

The Honors College

Honoring Intellect. Enlivening Faith.

Engaging the World.



An Honors College. A Unique Opportunity.

Established in 1967, Valparaiso University's Christ College is one of the oldest and most respected honors colleges in the United States. Christ College offers an environment, a curriculum, and an educational opportunity that will spark your interests, challenge your mind, engage your imagination, and empower you to develop your gifts to the fullest.

Surrounded by peers who have demonstrated superior academic achievement and extracurricular involvement in high school, students invited into Christ College form bonds that last throughout the college years and beyond. Christ College features its own dean, faculty, and building —

Quick Facts

The advantages of being in Christ College (CC)

Christ College offers an exciting, interdisciplinary curriculum with small (12 to 18 students), discussion-oriented classes taught by outstanding teacher-scholars who enjoy strong mentoring relationships with students. Christ College students form a community of learning that encourages them to think deeply not only about academic subjects but also about their beliefs, values, and goals. Students form deep friendships with one another that can last a lifetime.

Christ College students receive honors designations on their transcripts and special commencement honors medallions.

How Christ College works

Christ College students come from all majors and colleges at Valparaiso University. Most Christ College courses fulfill Valpo's general education requirements. Others may count toward your major or minor and do not add time to completing your degree. You'll take 25–30 percent of your coursework in Christ College.

What the name "Christ College" indicates

The honors college at Valparaiso University is named after respected colleges founded centuries ago. The name reflects the college's emphasis on academic excellence, personal attention, and community. Christ College is an interdisciplinary liberal arts college that addresses all subjects. It is not a seminary or religious studies program, and there are no special religion requirements. The thoughtful treatment

Mueller Hall. These elements create an environment that fosters a distinctive college community. Christ College students regularly hold leadership positions in student government, campus media, volunteer organizations, fraternity and sorority life, and campus ministries. Dozens of Christ College students participate in NCAA Division I athletics, music ensembles, and theatre.

No matter which major you choose from among the more than 70 areas of study at Valparaiso University, the opportunity to be a Christ College student will enrich your education and your life.

of religious texts complements the equally careful examination and discussion of literary, philosophical, and political texts written by people from many diverse perspectives. Christ College welcomes students from all religious traditions; many find their faith is challenged, enlivened, and deepened in an atmosphere where matters of faith and critical reason are addressed in a spirit of thoughtfulness, openness, and respect.

Faculty

Nine full-time faculty members and six postdoctoral teaching fellows of the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts serve as faculty in Christ College.

College Affiliations

Valparaiso University has active chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honors society, and Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society which honors undergraduates in engineering for distinguished scholarship and exemplary character.

Other affiliations include:

- National Collegiate Honors Council member
- National Association of Fellowships and Scholarships Advisors member
- Kemper Scholars Program institution



Christ College Admission: Your Invitation to Excellence.

Your admission to Valparaiso University marks the beginning of a challenging, fulfilling academic experience that will build knowledge and character extending far beyond your college years. Christ College takes all that Valparaiso University offers and raises the caliber of the curriculum — and the bar of excellence — to levels that all Christ College students are expected to uphold.

Invitations to apply to Christ College are extended in late fall and spring of your senior year in high school. Your invitation to Christ College is dependent, in large part, on the following criteria:

- Intellectual creativity and curiosity
- Strong SAT or ACT scores
- Leadership in extracurricular activities
- Willingness and strong desire to challenge, analyze, and examine ideas and beliefs

Eighty-five to ninety students are accepted for membership into Christ College each year. Once enrolled, members must maintain a strong academic performance in both Christ College and Valparaiso University.

Challenge Your Mind. Honor Your Intellect.

As a student with a thirst for knowledge, it's not enough for you to understand *what*. You want to know *how*, *why*, and likely *why not*. If this is your instinct, then Christ College is the perfect place for you.

Your personal Christ College journey begins with a two-semester sequence of courses — Texts and Contexts: Traditions of Human Thought — and continues throughout the next three years with intellectual exploration that goes beyond traditional teaching. A Christ College education features critical reading, close analysis of texts and contexts, focused expository and persuasive writing, scholarly lectures, and faculty-guided small group discussions.

In Christ College, you will find a learning philosophy that emphasizes personal freedom and the empowerment to choose the methods of learning that work best for you.

The Christ College Advantage



REBEKAH KOEHN '17

As a tour guide and orientation assistant, Rebekah Koehn '17 loves to share the Valpo experience with others. She says she was impressed by the breadth and depth of opportunities here and that she wouldn't have been able to be as involved at a larger state school.

And Rebekah certainly is involved. In addition to her studies in Christ College — The Honors College, she's a mechanical engineering major with a biomedical engineering minor, a recipient of a Caterpillar Foundation scholarship that requires 20 hours of community service per semester, a member of a sorority, and involved with biomechanics and prosthetic development research.

Through her research, Rebekah is able to see how lessons learned in the classroom can be applied in areas like injury prevention.

"The most important thing for me, when choosing which college to attend, was deciding where I felt at home," Rebekah says. "A lot of schools checked off things on a list. Valpo is where I wanted to spend four years of my life — the place I want to look back on after I graduate."

OUTSTANDING FACULTY: Christ College faculty are among Valparaiso University's most accomplished and highly regarded teacher-scholars. Known for excellence in the classroom and in their academic fields, these professors especially enjoy working with honors students. Detailed faculty information can be found at valpo.edu/christ-college/faculty.

MUELLER HALL: Serving as home to Christ College, Mueller Hall, in the heart of campus, offers attractive classrooms, wireless technology, convenient honors faculty and dean's offices, comfortable study and social spaces, fireplace seating, and a landscaped courtyard.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FRESHMAN PROGRAM: First-year students participate in a unique interdisciplinary program focused on the humanities and social sciences and choose from seven different topics to study in the final spring quarter. Faculty guidance, mentoring from upper-level students, and a range of social events mark the program's innovative qualities.

SUPPORT FOR PRESENTING UNDERGRADUATE WORK: Christ College fully funds its students to present their creative work and research at major conferences nationwide, including the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP: All Christ College students are eligible for the CC Study Abroad Scholarship to support participation in international programs.

KEMPER SCHOLARS PROGRAM: Each year, a Christ College freshman is selected for the prestigious Kemper Foundation Scholars Program, which aims to prepare students for leadership and service, especially in the fields of administration and business. Students receive three years of scholarship aid, funded summer internships, and mentoring.

ACADEMIC ADVISING: In addition to a faculty advisor in his or her major field, Christ College students benefit from an experienced Christ College advisor (a faculty member or one of the deans).

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP ADVISING: Christ College graduates are frequent recipients of major competitive scholarships, including Fulbright Scholarships, German Chancellor Scholarships, National Science Foundation Fellowships, Tau Beta Pi, and other awards.

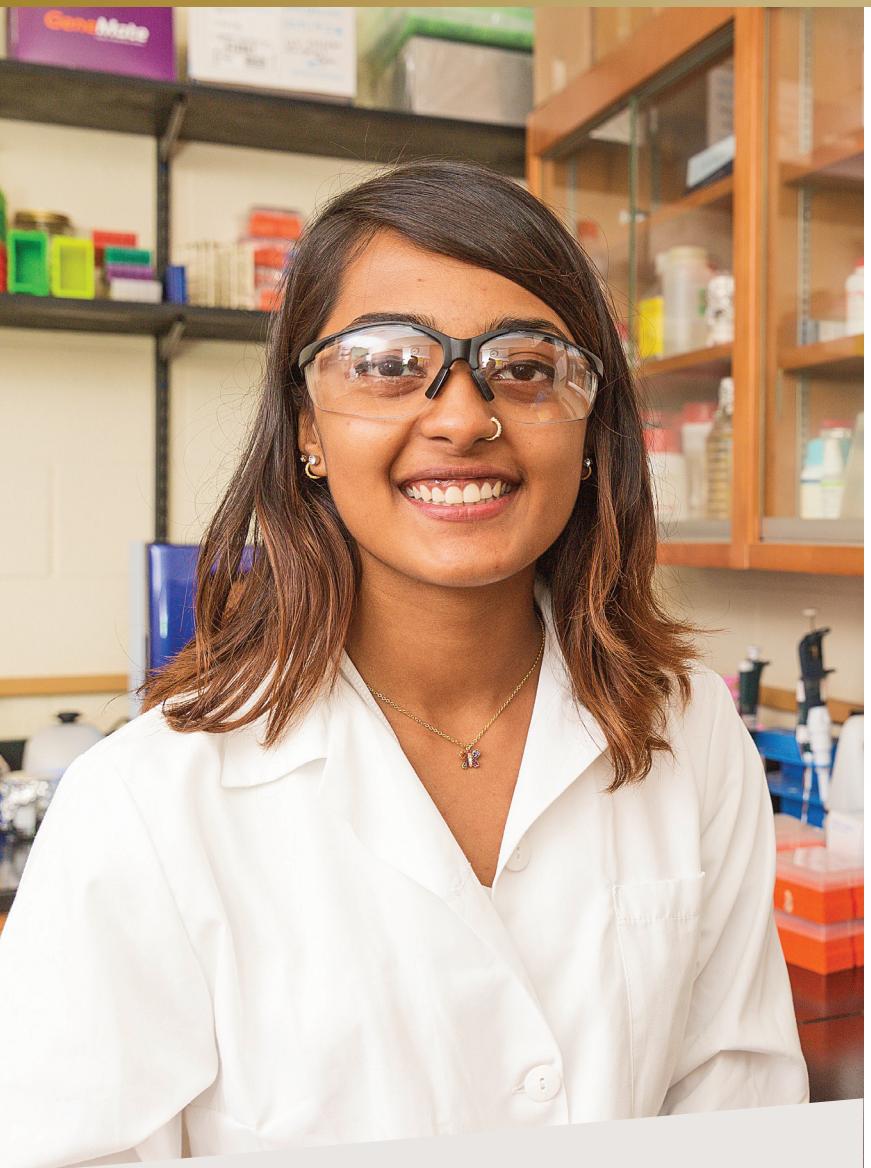
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT: The Christ College alumni network of 2,000 graduates offers strong professional contacts for internships and career assistance. Alumni stay involved through the National Council and Advisory Board, Homecoming events, reading groups, and in many other ways.



Travel and Research Opportunities Interdisciplinary and International

- More than 50 percent of Christ College students spend a semester, spring break, or summer studying abroad, or in Chicago or Washington, D.C., and earn honors credit for this experience. Recently, Christ College seminars have been offered in Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, and China, and on-campus courses have included global topics such as Religion and Contemporary Global Literature; Visions of Japan: Literature, Tourism, and Culture; Liberation Theology; German Christians and Nazi Germany; Western Mysticism and the Allure of India; and Global Humanitarianism.
- In the Christ College Freshman Program, students compare classical Western texts by Aristotle, St. Augustine, Machiavelli, and other influential thinkers with important Chinese writers such as Mencius and Chuang-Tzu. In upper-level courses, contemporary issues such as globalization are regularly addressed.
- Christ College funds spring break travel to Central America for students who choose service learning programs in health care and education. Premedical arts and nursing students work alongside professionals in rural and urban clinical health care sites. Students in all majors who enjoy tutoring have opportunities to work with children in Nicaraguan schools, with local teachers as guides.

The Christ College Curriculum



Intensive. Intriguing. Enlightening.

Christ College students explore themes and learn skills that carry them throughout their lives, developing the vision and skills needed to be tomorrow's thoughtful leaders.

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Texts and Contexts: Traditions of Human Thought I and II revolve around intensive, integrated study (one 8-credit course each semester) of classic texts in history, literature, philosophy, and religion.
- Weekly drama workshops lead up to the annual Christ College Freshman Production, an original, student-created theatrical musical production that caps off the first semester of study.
- Oxford Union-style debates focus on significant current national and international issues.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Study of the nature and purpose of Christian theology
- Interpretations of society and diverse cultures

JUNIOR YEAR

- Wide variety of seminar topics to choose from, including:
 - Justice
 - Consumer Culture
 - The Scientific Endeavor
 - Modern American Social Thought
 - Portraits of Jesus
 - Human Rights
 - Peace and Conflict Resolution
 - American Identities
 - Theology and Literature
 - Media and Culture in East Asia
 - African American Literature
 - Music and Meaning
 - The Devil and the Problem of Evil
 - Literature at the Movies
 - Word and Image
 - American Home

SENIOR YEAR

- Additional seminar options
- Christ College Senior Colloquium: This 1-credit course for seniors provides time for reflection on college experiences, practical refining of future plans, and deep contemplation of vocation.

ASHITA BHATNAGAR '18

Traveling more than 8,000 miles from her home in India, Ashita Bhatnagar '18 came to Valparaiso University to embark on a journey full of challenges and growth, both academically and personally.

Through her studies in biology, chemistry, and psychology, Ashita is fully engaged academically with hopes to attend medical school upon graduation. In Christ College — The Honors College, Ashita has grown both intellectually and personally, approaching the challenges with the aid of faculty mentors. Initially she feared writing, but through one-on-one faculty interaction, her writing skills have "flourished," and she is now en route to becoming a Christ College Scholar. The interdisciplinary nature of Christ College has encouraged Ashita to step outside the science spectrum, exposing her to new ideas.

"From the moment I arrived on campus, I have been inspired," Ashita says. "I have never felt more engaged or active. My brain is constantly at work, and I have discovered I have purpose."

The Christ College Experience

A student perspective

"What I appreciate most about the Christ College community is the opportunity to interact with people outside of my major. I always find it interesting when I can tell some of my classmates are approaching a discussion from a different framework than I am. This is invaluable for broadening our minds and learning from other viewpoints."

— NATHANIEL GREIWE '18

"I am definitely able to balance my Christ College workload with extracurricular activities. Not only did I hold a leadership position in my sorority this past year, I also have three jobs on campus, including a research assistant position that I would not have been able to get without my involvement in Christ College. I am able to balance all of these things in addition to my other classes, and my involvement with Christ College has given me an abundance of learning opportunities."

— KATIE GOLDBRANSON '18

"The community aspect of Christ College extends far beyond Mueller Hall and even Valpo's campus — a reality that I became acutely aware of last semester while abroad. The relationships I've formed in Christ College are ones I can depend on consistently to provide steadfast support and intentional conversation, regardless of whether I am on campus or 8,000 miles away."

— EMILY OWENS '18



TYLER SANFT '16

Tyler Sanft '16 first visited Valpo's campus as a member of the Green Park Lutheran School eighth-grade basketball team, competing in the National Lutheran Basketball Tournament of Champions at the Athletics-Recreation Center. From that time in March 2008, he knew he wanted to attend Valpo.

The rigors of the communication program and his Christ College courses have prepared him for a professional career in crisis communication, but the personal interactions are what Tyler will carry forever from his Valpo experience.

"Looking back on my time as a CC student, the relationships I established are really the most formative experiences of my undergraduate career," Tyler says.

Each connection Tyler formed as he pursued his degree, explored his faith, and extended his social circles is a memorable part of his Valpo experience — all of which will remain with him forever.

Plans of Recent *Graduates*



EMILY ROBINSON '17

At Valpo, Emily Robinson '17 has blossomed as a leader, collaborator, scholar, educator, musician, and motivator.

Originally from St. Louis, Emily is a music major with a minor in business administration. With a concentration in music industry, she has taken courses in music careers and entrepreneurship, which will allow her to pursue a career in many areas, including recording, retailing, or arts management.

"Valpo has definitely become my home," Emily says. "It has become a home because I have created my own family here. Everything that is encompassed by a home is here, and you discover it along the way."

As a Christ College — The Honors College student, Emily finds herself constantly challenged and motivated to meet the high expectations permeating the honors environment. She is more aware of the world around her, continually explores her life's purpose, and has developed extensive critical thinking and writing skills.

No single characteristic underscores the caliber of Christ College students more boldly than the dynamic nature of their plans for the future. Many Christ College graduates go on to distinguished professional or graduate schools. Others launch careers in business, industry, science, the arts, engineering, health care, education, church work, and other fields. Here is a sampling of what recent graduates are doing:

- **M.D.**, Rush Medical College, Chicago
- **Fulbright Scholar**, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- **Master of Social Work**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- **M.S. in Transportation Engineering**, University of California, Berkeley
- **Auditor**, Ernst & Young, Cleveland
- **M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies**, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Va.
- **Strategy Fellow**, National Lutheran Communities and Services, Rockville, Md.
- **Fellow**, Winston-Salem Fellows Initiative, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- **Economist**, National Compensation Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, St. Louis
- **Associate Engineer**, Pratt and Whitney, East Hartford, Conn.
- **Mathematics Teacher**, Merrillville High School, Merrillville, Ind.
- **M.A. in Museum Studies**, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- **Fellow with the Criminal Justice Division**, Office of the Governor of Texas, Austin
- **M.S. in Management Studies**, Boston University Questrom School of Business
- **M.S. in Plant Biology**, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.
- **M.S. in Geography**, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D.
- **DDS**, Marquette University, Milwaukee
- **M.D.**, Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, Wis.
- **Investment Analyst**, Rocaton Investment Advisors, Norwalk, Conn.
- **Calibration Engineer**, Aisin Corporation, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- **M.A. in Teaching**, Franklin Institute, Universidad de Alcala, Madrid, Spain
- **Director of Community Outreach**, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Minneapolis
- **J.D.**, Michigan State University Law School, East Lansing, Mich.
- **Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
- **M.A. in Religion**, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.
- **M.A. in Atmospheric Science**, Texas Tech University
- **Fulbright Scholar**, Klagenfurt, Austria
- **Ph.D. in Physics**, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.
- **Ph.D. in Civil Engineering**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Ph.D. in Biomedical Science**, University of Florida