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Mission Statement

St. Francis College is a private, independent, co-educational college that welcomes students from all walks of life, providing a superior liberal arts education at an affordable price. The St. Francis student benefits from small classes taught by professors who are committed to providing an education in an atmosphere of support and friendship. By integrating liberal arts and pre-professional programs, the College promotes the development of the whole person. Both the Franciscan heritage and the Catholic tradition establish a cornerstone of academic excellence, social responsibility, and mutual respect throughout the entire College community.

History of the College

St. Francis College has a proud heritage of providing students with the preparation they need to take their places as contributing members of society. With a mission founded on the ideals and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, the school has played an important role in the community and in the lives of its students and alumni.

St. Francis College was founded by Franciscan Brothers in 1859 as St. Francis Academy, the first private school in the diocese of Brooklyn. The school, dedicated to the education of the young diocese’s Catholic boys, started in a building on Baltic Street and grew quickly. In just a little more than 25 years, the trustees of the Academy received permission from the state legislature to “establish a Literary College” and to confer diplomas, honors, and degrees. St. Francis Academy became St. Francis College and in June 1885 bestowed its first Bachelor of Arts degree.

The College continued its meteoric growth. In 1926, the Brothers opened a new facility on Butler Street. In 1957, the Regents of the University of the State of New York granted an absolute Charter to the Trustees of the College and three years later, St. Francis College embarked on an expansion program. The College moved to Remsen Street, where it had purchased two office buildings from Brooklyn Union Gas Company, allowing it to double its enrollment. Shortly thereafter, it became a co-educational institution and additional property was purchased on both Remsen and Joralemon Streets. The College expanded its facilities with the construction of a science building, physical education complex, and housing to accommodate the Franciscan Brothers and provide more space for faculty. In spring 2003, St. Francis College completed a new athletic and event facility atop the College’s gymnasium, the Anthony J. Genovesi Center. Scheduled to open in fall 2005 is a 35,000 square foot academic center, which will include a state-of-the-art library, “smart” classrooms equipped with wireless Internet access and multimedia technology, a theater/lecture hall, updated facilities for the Communication Arts department, gathering spaces and an Internet-ready cyber lounge for students, and office space for several academic departments.

Today the College serves 2,000 students and boasts an alumni association of 12,000 members. Students come primarily from Brooklyn and the other boroughs of New York City, although their backgrounds are representative of some 80 countries. Every June, more than 350 degrees are conferred in the liberal arts and sciences. Many distinguished public servants, scientists, lawyers, business professionals, and teachers call St. Francis College alma mater, as do many of the priests and nuns within the dioceses of Brooklyn-Queens and Rockville Centre.

Accreditation and Memberships

St. Francis College is chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a member of the following:

- Association of American Colleges
- National Commission on Accrediting
- Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Council for Advancement and Support of Education
- International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities
- Brooklyn Independent Colleges
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Brooklyn Development Association
- University Aviation Association

All information contained herein is for informational purposes only. It is necessarily subject to change without notice or obligation at the discretion of the administration. All such changes may apply not only to prospective students but also to those who are already enrolled in the College. In addition, this catalogue is neither a contract nor an offer to contract between the College and any person or party.

St. Francis College is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its relations with its faculty, administrators, students, and staff members, without regard to sex, race, color, religion, national group, age, disability, or marital status.
Dear Student:

Welcome to the “Small College of Big Dreams,” where students from all walks of life—primarily from the five boroughs of New York City—have been making dreams come true for themselves and their families for nearly 150 years. At St. Francis College we know that the definition of success is broad, and we are committed to helping students determine for themselves what that means in academic, personal, and professional terms.

At the heart of the St. Francis College experience is the core curriculum, which provides the foundation for all courses of study at the College. After fulfilling credit requirements in humanities, fine arts, social science, and natural science, students begin coursework specific to one of more than 30 majors, including a new opportunity to earn a B.S./M.S. in accounting. While enrolled, students have access to limitless opportunities to gain expertise in a number of fields. This happens through coursework as well as internships that allow you to experience firsthand the type of work you hope to do after graduating. For students who choose to apply to graduate school, their wide range of options reflects the quality of the undergraduate experience here.

Intrinsic to the culture of the College, inside and outside the classroom, is a commitment to promoting the development of the whole person through intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual growth. Values reflective of a Catholic education, freedom, tolerance, and respect for one another, are brought forth as students gain the skills and strengths they will need in their roles as citizens, employees and employers, community leaders, and parents.

Above all, students at St. Francis College know that faculty and administrators want them to succeed. The spirit of help and friendship that underscores all academic endeavors makes St. Francis College unique among higher education institutions. It is this quality that has meant the difference for thousands of students between earning a degree and charting a path for lifelong success—regardless of how it’s defined.

Yours in St. Francis,

Frank J. Macchiarola ’62
President