

AN INTRODUCTION TO LYNCHBURG COLLEGE

Mission

Lynchburg College, a private coeducational institution founded in 1903 in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), offers distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs that reflect its commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service to the greater community.

The mission of Lynchburg College is to develop students with strong character and balanced perspectives and to prepare them for intelligent and wholehearted participation in a global society and for effective leadership in the civic, professional, spiritual, and social dimensions of life.

Lynchburg College provides students with a wide range of rigorous educational experiences that are grounded in the liberal arts, enhanced by professional studies, and nurtured by a residential community. The College serves the region through its outreach programs, cultural opportunities, resources, services, and the expertise of faculty, staff, and students.

In support of its mission, Lynchburg College endeavors to create a learning environment that:

- develops the breadth of knowledge and other characteristics traditionally associated with liberal education;
- develops depth of knowledge within chosen fields of study;
- respects and supports broad diversity and global understanding;
- values and celebrates all faith traditions;
- fosters a student-centered environment; and
- sustains close working relationships among faculty, staff, and students.

Accreditation/Membership

Lynchburg College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4500) to award degrees at the baccalaureate and master's levels. The Virginia Department of Education approves its teacher preparation programs. Its nursing program is approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The Sport Management Program is approved by the North American Society for Sport Management. The athletic training major is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). It is on the approved list of the American Medical Association. Graduate and professional schools throughout the country accept its degrees and credits. It is approved by the Virginia Department of Education for payment of educational benefits for veterans.

The College holds membership in the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the Association of Virginia Colleges, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, the Virginia Humanities Conference, the Virginia Academy of Science, and the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education.

History

Dr. Josephus Hopwood came to Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1903 from Milligan College in Tennessee, where he was president, to found Virginia Christian College (VCC.) He came at the request of a group of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministers and businessmen who wanted to establish a Christian Church college in Virginia. The College maintains its historical relationship to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a denomination with an ecumenical tradition of welcoming persons of all faiths and denominations. Dr. Hopwood and this group of supporters purchased the Westover Hotel, a resort facility, for use as the first campus building, Westover Hall.

In 1919 the name of the College was changed to Lynchburg College to avoid confusion with another institution in the area and because the College's church constituency had expanded beyond Virginia.

From its beginning the College has been both strongly oriented toward liberal arts and coeducation, a rarity in the early twentieth century but a system in which Dr. Hopwood and his wife and professional colleague, Sarah Eleanor LaRue Hopwood, firmly believed. Together they worked to establish Lynchburg College as one of the oldest coeducational colleges in Virginia.

With financial assistance from industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and others, the physical facilities were expanded in 1909 with the completion of Carnegie Hall and Hopwood Hall. Other major campus facilities include Hall Campus Center (formerly Memorial Gymnasium, 1923, renovated 1980); Hundley Hall (1954); Knight-Capron Library (1954, Capron addition, 1969); Hobbs Hall (1959; laboratory wing 1993; renovated 1995); Shackelford Hall (1963); Freer Hall (1963); Crews and Reynolds Courts (1964); McWane Hall (1966); Snidow Chapel-Hebb Music Center (1966); Burton Student Center (1968); Tate Hall (1969); Turner Gymnasium (1969, renovated 2000); Wake Field House (1969); Montgomery Hall (1970); Dillard Fine Arts Center (1974); Psychology Building (1978); Alumni House (1985); McMillan Nursing Building (1987); Thompson Education Building (1986, addition 2008); Daura Art Gallery (1990; addition 1995); Beaver Point Clubhouse (1990); Victory Bell Tower (1993); the Claytor Nature Study Center (1998), A. Boyd Claytor III Education and Research Facility (2003), and Belk Observatory (2007), located in Bedford County, Va.; Brewer, Rainsford, Warren, Huston, and Bullard townhouses (2003, 2004); Elliot and Rosel Schewel Hall (formerly Centennial Hall, 2005); Peakview Hall, (2005); Shellenberger Field (renovated, 2007); and Moon Field (renovated, 2006, 2007).

The presidents of Lynchburg College and the dates of their tenure are as follows: Dr. Josephus Hopwood (1903-1911), Dr. S. T. Willis (1911-1912), Mr. G. O. Davis (1912-1914), Dr. George P. Coler (Acting 1914-1915), Dr. John T. T. Hundley (1915-1936), Dr. Riley B. Montgomery '19 (1936-1949), Dr. Orville W. Wake '32 (1949-1964), Dr. M. Carey Brewer '49 (1964-1983), Dr. George N. Rainsford (1983-1993), Dr. Charles O. Warren (1993-2001), and Dr. Kenneth R. Garren (2001-).

Now well into its second century, the College maintains its commitment to co-education and the liberal arts and sciences. At the same time, it encourages professional preparation because it is convinced that a liberal arts education and professional preparation are mutually supportive.

Lynchburg College awards bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, master of arts, master of business administration, and master of education degrees.

With only eleven faculty members and fifty-five students at its beginning, the College now has 157 full-time faculty members and more than 2,400 undergraduate and graduate students who come from across the United States and around the world.

Academic Sessions

Fall and Spring Semesters

The College operates under the semester system, with a yearly schedule indicated by the College calendar.

Winter Term

A voluntary winter term during the winter break provides limited opportunities for pursuit of special interest courses. Courses taught during this term are intensive and may carry up to three hours of credit.

Summer Session

The Summer Session offers opportunity for acceleration of degree programs, pursuit of courses with particular appeal, and opportunity to remedy deficiencies.

Detailed information about summer sessions is available at the Lynchburg College web site, <http://www.lyncburg.edu/summer>.

The Campus

The grounds extend over 214 acres with a view and landscape of exceptional beauty and with the Blue Ridge Mountains forming the western skyline.

The campus features more than forty buildings, predominantly of Georgian style, grouped on or near the main campus oval. Nearby are the athletic fields and the tennis courts. Sloping away toward a small lake are wooded hills, part of an original forest of oak, hickory, poplar, pine, and dogwood.

The 470-acre Claytor Nature Study Center, overlooking the Peaks of Otter and located nearby in Bedford County, Va., includes an education, research, laboratory, and conference facility, and an astronomical observatory.