



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, (OLLI)
“Empowerment Through Learning”
For Adults 50+

Frequently Asked Questions

What Institutions Are Involved?

California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) is home to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in collaboration with the Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology. The goal of OLLI is to empower adults 50 and over to remain vibrant in mind, body and spirit. The OLLI program at Cal State L.A. is one of over 70 such programs funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The "motto" of OLLI at Cal State University, Los Angeles is EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LEARNING. The OLLI works actively with community partners, such as retirement homes, to develop access to its programs.

What Is The Program?

The program consists of class offerings in liberal arts, the sciences (emphasizing health sciences) social sciences, art and humanities.

For example, in the 2005 Winter Session Classes at the Cal State L.A. campus through March 2005 included Historical Perspectives on LA, Writing Your Own Legacy, Tai Chi, Yoga, West African Dance, Jazz-Tap, plus Computers and Internet. A presentation on “Shakespeare and Love” was held at the South Pasadena Senior Center. The classes are held in comfortable and accessible settings. Special events are held several times a year (for example “Winter’s End” all day on March 18 with speakers and performances).

Before OLLI, CSULA had a highly successful program at a community partner site, The Alhambra Retirement Community. A series of 6 weekly classes were presented by professors from Cal State L.A. The Alhambra Retirement Community is now OLLI’s first organizational member, which entitles all residents to attend OLLI classes free of charge, some of which are held on site. OLLI is interested in offering this kind of program to its community partners.

How Are Courses Selected?

Course selection is driven by member interest and coordinated by the OLLI Curriculum Committee. Concurrent courses are offered, balanced across the dimensions of mind, body and spirit. The Instructors include CSULA emeriti faculty, current faculty members and other professionals and experts. The instructors are paid with Osher Foundation funds.

Who Are "Members" Of OLLI?

Anyone 50+ and their family members are invited to participate as a member. Members are not required to be alumni of Cal State or any other college. There are no educational background requirements for participation in any class. No credit is given for any of the classes and there are no exams or grades! Out of the members' experience in the classes comes the reward of vibrancy in mind, body and spirit.

What Are The Membership Costs And Fees?

There is a membership fee and course fees. Annual membership rates start at \$45 for individual members. Members get discounts on classes, invitations to "members only" events, and a variety of "on-campus" privileges. Participants can be sponsored by an agency such as a senior center or retirement community. Organizational memberships are \$1,000 which offer up to 25 members per organization to attend OLLI events free of charge for a year. Scholarships are available.

Are There Opportunities To Volunteer?

Yes! Volunteers are a vital part of OLLI. Opportunities exist for outreach to new members, assistance with special events, and writing for the newsletter.

Can A Person Take A Class Without Being A Member Of OLLI?

Yes! Individual class sessions are \$10 each for non-members.

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