Luther College Campus Map and Guide

Luther College’s beautiful 1,000-acre campus features a landscape planned nearly 100 years ago by noted Prairie School designer Jens Jensen. The Upper Iowa River runs through a portion of campus and wooded bluffs surround it. Most of Luther’s buildings and athletic fields are situated on 200 acres, divided between an upper and lower campus.

The tour begins at Dahl Centennial Union.

1. Dahl Centennial Union
Dahl Centennial Union houses the admissions welcome center, administrative offices, offices for student organizations, dining facilities, a book shop, the campus mail center, conference rooms, and one of four art galleries on campus.

2. Bentdahl Commons
Funded by a gift from E.E. `Ray’ and Shirley (Klingsheim) Bentdahl ‘59, the commons was added to Luther’s landscape in 2010 and serves as a site for worship services, performances, receptions, and other community gatherings.

3. Center for Faith and Life
The Center for Faith and Life houses a 1,600-seat auditorium for the performing arts, a 200-seat recital hall, a 24-hour meditation chapel, and the offices of college ministries and campus programming.

4. Valders Hall of Science
Valders Hall of Science is home to the departments of nursing, physics, environmental studies, and psychology. Besides classrooms and laboratories, Valders has a planetarium, a research-grade greenhouse, and a live-animal center.

5. Sampson Hoffland Laboratories
Sampson Hoffland Laboratories houses the biology and chemistry departments. Built to environmentally sound LEED standards, Sampson Hoffland features 17 teaching labs and faculty-student research areas, along with study areas adjacent to faculty offices. Specialized laboratories support development biology, cell culture, transmission and scanning electron microscopy, light microscopy, and digital-image processing. Sampson Hoffland also houses the Overholt Human Anatomy Laboratory, where human anatomy is studied through cadaver dissection.

6. Franklin W. Olin Building
The Franklin W. Olin Building is a state-of-the-art academic facility that houses the departments of economics and business, mathematics, and computer science. Funded by a grant from the F. W. Olin Foundation, the building features standard classrooms, two computer classrooms, four networked computer laboratories, a 120-seat lecture hall, and an electronic decision-making facility called the Round Table Room.

7. Preus Library
In addition to its more than 330,000 volumes, special facilities at Preus include the Technology Help Desk, the largest computer lab on campus, the Rare Book Room, a classroom connected to the Iowa Communications Network, the Luther College Archives, and the Fine Arts Collection.

8. Jenson-Noble Hall of Music
The award-winning Jenson-Noble Hall of Music includes a 325-seat recital hall, three rehearsal halls, an organ studio, a piano lab, a percussion studio, and 36 private practice rooms. The main floor decor recalls the old wharves of Bergen, Norway’s “city of music.”

9. Sperati Guest House
Sperati House, now used as a guesthouse, was built by Carlo A. Sperati (1860–1945) in 1905, the year he became director of music at Luther.

10. Center for the Arts
The 60,000-square-foot Center for the Arts is a facility for the collaboration of theatre, dance, and the visual arts. Features include a 225-seat flexible theatre, two galleries, a scene shop, a large costume construction area, and a café.

11. Brandt Hall
Brandt Hall is one of three residence halls designated for first-year students. It is named for Diderikke Ottesen Brandt (1827–85), wife of the first college pastor, Nils O. Brandt.

12. Campus House
Campus House was built as a parsonage in 1867 by the three congregations served by Luther’s first campus pastor, Nils O. Brandt. It houses faculty in communication studies.

13. Koren
Dedicated in 1921 and named in honor of Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, one of Luther’s founders, Koren holds classrooms and offices for the education, history, political science, and sociology/anthropology/social work departments.

14. Larsen Hall
The oldest residence hall on campus, Larsen Hall opened in 1907. The building also houses the global learning office, health service, and counseling services. It is named for the first president of Luther College, Peter Laurentius “Laur.” Larsen, who served from 1861–1902.

15. Loyalty Hall
Loyalty Hall, completed in 1916 and recently remodeled, houses the alumni and development offices, as well as professional meeting facilities and a classroom.

16. Main Building
Main Building, completed in 1952, is the third building on campus to bear that name; its predecessors were destroyed by fires in 1889 and 1942. Main houses administrative offices and also provides classroom space and faculty offices for the English, religion, philosophy, and modern languages departments.

17. Farwell Hall
Farwell Hall, completed in 1991, is a high-rise residence hall on the lower campus connected to the upper campus by a 116-foot covered bridge. It is named for Luther’s sixth president, Elwin D. Farwell, 1963–81.

You may also choose to visit our facilities on the lower campus and in the outer ring of the central campus.

18. Carlson Stadium
Carlson Stadium, described in USA Weekend magazine as one of the four prettiest places in the United States to watch a football game, was dedicated for use in 1966, in honor of and through the generosity of the Roy and Hjalmar Carlson families.

19. through 23.
Luther’s outdoor sports facilities include 12 tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, a soccer pitch with lights, a ropes challenge course, and a 2.5-mile fitness trail.

24. Regents Center
The extensive Regents Center facilities include a six-lane, 200-meter indoor track; six indoor tennis courts; four hardwood basketball courts; a 3,000-seat gymnasium; and a 14,000 square-foot Legends Fitness for Life Center.

25. Aquatic Center
The Luther College Aquatic Center, opening in fall 2013, comprises a 25-yard-by-30-meter natatorium with eight competition-width lanes, an area for three-meter high board diving competition, a shallow area for classes, state-of-the-art starting blocks and timing mechanisms, and seating for more than 250.

26. Miller and Dieseth halls
Renovated in 2011 and 2012 respectively, Miller Hall and Dieseth Hall (the Towers) are two nine-story residence halls that are connect- ed midlevel by Brunsdale Lounge. The three parts of the complex were named for former members of Luther’s Board of Regents: Frank Miller, John Dieseth, and Norman Brunsdale.

27. Ylvisaker Hall
Ylvisaker Hall is a residence hall for first-year students. It is named for Luther’s fifth president, J. Wilhelm Ylvisaker, 1948–61.

28. Solar Array
Luther’s 280-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system went online in 2012, and is designed to power Baker Village.

29. Baker Village
Baker Village, a townhouse-style residential complex, offers senior Luther students Scandinavian-style architecture, a reconstructed tall-grass prairie, and a wooded hillside. It is named for Luther’s eighth president, Jeffrey D. Baker, 1996–99.

30. Anderson Prairie
The focal point in the setting of Baker Village, Anderson Prairie was planted in fall 1998 using a seed mixture that included 72 species of prairie wildflowers and five species of grasses. A pedestrian/bike path winds along the prairie and connects Baker Village to the main campus.

31. Campus Apartments
The one- and two-bedroom campus apartments provide an independent living environment for upper class students.

32. Olson Hall
Olson Hall is named for Oscar Ludvig Olson, who served as the third president of the college, 1921–32. It houses first-year students in one wing and upperclass students in suites in the other wing.

Thank you for visiting Luther College. For more information visit the admissions.luther.edu website, e-mail admissions@luther.edu, or call 800-458-8437.