

1.4 Supporting the Mission of St. Norbert College⁸

Academic Service-Learning is consistent with the three traditions of St. Norbert College: Catholic, Norbertine, and liberal arts.

Catholic

As a Catholic institution of higher learning, St. Norbert College is called to be of service to the Church and to the world. Our tradition of Catholic Social Teaching is stated clearly in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (From the Heart of the Church): “The Christian spirit of service to others for the *promotion of social justice* is of particular importance for each Catholic University, to be shared by its teachers and developed in its students... In its service to society, a Catholic University will *relate especially to the academic, cultural and scientific world* of the region in which it is located” (ital. in original).

Norbertine

The Norbertines, as Canons Regular, are called to a specific way of life and ministry. Unlike many other religious communities, the Norbertines take a vow of stability, remaining associated with a particular abbey for life. Further, each abbey is asked to determine the needs of the community it serves, and then provide ministry based on the motto, “Prepared for Every Good Work.”

Abbot Bernard Pennings founded St. Norbert College in 1898 to meet the need for higher education in Northeastern Wisconsin. Through its history, the College’s faculty, staff, and students have provided service within the local community; however, the service was more frequently co-curricular rather than integrated within academic programs. A systematic and academically rigorous program of service-learning at St. Norbert will enhance the potential of graduates both learning and living the values of the College.

Liberal Arts

Academic Service-Learning has two dimensions that are tied to the liberal arts tradition: the application of learning to action and to virtue. As a liberal arts college, we seek to impart to our students critical thinking and effective communication skills, an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge, and an ability to make wise and ethical choices. A truly liberal education fosters a well-grounded intellectual resilience and allows students to explore the connections among formal learning, service to the community, and citizenship. Academic service-learning further facilitates these connections through the intersection of the classroom experience and service to the community.

⁸ Adapted from ASL Proposal p. 5-6