

# ABOUT NORTH PARK

## Core Values and Educational Ideals

### Core Values

The University's challenging academic programs and supportive learning environment are shaped by our Christian identity, urban location, and intercultural community.

Rooted in the tradition of the Evangelical Covenant Church, North Park nurtures Christian faith while welcoming students from all traditions. By integrating faith with learning, we challenge students to ask life's big questions, and prepare them to lead lives of significance and service.

The city is our classroom, and we take full advantage of the cultural, academic, and professional resources right in our backyard. A North Park education helps students understand the diverse world around them and prepares them to thrive in a global workplace.

North Park is home to students from 41 states and 38 countries, and our campus is located in one of the most diverse zip codes in the country. This unique intercultural environment allows students to serve and learn from the dynamic community around them in ways that enrich the life of the campus.

### Educational Ideals

Reflecting the core values which shape our distinctive learning community, students at North Park University experience an education that:

- Is rooted in and committed to the Christian faith and its sacred text, the Bible

- Engages Chicago as a dynamic context for learning and service

- Embraces all people and celebrates the richness of cultural difference

- Affirms learning in all its forms—in the classroom and beyond—as a gift, a joy, and a sacred obligation

- Encourages dialogue as a means of learning where open inquiry, integrity, and civility guide our life together

- Seeks to form and transform the whole student (intellectually, socially, and spiritually)

- Values each student for who he or she is and who they will become

## Our Campus: An Urban Oasis

With ample green space along the North Branch of the Chicago River, North Park's campus is located in a park-like setting in a diverse neighborhood of Chicago's Northwest Side. Some of the buildings on campus have been here since our founding, while others were added as the University and its programs grew. Today, our campus includes a state-of-the-art recreation center, an expansive library, and a new center for science and community life. With a traditional undergraduate enrollment in the fall of 2015 of 1,900 students and a total enrollment (including adult, graduate, and Seminary students) of 3163, North Park offers the advantages of small classes with expert professors who are committed to teaching, not only in their classrooms, but also across campus and in personal conversations. North Park subscribes to the principle that education addresses the whole person. This calls for a genuinely personal

commitment from those who teach and those who learn. We hold the conviction that our campus offers the ideal setting for this process.

## A Christian Comprehensive University

As a Christian school North Park University seeks to link the intellectual and spiritual development of its students. To support this educational experience, North Park recruits and fosters a highly competent full-time faculty of men and women who are committed Christians. We also seek to embrace the whole Christian church in its various expressions of belief and practice. Thereby, our faculty and staff together reflect the breadth and depth found in the worldwide Christian community and work to relate the enduring values and understandings of the Christian tradition to the academic fields they represent.

Our student body also reflects an array of religious tradition and spiritual commitment. The spirit of North Park's community is one of acceptance; students are admitted without regard to their religious creed and given the freedom to inquire and develop within a community distinctively shaped and defined by the Christian tradition.

North Park also holds that an education should prepare students for significant, morally responsible lives and equip them with the intellectual and social skills necessary to succeed in any vocation or pursuit. To serve this end, the University's undergraduate program is anchored in a general education curriculum that introduces students, usually in their first and second years, to the liberal arts disciplines. Within these areas of study students learn how to research, to reason, to evaluate and value, and to communicate—skills as important as the knowledge learned in these courses. Within this Core Curriculum, breadth of understanding and versatility of response are the underlying objectives; and when combined with advanced study in a major program, often including several courses with a professional or career focus, we believe a general education is an optimal foundation to prepare students for a continually changing society and the career opportunities it develops and offers.

Yet an education at North Park extends beyond the classroom. As students engage the campus community and the city of Chicago, they take part in opportunities to build community, serve, worship, and develop leadership skills. Under the planning and guidance of North Park's Center for Student Engagement and other program centers, a variety of programs and activities are built on the premise that young adults are best served when given the opportunity to make constructive life choices and take advantage of resources offered to them.

Chicago plays a major role throughout a North Park education. Courses in every discipline are enriched by the University's larger Chicago "classroom." Each year hundreds of North Park students volunteer through University Ministries, including the Urban Outreach program. Our Global Partnerships program, as well as options for study abroad, offer students both short- and longer-term opportunities to travel, serve, and learn worldwide.

## A Place of Achievement and Preparation

North Park prizes its tradition of high accomplishment by students, faculty, and alumni. Our Honors Congress is designed to bring students and faculty into a learning community that promotes academic excellence, rigorous intellectual development, community involvement, campus and community service, leadership development, and vocational

direction. Honors Congress students are assigned mentors to assist them in creating an undergraduate portfolio that will enhance these applications starting in the first year of study. Academic achievement at North Park is also recognized through numerous scholarship and departmental honors that are awarded annually to students demonstrating excellence in the classroom.

Student achievement is also found in extracurricular activities. North Park is a member of Division III of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). The CCIW is recognized as the premier private college conference in the NCAA's Division III, with 46 national championships. North Park teams regularly produce All-American and All-Conference athletes and compete in post-season play. On campus and throughout Chicago, our students also discover or enhance their creative talents with programs in music, theatre, and visual arts, including our Gospel Choir and University Choir, which tour nationally and abroad.

North Park is a place where achievement is encouraged; it is also a place where future achievement is planned. The Office of Career Development and Internships helps students identify and prepare for a vocation they're passionate about with our strategic, four-year Career Advantage program. Career preparation at North Park emphasizes the complementary relationship between a liberal arts foundation and specialized study on an advanced level. Because we are interested in the whole person, we prepare our students not just for making a living, but for leading meaningful and creative lives. At graduation, North Park students are prepared to succeed in a competitive job market or for further study in graduate school.

## The Campus

Whether students commute, live on campus in one of our residence halls or University-owned apartments and houses, or are distance learners, studying at North Park allows students to enjoy all the benefits that our campus location has to offer, including the unique experiences that come with our close-knit community. Our campus is a blend of urban life, open spaces, and modern academic resources. Our newest additions include a new science and community life center, a state-of-the-art recreation facility, and an expansive library.

Opened in Fall 2014, the Johnson Center for Science and Community Life is located in the heart of campus, and serves as a hub of student activity. Students learn in its technology-enhanced science and health professions classrooms and laboratories, and connect with resources in academic departments and the Center of Student Engagement. Offices housed within the Johnson Center include Career Development and Internships, University Ministries, International Student Services, and Student Success. Students are also able to recharge and study in the Bickner Bistro, the atrium, lounges, and a prayer room.

Helwig Recreation Center houses a state-of-the-art workout facility; a 200 meter, indoor track; a 35-yard practice turf; a climbing wall; coaches' offices; athletic training facilities; and classroom space. Two short blocks east of the main campus is Holmgren Athletic Complex, including the Ted Hedstrand softball, baseball, soccer, and football fields, designed for both practice and play for recreational and intercollegiate use.

The Paul and Bernice Brandel Library and Learning Center, anchors the southwest corner of the campus north of the river. The library has reciprocal borrowing agreements with many Chicago-area academic libraries, resulting in direct access to millions of books and periodicals. The Archives of North Park University, the Evangelical Covenant Church, and the Swedish-American Historical Society are also located in the library.