Each year Principia welcomes students from all over the globe.

The only university-level school for Christian Scientists in the world, Principia provides an outstanding academic program in a unique learning environment that supports students’ spiritual growth. Faculty, staff, and students encourage one another to turn to God for help in all situations, and the atmosphere on campus is filled with an expectation of progress.

International students reflecting on their time at Principia tell us that attending the College was a life-changing experience that prepared them for a successful future and strengthened their understanding of Christian Science. This could be your story, too!

“Attending Principia was one of the best experiences of my life! The faculty really engaged me in my studies, and I learned how to apply Christian Science in my life. I also felt well prepared for my career.”

— Ricardo Jordao
Class of 2010
Brazil
Our campus is located in Elsah, Illinois, but our students and alumni—and our outlook—circle the globe. The first international student arrived from Australia in 1899, just one year after Mary Kimball Morgan founded Principia. Through the decades, hundreds of international students have attended the College from nearly 60 countries. While at Principia, many of them discovered the gift they were meant to give the world.

The campus is located in a beautiful area overlooking the Mississippi River, the largest river in the U.S. The campus center feels cozy, but the land around it is vast, with plenty of room to hike with friends, go for a run, or find a scenic place to read or draw.

If you’re in the mood for a more urban scene, St. Louis—a vibrant, mid-size city—is less than an hour away with an abundance of theatres, concert venues, restaurants, museums, sporting events, and one of the largest urban parks in the country.
At Principia, a four-year liberal arts college, you’ll take courses in a wide range of fields while also pursuing one area of study in some depth. Similar to a university, Principia offers bachelor’s degrees in 25 majors, or areas of study, ranging from biology to theatre. Your first year, you’ll be encouraged to explore subjects that interest you. Then, you’ll choose a major by the end of your freshman (first) year to study in depth the next three years. Of course, you can keep learning about subjects outside of your major, too. (With the exception of our five-year engineering program, the College does not offer specialized, technical degrees.)

Classes are small and often involve discussion, with everyone expected to ask questions and share ideas. Students also work on projects in small groups and make presentations. The academics are challenging, but faculty recognize your God-given ability and provide encouragement and support. And they’re always happy to talk—about assignments or life.

In addition, international students may travel on a Principia study abroad program at some point during their four years at the College. Led by Principia faculty members, these programs are an outstanding way to conduct primary research and broaden your understanding of the world.

“I really liked the interaction between students and professors. The professors want you to be eloquent and clear . . . and the quality [of writing] they expect is very high.”

— Sonia Orwa
Class of 2008
Kenya

Meet a Few of Our Outstanding Faculty Members

**DR. SCOTT ECKERT**
World-renowned for his expertise on leatherback sea turtles, Dr. Scott Eckert is the head of Principia’s Biology and Natural Resources Department, and he serves as Director of Science for the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. Dr. Eckert frequently takes Principia College students to Trinidad and Peru, where they work with conservationists and conduct marine research. His classes also frequently head outdoors to study in our 2,600-acre laboratory—also known as our campus.

**CHRIS CALKINS STEELE**
Passionate about teaching acting, voice, and movement, Chrissy Calkins Steele directs many of Principia’s theatre productions. Trained at the Shakespeare Institute in England, she has also directed professional theatre in the U.S. Professor Steele regularly brings theatre professionals to campus for intensive workshops and prepares students for acting competitions. She also co-leads a study abroad to England, where students participate in workshops at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London.

**DR. CLINT STALEY**
With 35 years of combined experience in academia and industry, Dr. Staley has taught computer science at the University of California, Santa Barbara and at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He has also built software and managed software development projects for a variety of small and large organizations. Staley cofounded several software companies and holds six U.S. patents. He teaches computer science and engineering classes and often engages students in developing online STEM education tools.

Learn about our 25 majors (and even more minors!) at principiacollege.edu/majors.

Interested in a gap year? Learn more about our One-Year Enrichment Program on p. 15.

Meet more of our faculty at principiacollege.edu/faculty.
What’s life like at Principia College?

Principia is a residential college. All students live on campus in dormitories that are so cozy and comfortable we call them houses. Most students have a roommate, and since everyone is nearby, you have plenty of opportunities to meet people and make friends.

In fact, you’ll be encouraged—even gently pushed—to get involved in student clubs, sports, music groups, the Leadership Institute, the solar car team, or any number of other campus activities. In addition, if you’re pursuing a four-year degree, you may qualify to join one of our 17 varsity sports teams, one junior varsity team, or two intercollegiate club teams, even if you’re new to the sport.

Since classes are small at Principia, and clubs and activities are inclusive, making friends is easy. Plus, with all students living on campus, someone’s always around when you’re ready for a study break!

“All of my campus activities contributed toward my character education. I learned to treasure the interactions I have with others, to think critically, and to value good communication.”

— Shirley Moihloe
Class of 2015
South Africa

What kind of opportunities can you expect?

Program computers under pressure at regional and national coding contests.

Design and build a solar car, and race it in the U.S. and around the world.

Organize one of our two annual, student-run conferences—the Public Affairs Conference and the International Perspectives Conference.

Take to the stage in a theatre or dance production, or work behind the scenes building sets or designing lighting.

Compete with our award-winning mediation team at national and international tournaments.

Make a recording in our professionally equipped sound studio.

Share your country’s culture, language, and traditions with the campus community at the Whole World Festival.

Learn more about on and off-campus opportunities at principiacollege.edu/101things.
At Principia, you’ll deepen your understanding of God and prepare to bless a world that needs you. That takes practice, of course, and you’ll get plenty of that here—practice seeing life through a spiritual lens as you put Christian Science into action in academics, athletics, the performing arts, house life, study abroad trips, and more.

Competitions are an obvious time to demonstrate Christian Science—and not just on the athletic field. Principia students regularly participate in solar car, mediation, and Model Illinois Government Moot Court contests. And they often win! As nice as it is to win, that’s not their main motivation. Their primary goal is to express God. The solar car team motto says it well: “Glorify God and do your best.”

That spiritual motivation gives Principians an edge in competition. As mediation team member Namrata Roy, from Bangladesh, puts it, “The basis of Christian Science puts us a step ahead.” Her teammate Lorraine Marsh adds, “It’s incredible to view the competitive rounds on global problems as prayers for the world.”

With practice opportunities like these (and many more!), you’ll be ready to bring inspired solutions to your career and community.

Learn more at principiacollege.edu/spirituallife.

“At Principia, you refresh, cleanse, and rebuild your faith. Prin loves and nurtures its students, providing an educational environment free of negative thoughts. I feel I came out of Prin prepared for life because of that.”

— Gifty Aryeetey Class of 2009 Ghana

“What’s Christian Science put into practice?”

“The quote ‘. . . behold, the kingdom of God is within you’ (Luke 17:21) has helped me gain a better sense of who I am and where I belong. A kingdom implies that there is one all-powerful ruler . . . . My fear of not knowing where I belonged or what I should do was resolved by a deeper understanding of the kingdom of God.”

— Timon Keller, Germany, class of 2017
What do current students from around the world say about Principia?

Jamie Yu, Senior, China
Major: Educational Studies
Jaime got involved on campus as soon as she arrived—acting in a theatre production, teaching Chinese, and joining the Euphrates Institute. Later, she interned at a Christian Science care facility and traveled to Kenya for a teaching internship. And when the Apollo 13 astronauts (pictured below) spoke on campus, Jamie had dinner with them!

Martin Soemarsono, Senior, Indonesia
Majors: Computer Science and Music
Martin plays piano for Music at Davis concerts and in the College orchestra, and his junior year, he traveled to Vienna, Prague, and Paris on the Music in Europe Abroad. “I love the atmosphere here at Principia,” he says, “and appreciate that everyone is so friendly and helpful. I also love the liberal arts concept of education. . . . I can’t hide here at Prin! Class sizes are much bigger in Indonesia, and I may have gotten a little lost there.”

Sky O’Brien, Senior, Australia
Major: English
Interested in English, political science, and journalism, Sky began his university experience in Australia, but he didn’t find it satisfying. “I felt like a number,” he says. That certainly hasn’t been his experience at Principia! As he explains, “I had more meaningful interactions with my professors here during the first few days of classes than I had during my three semesters in Australia.”

Read more student stories at principiacollege.edu/articles/student.
What do students do after graduating?

Learn more about how Principia prepares students for satisfying careers at principiacollege.edu/careers.

Andres De Paz, Class of 2011, Guatemala
Major: Mass Communication

Andres was accepted to a well-known art college in the United States, but he decided to attend Principia for its broad-based liberal arts education. His mass communication major enabled him to combine his passion for design with compelling storytelling. Now based in Miami, Florida, Andres is Producer/Editor for Discovery en Español, a division of Discovery Communications. Known for his creativity, he has won numerous awards, including Discovery’s Stellar Award for “exceeding beyond responsibilities” and its John Hendricks Innovation Award for creating a unique camera helmet (pictured here) for capturing high-quality, point-of-view footage.

Wendy Atieno, Class of 2012, Kenya
Majors: Chemistry and Political Science

Wendy thrives on finding innovative solutions through an interdisciplinary lens. While at Principia, she was active with the Black Student Union, Society of Physics Students, and American Chemical Society. After graduating, Wendy worked for a summer at The Mother Church in translations, utilizing her ability to speak three languages. She spent three years in Laos as an environmental conservation fellow with Princeton in Asia (a post-graduate program affiliated with Princeton University) and an English instructor. Wendy is currently in Washington, DC, pursuing an MA in global environmental policy at the American University’s School of International Service.

Vincent-Immanuel Herr, Class of 2013, Germany
Majors: History and Sociology and Anthropology

Vincent was managing editor of The Pilot, the student-run magazine, a board member for the Public Affairs Conference, and a resident assistant. He also went on the Iceland Abroad. After graduating, Vincent returned to Germany and completed a master’s degree at Berlin’s Freie Universität. He’s currently working in the German parliament and has also started a number of political campaigns in Germany and Europe. One of his ideas made it all the way into the European Commission. A co-author of Who If Not Us?: A Four-Step Guide to Empower Europe and Our Generation, Vincent regularly interviews European youth on current affairs and political questions.

Ratia Tekenet, Class of 2013, Kenya
Majors: Mass Communication and Sociology and Anthropology

Ratia’s interest in broadcast journalism led her to host radio shows on Principia Internet Radio and later to complete internships in communications at The Mother Church in Boston and in production at a public television station in New York City. While at Principia, Ratia also volunteered at the International Institute in St. Louis, which serves refugees and immigrants. Now living in Nairobi, she works as an Associate Public Information Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme, a leading global environmental authority that implements United Nations programs.

Anna Procter, Class of 2010, Australia and England
Major: Theatre

Anna took the stage in a variety of roles in Principia College theatre productions. She also went on the India Abroad, where she learned about the Dalits—also known as “untouchables” or “voiceless people”—who are of such low social standing that they’re outside of the caste system. Anna developed a senior capstone performance piece about the Dalits and was invited to perform at the Edinburgh International Festival. After graduating from Principia, Anna continued her theatre training at the Drama Centre in London. Now she’s performing in films and on stage, as well as writing new dramatic works.

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Are You Considering a Gap Year?

Many international students graduate from Principia College's four-year program with a bachelor's degree. But others interested in taking a gap year between completing secondary school and enrolling in a university choose the one-year enrichment program. This allows them to experience Principia's learning environment without pursuing a degree.

Enrichment students take classes with degree-seeking students and are held to the same academic standards. They are not eligible to play a varsity sport but are welcome to participate in all other student activities. If you already have a degree and plan to apply for financial aid, the one-year program is the only option available to you.

Students who have completed the enrichment program often report that they gained a stronger foundation in Christian Science by living and practicing it within a community of Christian Scientists. Others have shared how much employers in their home countries value the skills and breadth of experience they gained by studying and living in the United States.

Staying Connected with Home

Some international students go home a few times while earning their degree. Others stay in the U.S. during the summers to work on campus. Either way, you'll be away from home for a long time, so you need to be comfortable with that. The good news is that it's a lot easier to stay in touch than it used to be! Most international students keep in close contact with family and friends through Skype and social media. It can take some coordinating, but it works, as Martin, from Indonesia, explains, "Jakarta is literally on the other side of the world with a 12-hour time difference, so I carefully plan Skype visits with my parents, grandparents, and friends."
Who's eligible to attend Principia College?

Although Christian Science is not taught in classes, it forms the basis of community life, so we welcome students with a strong academic background who actively practice Christian Science.*

Christian Science Preparation
You need to have relied on Christian Science for all your needs, including physical healing, and to have attended a Christian Science church and/or Sunday School for at least six months before beginning your application. You must also be willing to uphold Principia's community standards, which include abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and sexual activity outside of marriage.

Academic Preparation
Academic study at Principia is challenging. To ensure that all incoming students are prepared for university-level academic work in English, we look for the following minimum requirements:

- B- average in all secondary school (high school) classes
- 2.5 GPA based on core academic subjects, and weighted for AP, IB, and honors classes
- Score of 1010 or higher on the SAT international exam from The College Board**
- Ability to read English with ease and to understand conversational and formal English (We do not offer ELL or intensive English instruction.)
- Score of 80 or higher on the TOEFL iBT test from the Educational Testing Service***
- Completion of secondary school (You must also be at least 18 years old.)
- Attainment of a diploma or certificate of completion showing eligibility for admission to a university

*Principia’s Purpose is “to serve the Cause of Christian Science,” but it operates independently and is not affiliated with The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Students with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university are not required to submit SAT test scores.

***Applicants from the United Kingdom, non-French-speaking Canada, New Zealand, and Australia need not take the TOEFL.

Is financial aid available?

Financial aid awards are based on demonstrated financial need, which is determined from information about each student’s and family’s income, assets, and expenses. The international admissions counselor will email a financial aid application to you after Principia receives your admissions application.

Financial aid is available for one-year enrichment, four-year degree candidates, and five-year engineering students. The aid is applied to tuition, room, and board. Each applicant submits a Certification of Finances* that will help Principia determine financial aid eligibility.

The aid Principia awards is a grant, not a loan; you do not have to pay it back. However, all students are expected to contribute to their education, and you will incur additional costs during your time at Principia. Most international students work part time on campus to help cover their expenses. They usually work 15 hours per week, earning approximately $100 each week. They cannot work off campus. Sending money home is not an option.

Also, please be aware that coming to the United States on a student visa limits your ability to work in the U.S. after graduation to no more than one year.

*You may get this form at principiacollege.edu/international. Be sure to follow the instructions for getting it verified, if applicable.
How do I prepare?

It all starts in secondary school. Here’s what you need to do:

- Do your best in key classes like math, science, English, and your local academic language.
- Save four years of school marks so you can send copies of them to Principia.
- If English is not your first language, be sure to take enough English classes that you can score 80 or higher on the TOEFL test.
- Study for the SAT and TOEFL tests through classes or with online study aids.

How do I start my application?

Beginning your application is just a click away! To let Principia know you’re interested in attending, fill out the online form at principiacollege.edu/gettingstarted.

Questions? Email Nathan Smith, the International Admissions Counselor, at intladmissions@principia.edu.

Visit principiacollege.edu/international to learn more.

When should I apply?

Get started now! From the time you activate your application to the time you are granted a student visa takes almost a year.

Along with starting your application, you need to register for the SAT and TOEFL* tests well in advance of the examination dates. Here are two key points to remember:

1. When you register for these tests, indicate Principia College’s testing code, which is 1630. This way, both you and Principia will get an official copy of your score report.
2. You must take the SAT Reasoning Test in October, November, or December (unless you have been exempted by the International Admissions Counselor or have taken the SAT within the past two years). Typically, test fees are under $100 (US).

*Before registering for the TOEFL, please verify with the International Admissions Counselor that you are required to take it.

Application Timeline for Fall Enrollment*

**AUGUST (one year before)**
- Fill out online form: principiacollege.edu/gettingstarted
- Submit financial aid application.

**SEPTEMBER**
- Collect your last four years of grades. If possible, have your school send them directly to us: collegeadmissions@principia.edu.
- Start working on The Common Application.
- Submit financial aid application.

**OCTOBER**
- Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now or in November.
- Ask two teachers from core academic subjects to complete and submit the academic reference forms.

**NOVEMBER**
- Take the SAT and TOEFL tests now (or in October).
- Ask your Sunday School teacher and another person familiar with your understanding and practice of Christian Science to complete and submit the CS reference form.

**DECEMBER**
- Complete The Common Application.
- Ask schools you’ve attended to submit your official marks.

**JANUARY**
- January 15 deadline—All portions of the application, including references, marks, and test scores, are due.

**FEBRUARY**
- Submit financial aid application.

**MARCH/APRIL**
- Principia will notify you about acceptance and the availability of financial aid.

**JUNE**
- Register for classes.
- Submit health documents.
- Purchase your plane ticket after you receive your student visa.

**JULY**
- Review the suggested packing list.

**AUGUST**
- Your tuition deposit is due.
- May 15: Apply for your student visa.
- Arrive at Principia one or two days before New International Student Orientation.
- College begins!

*We strongly encourage enrolling for fall semester, which begins in August, but a few students enroll mid-year in January. To learn more about this possibility, email intladmissions@principia.edu.*
Contact Us

Nathan Smith, Class of 2001
International Admissions Counselor

While at the College, Nathan participated in student government, served as a resident assistant, and was on the Public Affairs Conference Board. An art major, Nathan studied painting and art history on the France Abroad. After graduating, he taught English in Japan, worked as an editor for The Herald of Christian Science, and as Manager of the International Service Department of The Mother Church, engaging church members around the globe in conversations about the worldwide Christian Science movement.

Nathan will be your contact in the Admissions Office and can help you with the application process. He loves being in touch with prospective students and often travels across the globe to meet them. You can email him at intladmissions@principia.edu.

Kathryn Thompson, Class of 1988
International Student Program Manager

Though her title is International Student Program Manager, Kathryn is really an educator, champion, organizer of fun, and the international students' biggest fan!

Kathryn holds master's degrees in both French and Spanish from Middlebury College and has traveled throughout Europe and Latin America—to more than 10 countries. For awhile, she lived and worked abroad in France and Spain, so she knows firsthand what it's like to adjust to a new culture. Kathryn has also served as a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner. Kathryn will help you with the transition to college life, connect you with a mentor, and introduce you to campus and the surrounding area.