

General Information

OUR MISSION

The University of Sioux Falls, a Christian University in the liberal arts tradition, educates students in the humanities, sciences, and professions. The traditional motto of the University is Culture for Service, that is, we seek to foster academic excellence and the development of mature Christian persons for service to God and humankind in the world.

Through programs in the humanities, sciences and professions, the University helps persons grow intellectually, discern truth and develop a Christian worldview. As a Christian institution, the University of Sioux Falls fosters in all members of its community the development of emotional maturity, physical well-being, interpersonal skills and values which reflect the character and teaching of Christ.

The University of Sioux Falls is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to the integration of biblical faith and learning; it affirms that Christians are called to share their faith with others through lives of service.

The University is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and welcomes students of any faith or denomination.

ON THIS WE STAND

The University of Sioux Falls affirms the historic Christian commitment to Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest and King. As Christ, Jesus of Nazareth was God Incarnate in truly human form. As Prophet, He provided, through His life and teachings, the definitive revelations of God's nature and the normative model for all human life. As Priest, Jesus overcame, through His death and resurrection, the separation between humanity and God resulting from sin. As King, He reigns in resurrected glory over the restoration of God's peace and justice to creation.

We affirm the authority of the Bible as God's written Word. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given to God's people by the Holy Spirit through human witness. Their purpose is to point us to Christ. Though they were written long ago, they speak to us and to the world in the present, calling us to peace with God and to reconciliation with each other.

As a Christian institution, we are an academic community that seeks greater understanding in the light of our faith. Never content with our current knowledge of God or creation, we search openly and actively for new insights—in the humanities, the sciences, the professions—by which to advance human understanding and to serve God more effectively in the world.

A CARING COMMUNITY

The University of Sioux Falls seeks to be a Christian community of caring people. We want relationships among students, faculty and staff to reflect the love, trust, forgiveness and patience that are gifts of life in the Spirit of Jesus.

This caring is seen in our support of each other as we study, teach and serve in God's name. It is also evident in the way we challenge each other to excellence; we see our daily work as service to Christ and for God's glory. Therefore, we seek to treat each person with love and our work with devotion.

This campus community is open to people of different backgrounds, cultures and viewpoints. We are enriched by all the diversity that God has created in the world. We need to learn to listen

to each other and be alert for new insight, to respect each other without prejudging and to encourage each other to grow intellectually and spiritually.

A SIGNIFICANT HISTORY

On June 5, 1872, pastors and delegates of the nine Baptist churches in the Dakota Territory assembled in Vermillion for the first meeting of the Baptist Association. There they adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, that we take immediate steps for the establishment of an institution among us, and that we devote a suitable portion of time at each annual meeting to the consideration of this important subject, and give our individual and associated influence to encourage a more general and complete education of our youth under distinctively Christian influence."

In 1883, the school that was to become the University of Sioux Falls began offering both secondary and collegiate programs under the name Dakota Collegiate Institute. The name of the institution was changed to Sioux Falls University in 1885, with the secondary program being known as the Academy and the college department as Sioux Falls College. The college department graduated its first bachelor of arts student in 1904. As the college department grew, enrollment in the Academy began to drop, and trustees closed the Academy in 1925, leaving only Sioux Falls College.

Between 1929 and 1931, Sioux Falls College became the heir of four other Baptist schools that had ceased operation. These schools were Des Moines University, Grand Island College, Cedar Valley Seminary, and Parker College. With the formal merger in 1931 of Grand Island College and what was still legally Sioux Falls University, the corporate name of Sioux Falls College was formally adopted.

Due to economic hardships, Sioux Falls College became a junior college in 1941 and returned to baccalaureate status in 1943. The '40s and '50s were times of financial difficulty at the college, but the '60s and early '70s were times of great growth. Seven buildings were erected in seven years and the college had a record enrollment that was not surpassed again for thirty years.

The Board of Trustees voted in 1994 to change the name of Sioux Falls College to the University of Sioux Falls, effective January 1995. The change reflected a desire on the part of the board to "name the future," one in which there would be growth in the student body, expansion of academic programs, especially at the graduate level, improvement in facilities, and enhancement of the reputation of the school. Dr. Mark Benedetto assumed the presidency of the University in 1997, and many of the changes envisioned by the board began to take shape. Pierce Gym renamed Pierce Hall, one of the historic buildings on campus, was remodeled, and another historic building, Glidden-Martin Hall was renovated during the 2001-02 academic year. The newly renovated building houses the Roger & Ruth Fredrikson School of Education and Center for Christian Thought. A major addition was made to the Stewart Center, and the Cleveland Professional Development Center and Mary Collier Baker residence hall were built. In the fall of 2005, the Bill and Marian Sullivan Faith and Living Center opened. Then in the spring, ground was broken for the Faith-Based Community Athletic Complex located at 69th Street & Cliff Avenue and the Correa Center for Entrepreneurial Studies was announced. In September 2006, the total student headcount reached 1674—the largest enrollment in the history of the institution.

In recognition of his 10th anniversary of leadership, President Mark Benedetto was invited to deliver the 2007 commencement address. In his first decade as president, USF experienced eight consecutive years of record enrollment and doubled the number of full-time faculty. Financial giving increased from \$1 million to more than \$6 million per year, and the University's endowment more than tripled increasing from \$6 million to more than \$20 million. Fourteen building projects added approximately \$32 million of institutional assets to the residential campus and athletic complex. The McDonald Center (connecting historic Pierce Hall and the Salsbury Student Union) opened as the hub of student life.

On the eve of its 125th academic year, USF enrolled its largest freshman class in the Fall of 2008. The Greatest Gift Campaign culminated in donations of more than \$35 million, plans for a School of Nursing were announced, and the Cougar Football team won its third National Championship.

The University of Sioux Falls has come far since 1883, and it remains faithful to the vision of its founders. The University affirms its heritage as a distinctively Christian college in the liberal arts tradition, fostering academic excellence and the development of mature Christian persons for service to God and humankind in the world.

ACCREDITATION & AFFILIATIONS



The University of Sioux Falls is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (312.263.0456 or ncahigherlearningcommission.org).

The undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the social work program by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). All undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs are also approved by the South Dakota Division of Education. The undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the Vucurevich School of Business are accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). Proof of academic accreditation is located in the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs' Office.

The University also maintains membership in the South Dakota Association of Independent Colleges, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Association of South Dakota Colleges and Universities, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

ENVIRONMENT/LEGAL COMPLIANCE

A Drug-Free Environment

It is the policy of the University of Sioux Falls to maintain a drug-free environment. The use of alcohol or drugs on University property is prohibited, and the University of Sioux Falls certifies its compliance with Public Law 101-226, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, as well as compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

The University of Sioux Falls is committed to the development of mature Christian persons and, as such, seeks to provide

opportunities whereby both students and employees may grow and develop in an environment free from alcohol and illegal drugs.

Students and employees are expected to comply with all University regulations and all laws regarding the unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs, both on campus and at University-sponsored events.

Any student or employee who violates University policies, or breaks civil or criminal laws, must assume the penalties imposed by the appropriate authority. Specific regulations regarding the use or possession of alcohol or other drugs are described for students in the Student Handbook, on the USF web site at www.usiouxfalls.edu, and for employees in the Faculty/Administrative Handbook and the Support Staff Handbook.

Additional information or interpretation of these laws and policies may be obtained from the Student Development Office.

Harassment Policy

USF holds the conviction that interpersonal relationships in its community should be conducted in accordance with the model of Christ's life and the enduring Christian commitment to human rights. The University reaffirms that it does not condone harassment directed toward any person or group within its community—students, employees, or visitors. Every member of the University should refrain from actions that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups, or that undermine their security or self-esteem.

Harassment consists of abusive behavior directed toward an individual or group because of race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical or mental disabilities, including learning disabilities, mental retardation, and past/present history of a mental disorder. In implementing and enforcing this policy, the University recognizes as a primary concern the protection of personal safety, human dignity and individual self-respect, both of complainant(s) and of alleged violator(s). Every attempt will be made to protect any complainant or alleged violator from further harassment or injury. Strict confidentiality will be maintained.

Unsubstantiated case records will be kept in the employee's/student's confidential file for a minimum of three years, after which time those records will be destroyed. Substantiated case records will be kept in the employee's/students confidential file while he/she is a member of the University community and for a minimum of three years following termination.

All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of a social environment in which people are free to work and learn without fear of discrimination and abuse. Offensive or harassing behavior will not be tolerated against any student, employee, vendor, customer, or others who enter our institution. This policy against harassment will be communicated to each employee and student of the institution through the appropriate handbook. No employee or student will be exempt from this policy.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual harassment is an abuse of power that is demeaning and interferes with the ability to work or participate in an educational setting. Under state law, sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is illegal. Sexual harassment is defined as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when one of the following is met:

1. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions, a criterion for evaluation, or a basis for academic decisions or other decisions affecting such individual; or
2. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with work performance or educational experience or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; or
3. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment or of the individual's status in a program, course, or activity.

Sexual harassment encompasses any sexual attention that is unwanted and can take many forms, but most sexual harassment falls into three categories: verbal, visual, and physical. All forms of sexual harassment cause the victim to feel uncomfortable or threatened by the behavior and may cause the victim to fear retaliation such as the loss of job or poor grades. Please note that sexual assaults may be criminal acts, and, as such, investigation and processing by the criminal justice system, local police, and crisis intervention centers may supersede the process developed under this policy.

Any employee or student of the University of Sioux Falls who believes that he or she has been or is being harassed and/or discriminated against, should immediately report it to the appropriate officer as outlined under "Grievance Procedure." The University of Sioux Falls has established a grievance procedure.

Information for students is available from the Associate Vice President for Student Development.

CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Few small Christian universities enjoy the advantages that come from being located in a city the size of Sioux Falls.

A growing community of more than 140,000 people, Sioux Falls has been rated by Time-Life's Money magazine as one of the nation's 10 best for quality of life. Small enough to retain the friendliness that characterizes the Midwest, it is also large enough to provide University of Sioux Falls students and graduates with excellent employment, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

The largest city in the state, Sioux Falls can also boast of a booming economy, fresh air, clean water and safe neighborhoods.

USF students study in a city that is a major banking and medical center, the site of credit card operations for several national companies, and the home of two large hospitals, a university medical school and numerous clinics. The city's schools, businesses, and social and religious institutions make various internships, apprenticeships, supervised field instructions and student teaching assignments readily available. A modern city library supplements the resources of the University and other institutions of higher learning in Sioux Falls. Three network-affiliated television stations, 15 radio stations and South Dakota's largest daily newspaper are all based in Sioux Falls.

Located in the heart of the United States at the crossroads of Interstates 90 and 29, Sioux Falls is within convenient traveling distance of the beautiful South Dakota Black Hills; Minneapolis, Minn.; St. Paul, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; and Des Moines, Iowa. Several major commercial airlines and bus lines serve the city.

UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS CAMPUS

Jorden Hall, built in 1908, is an historic landmark in Sioux Falls. It houses administrative services, classrooms and faculty offices. A major remodeling project was completed in 1980. Jorden Hall was remodeled again in 1994-95 to improve wiring, plumbing and air conditioning. Jorden Hall is often pictured on materials, such as letterhead, to identify USF.

Glidden-Martin Memorial Hall, completed in 1929 and remodeled in 2002, houses the Roger & Ruth Fredrikson School of Education and Center for Christian Thought. It contains classrooms and faculty offices for the Education and Theology & Philosophy departments. It is also the home for the American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas office.

John W. Kroske Hall, built in 1959, is a residence hall for 78 students.

Grand Island Memorial Hall, built in 1963, is a residence hall for 122 women.

Warren W. Burgess Residence for Men, built in 1966, is a residence hall for 116 men.

Norman B. Mears Library, completed in 1965, contains approximately 89,000 items. The library is a member OCLC, an international database; MINITEX a public supported regional consortium of academic, public, state agency, and other special libraries throughout the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota; and a full member of the South Dakota Library Network, a statewide network that provides an on-line catalog of member groups and on-line databases that give students a wide variety of full-text and abstracted periodicals and e-books. The library adds approximately 1,500 new book titles to the collection each year, subscribes to 290 periodical titles and a number of full-text and citation databases. The library houses campus audiovisual equipment, a computer lab, a curriculum lab, an art gallery and the University archives. The library has endowed materials funds from the following sources: William Bush Library Book Memorial Fund (English materials), Louise E. MacKay Memorial Book Fund (well-illustrated fine arts materials), Dr. Ernest E. Smith Book Fund (education materials), and the Leonard & Nina Tripp Audio Visual Endowment Fund.

Joseph E. Salsbury Science Center, completed in 1967, contains scientific equipment, laboratories and classrooms for instructional programs in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science. Located within are the Zbornik Lecture Hall and Warren W. Burgess Computer Science Laboratory. In 2007, a \$3.3 million capital campaign in partnership with the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce launched a \$5 million renovation project. Completed in 2009, the upgrades and new addition added 14,000 square feet of classrooms, laboratories and faculty offices.

Reuben P. Jeschke Fine Arts Center, occupied in February 1971, includes the Bright Music Halls, Abbott Hall of Art, Bernice Stier Jones Studio Theatre, and E. B. Meredith Auditorium. It houses studios, classrooms and rehearsal areas for art, music, speech and drama. A television studio and two radio stations are also housed in the Fine Arts Center.

Patterson Hall, completed in 1978, has 23 one- and two-bedroom apartments available to upperclassmen.

The Stewart Center, the University's physical education, wellness and athletic facility, opened in the fall of 1987. A 15,000-square-foot expansion was completed in 2000. The new area contains offices, additional classrooms and new workout facilities. Contained in the 41,000-square-foot building are a 160-meter running track; three playing courts for volleyball; four sets of locker rooms; areas for aerobic exercise and fitness machines; a whirlpool; and offices for faculty and coaches.

The Cleveland Professional Development Center was completed in 2001. It is the home of the Vucurevich School of Business and includes a large auditorium, classrooms, seminar rooms, computer labs, faculty offices, and a boardroom. It also houses the Equip offices.

Mary Collier Baker Hall, completed in 2001, has 18 two-bedroom apartments available to up to 72 upperclassmen students

Bill & Marian Sullivan Faith & Living Center is named in honor of Sioux Falls entrepreneur Marian Sullivan, a 1950 Sioux Falls College graduate, and her late husband, Bill. The Bill and Marian Sullivan Faith & Living Center opened in 2005 and is a home for nearly 200 undergraduates. The 3-floor residence hall offers contemporary suite style-living and the largest rooms on the USF campus, USF campus ministries staff lead faith and living forums.

McDonald Center, completed in 2007, houses services at the center of student life. A central structure, named in honor of Barbara McDonald McMurchie and her late husband, Art McDonald, connects historic Pierce Hall (1923) and the Salsbury Student Union (1963). The center includes the University welcome center, Academic Success Center, bookstore, mail room, an expanded campus dining hall and servery, Java City coffee house, and offices for Admissions, Financial Aid, Marketing, Student Development, Residence Life, coaching staff, and Student Association/Activities.

Sanford Health Sports Complex/Faith-Based Community Athletic Complex, is being constructed in several phases. A 93,000 sq. ft. fully lit synthetic turf field with state-of-the-art foam underlayment, used predominately for football, and an Olympic sized IAAF certifiable 10 lane track with an encapsulated fully-poured polyurethane surface and natural grass infield have been installed. The complex is home to the John Lillibridge Track and the Bob Young Field. Grandstands with an open concourse, skyboxes, hospitality room, radio and television booths, visitor side/track bleachers including concessions & restrooms, an additional synthetic turf field, parking, storage buildings, and a field house are also scheduled for construction.