

Mission-related Goals for the Core Curriculum

Providence College is a Catholic and Dominican institution of higher education. This identity and the intellectual tradition that derives from it shape and inform the Core Curriculum and suggest the following goals:

1. In the tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas, our students should understand the essential compatibility of faith and reason, and the integrated and cohesive nature of reality and truth. Our students should pursue the highest ideals of Dominican education: the contemplation of truth, and the sharing of the fruits of contemplation with others.
2. In the Dominican tradition, study is undertaken not only for itself but for the benefit of others, and thus students should demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement and service to others informed by Catholic Social Teaching.
3. Our students should demonstrate an understanding of how philosophical and theological questions inform and guide the pursuit of the truth, therefore philosophy and theology should have an essential place in the Core.
4. Students should demonstrate a capacity for moral and ethical reasoning, including an understanding of the virtue-based ethics tradition, and how these ethical traditions can be applied to specific disciplines or fields of endeavor.
5. In the Dominican pedagogical tradition of the disputed question, students and faculty should be trained in the art of anticipating difficult questions from alternative perspectives and the use of reasoned argumentation in search of a broader understanding of important truths.
6. Since the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom does not take place in isolation but in the context of community and the larger world, our students should:
 - a. demonstrate an integrated understanding of the important events, ideas, and cultural traditions that have shaped the world;
 - b. demonstrate awareness and understanding of other cultures, societies, and creeds;
 - c. demonstrate an understanding of the natural world and the importance of the intersections of scientific and humanistic modes of reasoning for understanding our place within it.
7. In the spirit of the Dominicans as the Order of Preachers, students should develop fundamental skills in critical, logical, and quantitative reasoning and should demonstrate the ability to speak and write in a clear, coherent, and well-informed manner.
8. Since the Judeo-Christian tradition finds in creation an image of its Creator, and recognizing the importance of creativity and artistic expression in the Dominican tradition, students should develop the aesthetic dimensions of their minds and spirits.
9. Finally, students should demonstrate an understanding of the Core Curriculum as the heart and soul of a Providence College education. The Core should help illuminate the key questions of human existence relating to life's purpose and meaning.