At Calvin College, my vocation is a resilient student, whose goal is to learn more about myself as an individual and member of society, to learn more about God’s calling for me, and to apply my learning throughout my life. Learning more about my weaknesses and strengths, figuring out where I fit in the bigger picture of society, and learning about God’s world through college education, will enable me to better understand God’s purpose for my life, and what He expects of me. With this knowledge, I will be better equipped to live out my life the way God intended me to.

As a resilient student, my task is to explore the academic world in my studies and to appreciate the wonder and splendor of God’s creation, all with diligence and perseverance. At the most basic level, the task of a student is to do his or her best to gain knowledge and skills that will be required in his or her career later in life. However, as a resilient student, the main goal of the student isn’t perfect grades or a high paying job; instead, a resilient student’s job is to work hard and to persevere through struggles of all sorts. For example, when I requested classes at the beginning of the semester, I made the mistake of assuming that my zero-credit band class I requested was not in my schedule, since it was a zero credit course and did not count to be in the schedule. Fortunately, I realized my mistake later, and I had to visit the Center for Student Success multiple times to fit band into my schedule. Once I finally found myself blowing into my trombone at band class, I realized how far behind I was in the music compared to others who had started band at the beginning of the semester. At first, I felt embarrassed for being placed in band so late in the year, and I wanted to quit. However, I pushed through the first few days, and I persevered until I caught up to the rest of the musicians. Had I not persevered and had I not bounced back from my failure, I would have missed the opportunity to explore the wonder and beauty fine arts provides, and I would have been stuck with only practical academic classes. As a resilient student, I have learned to use my failures as an opportunity to learn, and I have also learned that perseverance isn’t optional. Unlike high school, I must be responsible for my understanding of learned topics. As a result, this means I need to take advantage of resources available for me at college, such as the Center for Student Success where I changed my schedule. With the wealth of student resources available on campus, I know that I am prepared to tackle any challenge college may throw my way. If I struggle with writer’s block, I can always visit the rhetoric center. Or, if I can’t seem to understand a difficult calculus problem, I can always go to the professor or schedule a meeting with a tutor. With so many resources, the only thing standing between me and God’s calling for my life is any lack of perseverance and diligence.

In addition to being called to be a resilient student, God has called me to learn more about my own identity and how it relates to the surrounding community. Currently, God has called me to be at Calvin College, He has placed me in a dorm community, and He has placed me in a new church. With all these new surroundings, I am beginning to have a better understanding not only of what the world is like, but also about my own identity as a Christian college student. Exploring my place in my community spiritually and socially requires that I know both more about myself, my strengths, and my weakness; and more about my new environment. For example, at Calvin College, I have learned that one of my unique weaknesses is forgetting to turn in assignments, since I am not used to the new college environment where teachers do not remind students of due dates like high school teachers did. After a few times of missing assignments, I learned to use a schedule more consistently, and I learned how to combat my forgetfulness that has defined who I was in past years. Failures such as forgetting to turn in assignments has succeeded in allowing me to understand myself at a deeper level. As a Christian my whole life, I have learned at college with the diverse community that not everyone holds the same spiritual view nor political view. Seeing these differences allows me to appreciate the community and how my unique ideas and perspectives adds to the wealth of beliefs on campus. More importantly,