

A CATHOLIC TRADITION



making a difference ...

IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS, OUR COMMUNITY & OUR CHURCH


**BRESCIA
UNIVERSITY**

OWENSBORO, KY
www.brescia.edu

introduction



Students today have many options when choosing a college or university. For many, opportunities for faith development and spiritual growth are an important part in making that choice. Because of our identity as a Catholic and Ursuline institution, we at Brescia University are proud of the fact that this is a place where you can receive an excellent education and also grow in your faith. I'd like to highlight four ways that the education you receive at Brescia University is unique and will make a difference in your life because of our religious heritage.

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Each of us is an unrepeatable individual with the great dignity of being called a child of God. Because of this anthropology we seek to ensure that each of our students is given the proper respect demanded by that dignity.

Individualized attention in the Ursuline tradition. Brescia University has inherited a 500 year pedagogical tradition from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, which is characterized by attention to the needs of the individual student. There is no such thing as a cookie cutter education at Brescia. We strongly believe that each individual has been given the gifts and talents they need to realize their potential. An education should help in the discovery and fulfillment of these gifts.

The centrality of moral values. Morality and ethics are understood not simply as following the rules, but as instrumental in helping our students flourish as human persons, fully alive as responsible members of the community. Character development and growth in virtue are important parts of the Brescia experience.

Community outreach in a spirit of Servant Leadership. The Brescia educational experience is directed to the individual and to developing individual responsibility to serve the community. Servant leadership takes the common notion of leadership to the next level. Our students are trained as leaders stamped by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ who gave us a model of servant leadership by washing his disciples' feet.

These tenants of our Catholic and Ursuline heritage at Brescia are woven throughout our programs. I urge you to explore the opportunities for faith formation detailed in this brochure. As you do so, keep in mind the words of St. Irenaeus who said, "The glory of God is the human person fully alive."

God's peace,
Fr. Larry Hostetter, S.T.D.

OUR URSULINE HERITAGE

As a Catholic institution, Brescia University shares the contemporary Church's mission to proclaim the gospel, uphold human dignity, participate in God's ongoing creation, and serve others. In fulfilling this Church mission, the University seeks to preserve and enrich the Catholic tradition of dialogue between faith and reason in the pursuit of truth in a manner that is open to and respectful of all faith traditions.

Brescia provides intellectual and moral formation for its students which fosters a renewal of faith, critically engages contemporary social problems, and encourages students to pursue professions other than in self-interest.

Rooted in both its Catholic and Ursuline traditions, Brescia University confirms the truth of the gospel, yet allows for open intellectual exchange. Students and faculty actively engage their faith, seeking truth together through service to others.

Historical Timeline

1535 – St. Angela Merici founds the Company of St. Ursula in Brescia, Italy. St. Angela's time was not unlike our own; secular society had turned to individualism and away from community. She believed that strong families made for a strong society. Her mission was to educate women, giving them alternate options from the limited few that were available. St. Angela and her companions wore the dress of the day and believed in meeting people where they were.

1874 – Father Paul Joseph Volk asks the Louisville Ursulines to establish Saint Joseph's Academy for girls at Maple Mount, Kentucky. Sisters traveled by flat boat to reach Owensboro. Fr. Volk saw a need in the then rural Owensboro area for women's education. By 1912, the Ursulines of Mount St. Joseph had been recognized by Rome as an independent community. Mother Aloysius Willet was named the first superior.

1925 – Mount St. Joseph Junior College for Women begins offering undergraduate degrees to the community. Between 1925 and 1950 coeducational courses were offered in Owensboro by the Ursuline Sisters, which led to the creation of a second campus.

1950 – Mount St. Joseph Junior College moves to Owensboro and becomes Brescia College (later Brescia University). Brescia was founded to serve the growing business needs of Owensboro. The sisters recognized the need for higher education due to the G.I. Bill and a large number of women who wanted a college education. In this fashion, the Mount St. Joseph Ursulines continued to fulfill St. Angela's rule of being attentive to the signs of the times.

1985 – Ministry Formation Program founded to further serve the Church. The program is the first such program in the country to be accredited by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Charged with training lay ministers to serve the Church, the program integrates theology and pastoral care practices. In 2006, the Bishop John J. McRaith Chair was created in honor of Owensboro's bishop, who tirelessly supports the program.

2007 – Breaking with tradition, Fr. Larry Hostetter is named Brescia's fifth President and its first non-Ursuline President.



campus ministry

As an Ursuline institution, Brescia University embodies the Ursuline core values of community, leadership, justice and service and seeks to instill these values in its students. Brescia University provides its students with:

- A faith community on campus, including Ursuline sisters, which serves as a basis for pastoral care;
- Courses in theology, philosophy, ministry and spirituality;
- Opportunities for religious expression and faith enhancement; and
- Opportunities to prepare for ministerial service within the Church.

At Brescia the spiritual needs of students are of paramount importance. Under the leadership of the Director of Campus Ministry, Brescia provides faith development opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Here are just a few:

- Daily Mass (7am and noon)
- Sunday Masses (10am and 8pm)
- Monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour
- Penance Services during Advent and Lent
- Ecumenical prayer services
- Retreat Opportunities
- Right to Life Group



christian outreach

Service to Others

Since its founding in Owensboro in 1950, when the Ursuline Sisters began offering classes at the request of the local community, Brescia University has established a history of serving Owensboro and the surrounding region. In keeping with the Ursuline tradition of service with the gospel call to a life of witness and service, Brescia University provides:

- workshops, speakers, and institutes designed to meet community needs;
- clubs, class activities, and majors directed to community service;
- campus resources, including personnel and facilities, to serve the community; and
- support for faculty, staff, and student participation in community and professional organizations.

Christian Outreach & Service

- Alternative Spring Break
- Brescia University Right to Life
- Community trash collection
- Christmas gift wrapping for underprivileged children
- Clothing drives for Branchville Correctional Facility
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Food drives
- Social Work Club's Soup Fundraiser

CHRISTIAN LIFE EXPERIENCE

What is it?

Many students wonder how to live a Christian life in our secular society. The Christian Life Experience is geared towards helping students live gospel values in a community setting. All students are welcome to join the program on an informal basis.

Students who participate in the community are moral leaders on campus and make a difference in the faith life of the University. They participate as liturgical ministers and are a visible presence of Christian ideals on campus.

How can I get involved?

The easiest way to get involved is simply by attending the weekly Wednesday night meetings. Students gather for a home cooked meal, followed by a speaker, program, or games.

What faith development opportunities are available to me?

Apart from the weekly meals and fellowship, the following activities are available:

- Private and communal prayer
- Annual off-campus retreat
- Busy Person's Retreat (on campus)
- Spiritual direction
- Service projects
- Alternative Spring Break

Service Trips

Alternative Spring Break

Memphis, TN was the location for Alternative Spring Break 2009. During this trip, students worked with two social justice issues: Homelessness and HIV/AIDS. Students lived in the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality with a family left homeless due to a fire. They also organized donations and assisted former families by moving furniture to their new homes and provided baby sitting services. At Hope House, a non-profit day care in midtown Memphis for children who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, students assisted day care teachers and organized donated books for the resource library.

Brescia University is a Catholic, liberal arts institution founded in the Ursuline tradition of personal and social transformation through education.

Directed to academic and moral excellence in a student centered environment, Brescia offers undergraduate and graduate programs that serve students who seek success through rewarding careers and service to others.

