



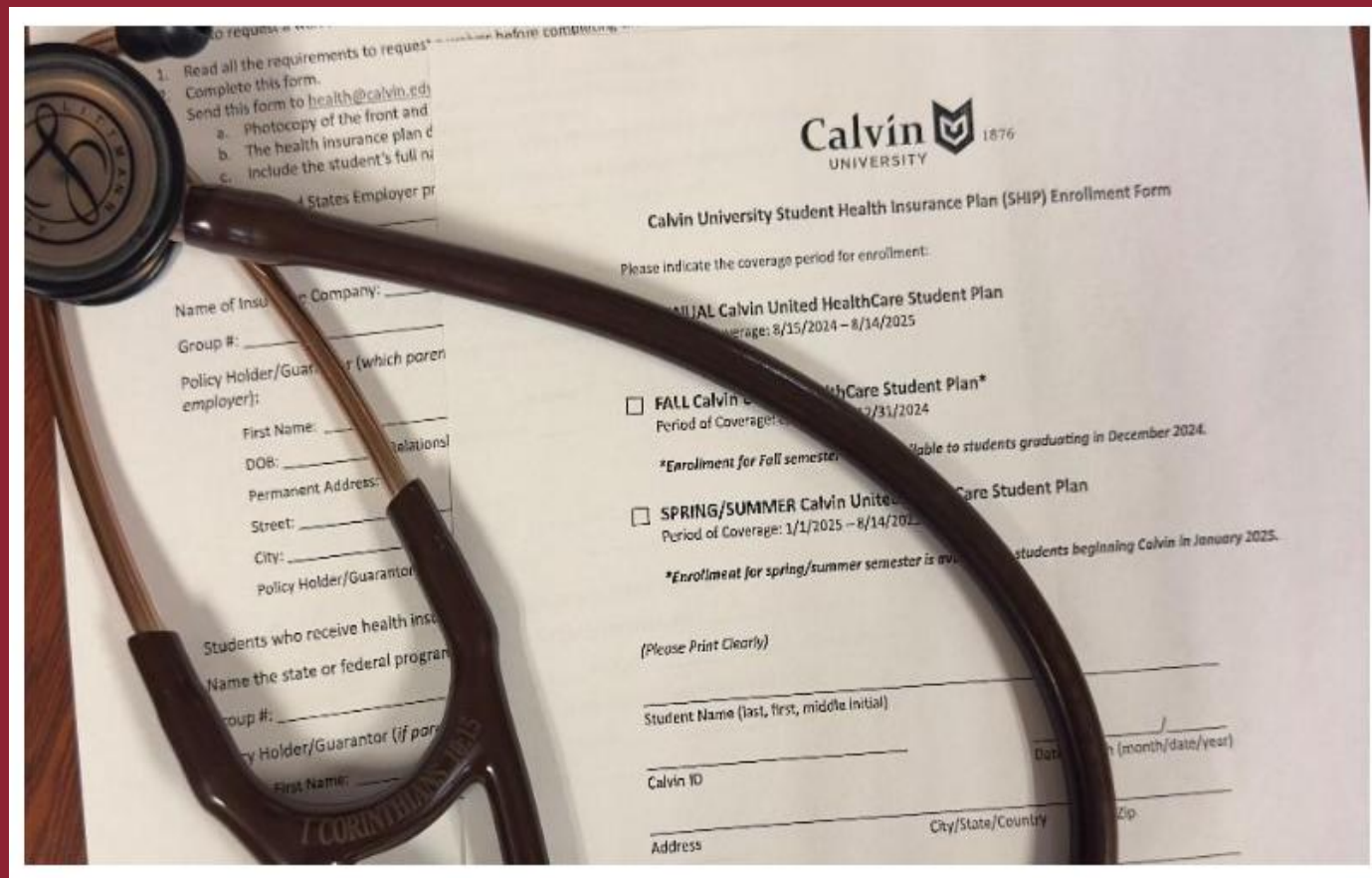
“What You Should Know About Calvin That Your Student Might Forget to Tell You”

P a r e n t C o u n c i l - S e p t e m b e r 2 0 2 5



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
 - **150th 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

HOMECOMING
CALVIN
FAMILY WEEKEND



Family-Friendly
Traditions

*Siblings
Weekend*

Key Times to Plan a Visit

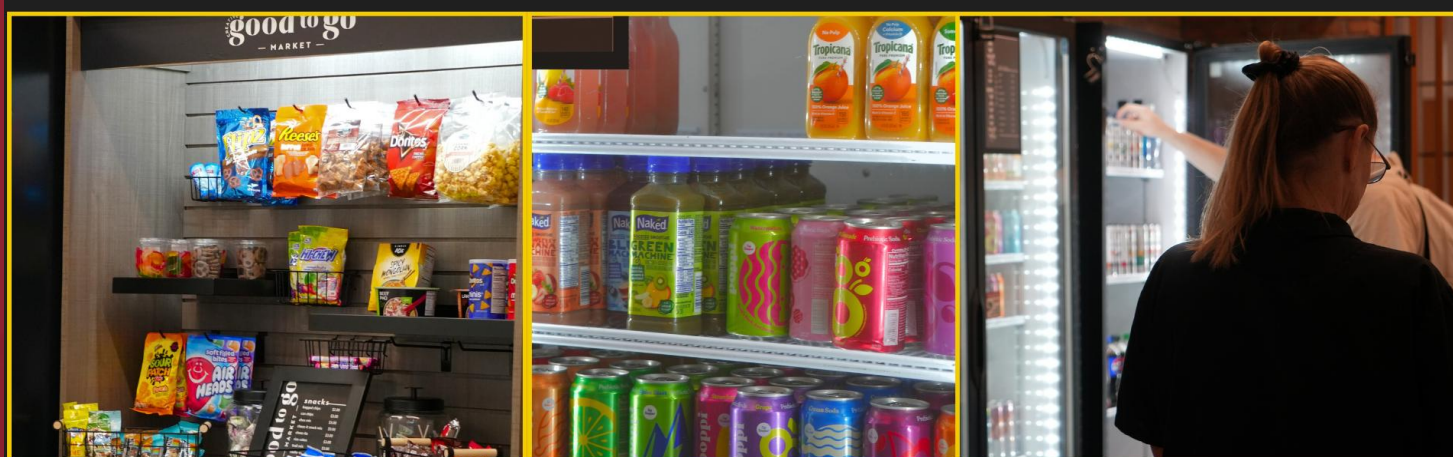


- **Homecoming/Family Weekend:** each fall, families and alumni are encouraged to visit campus to take part in annual traditions
 - Calvin Classic 5K & Youth Fun Run
 - Athletic events
 - Calvin Music Festival
- **Calvin vs. Hope Rivalry:** spanning more than 100 years, this annual rivalry is consistently 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

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



Check out *Handshake* to view events and register!

@calvincareer
Calvin Career Center

Resume Lab
Career Center Office
M-F 3:00-4:30 p.m.

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, 9:50-10:10 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 40th 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

