



Alumni Q&A Spotlight – Grace Ann Hopkins

Graduation year from Legacy: 2019

Number of years you attended Legacy: 2

College/university attending: Liberty University

Year in college: Junior

Degree plan: Interdisciplinary (Business & Behavioral Science)

Scholarships/recognitions/awards for college or while in college: While performance in academics and athletics does not define who I am or make me of greater importance than another, I have been able to make the Dean's List each semester and am blessed with the opportunity to compete as an NCAA D1 track and field athlete and love on God and others in each environment.

Career/future plans after graduating college: I love that we do not give the Lord our dreams and tell Him to bless them, but rather, we get to ask the Lord where He is already at work and humbly join Him. I have seen the Lord at work in my life in very specific ways over the past few years, and because of certain events He has allowed me to walk through, I count it a privilege to be pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and am excited to enter into the helping ministry of counseling.

Jobs while in college: track & field

What are you enjoying about your college experience? The best thing about college is the people I get to meet. If we are not loved and connected, we are not alive but simply surviving. I have learned how the Lord made us

all with a deep need for connection to Him, ourselves, and others. I know that no matter where I am, it is a place worth being if there are people there to love and be loved by!

How do you feel your time at Legacy helped prepare you for college? My time at Legacy allowed me to see what healthy, godly relationships should look like. I am extraordinarily blessed to call the Body of Christ my family and have people all over the world fighting for and with me.

How was your adjustment to the college schedule based on coming from a university-model school? My adjustment to the college schedule was seamless. The university-model schedule at Legacy certainly played a role in preparing me in advance for it.

What are some of your fond memories/favorite experiences while at Legacy? My fondest memories from Legacy always included sporting events. I absolutely adored each football game spent in the stands with some of the best people in the world!

If you had to describe Legacy in one or two sentences to somebody, what would you say? Legacy is like one big family and being a part of it is like a little picture of what heaven will be like. It reminds me of the more that is to come.

How does your spiritual life play a role in your college experience? My personal and intimate love relationship with God is what keeps me going! In college, being God's best friend makes the lonely seasons more bearable and allows me to love the people around me with the strength He provides. Also, I have learned so much from many different disciplines while in college and I am learning to appreciate other people's points of view while also filtering new information through God's steadfast Word.

Do you feel Legacy helped to grow you spiritually and for doing God's work? Legacy played an important role in my spiritual development by reminding me that I live for more as a Christ follower. No matter what industry I go into one day, I will view it as ministry because, truly, I am The Lord's servant. He has freed me from my chains (Psalm 116:16)!

Is there anything else you would like to share with Legacy families or those interested in Legacy? I know that on this earth we will face trials of many kinds no matter where we are, but there are some places that make those trials easier to bear. While no school is perfect, Legacy was that place for me. It brought me back to childlike joy and reminded me I was worth being loved. As believers, we need each other. Places like Legacy remind us we're not alone in the fight—that we *can* live without fear and inside of majestic hope.

