Austin E. “Dutch” Knowlton was the owner and chairman of the Knowlton Construction Company, an organization started in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1937. His company was responsible for over 600 major construction projects throughout Ohio and the Midwest, including school buildings, hospitals, libraries, and post offices. His company built five campus facilities at Ohio Wesleyan.

After graduating from Bellefontaine High School, he attended The Ohio State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering. A prominent businessman and leading philanthropist, Mr. Knowlton became an avid sportsman with a 50-year interest in saddle-bred horses, was a member of the original founding partnership of the Cincinnati Bengals where he served as chairman, held a major ownership interest for many years in the Cincinnati Reds, and served as a trustee of the Little Brown Jug Society for harness racing in Delaware, Ohio. Mr. Knowlton lived in Delaware County for a number of years.

During his lifetime, Mr. Knowlton established the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation to advance higher education and to provide direct grants and contributions to qualified colleges and universities. Provisions in his will continue to fund the foundation, and his trustees have created the Austin E. Knowlton Memorial Scholarship.
The Department of Economics and Business and the Woltemade Center for Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship offer the Economics Management Fellows Program for qualified incoming first-year students interested in the fields of economics, business, finance, marketing, management, accounting, or international business.

The Summer Science Research Program and Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium give science students a 10-week opportunity to work one-to-one with a faculty mentor on a research project of interest to both; at the symposium, students present their research posters to the campus and invited guests.

The Delaware Entrepreneurial Center at Ohio Wesleyan is a first-of-its-kind business accelerator and education center created at a private liberal arts university with city and county collaboration. OWU students serve as interns assisting budding entrepreneurs with market research, branding, and other needs.

The Arneson Institute for Practical Politics and Public Affairs sponsors the University’s Wesleyan in Washington Program, which allows students to receive academic credit in return for working full time in a variety of government settings in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The Leland F. and Helen Schubert Honors Program intellectually challenges the most talented students among OWU’s community of scholars.

DISTINCTIVE OWU PROGRAMS

Faculty-led Travel-Learning Courses give students “on-the-ground” perspectives throughout the world on issues they have researched rigorously in the classroom.

Competitive OWU Connection grants support students’ independent research, internships, service, and cultural immersion throughout the world.

All first-year students begin with UC 160: OWU Experience, a course that introduces them to life on campus. Students work with a mentor to map out their four-year plan and learn about OWU Connection experiences.

SPECIAL OWU ACCOLADES

- Number 68 among all U.S. colleges (public and private) for the percentage of STEM graduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees in STEM fields – The Council of Independent Colleges (2019)

- One of the “Best and Most Interesting” four-year colleges in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain” – Fiske Guide to Colleges (2022)

- One of the Top 100 “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges,” “Best Value Schools,” and “A+ Schools for B Students” – U.S. News & World Report, “America’s Best Colleges” (2022)


- One of “The Best 387 Colleges” and “Best Midwestern” in the United States – The Princeton Review (2022)

- Number 1 in Ohio and Number 17 in the nation among “America’s Most Entrepreneurial Colleges 2015” – Forbes Magazine

75% of students play some level of sport

97% of the Class of 2021 report being employed or in grad school

97 full-time faculty

more than 40% of students have a travel-learning experience

13:1 student-faculty ratio

#17 most entrepreneurial in the nation

13:1 location: 200 acres in Delaware, OH, a lively town of 40,000

70 majors

more than 70 majors

#17 most entrepreneurial in the nation