

# SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Vincent College is an educational community rooted in the tradition of the Catholic faith, the heritage of Benedictine monasticism, and the love of values inherent in the liberal arts approach to life and learning. Its mission is to provide quality under-graduate and graduate education for men and women to enable them to integrate their professional aims with the broader purposes of human life. The programs, activities, and encounters that make up student life at Saint Vincent College encourage the intellectual gifts, professional aptitudes and personal aspirations of students to mature harmoniously.

## **Catholic, Benedictine and Liberal Arts Values**

Central to the Mission of the College are its Catholic tradition, its Benedictine heritage, and its commitment to liberal arts education. Outlined below are some of the values of a Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts education as defined and operated upon by the Saint Vincent College community.

### **Catholic**

Saint Vincent College seeks to provide an understanding of the positive contributions which the Catholic Church has made, and continues to make, to human progress. Faculty, administrators, staff, and students of all faiths work together in a common search for truth in an environment that does the following:

- Affirms that the love of God and faith in Jesus Christ are authentic values for believers. The life of faith and the life of learning are regarded as inclusive and mutually compatible, as expressed in the College motto: *veri iustique scientia vindex*, “learning is the best advocate of truth and justice.”
- Represents a sacramental view which consecrates all visible creation as a pledge, reminder, and active instrument of God’s invisible presence and grace.
- Supports the integration of religious and temporal values in everyday life.
- Promotes appreciation for the positive contributions of all peoples and cultures to world civilization. In this sense, Saint Vincent is truly “Catholic,” ecumenical, and international.

### **Benedictine**

The traditional Benedictine apostolate of education is characterized by an appreciation of truth wherever it is found and by respect for the unique person and talents of every student. In an authentic Benedictine environment, students are not just objects of an educational enterprise; they are valued partners in a common search for truth and beauty. Saint Vincent College is grounded in the following core values of Benedictinism:

- Hospitality, as exemplified by a tolerant spirit that recognizes the mystery of God’s presence in all creation and the sacred dignity of each person.
- Commitment to a concept of community that advocates tranquility and order and is nourished by mutual respect, appreciation, and charity. Even in times of historical and personal upheaval, Benedictine life seeks to preserve peace and solidarity, maintained by the communal effort of prayer and work.
- Care and concern for each individual as evidenced in personal interactions that anticipate the needs of others, bear patiently with others, and promote the personal growth of others.
- Stewardship for all work spaces, living spaces, and the natural environment.

### **Liberal Arts**

Liberal arts education is integrative, challenging students to explore the principles, perspectives, and goals of many different disciplines and modes of learning. Saint Vincent’s particular approach to liberal arts education, undergirded by the values of its Catholic, Benedictine heritage, provides an education for life and for lifelong learning. It espouses a love of learning and a belief in the intrinsic worth of higher education. The College seeks to instill the following educational virtues:

- Facility to comprehend particular phenomena conceptually and to look for patterns and regularities in experience.
- Ability to evaluate ranges of evidence and to revise previous theory or hypotheses accordingly.
- Skill in discovering relationships between seemingly divergent phenomena.
- Ability to be an independent learner rather than a mere consumer of others’ interpretations.
- Facility to articulate and express one’s thoughts clearly.
- Self-assurance in adhering to mature social and ethical values, coupled with tolerance for alternate values in others.
- Skill in making informed decisions and courage to act on them.
- Appreciation for the fine arts, especially art, music, and literature.
- Receptivity to uncommon opinions and unfamiliar cultures.