

# Bradley University

## The University

Bradley University is an independent, privately endowed, coeducational institution. Located on an 85-acre campus in Peoria, Illinois, Bradley was founded in 1897 as Bradley Polytechnic Institute by Lydia Moss Bradley as a memorial to her children and husband, Tobias. It became a four-year college in 1920 and in 1946 became a university and began offering graduate programs. Bradley University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; 30 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 2400, Chicago, Illinois, 60602-2504; (312) 263-0456; [www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org).

With approximately 5,300 undergraduate and 800 graduate students, Bradley is the ideal size for living and learning. Bradley provides a broad choice of academic and preprofessional programs with more than 100 programs of study in five colleges: the Foster College of Business Administration, Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts, College of Education and Health Sciences, College of Engineering and Technology, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Through its Graduate School, Bradley awards 14 degrees in over 30 academic areas, including a doctorate in physical therapy. Programs offered through Continuing Education extend the resources of the university to promote lifelong learning.

The average class size is 24 students and the student-to-faculty ratio is 14:1. Bradley has more than 300 full-time faculty who are both active researchers and committed teachers, providing personalized attention in learning and academic advising. All courses are taught by professors, not graduate assistants, and team projects and collaboration are emphasized in every area of university life. After class, Bradley students have abundant opportunities for involvement in campus life—including more than 240 clubs and organizations, NCAA Division I athletics, intramural and club sports, study abroad, and the Lewis J. Burger Center for Student Leadership and Public Service.

Technology is integrated across the campus—from the digital editing suites used by communication students to the robotics used in the engineering labs. Students can borrow wireless laptops to use in Cullom-Davis Library, work in computer labs across campus, and have

access to the Internet in every residence hall. Of the 200 universities participating in Internet2, Bradley is one of the few non-doctoral research institutions offering access to this high-performance network for faculty research and student-faculty collaborative projects.

Bradley students do exceptionally well in their chosen careers and advanced studies after graduation. Last year, the overall placement rate for Bradley graduates was 96%. Graduates of Bradley University have become leaders in every field of endeavor.

## Our Vision

Bradley University is committed to excellence. Already one of the best private comprehensive universities in the Midwest, Bradley will be one of the finest institutions of its type in the nation.

## Our Mission

Bradley University is committed to nurturing the multifaceted development of students to enable them to become leaders, innovators, and productive members of society. Our graduates are prepared for life and professions in a changing world and they are able to cross academic, geographic, and cultural boundaries. A Bradley education is characterized by small classes, active learning, mentoring by highly qualified faculty, challenging academic programs, opportunities for study abroad, and numerous cocurricular activities.

We recruit, develop, and support faculty who are passionate educators and outstanding scholars whose research and creative contributions benefit society. We expect and reward pedagogy and scholarship of exceptional quality and influence.

A distinctive feature of Bradley University is our cohesive sense of community that unites faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Our tradition of collective responsibility is founded on a commitment to the values of academic freedom, civility, diversity, and respect for the individual. Our exemplary system of shared governance both represents and sustains our sense of community and fundamental values.

We promote and facilitate collaboration among all members of the University community. Students learn teamwork and leadership through group projects and collaborate with faculty on research and creative production. Likewise, faculty collaborate with colleagues across departmental, college, and institutional boundaries to elevate the quality and impact of their work. The University's strategic partnerships with business, cultural, and governmental institutions provide benefits to the community and society and create additional learning opportunities for students.

## Founding of Bradley

On April 10, 1897, ground was broken for Bradley Hall. What had been prairie-land cornfield was transformed into a seat of learning because of the remarkable courage, strength, and determination of one woman, Mrs. Lydia Moss Bradley.

Lydia Moss Bradley had seen all of her hopes, ambitions, and dreams for her six children end in their untimely deaths. She and her husband, Tobias Bradley, had devoted much time, thought, and discussion to how their wealth might be used as a fitting memorial to their deceased offspring and considered establishing an orphanage.

Unfortunately Tobias died in May of 1867, before their dream could be realized. Alone, Mrs. Bradley devoted herself unreservedly to the achievement of their goal. After some study and travel to various institutions, Mrs. Bradley decided that, instead of an orphanage, she wanted to found a school where young people could learn how to do practical things to prepare them for living in the modern world. In 1892 she purchased a controlling interest in Parsons Horological School in LaPorte, Indiana, the first school for watchmakers in America, and moved it to Peoria. She specified in her will that the school should be expanded after her death to include a classical education as well as industrial arts and home economics: "...it being the first object of this Institution to furnish its students with the means of living an independent, industrious and useful life by the aid of a practical knowledge of the useful arts and sciences."

In October 1896 Mrs. Bradley was convinced by Dr. William Rainey Harper, president of the University of Chicago, to move ahead with her plans and establish the

school during her lifetime. Bradley Polytechnic Institute was chartered on November 13, 1896. Mrs. Bradley initially provided seventeen and a half acres of land; funds for two campus buildings, including laboratory equipment and library books; and annual operating expenses.

Contracts for Bradley Hall and Horology Hall (later renamed Westlake) were awarded and work moved ahead quickly. Fourteen faculty and 150 students began classes in Bradley Hall on October 4, 1897—with 500 workers still hammering away. (The Horological Department added another eight faculty and 70 students.) Bradley Polytechnic Institute was formally dedicated on October 8, 1897. Its first graduate, in June 1898, was Corinne Unland.

By 1899 there were 350 pupils in the School of Arts and Science at Bradley, about equally divided between men and women. Instruction was offered in biology, chemistry, food work, sewing, English, German, French, Latin, Greek, history, manual arts, drawing, mathematics, and physics. Pleased with its progress, Mrs. Bradley transferred to the school the rest of her estate, including nearly 1,000 different pieces of property, reserving its use and profits during her lifetime. At Founder's Day in 1906 she announced an additional gift to build Hewitt Gymnasium, now Hartmann Center for the Performing Arts. Mrs. Bradley died on January 16, 1908, at the age of 91.

The Institute continued to grow and develop to meet the educational needs of the region. Bradley became a four-year college offering bachelor's degrees in 1920 and a full university offering graduate programs in 1946, when it was renamed Bradley University.

Today, Bradley alumni total more than 50,000 worldwide. Prominent alumni include David Markin '53, president and chairman, Checker Motors Co., L.P.; General John Shalikashvili '58, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Richard Teerlink '61, retired chairman, Harley-Davidson, Inc.; Wendy Ross '64, assistant managing editor, Washington Post; Charlie Steiner '71, commentator, Los Angeles Dodgers; Stephen Gorman MBA '78, president and chief executive, Greyhound Lines, Inc.; and Kary G. McIlwain '81, president and CEO, Young & Rubicam Chicago, and Gerald Shaheen '66 MA '68, group president, Caterpillar Inc.

