Student Activities

Once students are accustomed to the academic schedule, they are encouraged to become involved in co-curricular activities. Leadership opportunities are available through participation in student organizations, which plan and implement social, cultural, recreational, and educational programs for the campus community. Entertainment, including plays, lectures, concerts, and cultural events, abounds in the Baltimore area and on campus.

Information about specific student activities and organizations is available from the Office of Student Activities, 410-516-4873 (Mattin Center, Ross Jones North Building, Room 131), web.jhu.edu/studentlife/activities/index.html.

Baltimore

As an urban center, Baltimore has undergone tremendous revitalization in recent years. The city showplace is the Inner Harbor, which has boutiques and cafes, as well as the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, and the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion. Throughout the summer, the city sponsors ethnic festivals of every description. Special resources in cinema are available through the International Film Festival and the Maryland Film Guild. The performing arts in Baltimore range from experimental theater to Broadway hits and from classical symphony to modern rock.

Many of our students enjoy spending time in the surrounding neighborhoods such as Little Italy, Fell’s Point, and Hampden. Baltimore is full of historical sites that are often free to visit, or if you are in the mood you can take a boat cruise around the Inner Harbor. For sports fans, the Ravens are a huge draw, and the Orioles have weekly “College Nights” that offer discounted tickets to Hopkins students for every Friday home game.

The Baltimore Museum of Art, which adjoins the campus, is known for its collections of primitive and modern art, as well as its sculpture garden. The collections of the Walters Art Museum in downtown Baltimore represent the span of civilization from Egypt to the 19th century. Many smaller museums, local galleries, and outdoor showings feature local artists. Washington, D.C., with its treasure trove of monuments, museums, libraries, parks, and theaters, is only an hour away.

While Baltimore may not be thought of as a college town, there are 15 other colleges and universities in close proximity to the Homewood campus to enhance a student’s academic and social life, with opportunities that range from joint degree programs to intramural sports competitions. The Baltimore Collegetown Network connects college students to numerous resources like restaurants, nightlife, internships, roommate matching services, community service, leadership enhancement, and local festivals. In addition, Collegetown sponsors a shuttle to places like Penn Station with free access to the Inner Harbor, other colleges, and local shopping centers. The Collegetown website can be accessed at collegetown.org.

Athletics and Recreation

The Department of Athletics and Recreation is responsible for intercollegiate athletics, sports clubs, intramural programs, and the campus recreational programs for students, staff, and faculty. The facilities of the Newton H. White Jr. Athletic Center include a competition-sized swimming pool, numerous basketball and volleyball courts, a wrestling room, a fencing room, and varsity weight training room. The Ralph S. O’Connor Recreation Center facilities include a large multipurpose court for basketball, volleyball, and badminton, racquetball/squash courts, a 30-foot climbing wall, a fitness center for strength and cardiovascular conditioning, an indoor jogging track, and a multipurpose room for group fitness and martial arts training.

The Office of Recreation directs an extensive array of programs for the Hopkins community. The intramural sports program is organized into coed, women’s open, men’s open, residence hall and Greek divisions. Currently, the sports club program offers competition and instruction in the following groups: badminton, body building, Brazilian jujitsu, capoeira, cheerleading, cricket, cycling, field hockey, golf, men’s ice hockey, karate, kung fu, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s rugby, men’s and women’s soccer, women’s softball, soo bahk do, swim, taekwondo, table tennis, tennis, men’s and women’s ultimate Frisbee, men’s and women’s volleyball, water polo, and wrestling. Additionally, a fun and social opportunity for fitness is offered through various group fitness classes. Held in the Evans multipurpose room, the group fitness schedule runs year-round and offers a variety of exercise sessions including yoga, step aerobics, muscle conditioning, spinning, pilates, and others.

The Experiential Education Program oversees Outdoor Pursuits, Hopkins Outdoor Leadership Training (HOLT), Pre-Orientation Outdoor Program, Hopkins Teambuilding, the Outdoors Club, Indoor Climbing Wall, and Bouldering Cave. Outdoor Pursuits runs backpacking, canoeing, climbing, hiking, ice climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, sea kayaking, and white water kayaking trips. All trips are reasonably priced and can be registered for online at jhu.edu/op. Hopkins Teambuilding runs interactive initiatives to build stronger teams. Our facilitators have increased the effectiveness of student groups, business classes, sports teams, and professional staff offices.

For undergraduates interested in more competitive activities, the university has 13 varsity intercollegiate teams for men (lacrosse, football, soccer, cross country, basketball, wrestling, swimming, water polo, fencing, baseball, indoor and outdoor track, and tennis) and 11 varsity intercollegiate teams for women (tennis, fencing, swimming, basketball, lacrosse, field hockey, cross-country, indoor and outdoor track, soccer, and volleyball). All the Hopkins sports squads, with the exception of men’s and women’s lacrosse, play in Division III of the NCAA, and primarily in the Centennial Conference. The men’s and women’s lacrosse teams are perennial contenders for national honors in NCAA Division I.

Student Centers and Programs

The Levering Hall, a multipurpose student center, offers space for relaxation and conversation, diversion, cultural enrichment, a quick snack, or a hot meal. The Levering desk sells newspapers and provides general campus information. The Glass Pavilion, the Great Hall, and Areliano Theatre are the sites of a variety of social activities. Levering Hall also has a comfortable lobby area with a coffee shop and fireplace, meeting rooms, a study lounge, and a food court.

The Mattin Center is the location for the Office of the Dean of Student Life, the Office of Student Activities and the work areas for student groups. It also houses classrooms for the Homewood Art Workshops, the Digital Media Center, the fully equipped Swirnow Theater, 11 individual music practice rooms, two group rehearsal rooms, three meeting rooms, a darkroom, and a dance studio. A café in the theater lobby
offers Asian-inspired cuisine and computer terminals for student use. During the early summer, there is a Performing Arts Series of regional professional groups in the Swirnow Theater.

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (the HOP) offers informal programs for relaxation. Just as much fun are the impromptu lacrosse and football games on the campus grounds, ultimate Frisbee games, picnics, and live music.

Graduate students find that their academic and social lives tend to center around their departments. The off-campus apartment buildings and weekend social activities provide ample opportunities for students and their families in different disciplines to meet and enjoy a feeling of community.

Student Organizations

Over 300 student organizations cater to interests including academic and research, advocacy and awareness, community service, cultural, fraternities and sororities, graduate, honor and professional societies, performing arts, publications and journals, religious and spiritual, special interest and hobby, sports, student government, student services and support. For a full list of all Hopkins student groups, go to groups.jhu.edu.

The majority of registered student organizations fall under the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA is the elected body that meets weekly to serve as the undergraduate voice to the university’s faculty and administration. Graduate students are represented by the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO). The GRO sponsors an annual academic symposium and casual happy hours, and publishes a graduate newsletter and handbook. For more information, go to jhu.edu/gro.

Writing and Publishing

Those interested in writing or publishing can participate in one of our 16 publications. Some examples of our many publications include News-Letter, a weekly student newspaper; the Black and Blue Jay, a humor magazine; Thoroughfare, a digital publication; East Asian Forum and Review, Film Society, a publication that discusses film and cinema; or Zeniada, a student-run literary magazine.

Performing Arts

Hopkins has a long history of supporting the arts; the Peabody Preparatory School as well as Homewood students take advantage of the many programs that we offer for our performing arts groups. Many of our performing arts students can be found in the Mattin Center practicing their instruments in the practice rooms, or on stage in the Swirnow Theatre. The Band, the Choral Society, and the Gospel Choir are open to all students with an interest in instrumental or choral music. The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra has many student players, and auditions are held each September. A cappella groups, including both coed and single gender, are also very popular. For dancers, there is a variety of student groups, each focusing on a specific type of dance. Opportunities to act or direct and produce plays are numerous. The Barnstormers, Witness Theatre, and Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater undergraduate groups put on many performances throughout the year, including the ever-popular Freshman One Act Plays in the fall, student-written original plays, and the spring semester musical. Theatre Hopkins, a company under professional direction, performs plays with actors from the university and community. For a list of student arts groups please visit web.jhu.edu/studentlife/homewood_arts/student_arts.html.

Cultural and Religious

The 35 cultural groups and 12 religious and spiritual groups represent a wide diversity of Homewood student-sponsored programs, films, concerts, and lectures. Cultural groups include the Chinese Student Association, Black Student Union, Caribbean Cultural Society, South Asian Society of Hopkins, Organizacion Latina Estudiantil, and DSAGA (Diverse Sexuality and Gender Association). Religious and spiritual groups include Agape Campus Ministry, Catholic Community, Hindu Students Council, Hopkins Hillel, Muslim Association, and Hopkins Christian Fellowship.

Special Interest and Hobby

There is a wide range of special interest and hobby groups on campus. These groups include Model United Nations Conference, Foreign Affairs Symposium, and the Woodrow Wilson Debate Council. If you have an interest in sports or recreation, the university offers cycling, soccer, table tennis, numerous martial arts, or the Outdoors Club, just to name a few. For most activities, the only requirement is the initiative to join and the interest to participate. Any full-time student who believes that a new organization is needed can apply to start a new group.

Honor and Professional Societies

Along with various co-curricular activities, Johns Hopkins has organizations to foster academic achievement and recognize students for their accomplishments. In addition to Phi Beta Kappa, which honors scholarship of a high order, there are honor societies in student leadership; sciences, such as chemistry, psychology, and pre-medicine; drama; language; journalism; engineering; political science; military science; and literary studies.

Special Events and Programs

The university sponsors many events simply for pleasure, including Fall Fest, Homecoming, and the hugely popular Spring Fair weekend. The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) is always looking for volunteers to help plan and implement social, cultural, and educational programs for the Hopkins community.

Shriver Hall Concert Series

Praised by The Sun as “Baltimore’s finest importer of classical music talent” and five times awarded Baltimore magazine’s “Best Concert Series,” Shriver Hall Concert Series for 47 years has been presenting to Maryland music enthusiasts world-class chamber music and solo recitals by the world’s most famous artists. All series subscription events are free to all Johns Hopkins students. For more information, stop by 105 Shriver Hall, call 410-516-7164, or visit shriverconcerts.org.

Symposia, Lectures, and Seminars

The nationally known Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium has achieved a significant reputation since it began in 1968. Entirely student organized and directed, the symposium explores a different theme each year. Recent topics have included “Global Network,” “A Transition Between Generations in a Changing America,” and “Finding Our Voice: The Role of America’s Youth.” The symposium attracts outstanding speakers from all over the world.
The Martin Luther King Jr. and Kennedy lectureships have brought to the campus in recent years such speakers as Coretta King, Thomas Eagleton, Walter Mondale, Joseph Heller, Cornell West, Michael Eric Dyson, C.T. Vivian, and Roger Wilkins. The Black Student Union and the Student Council help plan these lectureships.

**Spring Fair**

The annual Johns Hopkins Spring Fair is a student-organized event. The three-day fair features a major outdoor arts and crafts exhibition, numerous food booths, and entertainment. Spring Fair is in its 42nd year.

**Art Workshops**

Drawing, painting, photography, and other visual arts courses are offered on a credit basis in the studios of the Mattin Center. Directed by artist Craig Hankin, the workshops are open to all full-time undergraduates without charge. Most classes are geared to students with little or no previous studio experience. Further information is available in the section on Art Workshops (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/archive/2013-14/departments-program-requirements-and-courses/arts-sciences/art-workshops) and at jhu.edu/artwork.