

## **Report of Hope College**

Affiliated with the Reformed Church in America since its founding in 1866, Hope College is known for our invitational, ecumenical, Christian atmosphere, vibrant campus community, and outstanding academic and co-curricular offerings. We are intentional about our mission to educate students for lives of leadership and service in the context of the historic Christian faith.

Hope is a recognized leader in undergraduate research, scholarship, and preparation for graduate school and the workplace. Hope faculty members offer an academically rigorous, co-educational, and residential education to approximately 3,000 undergraduate students from more than 40 states and 45 countries. Our teachers and talented researchers engage students in small classes and one-on-one collaborative research opportunities for an 11:1 student to faculty ratio. Hope offers over 1,800 internships and 300 study abroad opportunities in over 60 countries to provide a global perspective and experience that equips our graduates to excel in a global society. Ninety-four percent of our graduates join the workforce or enroll in graduate school within six months of graduation. The college's 80-plus student groups are marked by tradition, service, and enthusiasm, through which students are encouraged to explore their interests, build their leadership skills, and give back to the community.

### **Hope Forward**

Under the leadership of President Matthew A. Scogin, Hope College is pursuing a vision to fully fund the tuition of all students who come through Hope's doors. Called "Hope Forward," this vision is for an entirely new funding model for higher education: instead of charging tuition up front, which often burdens students with decades of debt, Hope will ask students to commit to donating to Hope after they graduate. Based on the biblical principles of generosity and gratitude, this model is rooted in our Christian mission and worldview. Hope has embarked on a \$1 billion fundraising campaign to grow the endowment so that it can fund tuition for all students. Hope is enthusiastic about the early momentum, with over \$40 million raised so far.

While Hope Forward is in some ways an entirely new way of thinking about funding college, it's also deeply rooted in the college's DNA. When Hope was founded, and for over 50 years afterwards, Hope didn't charge tuition. A course catalog in 1907 states, "the aim constantly kept in mind is to provide at Hope College everything necessary to a broad, liberal education at the lowest possible cost." Our hope is to make Hope's transformative Christian education accessible to even more students, just like our founders envisioned.

### **Academic Excellence and Collaborative Research**

Grounded in a general liberal arts education, Hope offers specialized study in more than 90 majors, minors, and pre-professional programs. Our students are presented with a rigorous intellectual experience, and their engagement with faculty often leads to the life-changing discovery of an academic passion or a professional calling.

Our faculty are active teacher-scholars, committed to their students. We are a recognized leader in undergraduate research with our students and faculty carrying out high-quality research projects that are challenging and meaningful and contribute to exciting new knowledge in a broad range of disciplines. For decades, our students have benefited from this "graduate-level undergraduate experience." This experience is transformational, giving students the opportunity

to conduct research, publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals (sometimes as the primary author), present their work at conferences, and perform in front of audiences around the world. Amid challenging circumstances for learning and teaching as the COVID-19 pandemic persists, Hope faculty and staff continue to publish, design, and submit proposals and publications profusely.

## **Creative Performance**

Hope College was the first private liberal arts college to hold national accreditation in art, dance, music, and theatre, and the only liberal arts school in Michigan with an accredited art program.

- In addition to superior art facilities, our art students have the benefit of an extensive exhibition program that regularly crosses cultural and historical boundaries.
- We believe in the transformative power of dance, and our dance program is a place where our students grow artistically, intellectually, physically, and spiritually.
- A student's passion for music speaks to the world, and we believe music is the language that communicates to everyone. Music students at Hope practice in state-of-the-art facilities and perform in acoustically superior spaces.
- The Hope College theatre program is one of recognized excellence, which develops students as practicing theatre artists and engaged audience members. Both theatre majors and non-majors participate in all aspects of theatre work.

There is a strong interdivisional collaboration among our art, dance, music, and theatre programs, which contributes to the success of each. Hope students work with nationally known writers, musicians, performers, and artists on stage, in the gallery, in the concert hall, and in the classroom.

## **Athletics**

In addition to excelling in scholarship, research, and artistic performance, our students also excel in athletics. We believe that intercollegiate sport is a powerful vehicle for education as well as for personal development. Our athletics program is part of our Kinesiology Department and is guided by a community of coaches, scholars, and leaders who prioritize excellence and the student-athlete experience. The members of our athletics program are committed to the utmost integrity in competition and engagement in Christian faith formation and are dedicated to excelling in sports, academics, and life. Our athletics teams have seen recent successes, including a men's hockey ACHA national championship, women's basketball NCAA national championship, and men and women's swim and dive MIAA championship.

## **Calling and Career**

Hope's Boerigter Center for Calling and Career (BCCC) is a college-wide initiative engaging our students and alumni in lifelong practices for career development beginning in a student's freshman year. The BCCC is more than a resource for reaching career goals; it is a process, a plan, and a guided journey over four-plus years. Interests, strengths, and values are assessed, and students become part of the Hope network. Integrated into the academic program of the college, the BCCC includes and expands upon the work of our former Career Development office. Staff members from Academic Advising, Career Development, and Alumni and Family

Engagement combine to help students ascertain clear next steps and prepare for graduate school and the workplace.

### **Campus Health**

Over the last two years, Hope College has navigated unprecedented disruption to higher education with characteristic excellence. The college took the pandemic as not just a challenge but as an opportunity, investing in streaming technology and innovative strategies to engage students as well as their families and the broader Hope community in arts performances, research presentations, chapel services, and more. We've been in-person ever since fall of 2020, and fewer and fewer classes are being held online each semester. As of this writing, campus is mask-optional and current COVID-19 case levels have been consistently low. We're optimistic as the pandemic slowly loosens its grip on our way of life and community.

### **Campus Ministries**

Hope College is a Christian community that invites all its members into a holistic and robust engagement with the historic Christian faith and a personal encounter with the living Christ through the Holy Spirit. Our Christian identity is described by these three aspirations: Hope aspires to be faithful, welcoming, and transformational. Hope is committed to the historical Christian faith as expressed in the ecumenical creeds of the ancient church, and the variety of expressions of the Christian faith we hold contributes to the vitality of the life of the college. Hope seeks to affirm the dignity of all persons as bearers of God's image and welcome those of different faiths or of no faith at all. We are committed to freedom of inquiry, yet also to the centrality of Scripture and the renewal of our minds according to the will of God. The whole Hope community is encouraged in a lifelong commitment to grow in God's grace and to pursue vocations through which the world so loved by God is renewed.

### **The Hope–Western Prison Education Program**

An extension of our mission beyond Holland, Michigan, the Hope–Western Prison Education Program (HWPEP) is a partnership between Hope College and Western Theological Seminary that began in March 2019. Twelve students in the program's first cohort began credit-bearing courses leading to the bachelor of arts degree in the fall of 2021. The second cohort is being recruited and will begin courses in summer 2022. The program is designed to accommodate 80 students when fully subscribed. Ten Western Theological Seminary and Hope College students have served as teaching assistants and peer group leaders. HWPEP received a \$120,000 grant from the Ascendium Education Group/Jobs for the Future to build institutional capacity for the Federal Department of Education's reinstatement of the Pell Grant for incarcerated students in July 2023.

College education programs in prisons can lower violence by up to 80 percent, lower recidivism by 45 percent, lower costs to taxpayers, improve education for traditional students, engage hard-to-reach donors, transform prisoners' hearts and minds, and unify faculty, staff, students, and friends across different perspectives.

### **Conclusion**

Hope College is a Christian community offering a liberal arts curriculum, graduate school–style research, hands-on opportunities, creative performance opportunities, competitive athletics, and

challenging collaborations. Our students learn through experience in more than 300 study abroad programs and countless internships available locally and throughout the U.S. Ours is an environment of the highest standards where students have a sense of belonging and can explore and become all that God intends them to be.