



CHARACTERISTICS OF MARIANIST UNIVERSITIES

Marianist Universities Educate for Adaptation and Change

(43.) *In the midst of rapid social and technological transformation, Marianist universities adapt and change their methods and structures so that the wisdom of their educational philosophy and spirituality may be transmitted more fully.*

EDUCATE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

(44.) “New times call for new methods,” Blessed Father Chaminade often repeated. Blessed Father Chaminade’s pragmatic and visionary approach allows for reading the “signs of the times” and responding with attention to history and tradition, while considering innovative and practical solutions for current and future contexts. The Marianist university balances acceptance and adaptation with a faithful commitment to shaping a hopeful future. This commitment involves ongoing discernment, guided by the Marianist educational philosophy and Christian wisdom, and with careful attention to the many influences on students’ education including technology, globalization, and financial cost. Fulfilling the Marianist university mission in changing times involves openness, prayerful reflection and strategic planning.

EDUCATE PERSONS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE AUTHENTICALLY IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

(45.) If the world of the future is to be more peaceful than the 20th century was, all must learn how to appreciate cultural differences and how to work with people very unlike ourselves. To this end, Marianist universities cultivate the skills required for dialogue, consensus, and teamwork that depend on the virtues of loving acceptance of others, and faithful dedication to a collaborative, honest, and hopeful search for truth. Marianist universities foster these virtues through intentionally uniting people from diverse backgrounds in community.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

(46.) Students need a substantive knowledge of the past, analytical tools for understanding the world around them and critical thinking skills to mindfully respond and shape the unknowable future. Marianist universities encourage research and collaboration across academic and co-curricular departments, highlighting the complementary roles the classroom, faith and student life play in deepening learning and understanding of truth. Members of Marianist learning communities seek truth with both the confidence that our learning has a goal, and the humility to recognize our dependence on others.

ADAPTATION TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS THROUGH INCULTURATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

(47.) Marianist education benefits local communities through adapting to distinctive local culture and complementing this adaptation with global awareness. Marianist educators encourage connections, both real and virtual, to other cultures, with emphasis on those within the Marianist international educational network. Academically, Marianist universities offer integrated curricula to shape students’ understanding of interconnectedness of human knowledge as a foundation for effective action in an increasingly interdependent world. Marianist schools provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff and administrators to put this education into action through cross-cultural immersion experiences locally, domestically and abroad.