

I. General Information

Mission

Mount Mary College, an urban Catholic college for women sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, provides an environment for the development of the whole person. The College encourages leadership, integrity, and a deep sense of social justice arising from sensitivity to moral values and Christian principles.

Mount Mary commits itself to excellence in teaching and learning with an emphasis on thinking critically. The baccalaureate curriculum integrates the liberal arts with career preparation for women of diverse ages and personal circumstances; the programs at the graduate level provide opportunities for both men and women to enhance their professional excellence.

Purposes of Mount Mary College

In order to achieve the mission of Mount Mary College the following statement of purposes has been articulated. These purposes provide direction for planning, programming and administration of the College.

The purposes of the College are to

1. provide undergraduate and graduate programs that stimulate students to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate thought effectively and appreciate the rich diversity of the college community and the world around them;
2. offer all students a basis for intellectual convictions, ethical values based on Christian principles and an aesthetic framework to enrich their lives;
3. effectively integrate the liberal arts with career preparation at the undergraduate level;
4. prepare students to use leadership qualities and to demonstrate a strong sense of social responsibility by providing curricular and co-curricular opportunities for growth, both on campus and in the larger community;
5. foster excellence in teaching based on an environment of academic freedom and a commitment to ongoing professional development;
6. continue to serve in the tradition of the School Sisters of Notre Dame whose mission includes providing for the needs of women in a changing and diverse society;
7. operate with fiscal responsibility in the context of implementing the mission of Mount Mary College.

Vision

Mount Mary College is recognized as a diverse learning community that works in partnership with local, national and global organizations to educate women to transform the world.

Aims of Mount Mary College

The primary purpose of Mount Mary College is to educate the student of today for the future, within the framework of Christian principles.

In educating for the future, Mount Mary realizes that maturity develops along a self-directed path. Thus, the college provides the opportunity for increased choices within the liberal arts curriculum. This curriculum, which is a liberal, equitable exposure to a core of studies rooted in the arts, the humanities, the social and natural sciences, includes the option of professional training as well.

In addition to choices within the academic sphere, Mount Mary also provides the opportunity for the student to develop her social and cultural potential and to cultivate her ability for leadership. Such potential is fostered in an atmosphere which places importance on the individual.

Mount Mary, as a small, women's college located in a metropolitan area, recognizes that it bears a responsibility to the community in which it exists. This responsibility manifests itself in a social consciousness, which the student develops not only through college experiences, but also through those experiences which extend beyond the classroom into the community.

Finally, Mount Mary acknowledges that to fulfill its primary purpose, the responsibility of assuring and respecting general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn must be shared by all members of the academic community. Administration, faculty, staff, and students depend on one another to protect the freedom of the educational process.

History of Mount Mary College

In many ways the history of Mount Mary College parallels that of the state of Wisconsin. In 1850 Mother M. Caroline Friess brought School Sisters of Notre Dame to Milwaukee and began the establishment of quality educational institutions in Wisconsin. One of these, in Prairie du Chien, was to become St. Mary's College, later known as Mount Mary College.

In 1872, through the generosity and at the express request of General John Lawler, the site of old Fort Crawford on the banks of the Mississippi became the campus of St. Mary's Institute, with Mother M. Seraphia Minges as its first Director. St. Mary's Hall was erected in 1877 by General Lawler and Peter Doyle, Secretary of State in the mid-1870's under Governors William R. Taylor and Harrison Ludington.

In 1913, St. Mary's Institute/Academy achieved college status and was chartered by the State of Wisconsin as a full-fledged, four-year, liberal arts college with the privilege of granting degrees. College buildings proper were erected in 1914. The college's academic standards were accepted by the National Catholic Educational Association in 1921 and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities in 1926. Credit for the development of St. Mary's College throughout this time is given to Mother M. Seraphia Minges, Sister M. Stanislas Maline and Sister Mary Eugene Coleman.

In 1929, the College was moved to Milwaukee, where its programming was available to a wider population and where students would enjoy access to the advantages of a metropolitan center. From then on, it would be known as Mount Mary College. The cornerstone of the first building erected on the new site was laid on September 12, 1928, by the Most Reverend Sebastian G. Messmer, then Archbishop of Milwaukee. Notre Dame Hall and Caroline Hall were completed on time for the arrival of the first students in September 1929. Other buildings followed: 1954--Kostka Hall and Fidelis Hall; 1964--Bergstrom Hall; 1977--Dominic Hall (adaptation); 1981--Haggerty Library; 1983--Campus House (adaptation). The Fitzpatrick Level of Haggerty Library was completed in August of 1989. In 1990, the former Social Hall was redesigned to be used for concerts, lectures, retreats, meetings, workshops and seminars. It was named Helfaer Hall to honor benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Evan Helfaer. In 1983, the former main room of the original library and the former President's room on the second floor of Notre Dame hall were redesigned to be used as a conference center, and to provide a display area for items from the College's historical costume collection. They are named the Walter and Olive Stiemke Memorial Hall and the Stiemke Conference Center to honor the benefactors. Completed in the fall of 2004, the Gerhardinger Center houses the Natural Sciences, Nursing and Occupational Therapy programs on the second and third floors. The first floor is a campus community center comprised of quiet and social lounges, a cyber-café, and electronic lecture hall and meeting rooms. The Eileen Bloechl Recreation Center, the newest building on campus, opened in fall 2006. It contains basketball and volleyball courts as well as the Fitness Center.

Since its move to Milwaukee, Mount Mary College has prospered under the dedicated and vigorous leadership of 9 presidents: Edward A. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. (1929-1954); (Sister Mary Dominic Cunningham, SSND, Ph.D. served as acting president from 1942 to 1945, while Colonel Fitzpatrick was on leave in Washington, D.C.) Sister M. John Francis Schuh, SSND, Ph.D. (1954-1969); Sister Mary Nora Barber, SSND, Ph.D. (1969-1979); Sister Ellen Lorenz, SSND, Ed.D. (1979-1987); Sister Ruth Hollenbach, SSND, Ph.D. (1987-1995), Sally Mahoney, M.S. (Interim President, 1995 -1997), Patricia D. O'Donoghue, Ph.D. (1997-2006); Linda Timm, Ph.D. (2006-2008; and Eileen Schwalbach, Ph.D. (2008-).

With a core curriculum firmly rooted in the liberal arts, students benefit especially from the integration of these liberal studies within their chosen curricula. Several thousand graduates have found fulfillment in teaching on every level, their preparation steadily endorsed by State and National accrediting associations since the 1920's. In 1961, 1969, 1979 and 1987, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) granted full approval to the Teacher Education Program. In 1987, the program continued its approval by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. And in February 1990, a Master of Arts in Education: Professional Development was approved by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The fusion of the liberal and the practical branched out from teaching as early as the 1940's when the College began to train medical technologists. (This program was discontinued in 1988.) The Occupational Therapy Program, begun in 1941, has been most recently granted reaccreditation in 2001 by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. In addition, in 1995 North Central granted accreditation to a post professional program for Occupational Therapists, Master of Science in Professional Development. Two other programs that had their inception in 1929 also have developed steadily. The baccalaureate Social Work Program was reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education in 2001. (The social work accreditation dates from 1974 when Mount Mary was recognized as the first private college in Wisconsin to have been granted such endorsement.) In 1973 the American Dietetic Association Council on Education Division of Education Accreditation/Approval approved the Coordinated

Undergraduate Program in Dietetics which was established initially in collaboration with St. Luke's Hospital. With the change in program emphasis from clinical to general in 1982, the St. Luke's collaboration was discontinued. The program, though, has continued to enjoy full accreditation, most recently in 2001. In 1982 the North Central Association approved Mount Mary's first graduate program, the Master of Science in Dietetics. In 1988 that program was expanded to include the Approved Pre- professional Practice Program component which is accredited by The American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education.

While adult learners have always been welcomed into many college programs, in 1971 Mount Mary initiated an Office for Continuing Education, initially handling both credit and non-credit programming. In 1973, the program was expanded with the development of ENCORE, a program of admissions and advising specifically designed for the degree candidate twenty-five years of age or older or for women who had discontinued formal education for five or more years. Today this office operates as CEPA, the Center for Educational and Professional Advancement. At about the same time, Mount Mary opened its Child Care Center, one of the first such on-campus facilities in the region.

The present core curriculum, introduced in 1972, strengthened the fusion of the practical with the purely liberal, of the professional with the purely creative. The contemporary curriculum has resulted in many new emphases, among them the Art Department's Art Therapy, Interior Design (holding accreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), formerly known as FIDER, most recently in 2003), and Graphic Arts; Fashion's joining with business in Fashion Merchandising; the Business Administration Department's new emphases on business administration and accounting.

In 1979, the College initiated CAMPUS PM, a program permitting students to earn degrees with majors in some departments by attending evening classes only.

A post-baccalaureate institute in art therapy was added in 1981 to provide appropriate background for students to become registered art therapists. In July, 1990 the college received North Central approval for the Master of Science in Art Therapy, with that degree program replacing both the institute and a subsequent masters degree affiliation with Lesley College (Massachusetts).

The introduction of the Ewens Center in 1985 permitted an expansion of non-credit programming options for women interested in areas such as career, personal, cultural, spiritual and physical fitness development.

In 1988, the Business Administration Department established the Business Advantage Program, an accelerated degree-completion program designed to meet the needs of adult students. The students had at least two years of acceptable college credits in place and met in classes which convened one night a week for 96 weeks. Successful completion led to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Because of the changes in educational practices the program was phased out.

A new accelerated evening program introduced in the fall of 1998 provides students with the opportunity to begin and complete a degree in a five to seven year period. Three majors can be earned in this format: Business Administration, Business Administration with an emphasis in International Commerce, and Business/Professional Communication. Courses are offered in five eight-week terms throughout the year. Students take from one to three courses per term. The

program is offered through the Office of Graduate and Non-traditional programs found in the Center for Educational and Professional Advancement.

In the fall of 1998 a new Master of Arts in Gerontology was approved by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; however, the program became inactive in 2006.

In fall of 2002 Mount Mary entered into a partnership with Columbia College of Nursing offering a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Two new masters programs were added in 2007, Master of Arts in English and Master in Business Administration.

Mount Mary's accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has been continuous since 1926. The next reaccreditation visit has been scheduled for the 2012-2013 academic year.



The Seal

The Seal of Mount Mary College is circular in form, the circle suggesting its traditional symbolic meaning, eternity, true and final measure of all human values. The ring surrounding the central design indicates the harmony that unites faculty and students in the pursuit of common aims and ideals. The words, *Virtus et Scientia*, inscribed in the open Book of Wisdom, epitomize the ideals and aims of the college. The book is wreathed with oak, symbol of strength, the palm, sign of victory won and success achieved. The *M* above the book stands for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Seat of Wisdom under whose protection the School Sisters of Notre Dame have placed the College where virtue and knowledge are sought.

Campus Traditions

Each academic term begins with a Eucharistic celebration in honor of the Holy Spirit early in the semester. Formal investiture of new students into the community of scholars and a special Honors Convocation are held each year. Convocation includes the induction of newly elected students into two national honor societies, Kappa Gamma Pi and Delta Epsilon Sigma, and recognition of Dean's List students. The Teaching Excellence Award recipients for a full- and part-time teacher are announced at Investiture.

A Recognition Lunch honoring employees for their length of service for faculty, administration, and staff is held in the fall.

Founder's Day is celebrated in February. During a special ceremony, the SSND Heritage medal (established in 1999) is awarded to two individuals, a lay person currently on the faculty or in administration and a lay person currently on the staff.

Step Singing, which began in 1926 in Prairie du Chien, continues to be celebrated on the eve before graduation. A ceremony including songs, prayer and readings by the seniors concludes with a procession in which the graduates-to-be pass on their "lights of learning" to a person significant in their life.

Code of Ethics

Mount Mary College recognizes and adheres to certain standards and practices in regard to the admission of students, financial arrangements, employment, academic achievement and ethical conduct of both faculty and students. These standards and practices are stated in the *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins*, the *Faculty Handbook*, the *Student Handbook* and the *Accelerated Program Handbook*.

Admission of Students

Mount Mary College is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to the principle that access to study opportunities provided by the College be accorded to each person on the basis of individual merit and without regard to race, color, religion, age, handicap, and national origin. Mount Mary retains its status as a women's college, and reserves the right to accept only women to degree programs, with the exception of its Master's programs, post-baccalaureate programs, and nursing program.

The *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins* accurately reflect the programs offered and the qualifications required for admission at the time of printing. Amendments are available to undergraduate applicants in the Office of Admissions and to graduate applicants from the relevant department. The College website www.mtmary.edu has both bulletins posted.

Mount Mary College does not pay employees commissions or bonuses for the recruitment of students.

Financial Arrangements

The *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins* accurately reflect the actual and estimated cost to the student for the programs offered, as well as the policies and procedures for withdrawal and

refund of tuition and fees, including resident student fees. All students are clearly informed about any financial assistance for which they might be eligible, and guidance in financial matters is available upon request.

No encouragement is offered students to obtain interest loans through the College which lead to excessive indebtedness in relation to the potential earnings of a graduate.

In no instance is excessive credit assigned for a course as a means of obtaining increased income through tuition and fees.

Employment

Mount Mary College is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to the principle that access to employment opportunities provided by the College be accorded to each person on the basis of individual qualifications and without regard to race, color, religion, age, handicap, national origin or sex. Mount Mary College, founded and sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, reserves the right to maintain its heritage and destiny as a Christian and Catholic witness in higher education.

Academic Achievement

The academic policies for faculty members as well as their duties and responsibilities are accurately stated in the *Faculty Handbook*.

The procedures for faculty advancement in rank and tenure are clearly stated in the *Faculty Handbook*.

The academic requirements for students are accurately stated in the *Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins*.

Students are evaluated for academic achievement solely on their merit and without regard to race, color, religion, age, handicap, sex or national origin. All courses of study are educational and the student's scheduled time is used exclusively for educational experience.

The intellectual freedom of both faculty and students is safeguarded according to the provisions of the *Faculty Bill of Rights* and the *Student Bill of Rights* as found in the respective handbooks.

Fair and impartial procedures for handling grievances are provided as stated in the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Student Handbook*.

The *Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins* and *Student Handbook* accurately describe the extracurricular services that the College offers to students. All students are provided equal access to these services.

The health and safety of all faculty and students are adequately safeguarded.

Ethical Conduct

The administration, faculty and staff are bound by the laws of the nation and state, the clearly accepted ethical standards of their profession and the duties and responsibilities stated in the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Administrative Handbook*.

The students are bound by the laws of the nation and the state, and the institutional policies regarding conduct stated in the *Undergraduate* and *Graduate Bulletins* and the *Student Handbook*.

A fair and impartial method of appeal in connection with disciplinary action resulting from violations of ethical standards is provided as stated in the *Faculty Handbook*, the *Administrative Personnel Handbook*, the *Support Staff Handbook* and the *Student Handbook*

Mount Mary College Accreditation List

With full power to confer degrees, Mount Mary College is approved by the State of Wisconsin and is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It also has approval for particular academic programs from the following organizations and associations:

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
American Dietetic Association
Council on Social Work Education
Foundation of Interior Design Education Research
Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction for Teachers' Certificates

Mount Mary College holds institutional membership in:

American Art Therapy Association
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers
Association of Governing Boards
Council of Independent Colleges
National Association of College Admissions Counselors
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Catholic Education Association
North Central Conference on Summer Schools
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Wisconsin Foundation of Independent Colleges
Wisconsin Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Women's College Coalition