

General Information

Mission

The University of St. Thomas is a comprehensive, co-educational, Catholic university. It seeks to develop morally responsible individuals who combine career competency with cultural awareness and intellectual curiosity. In its undergraduate program, the university is committed to the development of the student through a liberal arts education within the living Catholic tradition and through a high degree of personal attention in a spiritually and intellectually stimulating campus environment. Graduate programs emphasize the integration of theory with practice, enhance the professional competence and ethical judgment of their students, and foster personal growth and an appreciation of life-long learning. In all of its academic programs and other educational enterprises, the university is committed to meeting the diverse, changing needs of the community. Throughout, the university fosters in the student a tradition of service to the public welfare and an energetic, thoughtful approach to the challenges of contemporary life.

Convictions

1. The University of St. Thomas is a Catholic, diocesan university, founded on belief in God and commitment to a life of worship leading to active participation in the mission of Christ and the Church to the world. In that context and as an important part of its religious witness, the university welcomes and respects faculty, staff and students who do not share this faith tradition. The Catholic tradition fosters a value-oriented education needed for complete human development and for responsible citizenship in contemporary society.
2. The university's educational program provides a liberal arts education as well as education for a career. It strives to give a student a foundation for clear thinking and expression; a sufficient understanding to read intelligently in fields with which an educated person ought to be acquainted; and proficiency in an area of specialization.
3. The university's curriculum emphasizes a search for and discovery of truth and judgments of value as well as preserving and transmitting enduring truths and values.
4. The university seeks to create an international perspective among its students including an appreciation of cultural diversity.
5. The university strives to anticipate and respond appropriately to changes in its environment.
6. The university emphasizes excellence in teaching. It also is committed to scholarship and encourages service to the university and broader community throughout its faculty.
7. The university welcomes diversity among its students with respect to age and intellectual talents, financial resources, and credal, racial, and geographic characteristics.
8. The university fosters the total development of

the student through close interaction with faculty, staff and other students within a supportive campus environment.

9. The university's metropolitan setting challenges it to participate in community life and to develop innovative programs for persons of all ages within the community.
10. The university, through its educational programs, student services, and other resources, assists its students in the transition to further education and employment.
11. The university cultivates lifelong personal contact and communication with its friends and former students.
12. The university embraces its role in independent liberal arts education because diversity is essential to the health of our educational system, to our national life, and to our responsibilities in the world community.

Within this context, the objectives of the undergraduate curriculum are: liberal learning, moral and ethical development, and career preparation.

College Vision Statement

The university's mission and convictions and our objectives for undergraduate education provide the framework for the College Vision Statement, which was endorsed by the College Faculty Senate in December 1995.

The strengths of the undergraduate College are embodied in four commitments:

1. A commitment to the Catholic identity that informs its liberal and professional education;
2. A commitment to a common liberal arts foundation that serves as the core of the education in which all St. Thomas undergraduates participate;
3. A commitment to the integration of the liberal arts and career preparation, fostering in students a dedication to work for the common good;
4. A commitment to the underlying unity of the human person with an emphasis on the spiritual, intellectual, ethical and social development of all students.

These commitments are manifested in the following features of the College:

- a. A strong core curriculum for all students that exposes them to enduring, transcultural human truths, provides for multicultural exploration, and encourages integration that crosses disciplinary boundaries;
- b. A comprehensive and strong set of major and minor fields that meet the increasing demands of career competency and interdisciplinary development, while maintaining a common liberal arts core curriculum;
- c. An energetic, expert and diverse faculty who show their concern for the total development of

students through extensive time and effort spent with them, and through their eagerness to involve students in the work of their fields through joint research projects, practicums, and service to the community;

- d. A faculty who model for students a love of learning through continual efforts to enhance teaching effectiveness, ongoing professional engagement, and collaboration with their colleagues in teaching, research and other program initiatives;
- e. A faculty who demonstrate a commitment to service through their willingness to serve as role models for students, demonstrating that compassion for others and lifelong dedication to service are ordinary aspects of being an educated, responsible citizen;
- f. A strong support and professional staff throughout the university committed to fostering the social, spiritual, and intellectual development of students through co-curricular activities, with a special focus on cultivating leadership ability.

As it looks to the future, the undergraduate College seeks to maintain these distinctive manifestations of its key commitments and to:

- a. Build on the strengths of our Catholic identity by promoting dialogue between faith and reason and by enabling students to acquire an organic vision of reality which integrates faith and secular learning;
- b. Increase efforts to cross departmental and disciplinary boundaries in order to enhance further the integration of liberal arts and professional education, faith and practice, principles and techniques, and education and service;
- c. Emphasize more the preparation of students for a life of service in an increasingly diverse world through the development of integrated service learning opportunities for students;
- d. Stress the importance of global awareness by encouraging study abroad opportunities, increasing participation in faculty and student exchanges, and increasing involvement with the university's urban community;
- e. Increase efforts to diversify the student body, the faculty, the staff, and the curriculum to reflect the diversity of the broader society;
- f. Emphasize the integration of technology in teaching, and the development of computer literacy for all students;
- g. Continue our strong emphasis on preparing students to think analytically, write and speak clearly, reason quantitatively, participate in a democratic society, contribute to the health of their communities and the environment, and know the natural world and their own and other cultures;
- h. Continue to foster in our students an appreciation for the dignity of all human persons, created in the image of a just and loving God.

History

The University of St. Thomas was founded in 1885 by Archbishop John Ireland, less than a year after he was installed as St. Paul's third bishop. What began as the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary – with 62 students and a faculty of five – has grown to be Minnesota's largest independent university with four campuses and over 10,000 students.

Built near a river bluff on farmland that was still considered "far removed from town" in the late 1800s, the university's main campus is nestled today in a residential area midway between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In its first decade, St. Thomas was a high school, college and seminary; students enrolled in either the preparatory, classical or theological departments. In 1894 the theological department moved to an adjacent campus where it became The Saint Paul Seminary. The preparatory and classical departments, meanwhile, remained on the original campus and became the College of St. Thomas.

The classical department gradually grew to a four-year college curriculum. The first baccalaureate degrees were conferred in 1910 and St. Thomas was officially accredited in 1916. The preparatory department became the St. Thomas Military Academy, a high school that moved to a suburban campus in 1965.

After 92 years of all-male enrollment, St. Thomas became coeducational in 1977. Today, 54 percent of the undergraduates and more than 51 percent of the graduate students are women.

Coeducation, coupled with new graduate programs as well as new campuses, contributed to St. Thomas' growth over the past two decades. Enrollment increased from under 2,500 students in 1970 to almost 11,000 today. The undergraduate College currently enrolls approximately 5,400 students.

Adult students at the undergraduate level were served through New College, which opened in 1975. The School of Continuing Studies, established in 1998, will continue to serve adult, part-time, and non-traditional students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels with degree and non-credit programs.

Graduate programs in Education and Professional Psychology were first established in 1950, and now offer degrees at the masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. The School of Education and the School of Social Work were both established in 1996.

Graduate programs in Management, begun in 1974, have developed into the Graduate School of Business, which offers a wide range of business-related masters degrees.

The Graduate School of Applied Sciences and Engineering offers masters degrees in software engineering and in manufacturing systems engineering.

St. Thomas' original "classical" and "theological" departments came together once again in 1987 through an affiliation between the seminary and university. Together they created The School of

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Divinity which offers graduate degrees in pastoral studies, divinity and theology.

In 1990, recognizing the many changes and the addition of graduate programs to the institution, the name of the College of St. Thomas was changed to the University of St. Thomas.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences begun in 1991, offers masters-level programs in art history, English, and music education.

Many non-degree programs are offered by St. Thomas through a number of specialized centers devoted to management and business, senior citizens, life-care, creative studies, Jewish-Christian dialogue, and music.

St. Thomas also is home to the undergraduate St. John Vianney Seminary, and to The Catholic Digest, the largest-selling magazine of its kind in the world.

Locations

St. Thomas' main, 78-acre campus anchors the western end of St. Paul's historic Summit Avenue.

In 1992 the university began a permanent campus in downtown Minneapolis, which is now the home of the Graduate School of Business, the Graduate Department of Professional Psychology, the School of Education, and the proposed Law School.

The university offers a wide range of programs at its Owatonna-based Gainey Conference Center, established in 1982 and at a number of satellite locations, including the Mall of America.

The University of St. Thomas Rome Campus is a residential estate on the banks of the Tiber River purchased in 1999. It is home to the university's Center for Catholic Studies Rome Program. It is also available for conferences, study tours and housing for faculty, students, and visitors to Rome.

Vital Statistics

The University of St. Thomas is a private, coeducational, Catholic, liberal arts university located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The university awards the B.A., B.S., B.S.M.E., D.Min., Ed.S., Ed.D., M.A., M.B.A., M.B.C., M.Div., M.I.M., M.M.S.E., M.S., M.S.S., M.S.D.D., M.S.W., and Psy.D. degrees.

Enrollment figures for fall semester 1999 (including 26 students enrolled at branch campuses in foreign countries) were: the undergraduate College 4,915; School of Continuing Studies 484; School of Divinity 131; School of Education (graduate) 1,053; School of Social Work (graduate) 189; Graduate School of Business 3,022; Graduate School of Applied Sciences and Engineering, 872; Graduate School of Arts and Science, 112; Graduate Department of Professional Psychology 177. There were 348 full-time faculty.

Accreditation and Memberships

The University of St. Thomas is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (800-621-7440), the Association of Theological

Schools (412-788-6505), the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (202-466-7496).

All University of St. Thomas education licensure programs are approved by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (651-296-2046).

Programs in chemistry are approved by the American Chemical Society (800-227-5558); the Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (703-683-8080); the masters programs in engineering are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (410-347-7700); the music programs are approved by the National Association of Schools of Music (703-437-0700).

The university is a member of the:

American Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education
American Council on Education
Association of American Colleges
and Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges
and Universities
Council on Undergraduate Research
Institute of International Education
International Federation of
Catholic Universities
Minnesota Private College Council
National Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities
National Catholic Educational Association

The university is an associate member of the
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of
Business

Assessment of Programs

The program to assess student learning is an integral part of the university's commitment to excellent teaching and effective learning. The assessment effort is sustained by the faculty and is fully supported by the administration. Information is systematically collected and examined both to document and improve student learning. The assessment program itself is routinely updated, and the information gained from the assessment process becomes part of curricular development.

The Academic Assessment Coordinating Committee (AACC), which oversees the student outcomes assessment programs of the university, consists of six elected faculty and the director of Institutional Research. The committee is co-chaired by the associate vice president for academic affairs and the associate academic dean.

Currently, all curricula for major concentrations and the undergraduate core curriculum are routinely assessed. Thus, students are asked from time to time to participate in testing, surveys, interviews, or other methods of collecting data for assessment purposes.