

# Sterling College

Working Hands. Working Minds.

## FACT SHEET

Sterling College is *the* environmental stewardship educator in the United States.

The five key characteristics of a Sterling education are:

1. *Authentic & Revolutionary*—Change in the human relationship with the natural world.
2. *Working Hands & Minds*—Equal emphasis on study, work, and community.
3. *Fair & Affordable*—All students work and we are the only Work College in New England.
4. *Powerful Outcomes*—Be independent and make a difference in the communities and places you live.
5. *Welcome As You Are*—Diverse in student age and backgrounds.

### Students

There are approximately 142 undergraduate students from 26 states and four countries, and approximately 136 continuing education students.

- 27% of the students are from Vermont and 56% are from New England.
- 12.6% identify as students of color.
- 74.4% of the students live in on campus residences.

### Academics

The five majors are Ecology, Environmental Humanities, Outdoor Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems, and a Self-Designed option.

- Our minors include Climate Justice, Draft Horse Management, Natural History, Natural Resources Conservation, Sustainable Food Systems, Environmental Humanities, and Education Studies.
- 34% of the students self-design an interdisciplinary major.
- 24% of the students have a Sustainable Agriculture or Food Systems major focus.
- The average class size is 9 and the student-to-faculty ratio is 8:1.
- 100% of residential students participate in work on campus and nearly all students complete an internship.
- The College offers a range of continuing education offerings with a special emphasis in artisan food and ecological farming.

### Access & Affordability

Admission is selective with a strong emphasis placed on demonstrated qualities of independence and responsibility.

- 93% of applicants are offered admission and 49% of admitted students enroll.
- Tuition and room and board for 2017-18 is \$47,884 about 20% less than at other New England private colleges.
- \$387,184 awarded through Pell Grants to 72 students during academic year.
- The average loan debt is \$18,680, compared to \$37,172 reported nationally by the Department of Education.
- The median family income of students enrolled is \$60,000, compared to \$78,800 at other New England private colleges, according to the College Board.

### Outcomes

Sterling provides an excellent education that leads to employment most often in fields related to environmental stewardship.

- 96% of our BA alumni report that they were employed within the first year after graduation.
- 98% report after five years they are employed full or part time, in graduate school, or are a full-time parent.
- 77% reported that their employment was either closely or somewhat related to their major area of study.
- 11% of our alumni pursued graduate study in the first year after completing their degree at Sterling.
- Most importantly, 90% of our alumni report that they are meeting their career goals.

### Other Important Details

- 3rd college in US to divest from fossil fuel/1st in VT
- Commitment to achieve 100% solar/renewable energy by 2018
- \$4.4 million operational budget
- \$1.5 million in Sterling Financial Aid Grants
- \$940,673 endowment
- Campus has 480 acres and 15 buildings