

# College of Saint Mary Mission Information

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## History of College of Saint Mary

Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy and an early 18th century Irishwoman, had a bold vision. She believed that nothing was more productive of good to society than the careful education of women. Her strength of conviction gave birth to what would become a long line of women's secondary and post-secondary schools around the globe.

Omaha's College of Saint Mary is one of those schools.

Mother Mary Leo Gallagher, another Sister of Mercy, carried on the tradition and opened the doors of College of Saint Mary in 1923. In the old Continental Hotel at 15th and Castelar Streets, the work began. The church schools needed teachers. To be effective in these positions, Mother Gallagher believed women needed a strong liberal arts education. Mother Gallagher accomplished this feat when women had won the right to vote just three years prior. Many at the time viewed educating women as a frivolous gesture, but a woman with a vision will not be deterred.

The dynamic leadership of women such as Mother Gallagher, the first president of the College, and Sister Mary Constance Walsh, the first academic dean, brought high standards to the fledgling two-year teacher's college and led to its growth. Their dedication served as an example for those who followed.

In November 1950, the Sisters purchased 80 acres of land for \$150,000 next to a dirt road named 72nd Street and what would then become Mercy Road. The land was split evenly between College of Saint Mary (40 acres) and the Sisters of Mercy (40 acres). A \$3 million construction project began in March 1953 and by May 1955, College of Saint Mary was a reality. That year, 255 students enrolled and by 1958 College of Saint Mary had become a four-year fully-accredited college.

Today, the College continues its affiliation with the Sisters of Mercy and is proud of its tradition of women leading the way. A community of faith and learning, College of Saint Mary offers an education that inspires academic excellence and celebrates the roles of women as scholars and contributors to society, family, and church.

## About Us

College of Saint Mary, a private women's Catholic university in Omaha, offers students a unique chance to learn and grow in a single-sex environment.

Our goal: to help students develop their potential through excellent academics that combine professional and career preparation with the liberal arts.

We hope this information will give you a sense of what CSM is all about, and illustrate the difference an all-women's education can make.

# College of Saint Mary Mission Statement



## **Mission Statement**

**Committed to the works, values and aspirations of the Sisters of Mercy, College of Saint Mary is a Catholic university dedicated to the education of women in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership.**

**This mission inspires us to:**

- † Academic excellence, scholarship, and lifelong learning*
- † Regard for the dignity of each person*
- † Attention to the development of mind, body, and spirit*
- † Compassionate service to others*

# Student Learning Goals

## **COMPETENCE AND WISDOM**

Students will be well-prepared to contribute to society as educated citizens

- Think creatively, critically, and reflectively, incorporating theory and practice
- Communicate effectively in writing, speech, and non-verbal expression
- Demonstrate professional demeanor
- Demonstrate personal accountability
- Utilize current technological media in a proficient manner
- Demonstrate financial literacy

## **GLOBAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE**

Broaden personal and professional perspectives

- Acknowledge the sources of personal perspectives and attitudes
- Evaluate historical, cultural, environmental, sociological, psychological, and political influences
- Create an inclusive environment that embraces differences
- Challenge bias and inequity
- Engage in thoughtful/respectful civil discourse
- Experience another culture within or beyond the United States

## **SPIRITUALITY**

Enrich spirituality

- Appreciate religion and spirituality
- Develop moral and ethical principles
- Cultivate the integration of faith and reason
- Understand the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy
- Appreciate beauty and its link with peace

## **WORTH AND DIGNITY**

Deepen their sense of personal worth and human dignity

- Appreciate the fundamental dignity of all persons
- Engage in thoughtful self-reflection
- Exhibit work/life balance
- Develop confidence as a woman
- Work effectively within groups and teams

## **LEADERSHIP**

Be effective leaders

- Utilize effective leadership styles and approaches
- Experience opportunities to exercise leadership
- Understand the link between service and leadership
- Recognize human interdependence with the earth, its resources, and all of creation
- Contribute to the common good

## **CONTENT KNOWLEDGE**

Students will become professionally competent

- Demonstrate basic mastery in their disciplines
- Plan and think strategically
- Conduct primary and/or secondary research
- Understand the value of the liberal arts



## **CSM Student Learning Goals Walking Women are:**

### **Women of competence and wisdom**

She thinks outside the box

She communicates effectively in both writing and speech

She is responsible in finance, technology and professional demeanor

She applies what she learns to life problems with insight and reflection

### **Women of Knowledge and Learning**

She is well rounded in her studies

She has mastered the basics of her field of study and is prepared to continue on for higher education if she chooses

She plans and thinks strategically in order to problem solve creatively

She is a life long learner and maintains a sense of curiosity about the world around her

### **Spiritual Women of Principles**

She is influenced by the values and concerns of the Sisters of Mercy

She reflects on and acts out of moral and ethical principles

She explores and develops her personal spirituality

She appreciates the role faith and spirituality play in a full and happy life

She prioritizes her life to reflect balance between work and home

## Women of Worth and Dignity

She sees herself and others as precious and unique

She is a confident woman who works well in groups and teams

She values and makes time for self reflection

She treats herself and others in ways that reflect their inherent dignity

## Women Leaders for the Common Good

She is an effective leader who discovers and uses her own leadership style

She has practical experience in leadership in her academic and co-curricular pursuits

She recognizes that a true leader is a servant of the common good

She recognizes that all people are interdependent with each other

She is a good steward of earth's resources

## Women of Global and Cultural Perspectives

She embraces and supports an inclusive environment that honors thoughtful and respectful civil discourse

She is unafraid to challenge bias or inequity on behalf of herself and others

She has experienced cultures beyond her own and acknowledges the myriad of influences that have made her who she is

She is able to reflect on the sources of personal perspectives and attitudes

# Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: Five Critical Concerns

**Critical needs of our times which continue to call us to conversion:**

## **Non-Violence:**



Peace is the foundation through which all cultures nourish the growth and development of their people. Martin Luther King, Jr., described peace in these words: "Real peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice."

## **Unrecognized and unreconciled racism:**



"Never speak with contempt of any nation, profession, or class of people." -- *Little Book of Catherine of Dublin, from A Little Book of Practical Sayings by Mary Clare Moore, published 1868*

Racism contradicts the most fundamental beliefs and values of our faith that call us to love all persons and respect the human dignity of all.

## **Sustainability of the environment and universal recognition of the fundamental right to water;**



We believe that all creation is God's gift and that we live on our home, Earth, with reverence and responsible care.

## **Particular concern for women;**



Catherine McAuley had a special concern for women-for their safety, welfare and education. In response to this call we make decisions in light of the question: How will this decision affect persons who are poor and marginalized - especially women and children?

## **Solidarity with immigrants.**



As an Institute, we recognize an urgent duty and challenge to stand in solidarity with immigrants seeking fullness of life.