Overnights at Oberlin: Frequently Asked Questions

Should I sign up for an overnight stay?
Many prospective students (or “prospies”) choose to stay overnight in a residence hall when they visit campus during an Admissions program; however, an overnight stay is not required. Prospies may stay with a current student they know, or be matched up with an Admissions student host. Staying overnight in a residence hall is one of several ways that prospies can experience Oberlin’s social life. In lieu of an overnight stay, many prospies choose to visit ExCos, student organization meetings, the dining hall, or evening performances.

How am I matched up for my overnight visit?
We’ll do our best to match you up with a student host who has similar academic and/or extracurricular interests as you. You will receive an email confirmation several days ahead of time stating your host’s meeting time and location, and upon arrival, you’ll receive a visitor card which will serve as your temporary ID on campus. This card provides a limited number of dining hall meals during and gives you access to the dorms, but please note: the card does not provide access to individual dorm rooms, so advance planning with your host is strongly recommended.

What is there to do on campus?
There are a variety of events happening on campus every day, from speakers to student meetings to theater and dance to sports to music. Virtually all events are open to prospective students, as is the Allen Memorial Art Museum. The Events Calendar (https://calendar.oberlin.edu/) is a great place to start; so are the posters on bulletin boards throughout campus. Your host may also be able to connect you with events that you’re interested in attending. Feel free to also check out the coffee shops, stores, or restaurants in downtown Oberlin.

Should I plan to shadow my host?
It is not necessary for you to shadow your host at all times during your overnight stay. If there’s something you want to see or do during the day or evening, tell your host and make arrangements to meet later -- and don’t forget to exchange contact information!

Can I attend a class?
Yes. Visiting classes can give you a great sense of academic life, whether you choose to attend one with your host student or on your own! Your host can help you find classes you’re interested in. Look for 100 or 200 level courses -- higher level courses are usually small seminars and are often not open for prospective students to visit. Review the class visit guidelines prior to your visit so that you are prepared when you arrive. Class visit guidelines: (http://new.oberlin.edu/arts-and-sciences/admissions/campus-visits/class-visits.dot)

How safe is campus?
Oberlin’s campus is very safe, though it’s always recommended to take basic precautions.
The Office of Safety and Security (http://new.oberlin.edu/office/safety-and-security/) is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the S&S phone number will be on your visitor card if you need assistance. Student Overnight Host Coordinators will be also be on duty overnight to help with minor issues (e.g. losing a meal card, misplaced toiletries, etc.) In the case of a medical emergency, S&S will contact Mercy Allen Hospital, located a block from campus, and will notify Admissions staff for further assistance. (http://mercyonline.org/mercy_allen_hospital.aspx)

**What should I pack for my overnight?**
A sleeping bag and pillow are musts, since you should plan to sleep on the floor of your host’s dorm room, as are toiletries and a towel/shower shoes. Pack whatever clothes you feel are appropriate -- plan to dress for comfort and weather. Check the weather before you pack, so you'll know if you need a coat or an umbrella. When in doubt about clothing, layers are a good option!

**What do I do with my luggage during the day?**
If it's a weekday, luggage can be stored in the Admissions Office, open from 8:30am-5:00pm. Storage in Admissions during the day is preferable to your host's dorm room, as you will need to coordinate advance arrangements for pickup with your host.

**When does the overnight end?**
Overnight stays end at 9:00am the following morning. The Admissions Office will be open when your visit ends so that you may check out, return your visitor card, and store luggage if necessary. If you are staying on campus the night before a visit program, be sure to give yourself enough time to get ready in the morning, have breakfast, and arrive at registration at the appropriate time.