Fourteen diverse and distinctive colleges committed to the liberal arts and sciences comprise the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). More than 23,000 students study at the ACM colleges, located in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. They are guided by faculty and staff dedicated to the residential, liberal arts experience as an ideal preparation for living, working, and contributing to society. Through the consortium, the member colleges of the ACM pool their resources to foster educational excellence and expand the opportunities available to their students, faculty, and staff.

Among the most valuable services provided by the ACM is the opportunity for faculty members to interact with colleagues from other small liberal arts colleges who share their priorities and challenges.

— Brian Rosenberg, President, Macalester College

While each college has its own mission and set of traditions, they have chosen to work together through the ACM. As a consortium, the ACM aims to strengthen its member colleges as leaders in liberal arts education through significant, innovative, and collaborative collaborations.

Promote excellence in teaching and learning through collaborative research and events for faculty and staff. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Eagle Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and other key partners help to fund these efforts.

Foster professional effectiveness and peer networking of faculty and administrative leaders through meetings of ACM presidents, deans, faculty business officers, athletic directors, admission and financial aid staff, and many others. This cross-campus sharing of information and best practices contributes to institutional excellence.

Highlight student achievement through activities such as the NAC Adams Short Story Contest, national and international athletic tournaments, the ACM Student Photo Contest, and the ACM Student Symposium on Off-Campus Study.

Provide exemplary experimental and academic learning through off-campus study programs. These programs, shaped by the curricula of the colleges, give students access to a world of opportunities in the U.S. and abroad. See the middle pages of this brochure to learn more.

More Inside About ACM Off-Campus Study Programs

Sixth屠 is more important to the future of liberal education than making demonstrable improvements in student engagement and learning. Sharing ideas, information, and aspiration is the key to success. This requires building of trust and expertise—precisely the things at which the ACM has excelled.

— W. Robert Connor, President Emeritus, The Eagle Foundation

A TRADITION OF WORKING TOGETHER

Ties among the ACM colleges reach back to 1920 in the Midwest Collegiate Athletic Conference. Since the founding of the consortium in 1958, the ACM member colleges have benefited from more than 50 years of academic collaboration.

WHO WE ARE

Fourteen diverse and distinctive colleges comprise the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). More than 23,000 students study at the ACM colleges, located in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. They are guided by faculty and staff dedicated to the residential, liberal arts experience as an ideal preparation for living, working, and contributing to society. Through the consortium, the member colleges of the ACM pool their resources to foster educational excellence and expand the opportunities available to their students, faculty, and staff.
Aademically focused

ACM programs engage students in active learning -with interdisciplinary, small classes, personalized attention, field-based discussion, and international research. Courses take advantage of their location, drawing upon local expertise and diverse resources for experiential learning. Visiting faculty from local and international locations bring unique perspectives to the classroom. The academic year is foundational in the liberal arts and sciences curriculum of the ACM colleges; these programs offer students rewarding and enriching academic experiences.

Centered on students

ACM programs are responsive to student goals. Faculty advisors from the member colleges guide each program, assuring a strong connection between student learning on and off their home campus. Students can study abroad and earn credits through their home campus. Programs are designed to fit semester, quarter/trimester, and block calendars. Financial aid typically applies, and a free program application is available online, making access to programs easy for all students. Through the programs, students have a network of advising and support that extends from their campus to their program site.

Meaningful

Engaging students with local and global communities, fostering learning experiences with impact. Home stay experiences with local students and involvement with area organizations encourage personal growth through cultural immersion. Field trips and experiential learning offer opportunities for in-depth exploration of the program site and its surroundings. Applied study in ACM programs prepares students for future careers and a lifetime of learning.

“ACM programs offer courses that build on students’ prior educational experiences and provide hands-on opportunities to learn. These programs are in the best liberal arts tradition of marrying classroom learning with engagement in real-world questions.”

— Elizabeth Brewer, Director of International Education, Earlham College

EXPAND YOUR WORLD. STUDY OFF-CAMPUS WITH ACM.