



Belmont Abbey  
COLLEGE

# Benedictine HALLMARKS

*Our Passion is sharing a lifelong journey  
to search for and live in response to Truth.*

We aspire to embody four essential characteristics of a Catholic college, as Pope John Paul II expressed them in the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*:

1. A Christian inspiration, not just of individuals, but of the whole college community.
2. A reflection on the growing treasury of human knowledge in the light of the Catholic faith.
3. Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church.
4. A commitment of service to the Church and to the larger human community.

Furthermore, Pope John Paul II said Catholic colleges are called places “where scholars *scrutinize reality* with the methods proper to each academic discipline,” which “necessarily includes (a) the search for an *integration of knowledge*, (b) a *dialogue between faith and reason*, (c) an *ethical concern*, and (d) a *theological perspective*. (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, 15, *emphasis in original*.)

## The Hallmarks of BENEDICTINE EDUCATION

At Belmont Abbey College, we approach education from the unique millennium-and-a-half Benedictine monastic tradition of seeking God by living, working, and praying in community. The core values animating our life overflow into the following 10 hallmarks of Benedictine education.

### 1. *Love*

#### LOVE OF CHRIST AND NEIGHBOR

The “good zeal” of the *Rule*, which has “each try to be the first to show respect to the other” and “prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ,” challenges our College community to engage persons from all backgrounds who desire to teach and to lead, to serve and to study with us. Each member of the College community should collaborate in pursuing a rigorous and disciplined search for Truth and be able to count on others' assistance when needed.

### 2. *Prayer*

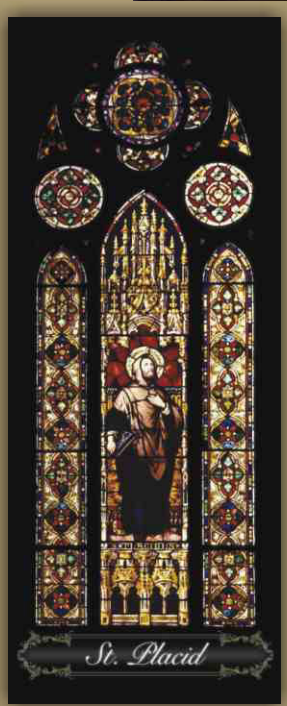
#### A LIFE MARKED BY LITURGY, LECTIO, AND MINDFULNESS

We aim to inspire by the design and life of the campus a spirit of transcendence and mindfulness, encouraging all to cultivate a life of prayer appropriate to his or her own faith. All who come here should cultivate openness to the work of intellectual and personal transformation by connecting study to the fundamental purpose of life.

### 3. *Stability*

#### COMMITMENT TO THE DAILY LIFE OF THIS PLACE, ITS HERITAGE, AND TRADITION

We strive to create lasting relationships between students, faculty, and staff. We believe that persevering together in the pursuit of wisdom—as opposed to engaging one another only enough to achieve private understanding—builds strong, lasting relationships and makes remarkably powerful growth possible for all.



### 4. *Conversatio*

#### THE WAY OF FORMATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Benedictine education intends to establish intellectual and moral virtues in each of us, which may take years to perfect. To achieve this, we must develop mental habits of challenging and wrestling with the ideas we take for granted, which will transform students, faculty, and staff alike by nurturing learning and generosity over a lifetime.

### 5. *Obedience*

#### A COMMITMENT TO LISTENING AND CONSEQUENT ACTION

In intellectual inquiry, obedience means respecting the integrity of the methods of study appropriate to each academic discipline, and maintaining fidelity to the evidence, wherever it leads. Teaching and learning are impossible without this obedience, and through it, we form an intellectual community, drawing on a diversity of academic endeavors while respecting the methodologies proper to each.

### 6. *Discipline*

#### A WAY TOWARD LEARNING AND FREEDOM

*Discipline* is the way of focusing energy and attention on what matters most. In our pursuit of academic excellence, we strive to order our minds and actions to develop personal discipline. Our goal is to grow beyond a discipline imposed from the outside to a mature self-discipline in which we possess a robust love of learning and can imagine and pursue what is necessary to achieve our personal goals.

### 7. *Humility*

#### KNOWLEDGE OF SELF IN RELATION TO GOD, OTHERS, AND CREATION

*Humility* is St. Benedict's word for wisdom. It is an accurate appraisal of one's strengths and weaknesses before God, before others, and before oneself. We seek to cultivate the exploration of truth in academic disciplines, aware that through a rigorous and wide-ranging pursuit of academic excellence, we are all made more free to discern and cultivate the gifts we possess, thereby contributing to the well-being of all.

### 8. *Stewardship*

#### RESPONSIBLE USE OF CREATION, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

We foster good stewardship of our environment and our talents out of respect for God's creation. The world with its bountiful resources and each person with his or her unique talents have been created by God for the sake of us all. We strive to encourage the study and practice of the arts, aware of their capacity to develop in us a deeper recognition of the nature and purpose of life itself.

### 9. *Hospitality*

#### WELCOMING EACH OTHER AS CHRIST HIMSELF

St. Benedict directs us to respond to a guest's unexpected arrival as we would to a visit from Christ Himself. Therefore, we strive to extend personal hospitality to each member of our educational community, especially to those who are new to our community or are guests to our campus. More broadly, we seek opportunities to enable us to recognize the needs of those in our community, and to call forth the talents and gifts of persons of differing capacities and dispositions, and of diverse races, cultures, and backgrounds.

### 10. *Community*

#### CALL TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD

A Benedictine community is rooted in a particular place where mutual service is demanded of all without concern for individual reward. We have a practical focus on community building, cultivating responsible living that is enriched by the examples of those around us, grounded in the wisdom of the past, and refreshed by the perspectives of others. In so doing, we seek to ensure that students cultivate the disposition to serve others in ever deeper and broader ways.