



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was established at the University of Richmond in the Office of Community and Professional Education, School of Continuing Studies, through a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation of San Francisco. The Osher Foundation has funded, to date, 48 lifelong learning institutes in 17 states and expects to fund a total of 100 Osher Institutes. The University of Richmond is one of two Osher Institutes in Virginia, with the other being at George Mason University. Other Osher Institutes in private institutions include Duke University and Brandeis University.

The University of Richmond received \$100,000 in March of 2004 for the first year of a three-year renewable grant. At the end of three years, the Osher Institute will be eligible to receive a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation.

A membership organization, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute serves adults age 50 and over who are seeking opportunities for intellectual stimulation in a community of lifelong learners. Osher Institute members have an opportunity to become involved in program planning, faculty selection and in the operation of the Institute. While the primary focus of the Osher Institute at the University of Richmond is academic, there is also be an evolving social component to the program, as Osher Institute members share the experience of being part of a learning community.

Members of the Osher Institute may choose from an extensive array of offerings:

- A wide array of ungraded courses per session, taught by instructors who are themselves lifelong learners, including University of Richmond emeriti faculty. Fall, Spring and Summer sessions are offered each year
- Access to traditional undergraduate courses through a space available, course audit process
- Lunch discussions, field trips, special gallery lectures, backstage tours, and opportunities to meet visiting lecturers or other special guests
- On-site access to the Boatwright Library’s collections and services, as well as borrowing privileges and use of the 120+ online library databases
- Discounts for campus events and performances
- Full access to University dining facilities
- Classes held on the University campus
- Free campus parking privileges and accessibility for adults with disabilities
- Free annual series of international films
- Opportunities for study trips around the US and abroad

A University Setting

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers programs that are anchored in the existing undergraduate core humanities course “Exploring Human Experience,” as well as the Richmond Quest, (a program in which Richmond students, faculty and staff focus on a broad and pervasive question that confronts the academic world and contemporary society); the nationally syndicated radio program “A Moment in Time”; and the Modlin Center’s visual and performing arts. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute member benefits also include an annual lecture series, special events, and a service learning component where adult learners will work alongside undergraduate students on such projects as the annual Community Service Week and individual volunteer projects in the community.

Membership in the Osher Institute

- **Silver Membership** \$50 annual membership which includes One Card, UofR email address, parking pass, full use of the library including access to over 120 online data bases, full use of the UofR Wellness Center - - does not include any course fees or other benefits listed under Gold membership level
Course Fees for Silver members (no course fees for Gold or Gold Plus One members):
 - \$60 average fee per short course; most short courses are 4 sessions totaling six hours.
 - \$100 per audit of semester-long credit courses, limited to one audit per semester (compare with regular credit class prices of \$800+ to \$3,500+)
- **Gold Membership** \$400 all-inclusive annual membership with these benefits: One Card, UofR email address, parking pass, full use of the library including access to over 120 online data bases, full use of the UofR Wellness Center, membership in Friends of the Boatwright Library, six complimentary tickets to the Modlin Center, AND unlimited access to all Osher short courses and to semester-long credit courses open for audit
- **Gold Membership Plus One** \$600, offers same features as Gold, and covers two people joining together

It is our intent that courses be intellectually challenging and engaging experiences, shorter than regular course offerings in length, but not in seriousness. They will be cooperative, ungraded considerations of subjects worth the attention of well-informed, thoughtful adults.
Dr. James Narduzzi, SCS Dean

We believe that the University of Richmond will become a national model for the successful interaction of a university with the active mature learners in its community. Having this constituency on our campus will enrich the educational environment for our undergraduate students, as they participate together in intellectual pursuits through our core humanities course and engage in community service activities.
Dr. William Cooper, University President

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