

HESBURGH LIBRARY SELF-GUIDED TOUR

First Floor

STOP 1: WORD OF LIFE MURAL



More than 60 years ago, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., envisioned a library that would complete a trilogy of iconic campus structures alongside the Basilica and the Main Building. His goal was to create the best Catholic university library in the world, serving as a symbol of excellence and the pursuit of truth.

To anchor this grand vision, the library features the world-famous *Word of Life* mural (affectionately known as “Touchdown Jesus”) by artist Millard Sheets. This massive work, composed of 324 granite panels, features the 9-foot-tall figure of Christ the Teacher as its focal point. The mural depicts a continuous line of history's greatest thinkers, teachers, and scholars transmitting knowledge from one generation to the next.

Continue inside through the South Entrance and into the Entrance Gallery.

First Floor

STOP 2: ASK US DESK



As you enter the south doors to the Entrance Gallery, the Ask Us Desk is located next to the Circulation Desk.

This service desk is your go-to spot for any and all questions. Whether you're curious about library services, stumped by the printers, or just need directions around campus, Ask Us is here for you. We also specialize in research support—perfect for when you're looking for books or articles and aren't sure where to start. We assist our entire community, from visitors to international patrons, in person, by phone, online via chat, and email.

Just north of this service desk, you'll find [printers](#), scanners, and self-checkout. You can also get technology help from the Tech Desk, which is staffed by the Office of Information Technology.

Head north towards the North Entrance for STOP 3.

First Floor

STOP 3: RESEARCH COMMONS



The Research Commons is located in the northeast corner of the first floor. This study space and office suite is home to many of our [subject librarians](#), who have expertise to help you with your academic and research needs in every discipline. These faculty offices are centrally located near other library service points and are easily accessible for student and faculty consultations.

In addition, the Research Commons features rows of study tables and comfortable lounge chairs—perfect for individual study or collaborative work—surrounded by large windows that flood the room with natural light. Mobile monitors and whiteboards are available throughout the space.

Continue west past the North Entrance for STOP 4.

First Floor

STOP 4: LEISURE READING



The Leisure Reading area is located near the North Entrance, just across from the Research Commons. It features the new [Popular Reading Collection](#)—a rotating selection of high-interest, contemporary works curated for enjoyment and relaxation.

During finals week, this area and others on the first floor host games and activities to provide much-needed study breaks.

Continue west just a few steps into the first floor Collaboration Hub, located in the northwest corner of the Hesburgh Library.

First Floor

STOP 5: COLLABORATION HUB



As teaching methods and instructional tools evolve, new spaces that support interdisciplinary research, multimedia assignments, and collaborative group study are critical to intellectual engagement and, ultimately, academic success. The two-story Collaboration Hub was designed to address these needs.

With 71,080 square feet of space, the Hub features open study areas, group study rooms, video conference rooms, classrooms, and areas designed to facilitate student collaboration. The spaces provide flexible, inspirational environments with high-tech capabilities where groups of students from various disciplines can work across multiple platforms to explore questions, develop advanced research skills, and generate new knowledge.

Continue south past the restrooms for STOP 6.

First Floor

STOP 6: BETH AND LOU HOLTZ FAMILY GRAND READING ROOM



The [Beth and Lou Holtz Family Grand Reading Room](#) was designed to inspire focused and contemplative intellectual work, which is as vital to academic success as the renewed collaborative spaces throughout the building.

The 20,000-square-foot, two-story space is furnished with more than 250 table seats for individual study and comfortable seating around a large enclosed fireplace. Natural light floods the space, and a grand 100-pendant light installation hangs in the center of a new atrium. Walls of windows provide expansive views of west campus, including the Basilica's spire and the Dome of the Main Building, making it one of the most popular study spaces on campus.

Walk up the interior staircase or take the elevators to view the second floor of the Grand Reading Room. Then exit the Grand Reading Room and go north (left) toward the second floor of the Collaboration Hub.

Second Floor

STOP 7: NORTH READING ROOM



Located on the north end of the second floor, the Reading Room features rows of study tables, along a wall of windows that floods the space with natural light. If you're looking for a quiet place to study, the North Reading Room is a perfect choice.

Just a short walk east, and you'll see STOP 8, the Navari Family Center for Digital Scholarship.

Second Floor

STOP 8: NAVARI FAMILY CENTER FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP



Located in the northeast corner, the [Navari Family Center for Digital Scholarship](#) provides students access to specialized hardware and software, emerging technologies, and technology-enriched spaces. It supports innovative research and teaching across disciplines, fostering collaboration and the creation of new knowledge.

The Navari Center offers a range of [learning opportunities](#), including events, workshops, and consultations in areas such as data use and analysis, digital humanities, geographic information systems, 3D printing and virtual reality technologies, and text mining and analysis.

Stop 8: Navari Family Center for Digital Scholarship, continued



Data Visualization Lab, Room 249

The Data Visualization Lab features three 6k lumen ceiling-mounted projectors and three projector screens for a total projection area of ~29 feet, a Windows workstation, laptop connectors, and a wireless display option.



Specialty Technology Lab, Room 245

Our Legacy Technology Collection features functional equipment and software from the 1970s-90s, including a Commodore 64, Atari 2600, and vintage floppy-disc games such as Oregon Trail.



Immersive Technologies Lab, Room 253

Located on the second floor of the Hesburgh Library, the ITL is a centralized hub where members of the Notre Dame community can learn about and explore the uses of extended reality (XR), including virtual reality (VR), mixed reality (MR), and augmented reality (AR).

After exploring the Navari Center, continue heading south.

Second Floor

STOP 9: COMPUTER LABS



Just south of the Navari Center are several computer work environments for Mac and PC users. Throughout the space, you will find computer clusters, technology-enabled collaboration pods, group study rooms, study tables, and individual workstations.

The Mac Lab features 28 large-screen computers specially designed to ensure high-quality performance while running multiple software applications. The Macs are loaded with Adobe Creative Cloud and Apple Pro Apps—two collections of industry-leading creative tools. The Apple Pro Apps include Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, Motion, Compressor, and MainStage. Adobe Creative Cloud includes Acrobat Pro, After Effects, Illustrator, InDesign, Lightroom, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and more!

You'll find STOP 10 in the Mac Lab, inside room 260.

Second Floor

STOP 10: AI COLLABORATIVE LOUNGE



The AI Collaborative Lounge, located in room 260, is a new service collaboration sponsored by the Hesburgh Libraries, ND Learning, and the Office of Information Technologies.

Generative AI is having transformative impacts on teaching and learning—and students don't have to explore it alone. As part of Notre Dame's commitment to empowering the campus community with AI fluency, the AI Collaborative Lounge offers AI coaching and mentoring led by a team of trained undergraduate AI coaches. All guidance complies with the University's AI policies.

At the AI Collaborative Lounge, students can:

- Explore AI literacy as a gateway to innovating with advanced AI applications and frontier models.
- Try out AI tools (such as Gemini, Copilot, ChatGPT, and more) and their latest features.
- Understand the risks and opportunities of AI in the classroom.
- Practice prompt-writing strategies relevant to learning and teaching.
- Use AI ethically and effectively.

Next, head to the elevator and take it up to the 10th Floor for your next stop.

Tenth Floor

STOP 11: TENTH FLOOR (AND TOWER FLOORS)



All the tower floors are crowded with students seeking contemplative study space, but the tenth floor is a favorite destination! It's the first tower floor to be fully renovated.

This quiet floor offers lighted study tables, a reading room, and comfortable lounge chairs nestled around windows with wonderful views of campus. A self-check machine and printer-copier are conveniently located on the floor. If you're looking for a quiet place for focused work, the tower floors are an excellent option.

These unique spaces allow for focused, individual study but also serve as meeting places where communities of scholars can engage in collaborative work, surrounded by the materials with which they do much of their scholarly research.

After exploring the Tower, take the elevator down to the first floor.

First Floor Concourse

STOP 12: RARE BOOKS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Located at the west end of the Hesburgh Library Concourse, [Rare Books & Special Collections](#) holds internationally recognized rare book and manuscript collections to support research by Notre Dame students. We welcome students for class visits, individual research, lectures, and exhibits.

Our collections offer more than 132,000 volumes of printed books and periodicals and over 6,000 linear feet of non-book materials, including manuscripts, printed ephemera, broadsides, prints, posters, numismatics, and philately.

Unlike many museums, our curators encourage students to consult and handle rare materials to learn the “nuts and bolts” of the research process and allow students to engage directly with original historical materials.

As you exit RBSC, head east (right) to the other end of the Concourse for your final stop.

First Floor Concourse

STOP 13: MAHAFFEY FAMILY SCHOLARS LOUNGE



The Mahaffey Family Scholars Lounge is located at the east end of the Concourse, across from the Carey Auditorium and Au Bon Pain Café. It seats up to 80 people using a blend of study tables and lounge chairs for casual study and conversation.

The Scholars Lounge is open to students, faculty, staff, and other library patrons as a space for conversation, casual study, lectures, and special events.

Now that you've finished your tour of the Hesburgh Library, make sure to return when you are back on campus to make full use of all of the valuable resources and expertise available to you throughout your academic and research endeavors.

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