

# The Difference at Wartburg

An intentional focus on the signature programs of leadership, global and multicultural education, undergraduate research, and campus-community learning adds value to a Wartburg education. The college encourages students to integrate their classroom learning with opportunities to enhance their leadership skills, immerse themselves in global or domestic settings, practice the research process, or engage in community projects.

The six distinctive characteristics of a Wartburg education are:

- A dedication to the liberal arts and a concern for usefulness and careers.
- A rigorous academic program and an emphasis on “living your learning.”
- A commitment to leadership and a tradition of service to others.
- A spirit of inquiry and exploration and a foundation of faith and values.
- A vigorous global outreach and strong Midwestern roots.
- A focus on the future and an appreciation for history and heritage.

## A Learning Community

The academic program at Wartburg College strives to create a learning community that educates the whole person by developing students’ intellectual talents, cultivating their personal convictions, and engaging them in active participation in community. In this learning community, Wartburg students are educated to:

- Appreciate and participate in learning as a lifelong pursuit of knowledge, requiring collaboration with others and occurring both within and outside the confines of one’s chosen vocation.
- Become conversant with the types of questions asked and the methods employed by scholars in various disciplines that represent the spectrum of the humanities and fine arts, social sciences, life and physical sciences.
- Regard considerations of ethics and values as indispensable elements of human inquiry and knowledge and therefore as central objects of study in their own right.
- Respect diversity and accept ambiguity within our society, as each of these is reflected in the cultural, racial, social, intellectual, and spiritual practices and standards of others.
- Understand the vital interplay between the individual and community, where the personal pursuit of happiness occurs in harmony with a quest for the common good and leadership is characterized by taking responsibility for communities and working to improve them.

- Be active participants in their own learning and take advantage of “learning-and-doing” pedagogies to the fullest extent possible, ranging from in-class experiences to cultural immersions to service-learning, field experiences, practicums, and internships.
- Achieve college-level competency in such fundamental academic skills as reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, thinking critically, using the technology of learning, and information literacy.
- Develop a command of the subject matter, skills, and methods of inquiry characteristic of a particular discipline (or group of disciplines) as represented by an approved academic major.

The Wartburg curriculum consists of separate courses of instruction arranged into a cohesive whole to constitute the baccalaureate degree. The three primary components of Wartburg’s liberal arts curriculum are the Wartburg Plan of Essential Education, the major, and carefully selected elective courses.

## The Wartburg Plan

The Wartburg Plan of Essential Education involves required and elective courses in the liberal arts that together constitute approximately one-third of the course work for a bachelor’s degree. These courses include study in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and natural sciences. The Wartburg Plan encourages students to think critically and communicate effectively. Students discover the connections among academic disciplines and how issues and ideas go beyond the boundaries of a single area. This integrated approach is the essence of Wartburg liberal arts education.

## The Academic Major

A second third of the work is devoted to a major field of study. This prescribed group of courses offers depth of knowledge in a specific discipline. Students may choose from more than 50 departmental programs. Some students elect interdepartmental majors, which combine credits from up to three academic departments. Students interested in a specialized field of study may develop an individualized major, integrating courses from several academic departments. It is also possible to declare more than one major. In some majors, students may pursue a specialized concentration.

## The Minor

In addition to a major, students may elect to pursue a minor. The minor involves a concentration of course work in another discipline but requires fewer courses than a major. Minors often enhance students’ academic preparation or provide them with expanded career opportunities. Wartburg offers six interdisciplinary minors: leadership certification, intercultural studies, women’s studies, worship studies, environmental studies, and social entrepreneurship.

## Elective Courses

The final third of the academic program at Wartburg College consists of elective courses. Students choose these courses according to their interests and needs.

## Assessment

As part of Wartburg's continuing efforts to maintain and strengthen the quality of its academic programs, the college is actively involved in the assessment of educational outcomes. This assessment program consists of three primary steps:

1. Clearly stating the objectives or intended outcomes of curricula in general education and each academic major.
2. Gathering evidence of the degree to which programs are helping students achieve these outcomes.
3. Using this evidence to monitor and improve the quality of academic programs.

The focus of educational outcomes assessment is on evaluation and improving the effectiveness of academic programs. Various sections throughout this catalog list goals or objectives for Wartburg's Essential Education program, as well as for the academic majors in each department. From time to time, students may be asked to take part in an assessment activity, such as completing a survey, participating in an interview, or taking a test. These activities may take place within a department or as part of a collegewide effort. Faculty members may ask students to help interpret the evidence gathered in these assessments and to suggest program changes or improvements. Student involvement in these activities is important to the college and will not affect academic standing in any way. Assessment helps Wartburg determine how its academic programs are working and stimulates change for the better.

## Wartburg Readings in Common Program

The Wartburg Readings in Common Program, an initiative of Inquiry Studies 101, fosters a community of learners who inquire into the complex issues of contemporary life and are equipped to offer reflective and meaningful responses. This program introduces first-year students to the critical reading process at the college level while engaging the entire Wartburg community in a deep consideration of essential human issues. IS 101 program faculty and a group of upperclass students select a common reading text. The selection criteria consider each text's literary quality as well as its compelling presentation of a range of rich questions about the human experience that inform both the integrative and interdisciplinary learning objectives of IS 101 and IS 201 as well as studies in the academic disciplines. Finally, each text is evaluated for its potential to evoke stimulating and critical dialogue among faculty, students, staff, alumni, members of the Board of Regents, and other friends of the Wartburg community. The Readings in Common Program more broadly includes faculty panel discussions of the common text, contextual lectures by scholarly experts, representations of the text in other media such as film, art, or music, and an electronic discussion group linked to the Wartburg Web site.

## Wartburg Scholars Program

The Wartburg Scholars Program is dedicated to improving the intellectual life of the campus by providing enriching academic challenges and learning opportunities to highly motivated and academically talented students who want to optimize their college experience. Students who participate in the program develop their own supplemental activities that highlight their interests.

Wartburg Scholars participate in two seminars that offer academic credit:

- **First-Year Seminar** focuses on the inquisitive and interdisciplinary nature of the liberal arts.
- **Scholars Seminar:** Thesis Preparation allows students to begin thesis research.

The program also supports co-curricular activities, including:

- **Second-Year Symposia**, designed and organized by Wartburg Scholars to encourage discussion and dialogue following attendance at campus events, such as lectures, plays, faculty presentations, films, and concerts.
- **Wartburg Scholars Flash Courses**, featuring Wartburg faculty discussing current events and research in their discipline.
- **Special recognition** for students who participate in the program and meet specified guidelines.

Applicants to the Wartburg Scholars program must rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class or have a composite ACT score of 26 or higher or be nominated for the program by individuals familiar with their intellectual promise. Upperclass and transfer students who have earned a college grade point average of 3.5 or higher or who are nominated for the program also may apply. The application process requires an essay and an interview.

## Leadership Education

Wartburg defines leadership as "taking responsibility for our communities and making them better through public action." The college prepares students to assume leadership in addressing community issues while they are enrolled and after they graduate.

The normative assumption underlying this definition is the belief that leadership education, properly conceived and executed, connects students to a defined community for purposes of achieving a common goal, and that this can contribute to their civic, social, and personal development, as well as to their cognitive development. All of these attributes are essential to a liberal arts education and vital to the private interests of the lifelong learner of the 21st century and to the public contribution she/he can make to the sustenance of a democratic society.

The Wartburg Institute for Leadership Education provides formal and informal opportunities for students to discover their own leadership potential, examine issues facing their communities, and learn about the obligations of citizens to contribute to community welfare and growth.

The Institute helps students meet these goals through components coordinated by a committee of faculty, administrators, and students:

- Leadership workshops and retreats help students identify personal strengths and encourage ongoing improvement.
- Mentoring gives students opportunities to serve as mentors to young people and to be the recipients of mentoring relationships with leading citizens who have taken responsibility for their communities.
- Academic course work encourages students to employ the skills of critical inquiry as they study theories of leadership and test those theories through the execution of action plans identified by students to meet community needs.
- Outreach activities encourage students to serve communities in Waverly, Northeast Iowa, and around the world.

Recognition of a student's commitment to leadership education occurs through the Leadership Certificate Program (LCP). The LCP provides formal opportunities and acknowledges effective efforts by Wartburg students to demonstrate and reflect critically upon the meaning of leadership in their lives as demonstrated through the completion of a personal portfolio. Students who complete the program requirements receive acknowledgement of this accomplishment on their college transcript.

## Global and Multicultural Studies

The programs offered by Global and Multicultural Studies invite students to engage more fully with our increasingly interdependent world. GMCS works in partnership with academic departments and advisors, helping students achieve the intercultural competence necessary to succeed in and contribute to our global community.

### *Minor in Intercultural Studies*

Students can earn a minor in Intercultural Studies, an interdisciplinary program emphasizing awareness of cultures (one's own as well as others) and the communication skills necessary to be effective in a global society. Requires course work, language proficiency, and designated cultural immersion experiences (see description elsewhere in catalog).

### *Study Abroad*

Students can study abroad for a semester (in some cases an academic year) with an approved program. Opportunities are available in many countries where students can be immersed in a language or study in English. Internships are available in many locations around the world. Through Wartburg's unique Diers Programs, students have the opportunity to work in community-based grassroots programs in Tanzania, Ghana, Australia, or China.

Modern Languages majors are required to study abroad for a May Term, then for a semester or year.

Application for Study Abroad is competitive. Deadline for application for the following academic year is Feb. 1. Information at <http://www.wartburg.edu/gmcs/index.html>.

### *May Term Courses*

Wartburg's four-week May Term is an ideal time for off-campus study. Faculty members lead students on a variety of courses, including language study in France, Germany, or Mexico; a study of Reformation sites in Europe; a class on the Maasai people in

Tanzania; a course on the merging of ancient and modern elements in Japan; a class on rainforest ecology and cultures in Guyana; and many others listed in the catalog. All students who wish to enroll in a May Term course must submit an application and faculty recommendation. Application materials and additional May Term information are available at <http://www.wartburg.edu/gmcs/mayterm.html>.

### *Concert Tours Abroad*

The Wartburg Choir, Castle Singers, and Wind Ensemble schedule May Term concert tours abroad every three years. Students perform and earn academic credit by taking GM 223 Tour with the Arts.

## Living Your Learning

### *Undergraduate Research*

Undergraduate research encourages students and faculty to work together to pose and answer meaningful questions, to explore creative and artistic interests, to contribute to new knowledge, and to add to the intellectual climate on campus. Students will further develop skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and communication through research projects in a variety of academic disciplines. Students are also encouraged to apply for grants to support research and present their findings at regional and national meetings. The Undergraduate Research Program is coordinated through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

### *Center for Community Engagement*

One of Wartburg's strengths is providing opportunities for students to "live their learning." Community-based experiences are incorporated into many classes, especially those offered during May Term. Through internships, field experiences, student teaching, and service-learning, students connect their academic studies to practical situations, develop new skills, and discover how they can make an impact on the world as professionals and citizens. Wartburg is committed to mutually beneficial community partnerships that assist students in exploring and living, through community interaction, lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

### **SERVICE-LEARNING**

The Center for Community Engagement works with faculty and staff to help students understand the complexity of social problems. Drawing upon multiple disciplines, service-learning projects foster listening, understanding, and action. Service-learning and other forms of community service help students develop habits and skills necessary for democratic citizenship and provide an opportunity to reflect on faith, cultures, social structures, and the meaning of justice. Service opportunities are embedded in courses, including May Term travel courses, and offered through service days, service-oriented student organizations, and service trips.

Wartburg's service-learning programs have been nationally recognized. In 2006 and 2007, Wartburg was included on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. In 2007, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching included Wartburg in its Curricular Engagement and Outreach classification, and Wartburg has been

recognized by Break-Away, a national consortium of colleges and universities, as third in the nation for the percentage of student participating in alternative break service trips.

### **INTERNSHIPS**

Internships help students develop independence and leadership, link theory and practice, and offer opportunities for vocational exploration and discovery. While internships are valuable and often necessary preparation for entry into graduate school or the work force, academic internships at Wartburg also provide an opportunity to connect learning to life and to explore and understand the ways work can matter in the world.

Internships may constitute all or part of a student's course work for a term or a summer. Up to four internship course credits may be applied toward graduation, but no more than two credits may be taken at a single site. Each internship credit requires a minimum of 140 hours at the internship site. Some academic majors require internships; others offer them as electives. Interns must be classified as at least third-year students with a 2.0 cumulative grade point average overall and in their major. Departments may specify additional prerequisites.

Field experiences help students explore their intended career path. Education majors complete a field experience in an elementary or secondary classroom to help them assess their interests and abilities in teaching. Social work majors observe a variety of social service agencies to help them learn more about opportunities in the field. Students interested in medicine or physical therapy may spend time in a hospital or clinic. Science majors may get hands-on experience in a research laboratory.

### ***Wartburg West***

Wartburg West is an urban-experience program in Denver, Colo. The one-term program involves an internship and academic course work that includes service-learning. Students take courses that fulfill Interdisciplinary and Faith and Reflection requirements of the Wartburg Plan of Essential Education. Internships are arranged in many fields, including business administration, church vocations, communication arts, the fine arts, finance, social work, and the health professions. Education majors may do their student teaching as part of the Wartburg West program. Social work majors may complete their senior supervised field experience as part of the program. May Term/Summer internships are also available for students completing their third year. May Term opportunities are available for social work students doing beginning field experiences.

Wartburg West is open to third- and fourth-year students who have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 overall and in their major. Students must apply and be accepted into the program.

### ***Washington Center***

The Washington Center Program offers internships and seminars in Washington, D.C. during the summer. This academic internship program challenges students' intellectual curiosity and provides them with work experience. The Washington Center Program is open to third- and fourth-year students with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 overall and in their major.

## **Faith and Values**

At Wartburg, students are encouraged "to discover and claim their callings." A calling, in its deepest sense, refers to an ultimate purpose in life and to the values that will guide one's life in the future. Through courses, mentoring relationships, and co-curricular activities, Wartburg students have the opportunity for critical reflection on their faith and values as well as the faith and values of others.

The task of learning can never be separated from how knowledge will be used, whom it will serve, and whether good or evil will result. While critical reflection on faith and values is welcome in all courses, specific courses within the curriculum have been designated as having a special emphasis on this integration. These include: IS 101 Asking Questions, Making Choices; IS 201 Living in a Diverse World; Faith and Reflection courses in the Wartburg Plan of Essential Education; and the capstone course in all academic majors. Through an annual convocation series, the college hosts thought-provoking speakers on topics of contemporary social interest. Within the co-curricular program, an active Campus Ministry program, the Volunteer Action Center, Students for Peace and Justice, a Habitat for Humanity chapter, and an Amnesty International chapter provide opportunities for critical reflection and action.

By heritage and mission, Wartburg is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Because of this identity and the recognition of God's image within every human being, students of all faiths and philosophies are welcomed and invited to participate in a process of critical reflection on their most foundational commitments.