

Complete Mission Statements

King's College is a recognizably Catholic institution of higher learning sponsored by the Congregation of the Holy Cross. As a Catholic college, King's is faithful to the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, which encourages the pursuit of truth as an intrinsic good, which cannot be in conflict with the revealed truths of the faith. While King's College consciously exposes its students to the riches of the spiritual, moral, intellectual and cultural traditions of Catholicism, it also recognizes that the free and unfettered pursuit of the truth can foster the development of meaningful contacts with all people, regardless of their religious backgrounds. Faithful to Christ the King's new commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you," and the Catholic tenet of the intrinsic, God-given dignity of all people, King's College is a welcoming institution, constituted of men and women of diverse backgrounds. Along with its major programs and graduate institutes, King's College has developed a strong Core curriculum in the Liberal Arts, which integrates the complementary insights of faith and reason and encourages reflection on empirically obtained knowledge from a humanistic, Catholic perspective. At King's College, we are committed to developing a critical awareness in our students, an ability to communicate effectively in written word and speech, and to succeed in their chosen professions as well prepared, ethically sensitive leaders.

King's College, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross, is a caring and dynamic learning community committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, personal and professional development, ethical integrity, and service to others.

Inspired by our founders and the Catholic social justice tradition, King's aspires to offer a world-class, affordable education to students of all social, religious, educational and economic backgrounds.

As a Catholic liberal arts college, King's offers rigorous academic programs and a supportive campus climate that prepare students not only for professional success, but for satisfying lives of purpose and meaning.

Since its founding in 1946, King's has pursued with zeal and dedication the Holy Cross ideal of educating the whole person. In the words of its founding President, Fr. James Connerton, C.S.C., "King's teaches students not only how to make a living, but how to live."

Suggestions for the Mission Statement

1. Need to include a greater emphasis on preparing students for a global community. Focus on the intentional inclusion of people from different cultural, religious, educational and economic backgrounds

in a spirit of intellectual challenge, service, and a sense of respect and hospitality for the entire college community.

2. I think we need to keep the important statement,

“Teach not only how to make a living, but how to live.” Perhaps articulate the emphasis on goals of spiritual, moral, ethical behavior, as well as a strong emphasis on the development of knowledge and the application of critical thinking skills.

3. Perhaps include the statement developed of the past summer which describes a Catholic education in the Holy Cross tradition: “A Catholic Education in the Holy Cross Tradition transforms minds and hearts with zeal in communities of hope.” Note the commitment to provide quality educational experiences, which reflect the Holy Cross Community’s values of -----(You mentioned these at one of our previous meetings, Sorry I don’t have them available). Students of all faiths are welcome at King’s College.

4. If we want to be “bold”, find a way to include key elements of the mission statement of the Office of Campus Ministry in the general mission statement;

i. e., “Rooted in Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we give witness to God’s unconditional love by reflecting on and celebrating faith and serving others with competence, courage, and compassion.”

5. Include some mention of developing expertise and skills of students in professional programs, as well as an appreciation and respect for other fields of preparation and discipline.

- "Personal"
- "Catholic"
- "Welcoming"
- "Home away from home"

Appendix: Things I especially like in the mission statements provided:

- I liked the Holy Cross College’s mission statement a lot. I liked the way they framed important questions, I loved the way they described and affirmed the value of the liberal arts (they cover a lot in a short space here—role of theology and philosophy, value of diversity and dialogue, “sense of the whole which calls us to transcend ourselves”), and the way they affirmed the role of all members of the community in supporting the college’s mission. I think we could do this better.

- I like the “Core Values Statement” from Loyola, and think it does a good job of affirming values of the Catholic tradition in a way that comes across as welcoming and positive for all (although I think the statement is awfully long).

- When my family lived in Sudbury, we were close to the Jesuits who ran the University of Sudbury. I liked the mention of ecumenism and pluralism in their mission statement (I’ll copy paragraphs 1 and 4, but will delete 2 and 3 that focused on commitment to bilingualism and Native peoples):
 - As an undergraduate, liberal arts university, the University of Sudbury is committed to foster and to develop in its students the desire and the ability to undertake for themselves humanity's perennial quest for ultimate meaning. The courses and programs offered by the University of Sudbury will be such as not only to record, but to foster, in a contemporary setting, the search for Truth.
....

 - Situated in a religiously and culturally pluralistic society, the University of Sudbury acknowledges this diversity and is committed to promoting inter-faith dialogue and ecumenism. Through this cultural reciprocity, the University of Sudbury will seek to cultivate and nurture Christian students in the Roman Catholic tradition. This commitment will be doubly expressed: by the provision of an integral humanistic and religious education; and by its involvement, through the promotion of, and participation in various related projects and activities.

- While thinking of Canadian schools, I looked up Regis at the U of Toronto. They added a mention of appreciation for the beautiful. I liked that, in light of our last set of conversations about Catholic Identity. I also liked the mention of dialogue “with all people of good will” and the mention of ecology. Here is their paragraph:
 - We engage the profound questions facing the Church and the world. We form women and men to be of service to others. We seek inter-faith and cross-cultural dialogue with all people of good will. We dialogue through the integration of theology and spirituality in : seeking the truth; pursuing social justice and ecological good; and appreciating the beautiful.

- I also looked up St. Michael's at U. of Toronto. It was too simple, but the phrase “fostering creative engagement of that [Christian] tradition...” was pretty good, as was the language about “the values of the gospel”.
 - As a university, St. Michael's is dedicated to the pursuit and sharing of knowledge for its own sake. As a Catholic university, it is committed to the study of the Christian tradition within a context of faith and to fostering the creative engagement of that tradition with the widest range of academic disciplines as well as with other traditions both religious and secular. St. Michael's welcomes faculty and students from every background who want to participate in its life.
 - St. Michael's seeks to provide an environment that fosters the intellectual, moral and spiritual development of its members. It encourages an understanding and respect for the values of the gospel and their implications for individual and social life.

Copy of (most of the) Holy Cross College Mission, mostly for my own reference:

- To participate in the life of Holy Cross is to accept an invitation to join in dialogue about basic human questions: What is the moral character of learning and teaching? How do we find meaning in life and history? What are our obligations to one another? What is our special responsibility to the world's poor and powerless?
- As a liberal arts college, Holy Cross pursues excellence in teaching, learning, and research. All who share its life are challenged to be open to new ideas, to be patient with ambiguity and uncertainty, to combine a passion for truth with respect for the views of others. Informed by the presence of diverse interpretations of the human experience, Holy Cross seeks to build a community marked by freedom, mutual respect, and civility. Because the search for meaning and value is at the heart of the intellectual life, critical examination of fundamental religious and philosophical questions is integral to liberal arts education. Dialogue about these questions among people from diverse academic disciplines and religious traditions requires everyone to acknowledge and respect differences. Dialogue also requires us to remain open to that sense of the whole which calls us to transcend ourselves and challenges us to seek that which might constitute our common humanity.
- The faculty and staff of Holy Cross, now primarily lay and religiously and culturally diverse, also affirm the mission of Holy Cross as a Jesuit college.

We are, before anything else, a Catholic Christian college of the liberal arts and sciences. Our professional and pre-professional programs are important, and they should be accounted for by our statement of mission, certainly, but their importance assumes and depends upon the constitutive elements of the college's essential identity: Holy Cross; Catholic; Christian; Liberal Arts and Sciences. That identity, which has as its foundation our CORE curriculum, is what affords our students the opportunity to become genuinely educated persons, rather than mere trained technicians or corporate drones. Any mission statement worth a damn has to begin (and end) by getting right our essential identity.

Our identity is our work. We do not so much (as the current mission statement puts it) “provide students with a broad-based liberal arts education” as we *educate them* in the Catholic liberal arts

tradition in order to prepare them for faithful and imaginative membership in the communities they will inhabit. We teach them the “arts of freedom” that they may leave here with the capacity to use well the freedom given them by God. Most students, upon leaving King’s College, will not possess the capacity singlehandedly to transform the world, but they will all, hopefully, be able to imagine a *different* world, a world other than the one the (often malevolent and always self-interested) powers have taught them is most real. At the very least they will thereby have the opportunity to be on the right side of history; as Camus put the matter, in his allegorical novel *The Plague*: “All I maintain is that on this earth there are pestilences and there are victims, and it’s up to us, so far as possible, not to join forces with the pestilences.”

I think one of the things that King's does best is providing personal attention. Students who would fall through the cracks at other places flourish here thanks to the personal attention. We have a way of looking after the lost sheep.

In the bullet points under "To achieve its mission" we mention excellent teaching. As an aspirational goal, I would like to see us strive for excellence in scholarship as well.

King’s seeks to...

Place its mission in the service of the common good.

Deepen our solidarity with our neighbors both locally and globally, and promote a critical awareness of society’s problems.

Form students to address these problems, not only as individuals but as a community by:

Creating an intentional community of reflective service.

Engaging in community-based learning that deepens students’ academic formation, fosters civic responsibility, and meets the needs of the community.