WELCOME

A brief tour of the Michigan Tech campus and the greater community
Sunrise on the Keweenaw Waterway
Welcome to Michigan Technological University.

Welcome to the banks of the largest freshwater lake in the world. To national parks, deep history, and thousands of acres of forestland.

Welcome to four seasons, year-round adventures, and vibrant community.

Welcome to the Copper Country. The community. The campus.

Welcome home.
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The Copper Country
Reaching into Lake Superior from the northernmost tip of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula is the Keweenaw Peninsula. Home to hardwoods, sandstone cliffs, and lake-effect snow, the Keweenaw’s beauty is unparalleled.
Pronounced kee-win-awe, the peninsula was formed by ancient lava flows, giant ice sheets, and mid-continental rift. Explore the Keweenaw and find wild, unique landscapes—among the most breathtaking in the country.

Start at the top. Copper Harbor. Take a hike (or the scenic drive) up Brockway Mountain for a 360-degree view of Lake Superior. Bring your binoculars for an up-close view of “hawk highway.” Stay long enough to watch the sun set and, if you’re lucky, catch the Northern Lights.

Get out on the water. Take the ferry to Isle Royale, one of the nation’s few island national parks. A federally protected wilderness, backpackers, kayakers, and canoeists travel to the island during warmer-weather months for its picturesque harbors and dense forest. Isle Royale boasts no roads of any kind—all travel is by foot or boat.

Hear the land sing. Bete Grise is the stuff of legend. A nature preserve of bay and beach, the sand can be made to sing by pressing down with the palm of your hand. Strike the sand, and it barks. According to local legend, the sound belongs to a Native
American maid who calls from the shore to a lover lost to the Great Lakes. The sand is said to lose its musical properties if removed from the beach. Many believe the area was named for a strange gray creature that roamed the shore (bete grise is French for gray beast). Yet another local legend says that when Native Americans burned off the blueberry bogs after harvest, the smoke rolling across the bay looked like a gray beast.

Get lost in the woods. At the base of the Keweenaw lies the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Michigan’s largest area of undeveloped wilderness. Covering 92 square miles, the park is a nature lover’s dream, comprising virgin forest, scenic waterfalls, shoreline, 87 miles of hiking trails, and virtually no roads. keweenaw.info
The Climate

The Keweenaw Peninsula is temperate, with four distinct seasons. Springtime brings wildflowers, migratory birds, and an abundance of waterfalls. With approximately 200 known drops in the area, the bluffs of the Keweenaw never disappoint. Summer follows as temperatures climb to the mid- to high-70s. It’s the best time of year for hiking, mountain biking, and any activity out on the water. Autumn arrives in mid-September with some of the country’s most stunning foliage.

But let’s face it—winter is what the Keweenaw is famous for. Lake Superior keeps our temperatures from falling too low (hovering in the 20s) and creates a bounty of lake-effect snow. The city of Houghton averages 218 inches every winter. Up here, snowy weather isn’t an inconvenience—it’s part of the culture. Quick and thorough snow removal is a point of pride, and schools rarely close due to the white stuff.

The city of Houghton averages 218 inches of snow every winter.
The Great Outdoors

Choose your own adventure.

On foot. The Copper Country boasts hundreds of miles of maintained trails. Whether you’re looking for a short, rigorous hike or a long, easy stroll, the perfect hike awaits you.

On the water. Lake Superior and her inland lakes let you kayak, canoe, swim, boat, and waterski throughout the warmer months and ice skate when winter arrives.

On your bike. The Keweenaw is an unrivaled mountain bike destination. Hundreds of miles of diverse trail systems wait to be explored. Options near Houghton-Hancock include Michigan Tech’s Tech Trails, Churning Rapids, and Swedetown. Or head further north to Copper Harbor. The Copper Harbor Mountain Bike Trails are an International Mountain Bicycling Association Silver Level Ride Center, ranking among the top trail systems in the world.

On skis. Downhill or cross-country. Mont Ripley offers 24 trails (from beginner to expert), a 440-foot vertical drop, 112 acres of skiable terrain, six different glade runs, three lifts, and a four-lane tubing park. Nearby Mount Bohemia is not recommended for beginners. It’s designed for backcountry thrill seekers and has the longest runs with the highest vertical and deepest powder in the Midwest. If you prefer a cross-country adventure, the Keweenaw offers countless opportunities. Michigan Tech’s Tech Trails and Recreational Forest spans 500 acres with 35 kilometers of trails, half of which is lighted during the winter months. Tech Trails has hosted U.S. and junior cross country skiing championship races.

Pristine shorelines earned the Keweenaw Peninsula second place on Lake Superior Magazine’s “Top 10 Lake Superior Destinations” list.
CopperDog Sled Races
The first weekend of March finds more than 350 dogs racing through the Keweenaw. Founded in 2009, the CopperDog 150 and CopperDog 40 are annual dog sled races that attract mushers from around the world. The CopperDog 150 features teams of 10 dogs and covers 150 miles in three days. The CopperDog 40 features teams of six dogs and covers approximately 40 miles in one day. CopperDog promotes community vitality through sled dog racing and provides education on the history and sport of sled dog racing. Numerous public events—such as classroom visits, volunteer training, “Meet the Dogs” events, and free sled dog rides—are held throughout the year.

Winter Carnival
A Michigan Tech tradition. Organized by Blue Key National Honor Society since 1934, Winter Carnival started in 1922 and has grown to become one of the largest annual winter festivals in the nation. Featuring dozens of huge, intricate snow statues all around campus and the community, this event also brings together students to participate in broomball, comedy skits, sleigh rides, a queen coronation, and lots of winter fun.

Parade of Nations
Michigan Tech hosts the region’s largest, oldest multicultural festival, flying the flags of more than 60 countries represented on campus and in the Houghton community. Thousands participate in this special celebration in mid-September, enjoying international food, entertainment, and family activities promoting global peace and unity.
Fitzgerald’s
Sitting mere feet from the shores of Lake Superior, Fitzgerald’s Restaurant—The Fitz—is an award-winning destination in the Keweenaw town of Eagle River. The Fitz’s southern style barbecue is among the best and most authentic in Michigan, and its drink menu offers a wide-ranging selection of fine whiskey and craft beer. The Fitz prides itself on being a family establishment—it’s a rare night when you won’t see children playing on the beach.

The Jampot
Thirty miles north of campus, Byzantine monks devote themselves to a common life of prayer, service ... and jam. The Jampot, their bakery and jam shop, is at the top of every “Best of the UP” list and consistently labeled a “slice of heaven.” Thousands of tourists travel to the Copper Country from May to mid-October for divine treats in a breathtaking location.

The Ambassador
From a tap bar to a speakeasy (shuttered during Prohibition) to the best pizza in the state. Ranked in the top 10 for Michigan’s Best Pizza, the Ambassador Restaurant on Shelden Avenue is a must for every resident and tourist. The restaurant walls feature murals originally painted for the Bosch Brewery in Germany at the turn of the 20th century. Purchased by the Ambassador’s owners in the late 1940s or early 50s, the oil-on-canvas murals feature gnomes in various states of celebration.

The Copper Country Strawberry Festival
Strawberries have been an important part of the local economy since the 1920s. The Copper Country Strawberry Festival began in 1949. To this day, locals still enjoy their strawberries. The annual event includes arts and crafts in the park, children’s games, parades, a queen coronation, live music, a fish boil, berry judging, and an auction.
The Community

Steeped in history, the sister cities of Houghton and Hancock were incorporated during the copper mining boom of the 1850s.
The northernmost slice of Michigan. The center of Lake Superior. The site of America’s first mining boom. Those who call the Copper Country home live on a foundation of independence, innovation, and tenacity.
When newspaper magnate Horace Greeley encouraged young entrepreneurs to “go west,” this was the place he had in mind. Rich in copper and white pine, the Western Upper Peninsula of the 19th century attracted workers from across Europe—particularly those from Finland and the English county of Cornwall. As the copper and logging booms moved west, the Cornish and Finnish communities chose to stay, and the Keweenaw remains infused with their culture.

Ask a local about Copper Country culture, and you’re likely to hear details of Cornish pasties and Finnish saunas. But more importantly, they’ll tell you about a thing called sisu. Sisu (sih-soo) is a Finnish term that can’t be fully translated. It’s grit. Determination. Resilience. Perseverance. It’s a form of courage that doesn’t come and go. The miners and loggers of the 19th century built their community on sisu, and up in the Copper Country, it’s a way of life still today.
The miners built their community on a thing called sisu. And up in the Copper Country, it’s a way of life still today.
Houghton and Hancock: The Sister Cities

Houghton, Michigan, was named one of the best rural places to live in the United States in Norman Crampton’s *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*. Safewise ranks the city in the top 20 safest college towns in America. Friendly and welcoming, Houghton’s historic downtown features locally owned shops, eateries, museums, and brewpubs, while chain restaurants and major shopping outlets are a short car ride away on the business strip.

Across the Portage Canal Lift Bridge is Houghton’s sister city, Hancock, the northernmost city in Michigan and one of the leading small arts towns in the Upper Midwest. Home to the area’s Community Arts Center and Finlandia University—which is known for its programs in arts and design—Hancock fosters and supports the arts as a strong and growing component of its identity. Individual art exhibits and shows take place every year, highlighting the caliber of local artists and craftspeople.

Houghton, its sister city Hancock, and the surrounding towns have a combined population of approximately 15,000. That number grows to more than 22,000 when including the Michigan Tech student population. The University is embraced by the community—the town-and-gown dynamic is one of cooperation and mutual support. Athletic events are well attended by local residents who are not affiliated with the University, and pride in Michigan Tech is regularly on display.
Top-Tier Community Schools

The Houghton-Hancock area boasts high-quality school systems that consistently receive recognition and awards from the state. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Houghton High School number 38 for all high schools in the state of Michigan, and in the top seven percent of high schools nationally.

The 2017 Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress results place Houghton Elementary School among the top 50 elementary schools in the state for literacy scores.

Many local teachers are Upper Peninsula natives who left the area to pursue their teaching degrees at top-ranked education programs, like the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, before returning to the Keweenaw. Michigan Tech provides teacher certification, development, and graduate programs, with a focus on applied science and mathematics.
Healthcare in the Upper Peninsula

The healthcare needs of the Houghton-Hancock community are tended to by UP Health System-Portage and Aspirus Keweenaw.

**UP Health System–Portage** offers dedicated services for family medicine, pediatrics, women’s health, surgery, and skilled nursing care and wellness, plus ancillary services. The hospital operates 96 beds (36 general acute beds and 60 skilled nursing) and treats nearly 2,000 inpatients each year. UP Health System–Portage also offers a Level III ASC verified trauma center and emergency department, as well as an Express Care walk-in clinic. The system recently announced more than $2 million in capital improvement projects underway at the hospital. 

[portagehealth.org](http://portagehealth.org)

**Aspirus Keweenaw** is a non-profit, community-directed healthcare organization based in Laurium, Michigan—about 12 miles from Houghton—with clinics and outreach services in the Houghton area. Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital provides 24/7 access to emergency care and is supported by five clinic locations, including a new, multi-service clinic in Houghton.

[aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org)
Commitment to Families

Little Huskies
Little Huskies Child Development Center primarily serves the Michigan Tech population, fulfilling the University’s goal to attract, assist, and help sustain world-class faculty, staff, and students. Little Huskies encourages and supports each child’s growth and development in a caring and nurturing environment. The center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This accreditation is reviewed every five years and is a significant indicator of a high level of quality. All teachers are highly qualified, with degrees in early childhood or related fields. Small group sizes and low children-staff ratios ensure each child receives plenty of individual attention. Little Huskies uses HighScope, a research-based curriculum for children from birth to age five. Teachers prioritize outdoor play and natural learning experiences.

mtu.edu/little-huskies

Michigan Tech’s Partner Engagement Program
This Program was created to help spouses and partners of new tenure-track faculty gain knowledge about the University, potential employment opportunities, and other resources at the University and in the local area. The program assists with the employment search and community networking for the couple’s first two years in the area.
Local Athletics

Houghton is the birthplace of professional hockey, and the area boasts a strong hockey culture. Learn-to-skate and competitive hockey leagues are available from kindergarten on up.

Houghton, Michigan, is the birthplace of professional hockey.

Local high schools have strong programs—both the Houghton and Hancock high school varsity teams have won state championships, with Hancock winning in 2016.

The Canal Run was started in 1975 and is the Keweenaw Peninsula’s premier running event. Following the rolling hills along the Portage Lake Shipping Canal, the Canal Run offers three distances for runners and walkers of all levels, including a half marathon, 10-mile run, 10-mile walk, five-mile run, and five-mile walk.

The Aspirus Copperman Triathlon & Duathlon take place every August. The triathlon includes a half-mile swim in Lake Fanny Hooe, a 23-mile bike along the shores of Lake Superior, and a five-mile run at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The Copperman Duathlon starts with a 6K run, continues with the 23-mile bike, and ends with another run, this one five miles.

The Breakers to Bridge Paddle Festival is a 10-mile paddle to support the Keweenaw Land Trust’s mission of protecting land and water access for public use. The event includes food and music, a silent auction, and a recognition ceremony.
There are numerous travel options for traveling to, from, and in Houghton. SkyWest, a partner of United Airlines, services the Houghton County Memorial Airport (code CMX), located about eight miles north of campus. Daily flights are available to and from Chicago. Rental cars are available at the airport from National Car Rental/Alamo Rent-A-Car. Sawyer International Airport, a two-hour drive away, offers daily flights to Detroit.

Indian Trail Bus Line offers both in-state and out-of-state transportation. Destinations include Chicago, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Flint, and Grand Rapids, as well as cities within the Upper Peninsula.

The Houghton Motor Transit Line and Hancock Public Transit are city-operated bus systems with routes that run from campus to the downtown and shopping areas. Curb-to-curb service on campus is available in the evenings when classes are in session. Taxis to and from campus are just a phone call away.

Rural, not disconnected.
The cities of Houghton and Hancock have a small-town, rural feel—but they’re not so far away that Amazon Prime can’t reach you with free, two-day shipping.
Many students comment that the size of campus is just right—not so big that it's easy to get lost, but not too small, either. They often say they feel right at home.
Our beautiful campus in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula overlooks the Keweenaw Waterway and is just a few miles from Lake Superior. Michigan Tech wouldn’t be the same anywhere else on earth—and we wouldn’t have it any other way.
Exploring the Campus

Historic US Highway 41 winds its way to Michigan Technological University, hugging the southern edge of campus to separate dorms and recreation from academic facilities.

Enter campus from the east to walk through the Rosza Center for the Performing Arts. View visual arts exhibits and installations, and peek into the performance hall, before taking the catwalk into the Walker Arts and Humanities Center. Walker houses Michigan Tech’s Humanities Digital Media Zone, a modern language lab, the McArdle Theatre, and the Multiliteracies Center.

Exit Walker and head west. Check out the architectural detail of Douglass Houghton Hall, built in the late 1930s. A few steps later and you’ll come to the border of world-class research in engineering and the hard sciences. On your right is the Minerals and Materials Engineering Building (locally known as the M&M), home to one of the few university-run foundries in the nation, as well as three cutting-edge biomedical engineering research labs: the Regeneration and Repair, Engineered Biomaterials, and Biosensors Laboratories.

Fisher Hall is on the left. Tech’s physics and math departments live here—and so does the campus movie theater. Connected to Fisher is Rekhi Hall, where you can find the Department of Computer Science and the Computer Science Learning Center.

Look ahead and see The Dog. Our nine-foot-tall, 1,600-pound Husky statue stands on a 19-ton Baraga County boulder that is 1.8 billion years old. More than 1,000 personalized engraved stones surround the statue.

Left of The Dog is the J. Robert Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library, recently upgraded with 250 new computer workstations; new scanners and printers, including a 3-D printer; improved wireless access; and functional, ergonomic furnishings and workspaces, including laptop bars and booths. Across the way are Dillman Hall, the Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building, and the Electrical Energy Resources Center.

The Memorial Union Building (MUB) is just ahead. Inside you’ll find the Keweenaw Commons Food Court, featuring a wide variety of international, freshly made foods. The MUB also houses student organization offices, the Campus Bookstore, meeting rooms, ballroom space, and the John Edgar McAllister Welcome Center.
Across from the MUB is the R. L. Smith Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Building (MEEM). At 11 stories, the MEEM provides more than 55,000 square feet of laboratory space. It’s also where you’ll find the Engineering Learning Center and the Active Learning Center—also called The Fishbowl—a modern, interactive, and collaborative computer lab.

Past the MEEM and MUB you’ll find the ROTC Building, Academic Offices Building, Administration and Student Services Building, and Alumni House. The Alumni House was built in 1916 by Dr. Rudolf J. Maas, a mining company doctor who had a private practice in the home. The home was sold to the University in 1961. Michigan Tech’s fifth and sixth s lived in the house until their respective retirements.

Cross over Highway 41 to reach the Harold Meese Center and spend time in the Immersive Visualization Studio, or turn right down Phoenix Drive to make your way to the Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC). The GLRC provides state-of-the-art laboratories where faculty members from many departments across Michigan Tech’s campus collaborate on interdisciplinary research. The GLRC also contains a lake-level marine facility and convenient deep-water docking, providing a year-round home for Michigan Tech’s surface and sub-surface fleet of marine vehicles.
The Student Development Complex

The Student Development Complex (SDC) is a 235,000-square-foot facility that provides a wide range of recreation and fitness options for students, faculty, staff, and the community—including a fitness center, swimming pool, climbing wall, racquetball courts, a multipurpose room, and a studio for classes in dance, yoga, aerobics, and martial arts. The SDC is also home to the John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena (the Mac), which has a seating capacity of 4,200 and 14 rentable luxury suites/skyboxes. The Mac is home to Michigan Tech’s NCAA Division I hockey team and was voted the second best hockey arena experience in Michigan in 2012 by Stadium Journey magazine. In addition to varsity hockey, the arena is used for intramural hockey, kinesiology and integrative physiology classes, recreational skating, youth and adult hockey, figure skating programs, private rentals, and special events.

A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum

North America’s premier mineral museum, the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum is internationally recognized by mineral collectors and connoisseurs. Featuring the largest public exhibit and finest collection of minerals from the Great Lakes region—and the world’s best collection of Michigan minerals—the museum exhibits feature the rich colors of nature’s masterpieces.
Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts
Engineering meets art. Michigan Tech’s Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts is the leading arts presenter in the Western Upper Peninsula. Performances include national- and University-produced theatre, jazz, orchestra, symphonic bands, choral music, dance, and film, as well as visual art exhibitions and installations. With a 3,800-square-foot main stage, and 1,067 seating capacity in the main theater, the Dr. James A. and Margaret C. Black Performance Hall is built for great events—and can transform into a 583-seat proscenium theatre or an intimate 250 seat jazz club. Performance facilities and practice spaces include the 1,448-square-foot Choral Room, and 1,790-square-foot Band Room.

McArdle Theatre is a flexible black-box theatre used for theatrical performances, live concerts, music festivals, and studio recording sessions, as well as a film sound stage.

Golf and Skiing
The Portage Lake Golf Course is rated one of the top 18-hole courses in the Upper Peninsula. The course sits on 160 acres and offers two nines of distinctly different challenges.

Mont Ripley is the oldest ski area in the state in the snowiest town in the Midwest.

Mont Ripley is the oldest ski area in the state in the snowiest town in the Midwest (the Weather Channel ranked Hancock, Michigan, as the third snowiest city in the United States). It’s owned by the University and located one mile from campus.
Michigan Tech: Beyond the Campus

The Ford Center and Forest
The Ford Center and Forest is located about 40 miles south of Michigan Tech’s main campus and 10 miles from the shores of Lake Superior. The Center is an outdoor and environmental education center with full-service conference facilities and lodging in historic Alberta Village, built by Henry Ford and donated to the University in 1954. The core lands of Ford Forest are a 3,700-acre mosaic divided into the Baraga Plains tract and Ford property in and around Alberta Village.

Michigan Tech Research Institute
The Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI) is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is a recognized leader in the research, development, and practical application of sensor and information technology to solve critical problems in national security, protecting and evaluating critical infrastructure, bioinformatics, earth sciences, and environmental processes. MTRI’s outreach activities are designed to provide educational programs, technical expertise, tools, data, and information, and make them available to the public and stakeholders to promote awareness and improve environmental management.
Keweenaw Research Center
The Keweenaw Research Center (KRC) combines science and engineering to develop new technologies and solve real-world problems. KRC provides applied research solutions through laboratory-based evaluation, computer-based modeling and analysis, snow and ice research, and vehicle testing and evaluation. KRC maintains more than 740 acres of proving grounds, including many miles of prepared test tracks. Ride and handling loops, a circular track, an ice rink, a snow-packed area, and a rugged off-road obstacle course all provide the backdrop for research in vehicle mobility.

Advanced Technology Development Complex
The Advanced Technology Development Complex (ATDC) is a cooperating site of the Michigan Tech Enterprise SmartZone (MTEPS), a partnership between the University and the cities of Houghton and Hancock to support technology transfer and high-tech development in the region. ATDC is a 27,000-square-foot building that houses the Ford Student Design Center, the Keweenaw Research Center’s dynamometer, the Office of Innovation and Industry Engagement, and lease space for business startups. A recently completed facility within ATDC houses Michigan Tech’s FEI 200kV Titan Themis Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope (S-TEM), a true atomic resolution instrument that is one of only a handful in the Upper Midwest.
Winter Carnival at Mont Ripley