What makes Benedictine Catholic?

The values and beliefs espoused by the University’s founders are as integral to our mission today as they were when the school was established more than 125 years ago.

Among those values are a search for God by oneself and others, a tradition of hospitality, an appreciation for living and working in community, a concern for the development of each person, an emphasis on a life lived in balance, a dedication to responsible stewardship of the earth and a commitment to academic excellence.

Giving those values life and meaning in a diverse and increasingly secular society is the Center for Mission and Identity, which works tirelessly to articulate and enhance the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the institution through education and research, and University Ministry, which provides a range of services and programs to assist students in their spiritual and personal growth.

By embracing our Catholic faith and living the Benedictine values, Benedictine stays true to its Catholic identity while extending God’s love to others, no matter who they are or where they find themselves in their faith journey.
What makes Benedictine stand out?

**Before there were universities**, before there were great centers of thought and learning, there were monasteries. St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictine Order, established 12 monasteries in the early sixth century. All the knowledge that man had collected throughout the centuries was preserved in these religious communities where men and women lived set apart from secular society.

The first universities sprouted up from these monasteries. Because of their religious origins, these early universities espoused the **interconnectedness of faith and reason** in the search for truth and the search for God. But as time went on, universities became more secular in nature, challenging ideas grounded in tradition and faith, believing that man was the ultimate arbiter of truth.

In 1990, Pope John Paul II issued "Ex corde Ecclesiae," an apostolic constitution that identifies the common characteristics of all Catholic colleges and universities. According to that document, Catholic institutions of higher learning are defined by a shared Christian vision and goals, reflection in the light of faith, fidelity to tradition and a commitment to service.

**The University embraces its Catholic tradition and Benedictine heritage**...and lives it. We adhere to the idea that faith and reason are inseparable in the search for truth. We believe that the continued pursuit of understanding leads ultimately to wisdom. We don’t believe in teaching our students what to think. We believe in teaching our students how to think.

We also believe that an **education steeped in Benedictine and Catholic values** better prepares students to be contributors and difference-makers in their homes, their communities and the world.

Fifty-nine percent of Catholic higher education graduates said they benefited significantly from on-campus opportunities for spiritual development. Comparatively, only 9 percent of graduates from non-Church-related private schools and 16 percent of public college graduates cited the same benefit.

“A Comparative Advantage Alumni Study,”
Hardwick Day, December 2011

There are not a lot of people who know a lot about Catholics and sometimes they ask questions. I feel Benedictine will really help me learn more about my faith, and if people ask questions I will know how to answer. Not just based on my opinion or what I think, but more from a professional view.

Fanny Zelaya
Benedictine University at Mesa student
We are Catholic. All are welcome.

Students come to Benedictine from different walks of life. They come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They have different religious beliefs and value systems. Benedictine is one of the most diverse campuses in the country.*

**What does that mean for our students?**

Our students meet people they might not otherwise have come into contact with had they gone to a less diverse school. They are introduced to customs, religions, ethnicities or backgrounds they might not have been exposed to before.

Our students represent many different races, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds.

That is why our graduates have the skills and experience to collaborate cohesively and communicate positively with others who are different from themselves. Skills that are needed in the workplace ... and in life.

**We believe dialogue is eye-opening.**

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* according to U.S. News & World Report.

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**Benedictine Values**

Awareness of God  
Living in Community  
The Dignity of Work  
Academic Excellence  
Hospitality  
Justice  
Listening  
Moderation  
Peace  
Respect for Persons  
Stability  

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* Benedictine University dedicates itself to the education of undergraduate and graduate students from diverse ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. As an academic community committed to liberal arts and professional education — distinguished and guided by its Roman Catholic tradition and Benedictine heritage — the University prepares its students for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.

* Benedictine University Mission Statement
Incentives for Catholic Students

Benedictine University at Mesa is dedicated to making a private, Catholic, liberal arts education affordable. Take advantage of these two scholarships specifically designed for Catholic high school graduates and active participants in a Catholic parish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catholic High School Recognition Award</th>
<th>Catholic Parish Community Service Award</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,000 per year</td>
<td>Up to $3,000 per year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate of a Catholic high school</td>
<td>Active participant in a Catholic parish; required commitment letter from church or parish representative.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Renewability</strong></td>
<td><strong>Renewability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time enrollment</td>
<td>Full-time enrollment</td>
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</tbody>
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*The Catholic High School Recognition Award and the Catholic Parish Community Service Award are mutually exclusive and cannot be combined.*
It is an honor to be the very first priest-chaplain for Benedictine University in our beautiful state of Arizona.

Fr. Dan Vanyo
Director, Campus Ministry
Mesa Branch Campus

I feel like everyone has to have faith in something. For me, it is important to have God in my life. I was lucky to have Benedictine come to me.

Ana Botello
Benedictine University at Mesa student

If you graduated from a Catholic high school, you may be eligible for a $4,000 scholarship.

An education that pays off.

Benedictines strive for academic excellence. We are also continually seeking to make education affordable and meaningful.

Benedictine makes a number of scholarships available for students, some based on need, some based on interest and some based on past academic performance. Benedictine also makes scholarships available to students who have lived the Benedictine values prior to attending the University.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org ranked Benedictine University among the top 25 most affordable Catholic colleges and universities in the country with the highest starting salaries earned by graduates.

Receive a values-based, Catholic education while you attend Benedictine University, and get an education that pays off after you leave.

Continue your Catholic education here.
Catholic college and university enrollment has increased by 15.1 percent since 2001, according to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Catholic colleges and universities are frequently cited in U.S. News & World Report as “Best Buy” schools and are consistently cited by the Templeton Foundation as “Character-Building Schools.”

The Carnegie Commission classifies 24 Catholic institutions as doctoral universities (of which Benedictine is one).

Benedictine University is ranked among the top 25 most affordable Catholic colleges and universities in the country with the highest starting salaries earned by graduates by Affordablecollegesonline.org.

Forbes magazine named Benedictine among “America’s Top Colleges” for the third consecutive year in 2013.

In 2012, The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Benedictine University as the No. 1 fastest-growing campus in the country among private nonprofit research universities.


Nearly 10,000 students enrolled throughout the world.

Lisle Main Campus

The Dan and Ada Rice Center features an 11,000-square-foot fitness center that includes elliptical trainers, treadmills, stationary bicycles and a strength training mezzanine, a sports medicine training facility and a Pilates/yoga studio.

The Birck Hall of Science houses advanced computer labs, specialized science labs, a research center and the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum, one of the largest private nature museums in the world with more than 10,000 specimens.

The Kindlon Hall of Learning houses computer labs, classrooms, multimedia labs, offices, student lounges, a chapel, the Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery and the Benedictine University Library.

More than 40 student organizations, honorary societies, service groups, ethnic associations and a student newspaper.

NCAA Division III affiliation offering 20 men’s (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, indoor and outdoor track and field) and women’s (basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, indoor and outdoor track and field) sports.

87 percent of faculty members hold the highest degrees in their field.

98 percent of freshmen students received some form of financial aid.

89 percent of full-time undergraduates received some form of financial aid.

Students represent 50 states and 17 countries.

More than 23,000 active alumni in 50 states and dozens of countries.

55 undergraduate majors, 17 graduate programs, 4 doctoral programs.

Mesa Branch Campus

Benedictine University at Mesa is the first four-year Catholic university campus in Arizona.

The Mesa branch campus opened in 2012 with the Gregory Enrollment Center, located at 51 E. Main Street in downtown Mesa.

The 44,000-square-foot Gillett Hall, located at 225 E. Main Street in downtown Mesa, opened in August 2013. Benedictine University at Mesa welcomed its inaugural class in September 2013.

Gillett Hall currently has nine classrooms, including an interactive classroom with nontraditional, flexible furniture, nutrition lab, computer lab, chapel, a “Spirit Store” which offers Benedictine merchandise, Student Resource Center and flexible Community Room for hosting events.

Resort-style housing option offered through the Phoenix Marriott Mesa, includes a private bathroom, mini-refrigerator, full-size bed, flat-screen TV with free cable and wireless Internet, and access to a fitness center and pool/spa area.

Education and technology blog edcetera named Benedictine University at Mesa among 10 universities in the nation on the cutting edge of tech for 2013.

Sports begin in 2014 with cross country, golf, tennis and volleyball for men and women.
What do you believe in?

The founders of Benedictine University believed that the search for God and the search for truth are indistinguishable, and should be shared with others. They believed in hospitality, community and living life in balance. (Books are great for the brain, but you need to feed body and soul, too.) They also believed in a concern for others and the stewardship of all things.

More than 125 years later, Benedictine University still strongly adheres to these beliefs.

For more information, call the Gregory Enrollment Center at (602) 888-5533, email mesa@ben.edu or visit ben.edu/mesa.