

School of the Ozarks

Despite the name, this is actually a college...but it's very different from other colleges....*no tuition!*

The College of the Ozarks is a private, Christian liberal-arts college, with its campus at Point Lookout near Branson and Hollister, Missouri. It is 40 miles south of Springfield on a 1,000 acre campus, overlooking Lake Taneycomo. The college has an enrollment of 1,500, a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 16:1, over 30 academic majors, and degrees in Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science.

The College charges no tuition for full-time students, due to its student work program and donations. The program requires students to work 15 hours a week at an on-campus work station and two 40-hour work weeks during breaks. A summer work program is available to cover room and board costs. The college proudly refers to itself as "Hard Work U." and places a high importance on character education. Its mission, since its establishment in 1906, is "to provide the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy, but who are without sufficient means to procure such training."

The school was first proposed in 1901 as a high school by James Forsythe, pastor of the Forsyth, Missouri Presbyterian Church. Forsythe was from the St. Louis, Missouri area. Forsythe was said to have been inspired to make the proposal after encountering a boy on a squirrel hunt who told him that his parents couldn't afford to send him to the closest high school 40 miles (64 km) away in Springfield, Missouri.

The School of the Ozarks opened on September 12, 1907 in a 75-by-50-foot building atop Mount Huggins. In its first term, it had enrollment of 180 with 36 boarders. From the start, the school adopted its practice of having its students work instead of paying tuition. On January 12, 1915, the original building burned. School was temporarily held in Forsyth with five students graduating in 1915.

In 1965, it became a four-year college. In 1973, the *Wall Street Journal* described College of the Ozarks as "Hard Work U." The name has stuck as school motto, and the school has trademarked it. In 1990 it was renamed the College of the Ozarks. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_the_Ozarks]

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