

# FURMAN UNIVERSITY

## Mission

The primary mission of Furman as a liberal arts institution is to provide a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics and the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines. In addition to its primary emphasis on undergraduate education, Furman offers graduate programs in education and chemistry. The university also provides a continuing education program for the larger Greenville community. At the heart of the undergraduate program are the general education requirements. The requirements ensure that all undergraduates will be introduced to the major methods of inquiry that characterize liberal study. In accordance with the traditional assumptions of liberal education, both out-of-class and in-class experiences are designed to develop the whole person — intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Furman seeks highly motivated students with inquisitive minds, varied perspectives, a sense of personal integrity and moral responsibility with the potential to be leaders and to make future contributions to society.

## Values

Founded by Baptists and grounded in Judeo-Christian values, Furman challenges students, faculty, and staff to grow both in knowledge and in faith. The university values excellent teaching and close student-faculty relationships. Small classes, individual instruction, empathetic advising, and personal attention promote active learning and cultivate intellectual curiosity. The university encourages its students to engage ethical issues and to explore spiritual concerns. Furman manifests its respect for the ethical and spiritual dimensions of human experience in many ways. Within the curriculum, these dimensions are often integral to academic disciplines and form the basis for classroom discussions. Outside the classroom, the ethical and spiritual dimensions are expressed in an active chaplaincy and a program in church-related vocations, an array of vital student religious organizations, and a nationally recognized community service program.

Furman aspires to be a diverse community of women and men of different races, religions, geographic origins, socioeconomic backgrounds, personal characteristics, and interests. This diversity reflects values the university hopes to embody: openness, honesty, tolerance and mutual respect, civic responsibility, global awareness, and bold intellectual inquiry. These values foster a critical examination of inherited assumptions, even as they protect freedom of expression and the open exchange of ideas. In sum, Furman University aspires to be a diverse community of learning, harmonious in its differences, just and compassionate in its transactions, and steadfast in its commitment to an educational program of the highest quality.

## **An Engaged Approach to Liberal Learning**

Furman University enriches traditional liberal arts education by offering students an array of opportunities to learn by doing. While grounding its curriculum in the humanities, fine arts, and sciences, Furman offers courses in fields that are more professionally oriented: business administration, accounting, education, health and exercise science, and music performance. In addition, Furman emphasizes education outside the traditional classroom, providing opportunities for students to put into practice the theories and methods learned from texts or lectures. For example, Furman has become a national leader in undergraduate research and collaborative research projects involving students and professors. Engaged learning takes additional forms at Furman. A significant number of Furman students participate in internships. Others serve as teaching apprentices on campus or in elementary and secondary schools. A large number enroll in study away programs sponsored by the university while many work as volunteers for social service agencies or other helping programs in the Greenville community. For many Furman students, these out-of-class opportunities become life-changing experiences.

By supplementing classroom instruction with opportunities for collaborative research and off-campus learning, Furman aims to give students greater responsibility for their education, to develop their self-confidence, and to sharpen their leadership skills.

### **The Furman Curriculum**

Furman nurtures a commitment to independent thought and lifelong learning. By providing students with a broad exposure to the liberal arts, it seeks to produce graduates grounded in the traditional sources of knowledge yet capable of devising new solutions to problems in their chosen field. At the core of Furman's educational mission, the curriculum is dedicated to the following ideals of liberal learning:

- Invigoration and stimulation of intellectual curiosity,
- Broad preparation in a diverse set of disciplines, including the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and the fine arts,
- Intellectual inquiry in sufficient depth to allow one to contribute to a greater body of knowledge;
- Development of expressive capabilities in writing, speaking, and the arts,
- Cultivation of world citizenship—an understanding of those not like oneself, and
- Integration of knowledge into a meaningful synthesis.