



**Belmont Abbey**  
COLLEGE  
*That in all things God  
may be glorified*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Belmont Abbey College Receives Accreditation to Offer Masters Level Degrees**

**Belmont, N.C. (January 18, 2022)** - Belmont Abbey College announces its full accreditation as a Master's level institution and intentions to increase academic offerings. In the summer of 2021, the private liberal arts college welcomed the first cohort of students in pursuit of a Master in Health Administration after securing initial accreditation authorization from the Southern Association of College and Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC). Over the next couple of months, a SACSCOC peer review committee evaluated the ongoing compliance with standards and provided their recommendation for full accreditation to the Board of Trustees. This recommendation was recently approved, allowing Belmont Abbey to move forward with strategic plans to offer new masters-level programs.

The shift from a baccalaureate-only institution aligns with Belmont Abbey's goal to provide a quality Catholic education for the betterment of the local community. "Full masters accreditation isn't just a win for Belmont Abbey, it's a win for the whole Gaston county community," said Karen Price, Vice Provost and Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. "At Belmont Abbey, we believe in providing transformational education that focuses on the development of the whole person so that people can live better and care for one another," said Price. Belmont Abbey commits to serving its community by offering programs in areas of high need like healthcare, business, education, and data. Leaders at the college hope to welcome students of new master's programs by August of 2023.

Introducing additional degree programs will also benefit current students. "As we grow our academic offerings, we are constantly evaluating ways to allow current baccalaureate students to transition seamlessly into graduate work," Price said. "By creating opportunities for students to efficiently earn bachelor's and master's degrees, we are making education more accessible." This goes hand in hand with the decision last year for the college to offer fully online programs, broadening student reach and expanding their mission and impact. Belmont Abbey's ability to offer new master's programs will be the next step in providing affordable, flexible education for all.

**About Belmont Abbey College:** Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit <https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/>.