“Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning, we seek to be agents of renewal in the academy, church, and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.”

This is the vision statement of Calvin College, distilled from three principal college documents (the Expanded Statement of Mission, the Core Curriculum Purpose Statement, and From Every Nation) which articulate the identity and mission of Calvin College in light of its particular theological tradition, educational history, foundational premises, and sustaining vision.

The school began in 1876 when it was founded to train a class of seven students as ministers in the Christian Reformed Church. Its ambitious curriculum was evident as it prepared students not only in the subjects necessary for ministry—Hebrew, Greek, Latin, biblical exegesis and theology—but also history, geography, logic, rhetoric, and philosophy. Today, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary are separate institutions, but they share a campus, and each is an agency of the Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRCNA).

Calvin College is a Christ-centered academic community serving over 4,000 students from across the nation and around the world. A faculty of more than 305 committed and caring Christian professors skillfully provide outstanding instruction, while a dedicated Board of Trustees, an excellent administrative team, a strong staff, thoughtful students, and active alumni all collaborate to make Calvin a distinctive institution.

At Calvin College, faith and curriculum come together in an academic climate where a rich kind of learning flourishes—learning that intentionally integrates Christian commitment, rigorous inquiry, and dedicated service in order to equip students to engage a broken world. Shaped by this climate, students develop into leaders, eager to work for renewal wherever they are called. Such an integrated educational project enables Calvin to hold a vital place in Christian higher education.

Calvin's teaching, scholarship, and service have been recognized widely; for example, U.S. News and World Report ranked Calvin ninth in the category of schools “with a strong commitment to teaching.” The faculty’s active scholarship is well known and has been frequently rewarded with major grants; students too have received an impressive number of prestigious awards, such as Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll also recognize Calvin as a national leader both inside and outside of the classroom. U.S. News and World Report cited Calvin for its superior internship program, the only school in Michigan to receive that recognition, and also honored its service-learning program, one of just twelve colleges nationwide to be so honored.

Calvin College offers over a hundred majors and programs, with about half of its graduates majoring in the traditional liberal arts and half majoring in professional programs. Calvin offers thirteen
nationally recognized semester-long off-campus study programs to countries such as China, Ghana, and Honduras. Moreover, the college is consistently recognized by the Institute of International Education as a national leader in short-term study abroad, providing students with over twenty three-week-long study abroad opportunities on six continents during the month of January.

Beyond the classroom, students enjoy an excellent residential life system, with opportunities for specialized living both on and off campus. Examples include an Honors floor, a reCreation Care floor, a Grassroots floor that is focused on racial reconciliation, and Project Neighborhood houses in the city of Grand Rapids where students live with mentors in intentional Christian community. Student life professionals at Calvin view their work as co-curricular, not “extra-curricular,” seeking to serve as partners with the faculty. Calvin is also active in and strongly supports NCAA Division III Athletics.

Calvin faculty and staff are committed to the college mission and provide stable, consistent service. The average tenure among current faculty and staff members is fourteen years of service and eleven years of service, respectively. Overall employee turnover remains low, and employee surveys show a high degree of satisfaction that translates into a strong student focus. The Scientist ranked Calvin eighth in the magazine’s “40 Best Places to Work in Academia in 2010.”

Calvin College Profile
- 4,008 students
- 48% from Michigan, 35.5% from other states
- 10% international students
- 12% students of color
- 54% female, 46% male
- 54% attended private schools, 45% attended public schools, 1% were homeschooled
- 86% retention rate from first to second year (compared to 70% nationally)
- 77% six year graduation rate (compared to 57% nationally)
- 11:1 student/faculty ratio
- 305 full-faculty (over 82% with terminal degrees)
- 22 average class size
- GPA (4.0 scale): 3.45-3.95
- ACT Composite: 24-30
- Beautiful 400 acre campus with architecturally-unified buildings, several of which have been recently renovated.
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