

# An enduring legacy of independence

Hillsdale College was founded in 1844 by men and women who proclaimed themselves "grateful to God for the inestimable blessings resulting from the prevalence of civil and religious liberty and intelligent piety in the land" and who believed that "the diffusion of sound learning is essential to the perpetuity of these blessings." It was the first American college to prohibit in its charter any discrimination based on race, sex, or national origin. Associated with the anti-slavery movement from its earliest days, it attracted to its campus abolition leaders such as the former slave and orator Frederick Douglass and Massachusetts statesman Edward Everett, who preceded Lincoln at Gettysburg. Several of the College's leading men were instrumental in founding the new Republican party up the road in Jackson, Michigan, in 1854. And Hillsdale sent a larger percentage of its students to fight for the Union in the Civil War than any other American college or university except West Point.

Hillsdale's modern rise to national prominence began in the 1970s when the federal government attempted to impose a host of regulations on the College—including racial quota requirements that violated Hillsdale's principled policy of non-discrimination. When the Supreme Court upheld these regulations in the 1980s on the basis that Hillsdale students received federally funded grants and loans, the College decided to refuse even this indirect form of federal aid, replacing all federal student aid with privately funded grants, loans, and scholarships. Hillsdale's Board of Trustees pledged first that the College would continue its long-standing policy of non-discrimination, and second that it would not accept any encroachments on its independence. It is a pledge that has been renewed several times in subsequent years and stands to date.

Hillsdale College's rich heritage of independence and its 180-year commitment to "pursuing truth and defending liberty" have made it an institution of national renown. More importantly, its independence and its dedication to its original mission ensure that Hillsdale continues to offer America's future leaders the best classical liberal arts education available today.



## JUST THE FACTS

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| FOUNDED                  | 1844  |
| LOCATION                 | Hillsdale, MI (south-central Michigan)  |
| TYPE OF COLLEGE          | Four-year, independent, liberal arts, co-educational, residential, nonsectarian     |
| CAMPUS SIZE              | 400 acres   |
| ENROLLMENT (FALL 2023)   | 1,563 total undergraduate students<br>105 graduate students<br>50% male, 50% female |
| GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE       | 26% from Michigan, 74% representing 49 other states and 14 foreign countries        |
| DEGREES OFFERED          | Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science   |
| FACULTY                  | 168 full-time, 90% hold the highest degree in their disciplines                     |
| STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO | 8-10-1  |
| FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE  | 96%   |
| GRADUATION RATE          | 87%   |

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| PLACEMENT  | 95% of graduates are employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation  |
| FINANCIAL AID  | 99% of new students receive aid in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and campus employment   |
| VAN ANDEL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF STATESMANSHIP                 | Offers M.A. and Ph.D. in Politics   |
| VAN ANDEL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT                    | Offers M.A. in Government   |
| DIANA DAVIS SPENCER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL EDUCATION | Offers M.A. in Classical Education  |
| KIRBY CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES AND CITIZENSHIP    | Established in 2008 as a campus for Hillsdale students intern in Washington, D.C., and as a place of educational outreach to policymakers and opinion leaders in the nation's capital |
| ONLINE LEARNING  | More than 4 million people registered for online education  |
| IMPRIMIS   | 6.7 million subscribers   |

