

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: 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 is enthusiastic about the early momentum, with close to \$60 million raised so far and national recognition by various thought leaders. Hope recently hosted The Catalyst Summit, focused on access and innovation in higher education, featuring Malcolm Gladwell, Anne Snyder, Michael Crow, Dave Levin, and other special guests.

While Hope Forward is in some ways an entirely new way of thinking about funding college, it's also deeply rooted in our 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 (ranked #22 per U.S. News & World Report) and teaching (ranked #49 by the U.S. News & World Report) 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 primary author), present their work at conferences, and perform in front of audiences around the world. Hope faculty and staff continue to publish, design, and submit proposals and publications profusely. As of the conclusion of the fall semester, Hope College had received over \$5 million in external grants and funding to support sponsored research and programs across all of the academic divisions, with another \$5 million still up for consideration.

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 that 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 inter-divisional 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. In March 2023, the Hope College Chapel Choir toured the country sharing their music with various communities in Indianapolis, St. Louis, Denver, Colorado Springs, Chicago, and Kansas City.

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 they are dedicated to excelling in sports, academics, and life.

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. This spring, colleagues from the Academic Advising, Boerigter Center, Center for Leadership, and Alumni and Family Engagement teams were relocated to a new centralized workspace to focus their combined efforts on preparing our students for the future of work.

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 historic 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 we 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 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 (HWPEP)

An extension of our mission beyond Holland, HWPEP is a partnership between Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, which began in March 2019. There are a collective 23 students in the first and second cohorts enrolled in credit-bearing courses. 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 \$120K grant

from the Ascendium Education Group/Jobs for the Future to build institutional capacity for the Federal Department of Education's reinstitution 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, can explore, and become all that God intends them to be.