

Intellectual Engagement with the Christian Faith at Hope College  
 2016-2023 Survey Results

Hope College welcomes students into an intellectual engagement with the historic Christian faith. This engagement is assessed using a survey of junior and senior students. The survey asks students to reflect on their engagement with general Christian and biblical content, theology, culture, ethics and vocation within their Hope College courses. Survey results from 2016 to 2023 serve as a key performance indicators for Hope's 2015-2025 strategic plan, Goal 1-Objective 5 and Goal 2-Objective 3.

I have learned about the content of Christianity in the following courses (check all that apply):	2016 Hope College (n=358)		2020 Hope College (n=419)		2023 Hope College (n=287)		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent			
Cultural Heritage	207	57.8%	229	54.7%	161	57.0%	-3.1%	2.3%	-0.8%
First Year Seminar	131	36.6%	137	32.7%	112	39.0%	-3.9%	6.3%	2.4%
Religion	343	95.8%	400	95.5%	279	98.0%	-0.3%	2.5%	2.2%
Senior Seminar	75	21.9%	84	20.0%	68	24.0%	-1.9%	4.0%	2.1%
Other	32	8.9%	15	3.6%	13	5.0%	-5.3%	1.4%	-3.9%
In my major (new in 2020)	n/a	n/a	151	36.0%	118	42.0%	n/a	6.0%	n/a

In my Hope classes, I have encountered the following (check all that apply):	2016 Hope College (n=358)		2020 Hope College (n=419)		2023 Hope College (n=287)		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent			
Reading the Bible at Hope in a course	277	77.4%	342	81.6%	247	89.0%	4.2%	7.4%	11.6%
Using the Bible to reflect on contemporary issues/topics	244	68.2%	277	66.1%	193	69.0%	-2.1%	2.9%	0.8%
The Biblical Story: Creation, Fall, Redemption (e.g., Abraham, Moses, Hebrew Prophets, Jesus, the Apostles), Completion	241	67.3%	306	73.0%	204	73.0%	5.7%	0.0%	5.7%
Using the Bible as a historical document and work of literature	235	65.6%	276	65.9%	213	76.0%	0.3%	10.1%	10.4%

Please indicate your level of agreement / disagreement with the following statements. (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree)	2016 Hope College (n=358)		2020 Hope College (n=419)		2023 Hope College (n=287)		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response			
I have taken courses at Hope where I was required or encouraged to read portions of the Old Testament.	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.3	0.1	0.4
I have taken courses at Hope where I was required or encouraged to read portions of the New Testament.	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.1	0.1	0.3
During my studies at Hope, I have explored the Bible as a historical document.	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
During my studies at Hope, I have explored the Bible as a work of literature.	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.3	0.1	0.3
During my studies at Hope, I have explored how the Bible is used in different ways, e.g., for information, for comfort, for ethical guidance.	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.1
In courses at Hope, I have explored the Bible as the authoritative source and norm for Christian thought and practice.	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
In courses at Hope, I have used the Bible as a resource when responding to contemporary issues and topics in my life.	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
In courses at Hope, I have used the Bible as a reference for contemporary issues and topics of discussion.	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.1

I have explored and / or had discussions on the following topics in courses I took at Hope (check all that apply):	2016 Hope College (n=358)		2020 Hope College (n=419)		2023 Hope College (n=287)		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent			
Creation and origins of the universe	224	62.6%	265	63.2%	193	72.0%	0.6%	8.8%	9.4%
The problem of evil, suffering, and sin	273	76.3%	324	77.3%	209	78.0%	1.0%	0.7%	1.7%
Understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus did	232	64.8%	272	64.3%	199	74.0%	-0.5%	9.7%	9.2%
Christian understanding of salvation	203	56.7%	256	61.1%	185	69.0%	4.4%	7.9%	12.3%
Christian understanding of the future	155	43.3%	189	45.1%	126	47.0%	1.8%	1.9%	3.7%

	2016 Hope College (n=358)	2020 Hope College (n=419)	2023 Hope College (n=287)			
<b>Please indicate your level of agreement / disagreement with the following statements. In courses at Hope.... (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):</b>	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
I have explored the biblical story of creation and different Christian understandings of the origins and nature of the universe.	3.7	3.9	4.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
I have studied the problems of evil, suffering, and sin and explored how Christians typically understand them.	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
I have engaged in conversation regarding who Jesus is and what he did and studied his role within the Christian faith.	3.9	4.0	4.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
I have explored the Christian understanding of salvation as redemption and reconciliation.	3.7	3.9	4.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
I have explored Christian views of death, life after death, heaven, and the redemption of all things.	3.6	3.9	4.0	0.3	0.1	0.4

<b>I have explored and / or had discussions on the following topics in courses I took at Hope (check all that apply):</b>	2016		2020		2023		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent			
My worldview	260	72.6%	293	69.9%	206	83.0%	-2.7%	13.1%	10.4%
How moral choices are made	236	65.9%	261	62.3%	175	70.0%	-3.6%	7.7%	4.1%
How Christianity shapes moral choices and supports a good life	230	64.2%	270	64.4%	194	78.0%	0.2%	13.6%	13.8%
How Christianity shapes and is shaped by society	226	63.1%	270	64.4%	166	67.0%	1.3%	2.6%	3.9%

<b>Please indicate your level of agreement / disagreement with the following statements. In courses at Hope... (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):</b>	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
I have explored what a worldview is and does, and how I answer the four main worldview questions (who am I? where am I? what's wrong? what's the remedy?).	3.8	4.1	4.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1
I have explored how Christians typically answer the basic worldview questions.	3.7	3.9	3.8	0.2	0.0	0.1
I have engaged in conversations about ethical decision-making.	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
I have explored how the intellectual content of the Christian faith shapes ethical decision-making.	3.8	3.8	4.1	0.0	0.2	0.2
I have furthered my understanding of how to make moral choices.	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
I have learned how the Christian faith has shaped culture and how it has been shaped by different cultural beliefs and practices.	3.9	4.0	4.1	0.1	0.1	0.2

<b>I have explored and / or had discussions during my coursework at Hope (check all that apply):</b>	2016		2020		2023		Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent	Number	Valid Percent			
Pursuit of vocational calling relative to understanding of Christian Faith	194	54.2%	226	53.9%	164	75.0%	-0.3%	21.1%	20.8%
Other views on calling and vocation	150	41.9%	178	42.5%	138	63.0%	0.6%	20.5%	21.1%
My own vocational calling in relation to faith	190	53.1%	218	52.0%	148	67.0%	-1.1%	15.0%	13.9%

<b>Please indicate your level of agreement / disagreement with the following statements (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):</b>	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
My classes at Hope have allowed me the time and space to engage in meaningful discussion about my vocation.	3.7	3.9	3.9	0.2	-0.1	0.1
In courses at Hope, I have been encouraged to explore my vocation through the lens of faith.	3.6	3.8	3.8	0.2	0.0	0.2
In courses at Hope, I have been encouraged to talk about calling and vocation with students whose faith perspectives are different from my own.	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.1	0.2	0.2
In courses at Hope, I have been challenged by my own sense of calling to encourage open discussions of faith.	3.6	3.7	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.1

	2016 Hope College (n=358)	2020 Hope College (n=419)	2023 Hope College (n=287)	Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response			
<b>Has the coursework you have taken so far effectively encouraged you to explore the intellectual content of the Christian faith (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree)?</b>	3.8	3.9	4.0	0.1	0.1	0.2

	Mean Response	Mean Response	Mean Response	Change 2016-2020	Change 2020-2023	Change 2016-2023
<b>In your courses at Hope College, have you been satisfied with your exploration of the intellectual content of the Christian faith (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree)?</b>	3.7	3.7	3.8	0.0	0.1	0.1