HEGE ACADEMIC COMMONS

In furthering institutional values, academic principles and a distinctive student experience, Hege Academic Commons is a cornerstone for collaborative teaching, learning, research, and scholarship at Guilford College. The Hege Academic Commons leads and partners within its community to foster a student experience of scholarly exploration and experimentation, to promote creativity and innovation, and to provide rich collaborative teams and services that place Guilford at the forefront of liberal education within our global society.

The Academic Commons is envisioned as the College’s cultural and intellectual center, exemplifying the College’s unique experiential approach to liberal arts education through the Guilford Edge. Hege Academic Commons promotes authentic campus partnerships, fostering a sense of academic community, furthering a culture of experimentation, and serving as a catalyst for the innovative and strategic design of learning experiences. The Commons centralizes essential services and support to enable students to critically and creatively engage in directing their academic experience. The three pillars of Hege Library form the foundation for the Commons: Library and Learning Technologies, the Quaker Archives, and the Guilford College Art Gallery. Additional academic engagement areas within the Commons include:

- Professional and peer tutoring
- Writing and quantitative literacy support
- Accessibility resources
- Team-based academic advising (“Guilford Guides”)
- Integrated career planning
- Study away and abroad
- Student scholarship and research advocacy and sponsorship (Research and Creative Endeavors, the Honors Program)

Library and Learning Technologies

Through a blending of library and academic technology services, Library and Learning Technologies provides seamless professional services to meet a diversity of academic information, technology, and instructional design needs. Instructional design support includes responsibilities for ensuring student and faculty proficiency within the Canvas learning management system. Library collections in both physical and electronic formats support academic excellence and engagement at Guilford College, ensuring access to the intellectual and cultural resources necessary for the enhancement of academic programs. A vital focus is ensuring the development of students’ information and digital literacies and the informed use of teaching and learning technologies.

Technology lending includes computing and digital media equipment, e.g., PC and Mac laptops, iPads, digital cameras, and camcorders, Swivls, and portable projectors. Accessories include tripods, adapters, clickers/presentation remotes, laptop chargers, and headphones.

Two unique and aligned learning spaces promote collaboration, creation, and innovation within the Commons:

- The Teaching, Learning, and Research Collaboratory on the second level of the Commons offers two adjoining spaces, the IDEA Incubator and the Experimental Classroom, which may be opened up to create one larger learning space. The Directors of Faculty Development, Research and Creative Endeavors, the Honors Program; and the Digital Pedagogy and Scholarship Technologist further the work of the Collaboratory as a collaborative leadership team.
- The Cube is an emerging suite of makerspaces dedicated to “critical and creative community making” enabling students, for example, to explore textiles, electronics tinkering and invention using Raspberry Pi and Arduino boards, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), and 3D printing. Located on the ground level of the Commons, The Cube is being developed as a collaboration between Library and Learning Technologies and the Experience Design program.

Quaker Archives

The Quaker Archives creates educational opportunities through Quaker and College documentary resources. This includes unique research experiences for both beginning and advanced researchers, as well as student internship and employment opportunities. The Archives acquires, organizes, preserves, and makes available, not only to the College but to the wider community of researchers, materials, both published and unpublished, related to both Guilford College and the history of the Religious Society of Friends. The collection has a special responsibility for comprehensiveness in documenting and for nurturing research relating to the spiritual, intellectual, and cultural heritage of Quakerism in the southeastern United States and has also received national recognition as a resource for anti-slavery research. The College’s archives, representing Guilford records of enduring value, including both administrative records and campus scholarship, are preserved and made accessible. A growing number of these resources are available online with opportunities for students to curate and reinterpret historical sources that connect Guilford’s historical legacy with larger events and issues remaining relevant in present day.

Guilford College Art Gallery

Incorporated into Hege Library as a distinctive aspect of the 1989 addition, the Art Gallery supports the academic endeavors of the College by enhancing critical thinking and visual acuity, promoting awareness of diverse cultures, fostering interdisciplinary studies, and cultivating social justice through rotating exhibitions, educational programming, and the stewardship of the College’s permanent collection of fine art. Spanning more than 4000 years and four continents, this distinctive collection includes more than 1500 original works of art by more than 600 artists.

The collections serve as a primary source of knowledge, inquiry, and inspiration for use by students and the community at large. While 20th century American art is predominant, the collection also includes internationally renowned artists such as Rembrandt, Picasso, and Dali; works from the Renaissance and Baroque periods; an impressive selection of contemporary Polish etchings and engravings; and a small collection of Josef and Anni Albers art and archival material.

The Learning Commons

The LC provides guidance and support as students strive to learn more effectively and efficiently across the curriculum and throughout their lives. Academic professionals provide support for all Guilford students, from those who are under-prepared, with special needs, and on academic probation; to those doing advanced coursework, developing capstone projects, and writing senior theses. The LC serves these diverse learning needs through a variety of academic success services comprised of:

- Professional tutoring in writing proficiency, study and time management skills, and quantitative literacy;
• Peer tutoring supporting course-specific needs;
• Learning strategies classes;
• Group and class presentations on a variety of topics, such as writing process and time management;
• A campus reading series for creative writers.

The LC also houses the Study and the Writing Studio, where students may write and study independently or collaboratively, including working with tutors; provides books, handouts and other valuable academic success resources, such as semester-at-a-glance calendars; and provides helpful links on its web site.