

Introduction to the 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 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 justique 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.

An Invitation to Learning

During your college years, you as a student are faced with some important decisions. One of them is to determine your approach to education—your own “aims and objectives.” You will have to determine whether your objective is merely to fulfill the minimum requirements in order “to get a degree,” or whether it is to become more creatively engaged in learning as an integral part of your life.

This *Bulletin* concerns itself for the most part with the less significant objective, which is the first. It contains the basic information about courses, procedures, and requirements necessary for obtaining a degree: it is your responsibility to have and to use this information. If you have problems or questions about this part of college life, be sure to ask your faculty advisor for help. If you are in the process of changing majors or career plans, a thorough discussion with your faculty advisor and with a member of the Career Services staff is more imperative. Finally, if you have unresolved problems and don’t know where to turn, stop to see the Dean of Studies. The Dean of Studies may know resources at the College or elsewhere with which you are not familiar.

The more significant objective, which touches upon a personal commitment to learning, is more difficult to deal with than information about degree requirements. Your openness to new experiences, your friendships with faculty and fellow students are more essential to the realization of this objective than the information contained in any college bulletin.

As a preamble, faculty members will tell you that if you wish to be serious about learning, you must practice critical reading and listening in all your courses: you must be able to tell the difference between essentials and non-essentials. And you must be able to express yourself well, both verbally and in writing. Few people have been able to achieve these essential skills for learning without diligently working at them over a long period of time.

In your college experience try to learn as much as you can about change: your personal and spiritual developmental change, social change, change we call failure, even the change we call death. Many of the courses of the Core Curriculum are designed to help you think about change—from a chemical reaction to a political revolution or a religious experience. Secondly, it is impor-

tant to have possible careers in mind in determining what you will learn; and it is important to gain a reasonable mastery in some field while at college. However, it would be a mistake to think of your college education exclusively in terms of the work you want to do. The much larger part of your waking hours, even before retirement, will be taken up by self-directed activities. Courses in the Core Curriculum outside your major are important for developing meaningful self-directed activities outside the world of paid work. In addition, social service, religious activities, art, meditation, dance, drama, music, sports, friendships are all elements of a good college experience. The Rule of Saint Benedict is a classic text about achieving a peaceful balance between work and other activities and values of life. Finally, your personal philosophy about learning should take cognizance of the fact that human beings must live in the context of a variety of systems. Your college education will help you learn about systems: how they work, and how to make them work justly for you and your neighbor. To achieve this, however, it is not sufficient to learn about political, economic, and social systems only in class. First-hand experience through participation in clubs and organizations seems necessary to learn how to negotiate with other interest groups, and how to get things done in an effective and morally acceptable way. You may be able to start a new organization to meet a need, many extracurricular activities at Saint Vincent were begun and are run by students.

These dimensions of learning which touch upon a person's relation to the basic realities of life are also suggested when the College describes its "viewpoint and tendencies" as Catholic, Benedictine, and liberal. A college education at Saint Vincent provides the opportunity for a student to come to grips with some of the basic questions of life in company with faculty and fellow students.

History and Heritage

Saint Vincent Archabbey and College was founded in 1846 by Boniface Wimmer, a monk from the Benedictine Abbey of Metten in Bavaria.

Wimmer came to America with the intention of educating the sons of German immigrants and training a native clergy for the German-speaking peoples of the United States. He settled on the site of a parish established for English and Irish Catholics in 1789, and very quickly learned that his monks would not be able to limit their attention to Germans alone. With the aid of several American bishops, friends and benefactors in Europe, and a strong community of Benedictine monks at the monastery of Saint Vincent, he established the first Benedictine college in the United States. From modest beginnings the college grew rapidly, and on 18 April 1870 the State Legislature of Pennsylvania incorporated the school, empowering it "to grant and confer degrees in the arts and sciences as are granted in other colleges and universities in the United States, and to grant to graduates, or persons on whom such degrees may be conferred, diplomas or certificates as is usual in colleges and universities."

From its earliest days Saint Vincent College has striven to embody the ideals and character of the fifteen-hundred-year-old heritage of Benedictine education and scholarship. Based firmly on the ideal of Christian community, this heritage has contributed to both the survival and dissemination of Western culture. It has been an enduring heritage because of its capacity to adjust to the exigencies of successive ages. For almost one hundred and fifty years the monks of Saint Vincent have worked to exemplify and to carry on this living tradition. From their ranks men have established Benedictine colleges and schools in Minnesota, Kansas, North Carolina, New Jersey, Illinois, and Georgia, among other places.

In the words of a college catalogue of the 1850's, Saint Vincent is located in an "elevated and healthy" area. Situated on a foothill of the Alleghenies, the school commands a panoramic

view of the countryside. In January of 1963 a fire destroyed part of the campus and in the years which have followed a new age in the history of the college has begun. Out of the ashes of the past a new Saint Vincent has emerged. With a deep awareness of the heritage and tradition which is its foundation, the community has once again turned its face toward the future. And perhaps no better image of this dynamic commitment to a creative relationship between old and new exists than the campus itself, whose newly constructed and aesthetically pleasing modern buildings blend harmoniously with the older structures built by the pioneer monks themselves.

Saint Vincent College became coeducational in 1983 as a major step to strengthen all aspects of the community life and educational services of the College. The decision was based on a belief that the College was in a strong position to offer men and women the opportunity of personal development and solid career preparation in a wholesome environment grounded in the time-tested Benedictine educational and religious tradition.

Saint Vincent College, along with the other units of the Saint Vincent Community—Archabbey, Seminary and Parish—observed the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1996 with an 18-month series of activities and events which recognized the rich history and heritage of Saint Vincent while focusing attention on planning and preparing for the future.

Seton Hill University Cross-Registration Program

In order to present wider opportunities to the students of Saint Vincent College and Seton Hill University, an academic cross-registration program exists between the two institutions. Library facilities at both institutions are available to all students and members of faculties at both colleges. This program has been designed to give the students of each institution every opportunity to advance academically, at moderate costs, within the common perspectives of these two Catholic institutions.

Duquesne University and Saint Vincent College Cooperative Program

Duquesne University and Saint Vincent College offer the following cooperative programs: Law, Business Administration, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, and Pharmacy. This collaboration allows individuals to pursue an undergraduate liberal arts education in preparation for graduate studies in a professional field. Additional information is available in the *Bulletin* in the Pre-Health Professions, Pre-Law, English, History, Sociology/Anthropology, Political Science, Public Policy Analysis, and Business Administration sections.

The Campus

In a pattern characteristic of many Benedictine communities, the first buildings were grouped in a quadrangle. At least ten of the original buildings were "home-made." That is, the architects and workmen were Benedictines who cut the trees, sawed the timber, and fashioned clay into bricks.

Alcuin Hall (1964) is used for social affairs and recreation and features a glass wall that provides a dramatic view of the College athletic fields and the mountains to the east. It also houses Campus Ministry.

Alfred Hall (1907) houses the administration offices and also provides space for language laboratories, computer labs, classrooms and some faculty offices.

Andrew Hall (1905) extends from the Archabbey Basilica and contains the monastic refectory.

Anselm Hall (1875-1879) connecting Andrew Hall with Placid Hall provides space for small dining-meeting rooms.

Aquinas Hall (1952) connects Wimmer Hall with the Archabbey Basilica and provides classrooms for the seminary.

Archabbey Basilica (1892-1905) dominates the campus at Saint Vincent. The cornerstone was laid in 1892, and the consecration took place August 24, 1905. Beneath the Basilica is the Crypt, which contains altars and many works of modern art in glass, wood, stone, and acrylic and oil paintings. The Basilica was completely restored in 1996.

Aurelius Hall (1923) served as a College residence hall until 2002 and traditionally housed freshmen. Today, Aurelius Hall houses the McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government and serves as a residence hall.

Chapel of St. Gregory the Great (1998) is the Seminary chapel.

Community Center (1979) adjoins Anselm, Benedict and Placid Halls. It houses the main student dining room and food preparation facilities.

Elizabeth J. Roderick Center (1998) houses Seminary and Archabbey offices, seminary residence rooms and guest rooms.

Gerard and Bonaventure Halls (1963) are residence halls providing accommodations for 459 students in double rooms.

Headmasters Hall and Placid Hall (built in sections from 1855-1877) house the post office, dining and conference rooms, academic affairs, the faculty commons, faculty offices and classrooms for the School of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel (2003) is the College Student Chapel.

Monastery Building (1967) is the home of the Benedictine monks.

Parish Center (1997) provides a gathering space for parish activities, parish offices and the Basilica Gift Shop.

Prep Hall (1998), named in honor of all of the alumni of the former Saint Vincent Preparatory School and in thanksgiving for the leadership of Prep alumni in providing the funding necessary to make the building a reality. It houses "smart" classrooms, multimedia laboratory, media suite, communication and education faculty offices.

Robert S. Carey Student Center (1952-1954; The Frank and Elizabeth Resnik Swimming Pool, 1993; Student Union, 1996, 2003) covering more than an acre of ground, contains the gymnasium, Performing Arts Center, swimming pool, Mary, Mother of Wisdom Student Chapel, wellness center, book center, snack bar, student union, classrooms, game room, fitness center with free weights, weight machines, and cardiovascular machines, art gallery, art studios, music practice rooms, and the fine arts and education departments.

Rooney Hall (1995) is a College residence hall that houses 125 students in double rooms.

Saint Benedict Hall (2002) is the residence hall for first-year students. The hall accommodates 368 students in double rooms.

The Science Center (1969; life sciences research laboratory, 1989) houses the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computing and provides five separate but connected buildings for physics, biology, and chemistry departments as well as a central commons building, housing the computer terminal room, classrooms, a planetarium and an amphitheatre. The life sciences research laboratory building includes areas for joint student and faculty research, instructional rooms and research labs for biology and psychology students.

Leander Hall (1913) is a residence hall for seminary students and monastic guests.

Wimmer Hall (1952) is a College residence hall. It has 135 private rooms and houses Prevention Projects.

The names of most of the buildings honor early Benedictine educators and deceased abbots who served the College as president.

The Library

Benedictine institutions have traditionally granted a place of honor to the library. The Latimer Family Library continues this tradition by providing a climate-controlled repository of the institution's bibliographic holdings and a continually growing resource in support of the College's teaching mission.

Borrowing privileges are available to enrolled students, faculty, administrators and staff members of the College. The Saint Vincent identification card serves as the Library card. Library resources are also available to the general public and to the local religious, educational, business and social community. The Library is open to patrons eighty-nine (89) hours each week when school is in session. Special hours are in effect during vacation periods and on holidays; schedule changes are posted in the Library and distributed to the offices of the College.

Private study carrels and tables are available throughout the Library. A central reference room provides access to more than 3,500 resource titles such as encyclopedias, abstracts, dictionaries, indexes, handbooks, atlases, concordances, and gazetteers. The periodical area displays around 600 current periodical subscriptions arranged alphabetically by title. A collection of audio tapes and a video and DVD collection with monitor/VCRs and monitor/DVD player are included in this section. The Library also has microfilm and microfiche collections with appropriate readers and printers available for patron use.

The collection contains nearly 276,000 print volumes, 45,000 bound periodicals and approximately 100,000 microforms. The Library houses unique resources in religion and theology and special collections of Pennsylvania and Benedictina. The Library also has a collection of rare books housed in climate-controlled vault; access to this collection is available by special request.

The collection is classified according to the Library of Congress classification system. The Library uses a fully automated catalog (OPAC), utilizing the integrated system of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Electronic searches are made through EBSCOhost, ProQuest, LexisNexis, JSTOR, and Project MUSE which provide online access to an extensive list of bibliographic and full-text information. The Library currently houses a computer lab, and has both hard-wire connections and wireless access for laptop users to access the LAN and the Internet.

Materials not available at Saint Vincent Library may be requested from other libraries through the Interlibrary Loan service (ILL). This service is available through the Interlibrary Loan Coordinator or at the Circulation Desk. The Library also participates in the Westmoreland County Libraries Reciprocal Borrowing Program that affords members of the Saint Vincent Community borrowing privileges at participating libraries.