Self-guided walking tour

The path in red on the map to the right is a one-hour walking tour of central campus. A brief description of each stop (indicated by a circled letter) is included here. If you have any questions, please stop and ask someone on campus.

A. Begin at Shriver Center (c. 1957), named for Philip R. Shriver, president of Miami from 1965 to 1981. Before you exit the west lobby near the bookstore, view the displays on the third floor that illustrate the university’s ties to the Miami Tribe.

B. Across Spring Street of Shriver is the new Armstrong Student Center (c. 2014). When completed, it will house student offices, study, recreation, and meeting spaces; a theater; and 24/7 food service areas.

C. Sesquicentennial Chapel (c. 1959), at Spring and Maple, was a gift from alumni and friends in observance of Miami’s 150th anniversary. The choir were a gift of Delta Zeta, the first sorority on campus.

D. Head east on Spring, then turn left and head north on Patterson. Shidler Hall (1967) is home to the geography and environmental science and the geography departments as well as the geology museum. Inside the glass doors is a custom-built rotating globe.

E. Across the street is the Verlin L. Pulley Carillon and Clock Tower (c. 2001). Continue north past Bishop Woods and the Bishop Gates, named for Miami’s first president, Robert Hamilton Bishop.

F. When you reach High Street, on your left is Hughes Laboratories (c. 1970), containing the chemistry and biochemistry department.

G. Cross High Street and to your right, across Patterson Avenue, is the Farmer School of Business. Completed in 2009, the Farmer School is named for Miami alumnus and business leader Richard T. Farmer and is LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

H. Tuming west on High Street at Patterson Avenue is Pearson Hall (c. 1885), housing the biology and microbiology departments. Named for zoologist Paul G. Pearson, Miami president from 1981 to 1992, the building contains a mosaic mural by nature artist Charles Hopper. Directly north of Pearson is the Psychology Building; built in 2004.

I. Go west on High. On your right is the Engineering Building (c. 2007), which includes Garland Hall, named for James Garland, Miami’s 20th president (1996–2001) and, further on, Benton Hall (c. 1956), named for Guy Potter Benton, Miami’s 12th president (1902–1919). These connected buildings comprise the home of the College of Engineering and Computing.

J. Cross High Street and walk south along the service drive to the home of the College of Arts and Science, Upham Hall (c. 1949). President Alfred Upham, Class of 1891, was named in honor of Miami’s 90th president, Alfred Upham, Class of 1891, and his sister, Frances Upham Prentiss Considine. “To accomplish rather than to be conspicuous.” Tradition says that sweethearts who kiss beneath the arch light at midnight will marry.

K. Go through the arch to the Miami University seal in the hub. First drawn in 1826, the signature is a preservation of Considine’s “To accomplish rather than to be conspicuous.” Tradition says that stepping on the seal ensures failure in your next exam.

L. Head west and you will pass two older buildings, now our Scholar Leader residence halls Elliott (c. 1925) on your right and Stoddard (c. 1836) on your left. Further to the right you can see the Beta Bell Tower, given to the university in 1939 on the centennial of Delta Delta Delta.

M. Continue across the drive; To your left is Irvin Hall, home of our foreign language departments. On the right is Ogden Hall (c. 1924), a residence hall and home of one of Miami’s popular dining facilities, Bell Tower Place.

N. Continue west. On the right is Harrison Hall (c. 1960), home of the political science department and named for Benjamin Harrison, Class of 1852 and U.S. President (1889–1892). To the left is the domed Alumni Hall (c. 1910), built as the university library with the assistance of Andrew Carnegie and alumni funds and now housing architecture and interior design and the Wertz Art and Architecture Library. Inside the rotunda is a statue of George Washington, who signed the Northwest Ordinance, laying down the foundation for Miami’s establishment.

O. Angle to the right along Stant Walk, so named for its diagonal path from central campus to uptown Oxford, then turn west and walk alongside King Library (c. 1966), the campus main library. King serves not only as a repository of books and documents, but also as a central gathering point for individual and group study, complete with the bustling King Cafe. Continue past Hall Auditorium (c. 1908), a beautiful lecture and performance venue.

P. Turn left and walk south along Campus Avenue. On your left is McGuirey Hall (c. 1909), home of the College of Education, Health and Society, and named for William Holmes McGuffey, Miami president and author of the McGuffey readers, standard post Civil War schoolbooks. A statue of McGuffey stands in the courtyard.

Q. Cross Spring Street. At the corner is Campus Avenue Building (c. 1965), a student services center housing admissions, financial aid, registration, and bursar. Prospective students and their families are encouraged to visit the Office of Admission; enter at the south side.

R. Head east on Spring and cross Oak Street. The McGuffey Museum (c. 1853) is the restored home of William Holmes McGuffey and a National Historic Landmark. The museum contains original furnishings and a collection of Eclectic Readers. (For a tour, call 513-529-8360.)

S. The next building is Warfield Hall, housing the student dormitories. The building is named for Miami’s youngest president, Ethelbert Dudley Warfield, who is credited with bringing football to the university.

T. Turn right on the tree-lined sidewalk. On your left is Macmillan Hall (1923), the first college hospital in Ohio, it served as Miami’s student health center until 1996 and now houses the Center for Global Initiatives and other program offices.

U. Straight ahead is the Sundial, a gift of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. It tells time accurately on the four dates noted on the bronze plate at its base. At Miami tradition is roughing one of the turtle heads on the brick at your right across the next alley. Across the lawn you see MacCracken Hall (c. 1957), a residence hall in the center of what’s known as Central Quad.

V. Veer left from the Sundial, down the steps, around to the right to the Milton and Minniech residence hall, and across Maple Street. On your right is Maplcrest Station (c. 2011), a LEED certified building with a residence hall atop seven unique restaurants.

W. The next stop to your left is the visual arts complex, comprised of The Center for Performing Arts; the Art Building, and Hwestand Hall, which includes gallery space. The complex is anchored by the Schwellenback Arts Plaza.

X. As you continue up the plaza you will approach the rear entrance of the Shriver Center and the end of your tour. We hope you enjoyed the tour, and we encourage you to explore the rest of our beautiful campus.

Additional points of interest:

Western College Campus. The westernmost part of Miami’s campus is the former Western College for Women, founded in 1835 as the western satellite school of Mount Holyoke and named a historic district in 1979. This part of campus is known for its stone structures and connecting bridges.

Art Museum (c. 1978). On the southeast corner of campus is the Art Museum, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, it holds a permanent collection of more than 16,000 works and hosts traveling exhibitions in five galleries. A small painted stone sculpture by Mark di Suvero is the signature piece of the museum’s three-arch sculpture park.

Intercollegiate Sports Facilities. At the north end of campus are most of Miami’s 36 athletic facilities, including Millett Assembly Hall (c. 1968; basketball, volleyball, athletic offices), Yager Stadium (c. 1983; football, Rider Track (c. 1984); McKee Field at Hayden Park (c. 2002; baseball), and fields for softball, soccer, and field hockey.

Recreational Sports Center and Goggin Ice Center. At the south end of campus on Oak Street, the Rec Center (c. 1994) features a world-class aquatics center, two gymnasiums, fitness center, and 40-foot climbing wall. Adjacent is the “Goggin” (c. 2008) home to outdoor powerhouse RedHawks hockey and the internationally competitive synchronized skating team. Public skating hours are available on the center’s two full-size rinks.