Benedictine University

Diverse
Catholic
Making a difference
What makes Benedictine Catholic?

The values and beliefs espoused by the University’s founders are as integral to our mission today as they were when the school was established more than 125 years ago.

Among those values are a search for God by oneself and others, a tradition of hospitality, an appreciation for living and working in community, a concern for the development of each person, an emphasis on a life lived in balance, a dedication to responsible stewardship of the earth and a commitment to academic excellence.

Giving those values life and meaning in a diverse and increasingly secular society is the Center for Mission and Identity, which works tirelessly to articulate and enhance the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the institution through education and research, and University Ministry, which provides a range of services and programs to assist students in their spiritual and personal growth.

By embracing our Catholic faith and living the Benedictine values, Benedictine stays true to its Catholic identity while extending God’s love to others, no matter who they are or where they find themselves in their faith journey.
Every university teaches. Every university confers a degree. The difference between an education and a Catholic education is one of context. A Catholic education places the pursuit of truth and knowledge within the framework of being human. How will what I am doing benefit others? Will what I am doing be detrimental to society? A Catholic education is always committed to the benefit and promotion of the common good. Never is a Catholic education pursuit of innovation just because we can.

Mark Kurowski, M.Div.
Director, University Ministry

59 percent of Catholic higher education graduates said they benefited significantly from on-campus opportunities for spiritual development. Comparatively, only 9 percent of graduates from non-Church-related private schools and 16 percent of public college graduates cited the same benefit.

Hardwick Day, A Comparative Advantage Alumni Study, December 2011
We are Catholic. All are welcome.

Students come to Benedictine from different walks of life. They come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They have different religious beliefs and value systems. Benedictine is one of the most diverse campuses in the state and in the country.*

**WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR OUR STUDENTS?**

Our students meet people they might not otherwise have come into contact with had they gone to a less diverse school. They are introduced to customs, religions, ethnicities or backgrounds they might not have been exposed to before. They see a full representation of the world.

They have the opportunity to study about, and study with, **STUDENTS FROM 50 STATES AND 17 COUNTRIES**. Students who represent many different races, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds.

That is why our graduates have the skills and experience to collaborate cohesively and communicate positively with others who are different from themselves. Skills that are needed in the workplace … and in life.

**WE BELIEVE DIALOGUE IS EYE OPENING.**

* according to U.S. News & World Report.
Our faith guides us to serve others.

Being Catholic and being Benedictine is about faith — the search for God — and serving and living in community.

Community service is integral to our mission.

**University Ministry** seeks to develop a concern for the well-being of each person — whether it is reaching out to the poor and elderly of a small rural community, encouraging students to participate in mission trips to some of the most destitute regions of the world, feeding the hungry next door or serving the spiritual, emotional and material needs of students, faculty and staff.

**Service learning** combines formal instruction with a related service in the community. Education students work closely with students at a grammar school in an impoverished neighborhood of Chicago. Business students prepare tax returns for the elderly and low income families of DuPage County. Political Science students help fulfill a critical need by training to become election judges.

Students can also choose to serve others by joining various groups on campus dedicated to helping others, including two Catholic service groups — the Order of the Daughters of Isabella, a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principles of unity, friendship and charity, or the Knights of Columbus, which raises money for charitable needs and projects like Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity.

"Love thy neighbor" is God’s greatest commandment. **Serving others** is one of the greatest forms of love.
Family is big to me, and one of the things that caught my eye at Benedictine was the family aspect. When I was in high school, people from different colleges would come to visit. The thing that really stood out to me was that the people from Benedictine took the time to know who I was on a personal level. Everyone was so friendly and so welcoming. That stuck with me, and it didn't change throughout my college career.

Ayah Beatrice Paras
Junior, Psychology major
Aurora, Illinois

If you graduated from a Catholic high school, you may be eligible for a $3,000 scholarship.

I went to a Catholic school almost all my life, and my desire to continue my education at a Catholic university stemmed from my involvement in the campus ministry at my high school. It was there that I found a love for service in ministry. I realized that I wanted friends like those who I found in ministry—people who aren't afraid to practice their faith, people who act as a support system, people who will pray with you and for you. I found a place that helped me grow in my faith, to practice my faith and to get to know people of other faiths.

Ayah Beatrice Paras
Junior, Psychology major
Aurora, Illinois

An education that pays off.

Benedictines strive for academic excellence. We are also continually seeking to make education affordable and meaningful.

Benedictine makes a number of scholarships available for students, some based on need, some based on interest and some based on past academic performance. Benedictine also makes scholarships available to students who have lived the Benedictine values prior to attending the University.

One scholarship available to students who attended a Catholic high school prior to admission to Benedictine University is the Catholic High School Recognition Award. The award is in the amount of $3,000 per year and the only requirement is full-time enrollment.

Another scholarship for which Catholic students may be eligible is the Benedictine Spirit Award. The scholarship is in the amount of $2,000 per year and is awarded to students who have taken an active role in the community by reaching out and volunteering to help others.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org ranked Benedictine University among the top 25 most affordable Catholic colleges and universities in the country with the highest starting salaries earned by graduates.

Receive a values-based, Catholic education while you attend Benedictine University, and get an education that pays off after you leave.

Continue your Catholic education here.
Catholic college and university enrollment has increased by 15.1 percent since 2001, according to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Catholic colleges and universities are frequently cited in U.S. News & World Report as “Best Buy” schools and are consistently cited by the Templeton Foundation as “Character-Building Schools.”

The Carnegie Commission classifies 24 Catholic institutions as doctoral universities (of which Benedictine is one).

Benedictine University is ranked among the top 25 most affordable Catholic colleges and universities in the country with the highest starting salaries earned by graduates by Affordablecollegesonline.org.

Forbes magazine named Benedictine among “America’s Top Colleges” for the third consecutive year in 2013.

In 2012, The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Benedictine University as the No. 1 fastest-growing campus in the country among private nonprofit research universities.

The Dan and Ada Rice Center features an 11,000-square-foot fitness center that includes elliptical trainers, treadmills, stationary bicycles and a strength training mezzanine, a sports medicine training facility and a Pilates/yoga studio.

The Birck Hall of Science houses advanced computer labs, specialized science labs, a research center and the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum, one of the largest private nature museums in the world with more than 10,000 specimens.

The Kindlon Hall of Learning houses computer labs, classrooms, multimedia labs, offices, student lounges, a chapel, the Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery and the Benedictine University Library.

More than 40 student organizations, honorary societies, service groups, ethnic associations and a student newspaper.

NCAA Division III affiliation offering 21 men’s (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, indoor and outdoor track and field) and women’s (basketball, cross country, dance and cheer, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, volleyball) sports.

87 percent of faculty members hold the highest degrees in their field.

98 percent of freshmen students received some form of financial aid.

89 percent of full-time undergraduates received some form of financial aid.

Nearly 10,000 students enrolled throughout the world.

Branch campuses in Springfield, Illinois and Mesa, Arizona, and eight class sites in China and two in Vietnam.

Students represent 50 states and 17 countries.

More than 23,000 active alumni in 50 states and dozens of countries.

55 undergraduate degrees: 17 graduate degrees: 4 doctoral degrees.
What do you believe in?

The founders of Benedictine University believed that the search for God and the search for truth are indistinguishable, and should be shared with others. They believed in hospitality, community and living life in balance. (Books are great for the brain, but you need to feed body and soul, too.) They also believed in a concern for others and the stewardship of all things.

More than 125 years later, Benedictine University still strongly adheres to these beliefs.

For more information, call the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300, email admissions@ben.edu or visit ben.edu.