At the University of Chicago, we’re all about ideas. Our commitment to Free Speech serves as a bedrock of academic exploration and open discussion. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from, or what you’re studying—what’s important is that you’re courageous enough to take chances, express your thoughts, discover your passions, and learn from feedback. Through our Core curriculum, opportunities for real-world experience, and passionate and engaged community, students open new intellectual horizons. This approach empowers our students and fosters world-changing ideas.
Every college student should be free to focus on what matters. UChicago provides over $200 million in need- and merit-based aid to ensure that undergraduate students of all backgrounds can access the University’s transformative education. Following our No Barriers philosophy, families applying for need-based financial aid pay no application fee to the College and receive a financial aid award that meets their full demonstrated need with no loan expectation. Low-income students receive additional mentorship, funding, and career support through our Odyssey Scholars program. Additionally, UChicago Empower expands access for rural students, enhances financial support for first-generation students, veterans, and children of police officers and firefighters, and enables student ownership of the college process.
Our scholars, scientists, and educators transform the world. New species of dinosaurs. The science of ecology. The mathematical theory of black holes. Proof that cancer is a genetic disease. Carbon-14 dating of archeological finds. Revolutionary theories of education. Measurement of the speed of light. Efficient market theory. The age of the Earth. Breakthroughs in the development of quantum technologies. The first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. These advances are the result of research at the University of Chicago. As a world-renowned hub of innovation, UChicago challenges conventional thinking and accepted wisdom. UChicago’s Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, affiliation with the Marine Biological Laboratory, and management of Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab ensure that UChicago students will have experience working at the leading edge of scientific research.
Our students are recognized as among the brightest in the world. The enduring values of a UChicago education give our graduates the intellectual skills, strengths, and approaches that empower them to be leaders, critical thinkers, and problem solvers who are willing to develop and test ideas that help make our world a better place. In classrooms across the university, free expression and open discourse ensure that students experience an unfettered exchange of ideas. You could be our next Rhodes Scholar, joining more than 50 other UChicago recipients since the award’s inception in 1904. Our undergraduates become Churchill Scholars, Marshall Scholars, and Truman Scholars, as well as receive prestigious fellowships in medical sciences, humanities, and foreign affairs. UChicago students make up one of the largest groups of graduates selected for Teach for America and the Peace Corps. They come from public schools and private schools. They represent diverse cultures and economic backgrounds. They are from down the street, across the country, and around the globe. Our students are smart, funny, and down-to-earth—the kind of people who become your friends for life.
University of Chicago alumni shape the world we live in. Taking with them intellectual tools gained in the classroom, they take pride in an extraordinary tradition of excellence and leadership. Our 150,000 alumni are Nobel laureates, CEOs, university presidents, attorneys general, literary giants, and astronauts. They win Grammy, Emmy, Tony, and Academy Awards. They are Pulitzer Prize–winning journalists and Supreme Court justices. They form a network that spans more than 125 countries around the globe—and exemplify a stellar legacy of accomplishment reflected in every University of Chicago degree.
Our academic programs prepare you for whatever path you choose. Our Core curriculum offers a broad perspective on human knowledge and furnishes tools of inquiry and analysis applicable to the University of Chicago’s rich array of program offerings—and to life. The College of eras a choice of over 50 majors and 50 minors, along with dozens of areas of specialized study, from traditional fields like anthropology and mathematics to interdisciplinary fields like molecular engineering and cinema and media studies. Pre-professional courses of study, supported by individualized guidance from our Career Advancement advisers, supplement the academic programs. The skills, strengths, and approaches that you develop in the classroom—combined with the comprehensive career support that the University of Chicago provides at every step of your college experience, from the day you step onto campus to the day you receive your diploma and beyond—will leave you prepared to make an impact as soon as you graduate. The powerful combination of a traditional liberal arts college at the heart of a leading research university provides the intellectual foundation; you build from there.
The environment here produces ideas that make an impact. 97 Nobel laureates—10 percent of all recipients since the award was first given in 1901—are associated with the University of Chicago, including eight current faculty members. Our faculty are recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Fields Medal (the highest honor a mathematician can attain), the Pulitzer Prize, and the National Medal of Science. More than 30 current and former faculty have received “Genius Grants” from the MacArthur Foundation. And one former senior lecturer was recently President of the United States. The student-to-faculty ratio is 5 to 1, allowing for the kind of access that changes lives—including yours.
Community starts with sharing a common space and a common spirit. The University of Chicago’s residential House model integrates faculty, staff, upperclass resident assistants, and 50 to 100 students who live together and care for one another. Your House is a home as soon as you set foot on campus. Resident Heads open their doors to you, sharing their family lives (and pets!), while also hosting study breaks, Bad Movie Nights, and hiking excursions to the Indiana Dunes. Community lies beyond your house though, across every corner of our beautiful 217-acre campus. New friends and passions can be found in any one of UChicago’s 450+ registered student organizations. Whatever you’re searching for, it’s here—lively discourse, experimental music, groundbreaking theater, the world’s greatest scavenger hunt, and championship Division III sports teams. Our community stays out late for Midnight Soccer and gets up early for the lakeside midwinter salute to the rising sun. It moves to live music in Hutchinson Courtyard, stars in works by student writers and filmmakers, and thrives far beyond the classroom.
Chicago: Our city, our laboratory, our playground, our muse, and our home. Students come to the University of Chicago expecting a world-class education and discover a world-class city. Our Chicago Studies program makes the city our biggest classroom—from curricula on Chicago film history and faculty researching urban issues, to events with metropolitan leaders and the chance to publish original research. The UChicago Urban Labs use Chicago-based research as a lens to address global challenges. Our city is home to the Chicago blues and Cubs baseball, deep-dish pizza and the Chicago Picasso, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Second City, and 77 neighborhood communities with a cultural—and culinary—diversity unmatched almost anywhere in the world. Our historic Hyde Park neighborhood has been home to residents like Saul Bellow and Muhammad Ali. And, of course there’s Lake Michigan. With swimming, sailing, and sandy beaches, it’s like having a water park bigger than Belgium in your front yard.

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The University of Chicago is just seven miles from the heart of Chicago, easily reached by train, bus, car or a scenic ride along the bike path bordering Lake Michigan.