

Frequently Asked Questions when Talking with Prospective Students

What are your most popular academic programs?

As a small liberal arts and sciences university our most popular majors are economics, English, history, foreign languages, political science, psychology, and international and global studies. Our fastest growing major is environmental studies, which provides students with an opportunity to pursue five different paths of study including: policy, eco-bio, arts and humanities, environmental chemistry, and natural resources.

Do you offer any pre-professional programs?

We offer five categories of pre-professional programs: business, education, engineering, law, and medical and health professions including (dentistry, medicine, veterinary medicine, and nursing). Students interested in a pre-professional program will meet with an advisor soon after matriculation to plan appropriate courses of study and offer advice about graduate school admission.

Can you describe the Sewanee classroom experience?

Sewanee offers a unique classroom environment where students have an opportunity to work one-on-one with professors. Our average class size is 15 students and our student to professor ratio is 10 to 1. This environment facilitates the development of student's critical thinking, communication, and writing skills. This environment is further encouraged by our seminar style classroom format as opposed to the more traditional lecture hall venue.

What types of community engaged learning (CEL) and service opportunities do you offer at Sewanee?

Student commitment to social responsibility has always been a large part of the university's history and tradition and it is our hope to continue that responsibility. At Sewanee we understand that there are ways to learn that have nothing to do with sitting at a desk. We encourage our students to leave the classroom and get involved directly in the community, both locally and globally. Getting involved in community engaged learning means putting the liberal arts into practice and teaching students that they are part of a much larger world. Sewanee's Outreach Ministries offers venues for community engagement to encourage students to use their passions and talents to serve others in domestic, national, and international locations where students are provided opportunities to engage in outreach.

Do you have a study abroad program?

Yes, more than half of our student body studies abroad at some point during their time at Sewanee. Programs are available for a summer, semester or entire school year (our summer and semester programs are our most popular). Sewanee has established relationships with a number of universities and programs around the world. Students are also encouraged to take the initiative to create their own study abroad program or participate in approved programs at other accredited universities. Our most popular study abroad opportunities include: European

Studies, British Studies, and summer programs offered through the academic departments at Sewanee.

Does Sewanee offer summer programs for high school students?

Yes. There is nothing like summer in Sewanee. Students of all ages come to the Mountain to relax, explore our 13,000 acres of trails, lakes, and forests, and take advantage of the many opportunities offered from late May to early August.

Examples of summer programs include:

—The Sewanee Environmental Institute (SEI) is available for rising high school juniors and seniors who are passionate about the outdoors and want to advance their knowledge and skills in the study of the environment.

—The Sewanee Young Writers' Conference, offers serious young writers from all over the U.S. opportunities to polish their craft with the help of instructors, who are writers of significant accomplishment, within small workshops devoted to fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and playwriting.

—The Sewanee Summer Music Festival is an internationally acclaimed festival, which combines a four-week program for advanced music students and a professional concert series.

What traditions make Sewanee special?

Order of the Gownsmen

Since the 1870s, faculty members and students have been sporting the academic gown around campus to signify their membership in the Order of the Gownsmen. Students can first be inducted into the OG after their freshman year if they have achieved a set grade point average. Belonging to the OG offers students many perks such as priority room draw and class registration just to name a few.

Passing Hello

"The Passing Hello" traces its history back to General Josiah Gorgas, the second Vice-Chancellor of the University, who apparently saluted every student he met and lifted his hat in greeting ladies. Now Sewanee students, faculty members, and residents tend to greet one another on the street even if they are complete strangers! You would be hard pressed to make it from your dorm to the dining hall without exchanging at least a few passing hellos.

The Dress Tradition

You can't be on campus longer than a few minutes before you notice that Sewanee students are dressed up for class, which is atypical for most American colleges or universities. At Sewanee, students elect to participate in the class dress tradition in order to show respect for their professors and the education they are receiving. Class dress symbolizes that during your four years at Sewanee, academics are your

top priority. After all, you wouldn't go to work in your pajamas now would you? Class dress varies with the seasons but typically men can be seen wearing khakis, a collared shirt or coat and tie; female students typically wear slacks or a skirt and a nice top or a dress.

The Honor Code

Upon your matriculation as a student at Sewanee, you will be charged with signing and upholding the honor code. Sewanee's honor code has been in existence since the 1870s and has always been maintained and administered by the student body. One especially unique aspect of the Sewanee honor code is that it applies to all aspects of student life on campus, not just academics. In signing the honor code, you are pledging on your honor not to lie, cheat or steal or more simply put, to live honorably as a part of the Sewanee community.

The Sewanee Angel

In a folk story it is said that the Domain of the University of the South is a place so beautiful that angels dwell within its the gates. These angels protect all inhabitants and visitors on the Domain. Sewanee angels are more than happy to become your guardian angel and protect you off the Domain as well. In order to pick up your angel you must tap the roof of your car as you drive through the gates when departing campus. Upon your return, you tap the roof of your car to release your angel.

The Seal

As an undergraduate, it is considered bad luck to step on the seal of the University of the South, which is located inconveniently in the main entryway of All Saints' Chapel. It is said that students who step on the seal will not graduate within four years. To this end, students will go out of their way to avoid the seal even while processing in to the chapel for commencement. There is, of course, a way to break the curse but you will have to come to Sewanee to find out that secret!

What is religious life like at Sewanee?

Spirituality, faith, religion, and community are vibrant aspects of the Domain. All Saints' Chapel, located at the center of the campus, offers students a variety of programs for exploring religious faith and serving others. The chapel also serves as our formal gathering space for Convocations, Commencement and other celebrations. Being centrally located is not coincidental. It is an expression of Sewanee's identity as an Episcopal university. About 22% of students are Episcopalian and there are many other opportunities for spiritual growth and worship both on and off the Domain.

What is the Sewanee Outing Program (SOP)?

The Sewanee Outing Program (SOP) offers students, faculty, and staff at the University of the South the chance to explore the splendid outdoor environment of Sewanee's Domain, the Tennessee region and wilderness areas across the U.S.

Whether it is climbing, caving, canoeing, kayaking, cycling, hiking, or backpacking, we loan equipment and offer students the chance to develop as outdoor trip leaders.

Where do I live in Sewanee?

Because more than 95 percent of undergraduates live on campus, residential facilities have been consistently filled near capacity for the past few years. Housing options for undergraduate students currently include 10 coed dorms, three all-male dorms, four all-female dorms, the women's center, four language houses, and two special halls for student emergency personnel (student EMTs and firefighters), a variety of themed housing, and sorority/fraternity houses. The dorms range from traditional doubles and singles to an assortment of suite setups.

How do I decide where I will live?

Freshmen are assigned to dorms according to their academic interests and participation in our Living Learning Communities. These theme-based residence groups provide an opportunity to introduce all first year students to broad intellectual themes in a way that enhances their academic experience. Once enrolled you can respond to our roommate questionnaire.

When do I find out where I will live?

Roommate and housing assignments are made individually by hand to match you with the best roommate and dormitory possible. Because of the time-intensive nature of this process, you will receive your housing and roommate assignments in late July.

Can I bring a car to Sewanee?

Yes. All students are allowed to bring cars to campus, although all students walk or ride their bikes to class. Many cars will stay parked on campus for weeks on end!

When do I apply to Sewanee?

There are four different deadlines for Admission to Sewanee.

- Early Decision I (binding): Nov. 15
- Early Action (non binding): Dec. 1
- Early Decision II (binding): Jan. 15
- Regular Decision (non binding): Feb. 1

What types of scholarships and financial aid are offered at Sewanee?

For information regarding financial aid and scholarships, please call the Financial Aid Office by dialing 931-598-1312 or contact your admission counselor.