



MISSION OF BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

“The mission of Bridgewater College is to educate and develop the whole person. Our graduates will be equipped to become leaders, living ethical, healthy, useful and fulfilling lives with a strong sense of personal accountability and civic responsibility. This mission is carried out in a learning community, with Christian values, high standards of integrity and excellence, affirming and challenging each member.”

Bridgewater College strives to be an academic community with a distinctively Christian atmosphere and with a wholesome balance of learning, service and leisure. The College endeavors to be a community in which each person is treated with respect, there is mutual concern and support, and each person can develop a sense of responsibility to others—both near and far. Bridgewater promotes breadth of intellectual experience as well as proficiency in specific subject fields. Broadly speaking, its primary academic objective is a comprehensive appreciation of the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences.

Bridgewater endeavors to give its graduates a sound foundation as they choose and prepare for their careers. It is interested in their occupational competence and success and intends that they become both humane and effective professionals and practitioners. Bridgewater concen-

trates on developing the total person, serving the student planning to go directly from undergraduate studies into a career, as well as the one planning to pursue graduate or professional education. The Bridgewater graduate should be able to participate in life with resilience of mind and good judgement, with imagination in dealing with unexpected emergencies, with a sharpened ability to reason and communicate, and with disciplined taste and enjoyment. This concentration on the total person and general education differentiates the liberal arts college from technical and professional schools.

Developing the total person is taken seriously at Bridgewater. On the premise that a recognition of one’s capabilities is the beginning of wisdom, Bridgewater offers a liberal arts education designed to help the student gain as complete a self-understanding as knowledge makes possible. As a liberal arts college, it devotes itself to

helping students find out how they think, what they feel, why they act, and who they are. Life at Bridgewater College can become a journey of exploration and discovery to the student who is committed unreservedly to the process of a liberal arts education.

In an age of rapid social and scientific change, it is more important than ever that a liberal arts college with Christian values invite its students to develop an appreciation of the complex bonds which relate persons to each other and to God. The student may discover his or her orientation for life in the library, the classroom, the laboratory, the rehearsal hall, the residence hall, or on the playing field. Believing that religion can be the integrating force in the lives of men and women, Bridgewater emphasizes the freedom and obligation of each individual to develop a personal faith and to find a meaningful place in the world.

Educational Objectives

To live up to its educational commitment as a liberal arts college, Bridgewater provides resources and encouragement for the student:

- to acquire the ability to speak and write the English language with clarity and effectiveness;
- to understand how people, events, and ideas of the past have shaped the world in which we live;
- to develop an understanding of the diverse cultures that comprise the global community;
- to understand the natural world and the method and philosophy of science;

- to appreciate art, music, and literature with sensitivity and critical judgment;
- to understand the economic, political, and social structures of our society;
- to develop competence in critical and creative thinking, which will facilitate exploration of new areas of knowledge;
- to seek in-depth knowledge in a particular field;
- to focus on a career choice which integrates interests, abilities, values, and commitments;
- to strive for physical well-being, emotional maturity, and ethical and spiritual awareness;
- to acquire an awareness of the need for accomplished leaders and develop personal skills in the art of leadership; and
- to demonstrate knowledge and skill in the use and application of information technology media.

Summary

The education offered at Bridgewater is broad, deep, and liberating. It can emancipate one from narrow provincialism and from the distortion of subjective bias; it can free individual creativity and promote the art of the examined life; it can develop the realization that the gift of life demands service to humanity. It helps to conserve basic values while recognizing the need for change. It leads one, while acknowledging that truth is not fully known, to submit to the best and fullest truth that can be known.