

**If You
Apply
To** 

Alabama: Rolling admissions. (Priority deadline: Feb. 1.) Application fee: \$40. Campus and alumni interviews: optional, informational. SATs or ACTs (with writing): required. Subject Tests: optional. Accepts the Common Application. No essay question.

Albion College

Albion, MI 49224

Nestled between evangelical Hope and Calvin and out-there Kalamazoo, Albion is Michigan's middle-of-the-road liberal arts college. Think Gerald Ford, the moderate Republican president who is the namesake of Albion's signature Institute for Public Service. Future doctors, lawyers, and businesspeople are well served.

Albion is a small, private college in Michigan that emphasizes the importance of combining learning with hands-on experience. Albion helps students achieve their goals "through classes, internships, projects, and a strong alumni network," says a senior. And when the work is through, students here enjoy a close-knit social life. "Albion is where I have built lifetime friendships," says a student.

Founded in 1835 by the Methodist Church, Albion is located near the banks of the Kalamazoo River. In addition to its newer Georgian-style architecture, the college has retained and restored several of its 19th-century buildings. The campus is spacious, with statuesque oaks and a beautiful nature center. Robinson Hall, the campus centerpiece, houses myriad departments, including the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service, the Gerstacker Institute for Business and Management, and the Anna Howard Shaw Women's Center. The college is also home to the largest collegiate indoor riding arena in the United States.

Albion has a rich academic history and was the first private college in Michigan to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter (1940). The school has also produced three Rhodes scholars. On their journey to such success, students are required to take core courses distributed among humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, fine arts, and math. They must also satisfy requirements in environmental science and gender and ethnicity studies. Freshmen must take first-year seminars designed to provide a "stimulating learning environment" in a small-class setting, while seniors participate in a capstone experience.

One of Albion's most distinguishing features is the emphasis placed on citizenship and service. The Ford Institute takes a unique approach for future civic leaders. Students participate in a simulation of city government in which they play the roles of community leaders. Visiting speakers include senators and congressmen, governors and state legislators, and interest group representatives. The premed and prelaw programs draw dedicated undergrads, and the English and economics departments are well respected. Another option is the Summer Research Program, which allows students to remain on campus during the summer to work with faculty members on different projects. Newer programs include majors in accounting, finance, environmental science, and sustainability studies.

The academic climate at Albion is described as competitive but not cutthroat. One student says, "Albion has a challenging yet inviting academic climate." Top-notch academic and career counseling and low student/faculty ratios keep students on track and motivated. Class size varies, but 70 percent of classes have fewer than

Website: www.albion.edu

Location: Small Town

Private

Total Enrollment: 1,268

Undergraduates: 1,268

Male/Female: 51/49

SAT Ranges: CR 520–580,

M 510–590

ACT Ranges: 22–28

Financial Aid: 98%

Expense: Pr \$

Student Loans: 67%

Average Debt: \$ \$ \$ \$

Phi Beta Kappa: Yes

Applicants: 4,430

Accepted: 56%

Enrolled: 14%

Grad in 6 Years: 72%

Returning Freshmen: 81%

Academics:   

Social:  

Q of L: ★ ★ ★

Admissions: (800) 858-6770

Email Address: admission@albion.edu

Strong Programs:

Anthropology

Geological Sciences

International Studies

Education

Music

20 students. Professors are interested in students' academic performance and their emotional well-being. "With very few exceptions, I have had professors who have challenged and encouraged me," says a junior. Teaching assistants are used for tutoring, not teaching. Albion's libraries feature computer facilities for individual and team projects, an interlibrary loan service, and a helpful staff.

Albion continues to attract an ambitious, involved group of students. "The typical Albion student doesn't spend the evening playing video games in his room," explains a junior, "but trying to prioritize between a student senate meeting, soccer practice, or marching band practice." Michigan residents make up 89 percent of the student population. Two percent are Asian American, 3 percent African American, and 3 percent Hispanic. Up to now, there has been little deviation from the white, upper-middle-class norm. In an effort to change this, a host-family program matches minority students with families from within the community. Additionally, 30 percent of accepted freshmen are now Pell-eligible. There are a number of merit scholarships available, averaging \$16,637, but no athletic scholarships.

Eighty-nine percent of Albion students call the residence halls home. "Housing is good," says a political science major, "especially options for upperclassmen." The majority of the freshman class inhabits Wesley Hall. During their sophomore year, many students move to the suite-style rooms in Whitehouse Hall or Mitchell Towers; seniors enjoy apartment-style housing called The Mae. Dorms are co-ed by hall or floor, and the information each student provides in their housing request form is used to assign rooms and roommates. Other housing options include apartment annexes and fraternity houses. Sororities do not have houses; they hold their meetings in lodges. Campus residents enjoy many made-to-order menu items at the centrally located dining hall. "The dining hall offers a wide variety of options on a daily basis," one junior reports.

Fifty-three percent of Albion men and 42 percent of women belong to one of the school's six national fraternities and seven sororities. Greek parties draw large crowds, composed of Greeks and non-Greeks, making them a primary part of many students' social lives. "Social life on campus is always active," says one student. A well-run union board organizes all sorts of activities—films, lectures, plays, comics, and concerts—to keep students occupied in their spare time. Several students report that the town movie theater shows "free movies if you show a valid student ID!" Those who insist on imbibing can do it at Cascarelli's, a popular bar in town. Road trips are a big part of weekends for many students; Ann Arbor and East Lansing are frequent destinations.

The college's geographic namesake has been a victim of the economic downturn and rates poorly as a college town, according to students. "The city of Albion is going through a rough period," says a sophomore. Students focus some of their energy by working for groups supported by the Student Volunteer Bureau; in fact, half of the students volunteer on a regular basis. They are very involved in the community, including "city clean-up day, Habitat for Humanity, and volunteering at nursing homes and schools." Some traditional events that offer a nice break from academics are the Briton Bash, a fair that familiarizes students with clubs and organizations, and the Day of Woden, which is a picnic held in the spring on the last day of class.

The varsity football team competes in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and has won 35 conference championships—the most in MIAA history. Other recent conference champs include women's tennis and women's soccer. Hope

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Overlaps

University of Michigan, Michigan State, Kalamazoo, Hope, Grand Valley State, Alma, Central Michigan, Western Michigan

College is a bitter rival, as is Alma College. Recreational and intramural sports attract 38 percent of students and include soccer, flag football, basketball, and canoeing.

At Albion, professors are accessible and interested, and academics are challenging without being overwhelming. Students cite the appeal of a “small campus with friendly students, caring faculty, and kind staff members.”

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To** ➤

Albion: Rolling admissions. Early action: Nov. 1. Financial aid: Feb. 15. Application fee: \$40 (paper), free (online). Campus interviews: optional, evaluative. Alumni interviews: optional, informational. SATs or ACTs: required. Subject Tests: optional. Accepts the Common Application with Albion supplement. Essay question.

Alfred University

Alumni Hall, Saxon Drive, Alfred, NY 14802-1205

**BEST
BUY**

Talk about an unusual combination: Alfred combines a nationally renowned college of ceramics, a school of art and design, an engineering program, and a business school wrapped up in a university of just over 2,000 students. The Finger Lakes is a region full of natural beauty, but it takes elbow grease to pry coastal types to the hinterlands of western New York.

With 2,000 students, Alfred University isn't a bustling academic factory; it's a quiet, cloistered, self-described “educational village” in a tiny town wholly dedicated to the “industry of learning.” The university boasts highly respected programs in art and design, as well as ceramic engineering. Innovation not only shapes the curriculum, but also has a profound effect on campus life. Small classes and friendly competition support this diversity while encouraging individuals to succeed. Along with being able to handle the academic rigors of the college, students also have to weather brutal winters that dump snow by the foot on the region.

Alfred's campus consists of a charming, close-knit group of modern and Georgian brick buildings, along with a stone castle. The Kanakadea Creek runs right through campus, and the town of Alfred consists of two colleges (the other is the Alfred State College) and a main street with one stoplight. There are a few shops and restaurants, but certainly no malls, parking lots, or tall buildings. The Alfred University Health and Wellness Center opened in 2014. The center offers three basketball courts, suspended indoor track, locker rooms, a multipurpose room, strength and conditioning/circuit training equipment, and sprinting/jumping lanes for the varsity indoor track program.

The university and its students share a no-nonsense approach to education. Although prospective students apply directly to one of four colleges and declare a tentative major, half of all requirements for a bachelor's degree are earned in the liberal arts college. Requirements are quite different in each school. However, the mix usually includes coursework in oral and written communication, foreign language and culture, social sciences, history, literature, philosophy, and religion.

Alfred, though private, is actually the “host” school for the New York State College of Ceramics, which is a unit of the state university system and comes with a public university price tag. Ceramic engineering (the development and refinement of ceramic materials) is the academic cornerstone and the program that brings Alfred international recognition. All engineering programs are found within the School of Engineering, and

Website: www.alfred.edu

Location: Rural

Private

Total Enrollment: 2,079

Undergraduates: 1,909

Male/Female: 49/51

SAT Ranges: CR 490–590,
M 510–610

ACT Ranges: 22–27

Financial Aid: 97%

Expense: Pr \$

Student Loans: 82%

Average Debt: \$ \$ \$ \$

Phi Beta Kappa: Yes

Applicants: 3,417

Accepted: 70%

Enrolled: 22%

Grad in 6 Years: 62%

Returning Freshmen: 75%

Academics: 📖 📖 📖

Social: 📞 📞 📞

Q of L: ★ ★ ★

Admissions: (800) 541-9229

Email Address: admissions@
alfred.edu

Strong Programs:

Engineering