Messiah College

Distinctives
2019-2020

Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

OVERVIEW

Messiah College is a nationally ranked, private Christian college with a student body of 3,374 undergraduate and graduate students located in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, just 12 miles from the state capital, Harrisburg.

HISTORY

Messiah College was founded in 1909 by the Brethren in Christ Church. Now, the College's faith base includes students and employees from a breadth of denominations and Christian faith traditions.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Messiah College offers bachelor’s degrees that include extensive off-campus study, individualized majors, independent study, service learning, internships, accelerated advanced degree programs and a flourishing College Honors Program. Messiah also offers three-year degree options, allowing motivated students to graduate one or two semesters early.

View a full list of our majors, plus minors and concentrations at messiah.edu/majors.

- Colleges of Distinction has recognized Messiah’s business, education, engineering and nursing programs based on their merits of accreditation, breadth of program and track record for success.
- One hundred percent of Messiah’s majors require experiential learning as a graduation requirement.
- Visit messiah.edu/ELI to learn more.
- Messiah graduates have distinguished themselves as Rhodes, Fulbright, Carnegie, Truman and Boren scholars.

Academic Excellence

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKING
#16 “Best Regional University” in the North
#13 “Best Value University” in the North

WALL STREET JOURNAL RANKING
#2 in the Northeast for student engagement

“Best Regional College in the Northeast”
— PRINCETON REVIEW GUIDE
Named to “America’s Best Colleges” List
— FORBES, 2018
“Best College in its Region”
— MONEY MAGAZINE, 2018

Visit messiah.edu/recognitions to learn more.
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Messiah College offers quality graduate programs in a mix of traditional and online courses, including master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Visit messiah.edu/gradprograms for a full list.

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Messiah weaves opportunities for spiritual growth throughout students' college experience—including chapel and worship services, discipleship and small groups, ministry outreach teams, community service and missions trips.

To learn more about spiritual growth opportunities at Messiah, visit messiah.edu/faithandservice.

OUTSTANDING CAREER PREPARATION

100% of the undergrad class of 2018 survey respondents indicated they were employed or in graduate/professional programs within 6-9 months after graduation.

- Messiah students connect with potential employers through Into the City, a unique, immersive career development and networking program in major U.S. cities.

400 eager employers and some of the nation’s best graduate schools welcomed Messiah graduates into their organizations.

PRESIDENT

Kim S. Phipps, Ph.D., has served as the eighth president of Messiah College since 2004. She serves in leadership roles on a variety of regional and national boards.

To learn more, visit messiah.edu/president

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS

Messiah College’s faculty hold degrees from internationally recognized graduate schools, including Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, Oxford University, Vanderbilt University and the University of Pennsylvania. They actively contribute research, scholarly writing and artistic works that inform their academic disciplines and the national conversation on faith in the academy and broader culture, and are often sought by regional and national media for their expertise.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

2,709 undergraduate students representing 38 states and 28 countries

- Male | Female students 39% | 61%
- Full-time students 2,545
- Out-of-state students 37%
- Students from domestic underrepresented racial, ethnic and cultural populations 14%
- International students 4%

81% of undergraduates live on campus

UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

- Average aid package: $26,333 first-year students
- $23,683 all undergraduates
* Estimated for 2018-19 academic year (averages do not include federal PLUS loans or private/alternative loans)

UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION AND GRADUATION

- Returned for second year 89%
- Graduated within four years 73%
- Graduated within six years 79%
* Messiah does not track students who transfer from Messiah College and graduate from another institution.

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

665 graduate students representing 40 states and five countries

- Male | Female students 25% | 75%
- 85% hold terminal degree
- 12:1 student/faculty ratio

85% hold terminal degree
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Messiah College is an important contributor to its local and statewide economies—annually generating an overall economic impact of $310 million, supporting roughly 2,100 jobs. Messiah is directly and indirectly responsible for a diverse array of economic activity, employment and tax revenues, serving as a major hub of economic activity in the state.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• Messiah students and employees are deeply involved with serving their local communities. Messiah has been nationally recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its commitment to service learning, community service and civic engagement.

• Messiah’s extensive sustainability efforts earned recognition as a Princeton Review Guide 2018 “Green College,” a Sierra Club “Cool School” and an Arbor Foundation “Tree Campus USA.” Other on-campus initiatives include a community garden and apiary, campus-wide composting program, one of the nation’s largest solar thermal systems and reforestation programs through our College Press.

The energy savings from Messiah’s 100+ campus solar panels equals planting 3,600 trees per year.

• Messiah’s Oakes Museum of Natural History provides guided tours, field trips and special events to allow visitors to experience the museum’s collections of African and North American animals, birds, eggs and nests; Native American artifacts; rocks and minerals; and seashells.

PROMOTING THE COMMON GOOD

• The Collaboratory for Strategic Research and Applied Partnerships enables students to apply their academic knowledge and Christian faith through hands-on projects that meet community needs around the world (currently 35+ projects in 14 countries).

• The Center for Public Humanities engages academic, civic and cultural communities in contemporary issues and promotes learning through scholarship programs, lectures, film series and partnerships with school districts and literacy outreach programs.

• The School of the Arts contributes to the cultural life of the region through affiliations with accomplished artists-in-residence and with visiting artists and art organizations internationally and locally, such as the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

Visit messiah.edu/commongood to learn more.

Last year, 747 undergraduate students served or studied abroad in more than 38 countries.

79% of Messiah employees volunteer or serve in their communities.
SOURCES: MESSIAH COLLEGE OFFICES OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS. FOR ADDITIONAL MESSIAH STATISTICS AND INFORMATION, VISIT MESSIAH.EDU/OFFICES/RESEARCH.