

An Introduction

Mission Statement

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Wartburg College helps students discover and claim their callings—connecting their learning with faith and values, their understanding of themselves and their gifts, their perspective on life and the future, and the opportunities for participating in church, community, and the larger society in purposeful and meaningful ways.

A Proud Heritage

Wartburg College is a four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Its roots trace back to 1852, when Pastor Wilhelm Löhle of Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, sent Georg Grossmann and five students to found a teachers seminary in Saginaw, Mich. The college moved several times before establishing a permanent home in Waverly, Iowa, in 1935.

The college is named after the Wartburg Castle, a landmark founded in 1067 on a wooded hilltop overlooking Eisenach, Germany. During the stormy days of the Reformation, the castle served as a refuge for Martin Luther. Under ban by the emperor, Luther spent 10 months in hiding at *Die Wartburg*. There, he completed a translation of the New Testament into the language of the common people. His work is credited with helping to unify the country by providing a standard for written German.

Location

Wartburg's location in Waverly, Iowa, offers the safety and convenience of a small town, enhanced by the advantages of a nearby metropolitan area. Waverly, a community of nearly 10,000, is recognized statewide for its progressive businesses and industries. The college and community are mutually supportive, and Waverly's sister-city relationship with Eisenach, Germany, home of the Wartburg Castle, benefits all who are involved. The Cedar River, which flows through the center of town, provides a scenic and recreational focus for community life. The Waterloo-Cedar Falls metropolitan area, with a combined population of more than 125,000, is a 20-minute drive from Waverly. It offers an airport, two large shopping malls, and many entertainment and recreational options.

Waverly is easily accessible from Interstate Highways 35 and 380. Located at the intersection of Highways 218 and 3, it is two-and-a-half hours northeast of Des Moines, Iowa; three-and-a-half hours south of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.; and six hours west of Chicago, Ill.

Profile

Wartburg enrolls approximately 1,800 students from throughout the United States and more than 40 other countries. More than a third of first-year students rank in the upper 10 percent of their high school class. The academic environment is characterized by small classes and strong personal support. Approximately 41 percent of students reporting a religious affiliation are Lutheran, nearly 24 percent are Catholic, and 12 percent are Methodist. Many other Christian denominations are represented on campus, as well as Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism.

Wartburg is one of 200 U.S. colleges and universities featured in *Peterson's Top Colleges for Science*. *U.S. News & World Report* includes Wartburg as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation in its 2008 edition of *America's Best Colleges*. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching identifies Wartburg College as a selective liberal arts college of the ELCA, nationally recognized for community engagement. The 2008 *Princeton Review* ranks Wartburg among the 161 best colleges in the Midwestern Region. *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* includes Wartburg on its list of top colleges for top students.

The Wartburg social work program is the oldest undergraduate social work program in Iowa. Wartburg is the only Iowa private college that offers a major in music therapy.

Wartburg students have a high rate of acceptance into professional schools and graduate programs throughout the country. During the past five years, more than 95 percent of students have found jobs or been accepted into graduate or professional school within seven months of graduation.

Accreditation

Wartburg is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Individual programs are accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Council of Social Work Education. Wartburg is also an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The Music Therapy majors are recognized by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

Degrees

Wartburg College confers five bachelor's degrees to candidates recommended by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents:

- **Bachelor of Arts**—liberal arts studies with a concentration of courses in a major.
- **Bachelor of Music**—liberal arts studies with an extended concentration in musical performance or music therapy.

- **Bachelor of Music Education**—liberal arts studies with a concentration in teaching music or a major in music therapy.
- **Bachelor of Applied Arts or Bachelor of Applied Science**—liberal arts studies in addition to either an Associate of Applied Arts or an Associate of Applied Science degree earned from an accredited institution. Graduates with a B.A.A. or B.A.S. degree have a more technical background. Their associate degree substitutes for the major.

Calendar

Wartburg College operates on a 4-4-1 calendar. Fall Term courses begin in September and conclude before Christmas. Winter Term courses start in January and finish in mid-April.

A four-week May Term completes the year. Students typically take four courses during Fall and Winter Terms and one class during May Term. Many students spend at least one May Term traveling in the United States or abroad with a class or a music ensemble. The one-month term also provides many opportunities for field experiences and internships. On-campus May Term courses often involve short trips, special projects, and outdoor activities.

Statement on Diversity

The Wartburg College community is committed to creating and maintaining a mutually respectful environment that recognizes and celebrates diversity among all students, faculty, and staff. Wartburg values human differences as an asset, works to sustain a culture that reflects the interests, contributions, and perspectives of members of diverse groups, and delivers educational programming to meet the needs of diverse audiences. The college seeks to instill values, understanding, and skills to encourage leadership and service in a global and multicultural society.