

Hope College Mission & Visions Statements

The Vision that Motivates Hope:

- To pursue truth so as to renew the mind, enrich the disciplines, and transform the culture.
- To inspire passion for knowledge that grows into understanding and bears fruit in wisdom.
- To be an exceptional undergraduate liberal arts college that provides excellent professional and pre-professional programs.
- To be a leading Christian college, ecumenical in character and rooted in the Reformed tradition.
- To enhance education through residential community and superior co-curricular programs.

The Core Values that Shape Hope:

- To offer rigorous academic programs.
- To contribute to the body of knowledge in the academic disciplines.
- To nurture vibrant Christian faith.
- To be a caring community.
- To foster development of the whole person—intellectually, spiritually, socially, physically.
- To be wise stewards of resources.

The Mission that Guides Hope:

The mission of Hope College is to educate students for lives of leadership and service in a global society through academic and co-curricular programs of recognized excellence in the liberal arts and in the context of the historic Christian faith.

The Virtues that Mark Conversation at Hope:

- Humility to listen
- Hospitality to welcome
- Patience to understand
- Courage to challenge
- Honesty to speak the truth in love

Hope College's Philosophy of Education

The philosophy of education at Hope College is summarized by the phrase "Liberal Education within the Christian Tradition." Liberal education seeks to create an appreciative awareness of human achievements and potentialities and to evaluate conceptions of human existence. It strives to provide, in the words of the Covenant of Mutual Responsibilities between the Reformed Church of America and its colleges, "an atmosphere of search and confrontation that will liberate the minds, enhance the discernment, enlarge the sympathies, and encourage the commitments of all students entrusted to (it)." It also provides those intellectual skills which will prepare students for their responsibilities as informed, sensitive, competent members of the global community.

As an academic community the liberal arts college fosters free, sustained, disciplined inquiry with informed, critical understanding as its goal. This type of education provides the foundation for deeper inquiry into any given field. Depth of knowledge in a specialty, however, should be pursued not as an end in itself but as an expression of one's intellectual and moral aims.

A liberal education within the Christian tradition also seeks to develop the whole person by infusing education with purpose and direction. Hope's Christian heritage provides a foundation for defining moral values and making moral judgments. Reverent obedience to God, as revealed in Christ and through Scripture, provides one with a theological framework for self-understanding and social concern. Having an ultimate allegiance to the Creator of all truth frees and motivates scholarly pursuits. A Hope College education challenges students to develop an understanding of the Christian faith as a basis for academic excellence and the fulfillment of human potential. The goal of this education, therefore, is to provide students with the intellectual and ethical foundations for lifelong learning and a life of service to others.