



A CATHOLIC TRADITION



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.
- **1998** Brescia College became Brescia University, an independently supported Catholic coeducational institution offering both undergraduate and graduate coursework.
- **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.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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 7am Mass
- Tuesday/Thursday Noon Mass
- Sunday Masses (10am & 8pm)
- Penance Services during Advent and Lent
- Ecumenical prayer services
- Retreat Opportunities
- Spiritual Direction
- Small group faith sharing and Bible study programs

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

- Recognizes two students annually for “Spirit of Angela Award” based on service, leadership and qualities similar to Saint Angela Merici
- Partners with Owensboro Human Relations Commission to host program for MLK Day
- Freshman Orientation Service Day
- Caritas Leadership Program
- Social Work Club’s Soup Fundraiser
- Christmas gift wrapping for underprivileged children
- Alternative Spring Break
- Food drives
- Campus Recycling
- Service component included in the First Year Experience

How can I get involved?

The easiest way to get involved is to contact the campus minister and attend program offerings. It is not just for Catholics--all are welcome!

What faith development opportunities are available to me?

- Private and communal prayer
- Busy Person’s Retreat (on campus)
- Spiritual direction
- Small faith group discussions
- Service Projects
- Theology on Tap for Young Adults
- Gasper River Retreat Center



Service Trips

CARITAS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2016, students who participate in the Caritas Leadership Program culminate the academic year with a service/pilgrimage experience. Past trips include travel to Honduras with the organization Water with Blessings, a non-profit organization which seeks to equip and empower mothers living in marginal communities to become agents of clean water and compassion in their community.

**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.**



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