total, 75 percent of all Colby graduates earn a graduate degree and join a global network of 25,000 alumni leaders and influencers across all industries.

THE CAMPUS

Colby sits atop Mayflower Hill and overlooks the Kennebec River valley and city of Waterville. Our setting provides unique research and internship opportunities locally, in the nearby state capital, and on the Brigade Lakes and the Gulf of Maine. Colby’s location is also ideal for exploring Maine’s prized natural surroundings.

If you’re exploring Colby without a tour guide, we recommend you visit the Davis Science Center and Diamond Building to see classrooms, Cotter Union to see the student center and bookstore, Roberts Building to see one of our three dining facilities, Miller Library, and the Colby Museum of Art.