Coe College is a selective, private, nationally-recognized four-year coeducational liberal arts college. Coe is lauded for its faculty’s commitment to teaching and service to students, for the percentage of students who later attend graduate school, and for the number of Fulbright awards its students and faculty have received. The college has active chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi and is an active member of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, a consortium of 14 liberal arts colleges in five states (Beloit, Carleton, Coe, Colorado, Cornell, Grinnell, Knox, Lake Forest, Lawrence, Luther, Macalester, Monmouth, Ripon, and St. Olaf). Over the last five years, the college has experienced significant growth in enrollment, while at the same time strengthening the academic profile and diversity of the student body.
The faculty of the college numbers 96 full-time members, approximately 95% of whom have earned doctorates or terminal degrees. Coe is committed to maintaining a ratio between full-time students and full-time faculty of 12 to 1. There has been considerable expansion in the college’s junior faculty ranks in recent years, with 19 full-time tenure-track faculty hires in the last three years in response to growth in student enrollment, retirement, and attrition. Coe is dedicated to building a faculty with diverse backgrounds and identities, and all search processes include intentional efforts to effect the same. Faculty members belong to 19 academic departments offering 50 major concentrations, are highly active in research and publishing, and have been very successful in garnering external funding to support their work. The college also enjoys a strong tradition of collegiality and faculty participation in shared governance.

The 1,420 full-time students enrolled at Coe represent 39 states and 20 foreign countries, with an average high school GPA of 3.7 and average ACT score of 26. The student body is 56% female and 44% male, with 25% students of color and 40% first-generation college students. About 99% of Coe students receive financial aid, and more than 85% of students live on campus. Coe students are active, with more than 90% participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities including NCAA Division III athletics, fine arts, service-learning programs, intramurals, and over 80 student clubs and organizations. The applicant pool at Coe has nearly doubled in recent years, and Coe is committed to growing the size, diversity, multiculturalism, and international representation of the student body over the next five years.
Coe is a traditional liberal arts college that also offers selected professional programs, including accounting, athletic training, business, education, and nursing, and is home to a long-standing English as a Second Language program. Students participate regularly in internships and off-campus study, including full-semester international programs, May Term courses, and summer programs at Coe’s Wilderness Field Station in the Superior National Forest in Northern Minnesota. The college provides extensive undergraduate research opportunities through a large and successful summer research program. Coe awards the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. The college is committed to holistic student development as demonstrated by many opportunities for students to learn and practice organizational leadership, peer mentoring, and community engagement. Coe encourages students to be politically active, civically minded, and socially conscious.

Coe’s campus has grown in recent years with the addition of new apartment-style residential facilities, new administrative buildings, and additional green space. The campus features a recently renovated science building and a Learning Commons, with plans underway for renovation of a major academic building and for renovation and expansion of the College’s athletic performance venue and recreation facilities in the next two years. Coe has undertaken a number of sustainability initiatives in the last several years, including a reduction in overall energy use and the creation of a permaculture garden. The college was a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and is a participant in the EPA’s Food Recovery Challenge.
The college’s residential campus is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the state’s second-largest city. Situated only 20 miles from the University of Iowa, the college is a convenient drive from Chicago, Madison, Minneapolis, and St. Louis. The Creative Corridor, a cultural and business district that includes Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, offers affordable housing, proximity to the Eastern Iowa Airport, excellent public schools, and a variety of cultural and recreational attractions, including museums and festivals, a vibrant fine arts community, hiking and biking trails, and an active network of farmers’ markets.

Coe College was founded in 1851 and was incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Iowa in 1881. A Presbyterian-related college, Coe exemplifies the denomination’s commitment to liberal education and social justice. Coe is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools as well as by the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and the Iowa Department of Education.