



**2009-2010 STUDENT HANDBOOK  
GENERAL INFORMATION**

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## **MISSION**

Shaped by the Catholic Benedictine heritage, The College of St. Scholastica provides intellectual and moral preparation for responsible living and meaningful work.

## **VISION**

The College of St. Scholastica will continue to be widely regarded as an academic community grounded in the rich Benedictine heritage and sending forth thoughtful leaders, sharpened and sensitized by the liberal arts, who are committed to serve and to transform the world.

## **COMMENTARY**

St. Scholastica's uniqueness comes from its northeastern Minnesota location, which is rich in its people, the beauty of its setting, and its natural resources.

The College upholds the essential principle of academic freedom while it brings to its work the inspiration and light of the Christian message. It fosters an appreciation of the Catholic intellectual heritage while recognizing and valuing the diversity of views within the College community. Shaped by Christian ideas, the College emphasizes a commitment of service to humankind.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The College of St. Scholastica is committed to fostering a learning environment that is culturally diverse and pluralistic. Informed by our Benedictine heritage and its values of community, hospitality, respect, stewardship and love of learning, we are compelled to be open to diverse points of view and to not avoid dissent, while constantly being mindful of what it is to be an engaged community working for social justice. To do so recognizes human dignity, difference and equality that includes, but is not limited to race, age, class, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities or qualities and ethnicity.

In our striving to be an inclusive community, we must engage in intellectual discourse and exchange if we hope to develop an understanding of our commonalities and differences, even if this discourse and exchange result in conflict and change. The challenge that lies before us as a community is to embody in our institutional life what it means to be truly committed to cultural diversity and pluralism.

## **BENEDICTINES OF ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY**

Our historical roots reach back to 480 A.D. when saints Benedict and Scholastica were born in Norcia, Italy. After going to Rome to pursue his education, Benedict became disillusioned with the corrupt morals of his society. He withdrew to become a hermit, living in a cave near Subiaco. There he sought God and devoted himself to prayer and holy reading, especially sacred scripture.

Eventually others learned of Benedict and came to him that they too might seek God. Benedict was their spiritual guide. After a few years (in 529 A.D.), Benedict and some of his monks left Subiaco and built the Abbey of Monte Cassino. Here Benedict wrote his Rule, a masterful guide founded on moderation. Prayer, work, and leisure formed the rhythm of daily life in the monastery.

Scholastica lived near Monte Cassino and brother and sister were able to meet once a year. According to a delightful story related by St. Gregory, Scholastica (on the occasion of one such visit) prevented Benedict from returning to his monastery as he desired. She bowed her head in ardent prayer and immediately there was a torrential downpour! Thus, their holy conversation was able to continue throughout the night. Three days later Benedict saw Scholastica's soul ascend to heaven in the form of a dove.

The spirit of the Benedictine way of life is captured in the Prologue of Benedict's Rule: "Listen, my child, to your master's precepts and incline the ear of your heart." Benedictines seek God through common life under the guidance of the Rule and a prioress or abbot. Monastics gather for daily communal prayer and set aside time for personal prayer, study, and work.

Benedictines have a long history of involvement in education. Benedict himself was an educator; at Monte Cassino, noble boys were educated for positions of leadership in society. In the Rule, Benedict emphasizes moderation, respect for every person, hospitality and stewardship. These principles are foundational to education today – indeed, to life itself.

Since 1892 the women of St. Scholastica Monastery have made outstanding contributions to education. Among the pioneers are the first woman to receive a doctor of philosophy degree from the Catholic University of America; the woman who developed the first collegiate program for medical record administrators in this country; and the first woman to become dean of a school at the Catholic University of America.

Today 160 women call St. Scholastica Monastery home. Many Sisters reside at the Monastery or in Duluth. Other Sisters live and work in northeastern and west central Minnesota communities, and in Minneapolis, Chicago, Arizona, and other U.S. locations.

## **HISTORY**

The College of St. Scholastica, the only private four-year college in Northeastern Minnesota, had its beginning over 100 years ago, when Benedictine Sisters from St. Joseph, Minnesota, founded a new Benedictine community in Duluth.

St. Scholastica was originally founded as the Sacred Heart Academy. In 1909, the name was changed to Villa Sancta Scholastica when the academy opened in its new location in Kenwood. It became a junior college in 1912 and a four-year college in 1924. From 1909 through 1942, the College facilities grew through immense building programs. This included the erection of Tower Hall with its three wings; Stanbrook Hall; Rockhurst Auditorium; Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel; the library and two connecting cloisters between Tower Hall and Stanbrook Hall. In 1964, Somers Residence Hall was completed and in October 1969, the multimillion-dollar Science Center was dedicated. The school officially became coeducational in 1969-70. The Pine and Grove apartments were built in the early 1970s. The Reif Recreation Center was dedicated in April 1979, and the Benedictine Health Center opened in October 1980. The Library was refurbished and expanded in the mid-1980s. Later additions to the campus have been the Maple and Willow apartments, which were completed in the summer of 1989; the Birch apartments, built in the summer of 1990; and Somers Suites, which opened in 1993. Construction of an expanded Student Union and the addition of the 500-seat Mitchell Auditorium were completed in the fall of 1993. A major expansion of the Science Center opened in September 1997. Cedar Hall apartment building opened in the fall of 2003. In 2004, the College completed a major expansion to its athletic/recreational facilities creating the Burns Wellness Commons and followed up in 2005 with two new housing apartments, Kerst Hall and Scanlon Hall.

The growth and success of the College reflects an awareness of and response to the ever-changing needs of the student body and the community it serves. Modern buildings, expanded course offerings and innovative programs, however, cannot overshadow the Benedictine tradition of academic excellence and the liberal arts commitment of the College.