

AN INTRODUCTION TO LYNCHBURG COLLEGE

MISSION

Lynchburg College, a private coeducational institution founded in 1903 in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a denomination which values and celebrates all faith traditions, offers distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs that reflect the College's commitment to teaching, scholarship, and service to the greater community.

The mission of the 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.

HISTORY

Lynchburg College was founded in 1903 as Virginia Christian College (VCC) by Dr. Josephus Hopwood, who had come to Lynchburg, Virginia, from Milligan College in Tennessee, where he was president. He came to Lynchburg at the request of a group of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministers and businessmen who wanted to establish a Christian college in Virginia. Thus, the College is historically related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Dr. Hopwood and the group of supporters purchased the Westover Hotel, a resort facility, for use as the first campus building, Westover Hall.

From its beginning, the College has been both strongly liberal arts in orientation and coeducational, a rarity in the early twentieth century, but a system in which Dr. Hopwood and his wife, Sarah Eleanor LaRue Hopwood, firmly believed. Lynchburg College is among the oldest co-educational colleges in Virginia.

In 1919 the name of the College was changed to Lynchburg College to avoid confusion with another institution in the area with the VCC designation and because the College's church constituency had expanded beyond 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 buildings include Hall Campus Center (formerly Memorial Gymnasium, 1923, renovated 1980); Hundley Hall (1954); Knight-Capron Library (1954, Capron addition 1969); Hobbs Hall (1959, renovated 1995; laboratory wing 1993); 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); Wake Field House (1969); Montgomery Hall (1970); Dillard Fine Arts Center (1974); Psychology Building (1978); Alumni House (1985); McMillan Nursing Building (1987); Thompson Hall (dedicated as Thompson Education building in 1987; expanded and renamed in 2008); Daura Art Gallery (1990; addition 1995); Beaver Point Clubhouse (1990); Bell Tower (1993); Claytor Nature Study Center Education and Research Facility (2003); Brewer, Rainsford, and Warren Townhouses (2003); Huston and Bullard Townhouses (2004); Peaks View Hall (2005); Elliot & Rosel Schewel Hall (2005); the Belk Astronomical Observatory (2007); and the Health Sciences (Physical Therapy) building (2010).

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-).

The College maintains its commitment to co-education and the liberal arts. At the same time, it encourages professional preparation because the institution is convinced that a liberal arts education and professional preparation are mutually supportive.

Lynchburg College began offering graduate programs in 1959. The College currently awards bachelor of arts (B.A.), bachelor of science (B.S.), master of arts (M.A.), master of business administration (M.B.A.), master of education (M.Ed.), master of nursing (M.S.N.), and doctor of physical therapy (DPT). An Ed.D. in leadership studies is anticipated for fall 2011.

THE CAMPUS

The grounds extend over 223 acres with a view and landscape of exceptional beauty. The Blue Ridge Mountains form the western skyline.

The campus features more than forty buildings, predominantly of Georgian style, grouped on the main campus oval. Near them 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 trees.

The College's 470-acre Claytor Nature Study Center, at the foot of the Peaks of Otter of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is located nearby in Bedford County, Virginia. The on-site Claytor Educational and Research facility was completed in 2003 and the Belk Astronomical Observatory in 2007.

ACCREDITATION/MEMBERSHIPS

Lynchburg College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate level degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 3003-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Lynchburg College. 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. Counseling programs are approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The programs of the School of Business and Economics are approved by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). 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. The College has applied for candidacy status from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Lynchburg College has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703.706.3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Fall and Spring Semesters

The College operates under the semester system, with a yearly schedule indicated by the College calendar. Graduate courses are usually scheduled in the late afternoon and evening hours.

Winter Term

A voluntary 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 and pursuit of courses with particular appeal. Courses are intensive and the credit awarded varies with the course.