The University of the South, familiarly known as Sewanee, was founded in 1857 by clergy and lay delegates from Episcopal dioceses throughout the southern United States.

The university is located on 13,000 acres atop the Cumberland Plateau in Sewanee, Tenn., about 50 miles west of Chattanooga.

Sewanee consists of a College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Theology, and a School of Letters offering summer master’s degree programs in English and creative writing.

Sewanee is led by Vice-Chancellor and President John McCardell, a former president of Middlebury College, a distinguished historian and respected national leader in liberal arts education.

The nationally recognized College of Arts and Sciences offers 36 academic majors, 43 minors, and pre-professional programs in business, health/medicine, education, engineering, and law. Sixty percent of students choose both a major and a minor.

The average undergraduate class size is 17 students, and the student-faculty ratio is 10:1. Students come from 48 states and 31 countries.

The School of Theology, an accredited Episcopal seminary, offers study within three divisions: degree programs, extension programs, and continuing education programs.

The university remains purposefully small and dedicated to building a sense of community, enrolling more than 1,700 undergraduates and approximately 100 students in its School of Theology.

The university has had 26 Rhodes Scholars—a number that puts Sewanee in the top rank nationally among American liberal arts colleges—and has been home to 34 NCAA Postgraduate Fellows, 47 Watson Fellows, and dozens of Fulbright Scholars.

The university’s endowment as of June 30, 2017, was $395 million.

About 30 percent of undergraduate students participate in the university’s 24 NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletic teams, and more than 40 percent of students participate in study abroad programs.