

Mission of the College

Greensboro College, an independent, coeducational college affiliated with the United Methodist Church, is an academic and social community that unites liberal arts and Judeo-Christian values in an atmosphere of diversity and mutual respect.

True to the United Methodist Church's historic ideal of nonsectarian education, Greensboro College's central purpose is the intellectual development of its students within the dual traditions of the liberal arts and the Judeo-Christian faith. Through a disciplined pursuit of truth, its students acquire knowledge and develop a critical awareness that allows them to live humanely, responsibly and productively in a free society. Such lives are characterized by clarity of thought and expression, the ability to reason, a sense of history and a global perspective, an understanding of literature and language, a knowledge of mathematics and science, an appreciation of the arts, an awareness of political and social realities, a familiarity with the biblical tradition and an ethical awareness, a respect for physical soundness, and an understanding of technology.

Through its student development services and other co-curricular offerings, Greensboro College encourages the personal and spiritual development of its students. A range of religious, cultural, service, social and athletics programs allows students to participate meaningfully in a rich campus and community life and encourages students to develop a system of values consistent with the mission of the College.

Through its professional and pre-professional career-oriented programs, both undergraduate and graduate, Greensboro College encourages, as well, the professional development of its students. Indeed, the College believes the liberal arts curriculum to be the most appropriate context for such programs. A liberal education provides basic intellectual and communicative capabilities that enable a person to develop and to adapt through a productive lifetime.

Goals of the College

In order to realize its institutional mission, Greensboro College, will:

- I. Admit students who demonstrate promise of success, without regard for the applicant's race, color, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, age, sex, national origin or disability.
- II. Provide a balanced course of study, through its requirements for general education, involving a range of disciplines basic to liberal education and providing the knowledge and analytical skills requisite for a life of intellectual and professional growth.
- III. Provide among the general education requirements for courses in the Judeo-Christian tradition in religion, philosophy, and ethics.

- IV. Provide a focused course of study, through its requirements for undergraduate academic majors, leading to a bachelor's degree in one or more particular areas of study, including professional, pre-professional, and career-oriented programs.
- V. Provide an alternatively scheduled course of study, through its adult education program, appropriate for the self-motivated adult, including non-credit courses, as well as courses for which Continuing Education Units are awarded.
- VI. Provide distinctive graduate programs in selected areas which build upon the strengths of the undergraduate program and which are responsive to community needs.
- VII. Recruit, develop and maintain an exemplary faculty and staff.
- VIII. Provide facilities and other instructional support services, including library and computer resources, adequate for the academic program.
- IX. Provide an environment that supports both residential and commuting students in their academic progress.
- X. Provide student development services and co-curricular activities in support of the students' personal and spiritual growth, with opportunities to develop social awareness and a sense of responsibility to community.
- XI. Provide students with opportunities to develop an appreciation for physical fitness that will continue to lifelong wellness.
- XII. Provide for open and effective management of the College, including the development, coordination and allocation of its various resources.

The Identity of the College

The statement of mission identifies Greensboro College as an academic and social community affiliated with the United Methodist Church that unites in a non-sectarian way the liberal arts with Judeo-Christian faith and values. The first three goals give the College its distinctive identity as a church-related, liberal arts institution.

What does it mean for Greensboro College to be non-sectarian? Goal #1 reads: "Admit students who demonstrate promise of success, without regard for the applicant's race, color, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, national origin or disability." The College admits students of diverse backgrounds, does not require students to adhere to points of view, and expects students and all members of the College community to treat each other with mutual respect.

What does it mean for Greensboro College to be a liberal arts institution? Goal #2 reads: “Provide a balanced course of study, through its requirements for general education involving disciplines basic to liberal arts education and providing the knowledge and analytical skills requisite for a life of intellectual and professional growth.” Therefore, the notion of being a liberal arts college is centered in the general education requirements shared by students. The claim does not lie in the different disciplines offered for majors nor does it exclude any majors – Accounting, Art, Athletic Training, Biology, Biology/Allied Health, Birth through Kindergarten Education, Business Administration and Economics, etc. Also, the claim of being a liberal arts institution does not necessarily require a certain percentage of graduates to have majored in traditional liberal arts fields, however identified.

What does it mean for Greensboro College to be a church-affiliated institution? Goal #3 reads: “Provide among the general education requirements for courses in the Judeo-Christian tradition in religion, philosophy, and ethics.” Therefore, the responsibility of church-affiliation is grounded in the general education requirements for courses in religion and related courses in philosophy and ethics. These courses are foundational for understanding the Judeo-Christian tradition and for the values represented by this tradition.