
Student Life

Our Mission

*As servants of God and partners in education,
We challenge and support students as they
Seek meaning in their college experiences.*

*With delight and anticipation, we present them to the world
As a people who are learning to love the things that God loves,
So that the world is blessed by their leadership.*

College is a stimulating, challenging, and exciting experience. Students explore new ideas, develop new skills, wrestle with difficult topics, and establish lifelong friendships. The Student Life Division at Calvin College helps students engage these experiences by offering a wide array of programs and services that are consistent with, and complement, the other educational opportunities at Calvin. The Student Life Division finds joy in facilitating a rigorous, Christ-centered learning environment in which students can flourish. We desire to see students become different people during their four or more years at Calvin. We hope that they will come to love the things God loves and that they will find themselves equipped to lead in the places where God calls them.

The eight offices of the Student Life Division are eager to challenge and support students as they develop their gifts and interests. These include the Broene Counseling Center, Campus Safety, Career Development, the Office of Christian Formation, Judicial Affairs, Health Services, Residence Life, and Student Development. With more than 80 creative, dedicated staff members, the SLD is well equipped to serve Calvin students in their holistic development. For more information on the Student Life Division at Calvin College, please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/studentlife.

Broene Counseling Center

The Broene Counseling Center offers comprehensive and high-caliber services in a confidential manner. The staff offers evaluation, counseling, and support within a Christian framework to any student dealing with emotional struggles, psychological problems, or personal concerns. Individual and group counseling are available, as are workshops and other special programs. Broene Counseling Center staff can also help direct students to a variety of books, pamphlets, and other resources on pertinent information such as depression, anxiety, relationships, sexuality, alcohol, stress, eating disorders, and much more.

Counselors are available by appointment. There are also walk-in times Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. when students can meet with a counselor without a pre-arranged appointment. Center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Counseling services are available year around for any Calvin student. Appointments can be made directly by stopping in at the Center, which is located on the third floor of the Spoelhof College Center, or by calling 526-6123. Students can also visit the Center's website at www.calvin.edu/admin/broene/ for more information.

Campus Safety

The mission of the Campus Safety Office is to serve the Calvin community by promoting mutual responsibility for campus safety. It strives to ensure a safe and well-ordered campus environment, relevant educational initiatives, and respectful service of the highest integrity to members of our campus community. Our staff is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/admin/campus_safety/ for more information.

Career Development

The mission of the Career Development Office is to assist Calvin students and alumni with career development activities that include career assessment and testing, career counseling, internship participation, job search planning, and leadership skills acquisition. Although not a placement service, this office helps students discover and explore the variety of careers available to them. The office uses the Myers-Briggs and Strong Interest Inventory to assist students in selecting a major. Personal guidance is provided for job search techniques such as résumé writing, networking, and interviewing skills. Students are also encouraged to explore and participate in a wide variety of internship and experiential education opportunities available through the Career Development Office. These “hands-on” experiences provide students with the opportunity to explore multiple career options during their college years.

The Career Development Office uses CalvinLink to coordinate the on-campus job posting and interview process. This program enables students to easily submit personal and academic information to the career center, upload résumés and cover letters, search for jobs, and select on-campus interview times. Seniors seeking job search assistance are asked to register for services early in their final year at Calvin. A one-time \$40 career services fee is charged to first-year students, which covers all career services throughout their experience at Calvin. Of that fee, \$15 is refunded via a Campus Store gift certificate to students who report their employment status within six months of graduation.

The Career Resource Center on the second floor of the Hekman Library provides a significant collection of print and computerized resources, including updated information on occupations, employers, and employment opportunities throughout the world. This state-of-the-art facility is indispensable for students needing help during any stage of their career-planning journey. The Career Resource Center also houses materials for students interested in graduate school programs. Career counselors are available by appointment or during “walk-in” times. The Career Development Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. The Career Resources Center is open during library hours. The services of the Career Development Office are available year-round.

Office of Christian Formation

God calls his people to seek him in all things. We seek him through our studying and conversing, our playing and worshipping. The Office of Christian Formation seeks to support and provide several specific avenues for students to grow as faith-filled, faithful people.

To grow in loving devotion to God is the goal our Lord places before his followers. Public worship is a means of acknowledging God’s presence in our lives and of maturing in the Christian faith. Chapel services are held each weekday, Monday through Friday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. In addition to the main service, several foreign-language worship services are held regularly in the Meditation Chapel (located in the Chapel’s undercroft.) On Sundays, students are expected to worship at a local church or at the student worship service, The LOFT (Living Our Faith Together), which is held in the Chapel at 8:00 p.m.

Opportunities for Christian leadership development abound through this office. The Mentoring Program provides students the chance to walk with a staff/faculty member or Calvin alum as they consider who they are and who God calls them to be. Each academic year, twenty students are selected to comprise the Barnabas Team. They are mentored and trained by the Directors of Christian Formation for ministry among their peers living in the residence halls and apartments. The Directors of Christian Formation also oversee student leaders working to enhance community and ministry among their peers who live off campus. Student-athletes also have opportunity to grow in their leadership skills through a summer training retreat and ongoing support from the Coordinator of Christian Formation for Athletics and Team Development.

Numerous opportunities exist for other voluntary religious activities, including Bible study groups; prayer groups; Christian service and evangelistic outreach projects; and group

fellowships such as InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Young Life, and Campus Crusade.

The college Chaplain provides pastoral care for the college community. Students or staff who are in need of spiritual counsel are encouraged to contact the Chaplain.

Other Christian Formation Initiatives

Two additional programs not specifically under the purview of the Office of Christian Formation also exist to help students explore particular areas of gifts and calling. Student Worship Apprentices work with staff members to plan and participate in student-based worship throughout the academic year. In another effort, twelve promising college juniors are selected each year as Jubilee Fellows in a scholarship, study, and service program for those strongly inclined toward Christian ministry.

As an information source for students across the disciplines, the Ministry Resource Center (located in the Hekman Library) provides materials for those involved in on- and off-campus ministry. It is designed to connect students with gifts in art, theater, music, dance, writing, languages, counseling, business, technology, and other fields with ministry uses.

Please consult the “Faith” link on the college’s website at www.calvin.edu for further information regarding campus opportunities for worship, discipleship, and prayer.

Judicial Affairs

Calvin College is a learning community where students can grow from a variety of experiences, even in their mistakes. The Judicial Affairs Office works with students, faculty, and staff to provide a ministry of support and intentional educational interventions with students who are in crisis, or those who are in violation of the community standards of Calvin College.

Health Services

Outpatient medical services are provided on campus to all registered students during the regular school year. Health Services (HS), located in the lower level of Heyns Hall, is open weekdays with limited evening hours available. Visits are scheduled by appointment only unless immediate care is medically indicated. Medical services are provided by nurse practitioners and part-time physicians. When necessary, students are referred to area providers for additional care. Call (616) 526-6187 to schedule an appointment.

Primary care services include evaluation and treatment of common illnesses and injuries, allergy injections, STD testing and treatment, women’s health exams, smoking cessation counseling and treatment, and physical exams for sports, travel, and employment. Lab and medication services are also available to HS clients.

The travel health and immunizations staff provides comprehensive pre- and post-travel consultation, personal medical evaluations, immunizations, prescriptions, and tips for staying healthy while abroad. All vaccines and medicines for preventative health and off-campus travel are available at Health Services.

Immunization Policy: Calvin requires all incoming students to show provider-documented immunization status for polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, and tuberculin skin testing. The college also wants students be informed about and consider vaccination for bacterial meningitis. Call our Immunizations and Insurance Office for further information (616) 526-6568.

Student Health Insurance: To ensure that students have access to necessary medical care, Calvin College requires that all students have health insurance coverage. KnightCare, a plan designed for Calvin students, provides year round coverage at a reasonable cost. All students will be automatically enrolled in KnightCare unless they provide proof of comparable coverage and sign a waiver form by the specified date. Detailed up-to-date information is available by calling our Immunizations and Insurance staff (616) 526-6568 or by visiting the HS website at www.calvin.edu/admin/health/knightcare/index.htm.

Residence Life

Living on campus is an integral part of the Calvin College educational experience. The learning that takes place within communities of residents is a catalyst for social, spiritual, moral, and intellectual development. The seven traditional residence halls, with rooms configured in suites of two rooms and one bathroom (two students per room), and the eleven apartment-style buildings (four or five students per apartment) are all located within short walking distance of academic buildings and parking. All residence halls are staffed by full-time, Masters-level staff members who supervise various student leadership groups and ensure a safe, healthy, and developmental environment for all residents. All student rooms are furnished and have internet and campus cable access. Storage and quiet study rooms are available in hall basements, laundry facilities are free, and meal plans provide a wide variety of food options at every meal. For more information, visit the Housing and Residence Life website at www.calvin.edu/admin/housing.

Calvin acknowledges this important co-curricular ingredient by requiring all first and second year students to live on campus, and by encouraging continued on-campus housing for students beyond their first two years when it is no longer a requirement. Exceptions to the residency requirement are granted only for students commuting from their parents' place of residence, students who are married, part-time, or 21 years or older, or students who are two years beyond their high school graduation date.

Student Development

The Student Development Unit is made up of four distinct areas: Student Development Office, Multicultural Student Development, Service-Learning, and Student Activities. The office staff (Dean of Student Development, Associate Dean of Student Development) will be some of the first people you meet once you matriculate to Calvin. They plan and implement the orientation programs (for further information, please refer to our website at www.calvin.edu/orientation) of the college, namely PASSPORT (summer program), Wilderness Orientation Program (WOP), INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (program for international students), QUEST (fall program) and TRANSITIONS (mid-year program). The office staff also provide a wide range of services for off-campus students (over 40 percent of the student body resides off campus), as well as leadership and administration to the nearly sixty student organizations on campus. Please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/sdo.

The Multicultural Student Development Office strives to support the college's mission to become a genuinely multicultural, anti-racist, Christian academic community by offering programs and support services for all students. These programs are designed to address the Student Life goals outlined in the "From Every Nation" document by providing forums for discussion and springboards to activism. Students are encouraged to increase their understanding of the historical underpinnings of today's racialized society and be able to discern manifestations of systemic racism. As a result, the MSDO hopes to contribute to a generation of citizens who are convicted by faith to restore global justice and shalom. Please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/msdo for further information.

The Service-Learning Center has as its motto, "Learning to Serve—Serving to Learn." Service-learning refers to the wide range of activities designed to meet needs within the local community while simultaneously developing knowledge, skills, and virtues in participating students. Students' participation in service-learning comes largely in the form of weekly service activities with a primary emphasis on reciprocal relationships within the Grand Rapids community. Students may also participate in academically-based service-learning, or service integrated within the context of a college course. Students connect conceptual content from their courses to their experiences in the community through structured reflection. Please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/slc for further information.

During college, students may learn and change more than any other period in their lives. This process of learning and changing takes place everywhere -- in classrooms, through all-night dorm discussions, and at a concert or movie on campus. Calvin encourages students

to embrace and apply a Christian worldview in all areas of life, including popular culture. As a result, the Student Activities Office staff plans an entire season of the best possible concerts, movies, comedy, theater, and other activities that will help students to evaluate critically these events in light of their faith, from a concert by Patty Griffin, a lecture by Bruce Cockburn, a movie such as *Blood Diamond*, or a major event such as the bi-annual Festival of Faith and Music, which hosts over 1000 conferees. Please visit our website at www.calvin.edu/sao for further information.

Student organizations are an integral part of campus life at Calvin. Students who involve themselves in their education through co-curricular activities enrich their own education. Involvement in student organizations is a great opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, expand their interests, and build relationships. Students are encouraged to create new student organizations that reflect their interests, and to get involved with existing organizations that suit their interests and fit their schedules. All student organizations must have a faculty advisor, but they are run by the students. The Student Life Committee, the Dean and Associate Dean of Student Development, and the Coordinator of Student Organizations oversee and support the activities of student organizations. The nearly sixty student organizations range from Chimes (the student newspaper) to the Environmental Stewardship Coalition to the IMPROV team. An updated list can be found on Calvin's website under Student Organizations at www.calvin.edu/resource/student.htm.

