

## **1.1. MISSION STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE**

### **1.1.1. MISSION STATEMENT**

Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1844, Saint Mary's College promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. Saint Mary's is a Catholic, residential, women's, liberal arts college offering undergraduate degrees and co-educational graduate programs.

A pioneer in the education of women, the College fosters an inclusive, academic community where students discover and develop their talents as they prepare to make a difference in the world. All members of the College contribute to this mission in their response to the complex needs and challenges of contemporary life.

### **1.1.2. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE**

As a center of higher education, Saint Mary's fosters an academic climate of scholarship and learning for faculty and students alike. Through excellence in teaching and the example of its own active scholarship, the faculty challenges students to expand their horizons and supports them in their intellectual pursuits. A broad-based course of study invites students to think critically and creatively about the natural world and human culture. Acknowledging the need to prepare women for an array of careers, the College insists on a liberal arts foundation for all its students. Through their years at Saint Mary's students acquire depth and breadth of knowledge, competence in quantitative skills and modern languages, the ability to think clearly about complex problems, and the capacity to communicate with precision and style.

As a Catholic college, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of intellectual inquiry, liturgical prayer, and social action. The College creates an open forum in which students freely and critically study the rich heritage of the Catholic tradition, raising the questions necessary to develop a mature religious life. The celebration of liturgy encourages students to explore the fullness of life and its mysteries. The College nurtures awareness and compassion for a troubled world and challenges students to promote human dignity throughout their lives. In preparing women for roles of leadership and action, Saint Mary's pays particular attention to the rights and responsibilities of women in the worlds of work, church, community, and family.

Dedicated to the personal and social growth of its students, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of students, faculty, and staff, which responds to the needs of women. In order to offer the richest educational experience possible, the College strives to bring together women of different nations, cultures, and races. It provides a residential environment where women grow in their appreciation of the strengths and needs of others. Through a host of co-curricular programs on campus and in the local community, Saint Mary's College initiates students in the habits of civic responsibility. Engaging in all aspects of the college experience, students acquire the hallmarks

of a liberally educated woman: keen self-knowledge, lively imagination, lifelong intellectual and cultural interests, and the ability to make socially responsible choices about the future.

## **1.2. PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE STATEMENT OF THE PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE**

The statement on the philosophy and purpose of Saint Mary's College is approved by the Board of Trustees and may be modified by them. In accordance with the principle of shared governance, proposed changes in this statement are submitted by the President to the Academic Leadership Council and other appropriate bodies for their consideration before action by the Board of Trustees. The President of the College is responsible for seeing that this section of the Governance Manual is kept up to date.