



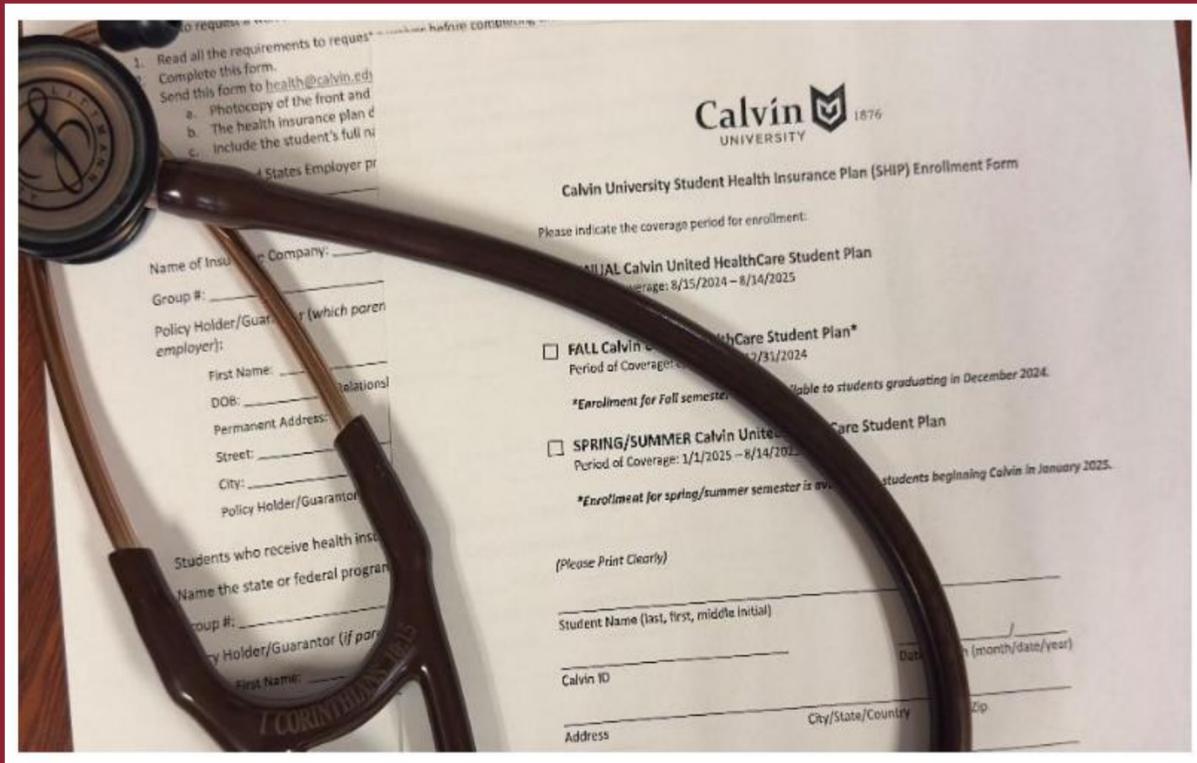
# “What You Should Know About Calvin That Your Student Might Forget to Tell You”

Parent Council - September 2025



# 10 “hidden gems” that make Calvin great

# #1



**Health Services  
repeatedly ranked in  
the top-20 of the  
*Princeton Review* for  
“Best Health Services”**

# Not just basic care...

- **ADHD Services:** on-campus care and convenient RX delivery service
- **Sports Medicine:** specialized injury care for athletes & active students
- **Acne Care:** tailored treatments, delivered discreetly
- **Psychiatric Consultation:** integrated & seamless mental health support
- **Allergy shots:** regular allergy management & on-campus injections
- **Vaccinations & travel health:** comprehensive immunization services (i.e., flu shots, travel vaccines, and standard preventative vaccinations)
- **Quick & easy appointments:** most students can be seen the same day or within 1-2 business days, minimizing academic disruptions



# #2



## Off Campus Learning Opportunities

# Place-based experiential learning



- **Off-Campus Study:** fall & spring semester; winter (January) & summer (May) intensives; spring break
- **Outdoor Recreation:** weekend, fall break, and spring break trips; outfitting rental center and bike shop; expeditionary field courses and climbing skills courses
  - **Fall 2025 trips:** Manistee River Paddleboarding; Sleeping Bear Road Cycle; Pine River Paddle; Pere Marquette; Dragon Mountain Bike; Pictured Rocks; Caving Adventure
- **Service Learning:** regular local service opportunities (e.g., community food banks, refugee education, senior support, women's shelter, etc.)
  - **Spring Break 2026 trips:** Outer Banks, NC (2 trips); Chicago; Atlanta; Philadelphia
- **Alumni Association & CALL Travel:** open to all friends of Calvin; uniquely planned by Calvin faculty, staff, or trusted alumni; travel experience woven with education and faith
  - **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trips:** 6 continents, including South Korea & Japan, Egypt, Red Rocks, Peru, Italy, Netherlands, and Australia

# #3

## KnightGuard



# Professional Campus Safety

# More than security...

- **24/7 Coverage:** around-the-clock patrols and incident response; specialized dispatch center
- **Professional officers and dispatch operation:** extensive staff experience (retired law enforcement or military)
  - Close partnership with area emergency response agencies and police departments
- **Access control:** robust card-access system and lockdown capability
- **Extensive video surveillance:** Over 350 cameras recording on campus
- **KnightGuard App:** one-stop resource
  - One-touch contact to Campus Safety dispatch
  - Direct link to virtual escort
  - Maps and parking information
  - Links to a variety of campus resources (e.g., emergency procedures, mental health resources, dating violence resources, tip reporting, etc.)
  - Emergency communications



**#4**



# Intentional Faculty Connections

# Regular and sustained interaction



- **Small Class Sizes/Low Student-Faculty Ratio:** more than 40% of classes have fewer than 20 students, which fosters more meaningful participation, discussion, and interaction with peers and instructors
- **Office Hours:** opportunity to connect one-on-one with faculty; times listed in syllabus
- **“Peets with Profs”:** opportunity to connect with professors over coffee/tea; sponsored by Student Senate; students can register online
  - Each pair receives two \$5 vouchers for Peets
- **Student Research Opportunities:** collaborative student-faculty research that provides inquiry-based learning opportunities
  - McGregor Undergraduate Research Program: arts, humanities, and social sciences
  - STEM Summer Student Research Fellowships: science, technology, engineering, & math
- **Career & Professional Mentoring:** industry connections; networking events; internships

#5



# Family-Friendly Traditions



# Key Times to Plan a Visit



- **Homecoming/Family Weekend:** each fall, families and alumni are encouraged to visit campus to take part in annual traditions
  - Calvin Classic 5K & Youth Fun Run
  - Athletic events
  - Calvin Music Festival
- **Calvin vs. Hope Rivalry:** spanning more than 100 years, this annual rivalry is consistently ranked by ESPN and others as one of the best rivalries in collegiate athletics; basketball rivalry games are broadcast in January/February each year
- **Siblings Weekend:** Current students welcome siblings (college-aged or younger) or others they “love like a sibling” (e.g., cousins, close family friends, etc.) to participate in a weekend of special events and activities; held each February

# #6



## Dining Innovations

# Continuous Innovation in Dining



- **Meal Plan Updates:** Core 19, Core 17, Core 14, Core 7
  - Meals reset at the beginning of every week
  - Includes up to 2 flex meals (meal equivalency swipes at Johnny's or Peet's)
  - Includes up to 1 guest meal (allows students to swipe in a guest)
- **GOOD TO GO Micro Markets:** Stocked with delicious and nutritious drinks, snacks, and grab-n-go items; new locations opened in DeVos and the Fieldhouse
- **Elevated dining programming:** Exciting new features in Commons Dining Hall
  - In-house based goods (cookies, bars, pies); premium ice cream (3x/week)
  - Infused water station with rotating flavors; new Pepsi add-your-flavor shot; Gatorade on tap
  - DIY sandwich bar for quick grab-n-go during busy times
  - BitFarms microgreen farm, housed and maintained in Commons Dining Hall
  - Zone allergy-friendly station is served and supported by an attendee
  - Special events: "Legacy of Light" dinner, "Generations of Food," & "John Calvin's Table"
- **Follow Calvin Dining on Instagram:** stay abreast of updates, new features, and special events: @calvindiningservices

**#7**



# Top Notch Academic Supports

# Fostering Student Success



- **Early Alert System & Robust Coordinated Care:** invisible web of support quietly working behind the scenes to support students; proactive support/outreach
- **Specialized academic counselors:** focused support based on areas of expertise
  - Athletes – 1:1 meetings; make-up testing for gameday conflicts; advising and scheduling
  - First-Generation students – courses designed to help students navigate college-life
  - International students – support with writing and English language
- **Academic coaching:** Free peer-to-peer support for everything outside of course content (e.g., time management, motivation, study skills, focus, motivation, learning strategies)
- **Tutoring:** free academic tutoring for most 100 & 200 level courses; evening study sessions for heavily-tutored courses (Accounting, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Stats, Physics)
- **Distraction-free space:** Students can drop off their phones at the front desk of the Center for Student Success (off the hallway behind Peets) and have distraction-free study space

# #8

## CAREER CENTER

### FALL 2025 PROGRAMMING



#### Signature Events

<b>School of Business Career Fair</b> 9/24 3:00-6:00 p.m. Prince Conference Center	<b>Suit Up with JCPenney</b> 10/12 3:00-6:00 p.m. Woodland Mall
<b>Engineering &amp; Computing Career Fair</b> 10/7 2:00-5:00 p.m. Prince Conference Center	<b>GVSU Career &amp; Internship Fair</b> 10/14 1:00-5:00 p.m. DeVos Place
<b>International Education Career Fair</b> 10/9 4:00-6:00 p.m. Prince Conference Center	<b>Wing Wednesday</b> Monthly 3:30-4:30 p.m. Career Center Office



Check out *Handshake* to view events and register!

@calvincareer  
Calvin Career Center

#### Calvin LifeWork

Check out the Calvin LifeWork page on Moodle and stay up to date with our modules of the month featured in our newsletters and on social media!



#### Career Conversations

Thursdays, 9:50-10:30 a.m. | Meeter Center Lecture Hall

- 9/11 - RESUMANIA
- 9/18 - International Student Advice Panel
- 10/2 - Get Hired: Career Fair Prep
- 10/16 - What to Look for in a Job
- 10/30 - Horror Interview Stories
- 11/13 - Time Management Tips
- 11/20 - Completing your LinkedIn Profile

#### Employer Meet-Ups

- Coffee & Career Chats**  
Tuesdays/Thursdays (Times Vary)  
Peet's
- Display Tables**  
Wednesdays 10:00-2:00 p.m.  
Peet's, Johnny's, & CUSB Lobby
- Office Hours**  
Fridays (Times Vary)  
Career Center
- Site Visits**  
Monthly  
(Times vary)

Participating Employers:



# Career Preparation & Connections

# From Exploration to Employment



- **Career Hub (Virtual Career Center):** central platform where students can explore interests, access job and internship postings, career resources, labor market data, and tools to support professional development. (<https://career.calvin.edu>)
- **Calvin LifeWork:** online curriculum of 30+ modules covering career readiness, leadership, financial literacy, and vocation- available to all students, who work at their own pace, in Moodle
- **Career Coaching & Resume Labs:** one-on-one coaching and daily resume labs (Monday through Friday, 3-4:30pm) to help students prepare for internships, jobs, and graduate school
- **Exploration and Mentoring Programs:** provide opportunities to shadow professionals, explore career fields, clarify professional goals, and build connections
  - Career Exploration Program - early exploration of career fields through shadowing and networking
  - CISD Career Scholars Program - selective mentoring and professional development through connection with industry leaders
- **Career Fairs & Employer Events:** signature opportunities to connect with regional and national employers, network with professionals, and secure internships or full-time work

**#9**



**Vibrant  
Student  
Traditions**

# The Legacy Lives On

- **Chaos Night:** a (mostly) friendly rivalry between residence halls featuring mental, physical, and creative challenges
- **Cokes & Clubs:** a fair highlighting student clubs, organizations, and activities that students can get involved in
- **Grand Prix Bed Races:** student teams design and decorate wheeled “beds” and race through a marked course
- **Cardboard Canoe Race:** students build canoes out of cardboard and compete to race/stay afloat in the Sem Pond
- **MidKnight Madness:** the official kickoff to Basketball season that involves students (and athletic teams) dressing in costumes and participating in a variety of contests
- **Christmas Tree Lighting:** a gathering on Commons Lawn in early December to light the campus Christmas tree, enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, and caroling
- **Cold Knight Plunge:** students (and some fac/staff!) jump into a frozen Sem Pond, striving to earn the “golden towel”
- **The January Series:** a world-renowned public lecture series in January, featuring distinguished authors, leaders, artists, and innovators from around the world. Open to all, it’s a free liberal arts education (in-person or livestreamed)
- **Dance Guild:** a very popular performance (fall & spring) that is student-led and features a wide array of student dancers
- **Rangeela:** a cultural showcase, with high international student involvement, bringing together performances, fashion, and a celebration of the many cultures represented at Calvin
- **Fall & Spring Formals:** an opportunity for students to dress up, dance, and socialize in a fancier off-campus setting



**#10**



**Creation Care &  
Soul Care**

# Restoration & Renewal



- **Speelman Arboretum:** Calvin is a designated arboretum, containing over 100 labeled tree species across campus (a living classroom); named in honor of Bob Spielman (certified arborist & Grounds Director, with more than 30 years of service and leadership at Calvin)
- **Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens:** a biodiversity hotspot consisting of 104 acres (¼ of campus), 2 miles of trails, several benches, and beautiful ponds and lookouts, providing Sabbath space for plants, animals, and humans; celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
- **Nature Rx:** alongside 98 other institutions, Calvin is part of the Campus Nature Rx Network, which recognizes that time in nature is proven to increase focus, decrease anxiety, and boost immune response
- **Proximity to Michigan Gems:** Calvin is less than an hour from some of the most beautiful spots in Michigan, including Lake Michigan, Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, and a variety of outdoor parks, trails, and scenic spots

