1.1 Mission and Values

1.1.1 Mission of the College of Saint Benedict

The mission of the College of Saint Benedict is to provide for women the very best residential liberal arts education in the Catholic university tradition. The college fosters integrated learning, exceptional leadership for change, and wisdom for a lifetime.

The College of Saint Benedict makes these mission commitments to its students:

- A unified liberal arts curriculum which expands the traditional knowledge base to include women’s experience and promotes teaching methods that facilitate women’s learning.
- An integrative environment for learning which ensures the quality of women’s learning by recognizing the interdependence of women’s personal and cognitive development.
- An emphasis on the personal growth of women which celebrates women and provides a culture that explicitly values women, allowing the student to see herself as a person of value.
- An experience of Benedictine values grounded in a women’s monastic community which allows the student to see her gender in active church roles and enhances the student’s faith and spiritual life.
- The opportunity to observe and practice leadership and service so that women recognize their ability and have confidence in their power to contribute to their community and to become agents for change.
- The capacity to make their place in the world and ensure success in their careers and their lives.

(Approved by Board of Trustees, 1995)
1.1.2 Mission of Saint John’s University

The mission of Saint John's University is to renew the fabric of community from one generation to the next, ever striving for excellence, ever grounded in Benedictine tradition.

Saint John’s University provides education in the liberal arts and graduate theological disciplines within the Catholic university tradition.

Saint John’s seeks to preserve the wellsprings of human culture, to deepen understanding of human interdependence, and to prepare students for full, integrated lives of faith and reason, action and love.

Saint John's strives to relate teaching, learning and scholarship to the residential life of the campus, community worship, the practice of the arts, and programs of service.

These activities are animated by the Benedictine practices of community life, prayer, hospitality and the search for wisdom, as well as by Saint John's own historic commitments to the well-being of diverse human communities, the formation of leaders in successive generations, and the ongoing renewal of the Church.

Saint John's pursues this mission on the undergraduate level, where it offers residential liberal arts education in coordination with the College of Saint Benedict, as well as through graduate theological education, long-standing programs of cultural preservation and transmission, and a variety of sponsored programs.

(Approved by Board of Regents, 2000)
1.1.2.1 Mission of the School of Theology-Seminary

Saint John’s School of Theology-Seminary, rooted in the Roman Catholic and Benedictine tradition, educates men and women for ordained and lay ministry in the Church. As a community of faith and hope, we, the faculty, staff, and students of Saint John’s School of Theology-Seminary, worship God and celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As an academic community relying on the wisdom of the same Holy Spirit, we root ourselves in the Christian tradition, and interpret that legacy in light of the Roman Catholic and Benedictine heritage passed on to us by Saint John’s Abbey with its rich theological, liturgical and ecumenical history. We commit ourselves to academic, spiritual, pastoral, and professional formation so we might serve the Church in lay and ordained ministry and thus use our diverse gifts for the transformation of our world. We dedicate ourselves to a lifelong pursuit of wisdom so we might progress in Christian faith and “run on the paths of God’s commandments, our hearts expanding with the inexpressible delight of love” (Prologue, RB).

(Approved by Saint John’s Board of Regents, May 3, 2001)
1.1.3  Coordinate Mission and Values and Vision for the Future

1.1.3.1  Coordinate Mission and Values

The mission of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University is to provide the very best residential liberal arts education in the Catholic university tradition. They foster integrated learning, exceptional leadership for change, and wisdom for a lifetime.

On the undergraduate level, the College of Saint Benedict enrolls women and Saint John’s University enrolls men. Together the two colleges make these mission commitments to their students:

- **A coherent liberal arts curriculum** which focuses on questions important to the human condition, demands clear thinking and communicating, and calls forth new knowledge for the betterment of humankind.
- **An integrative environment for learning** which stresses intellectual challenge, open inquiry, collaborative scholarship and artistic creativity.
- **An emphasis on the personal growth of women and men** which incorporates new knowledge about the significance of gender into opportunities for leadership and service on each campus and across both campuses.
- **An experience of Benedictine values** which fosters attentive listening to the voice of God, awareness of the meaning of one’s existence, and the formation of community built on respect for individual persons.
- **Cultivation of the habit of promoting the common good** which is formed by knowledge, faith and an openhearted response to the needs of others.

(Approved by Board of Trustees and Board of Regents, December 2000)

1.1.3.2  Coordinate Vision for the Future

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University will strive for excellence in enhancing students’ capacities to integrate learning and manifest exceptional leadership within a lifelong search for wisdom.

The two colleges aspire to excellence in this long-standing residential, liberal arts college mission and will seek national recognition for:
• **Sharpening a distinctive perspective:** The colleges will excel in studying the intersection of global cultures and community sustainability, leavened by the commitments of the Catholic intellectual life.

• **Fostering exceptional learning communities:** The colleges will excel in promoting the integration of professional and personal lives through expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary experiential learning.

• **Promoting personal development:** The colleges will excel, individually and coordinately, in cultivating and reflecting on the social, spiritual and physical development of men and women.

• **Cultivating awareness of vocation:** The colleges will excel in strengthening the individual and communal vocation of all, informed by the Catholic intellectual tradition, Benedictine values, ecumenism and respect for diverse cultures.

• **Deepening the work of justice and peace:** The colleges will excel in fostering understanding of Catholic social teachings and consequent action to improve the well-being of the under-served, enhance overall community life and protect the environment.

(Approved by Board of Trustees and Board of Regents, May 2001)
1.1.4 Undergraduate Learning Goals and Objectives

ACADEMIC

Student learning at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University is based in the mission statements of each institution and the coordinate mission statement. It is represented by the integrated system of learning goals articulated below.

1. Graduates will be able to analyze the influence of the Catholic and Benedictine traditions on the human condition.

2. Graduates will be able to integrate knowledge from the liberal arts and sciences as they explore the human condition.

3. Graduates will be able to integrate the liberal arts and sciences with the skills, values and depth of knowledge specific to a major field of study in preparation for further professional development.

4. Graduates will be able to apply clear thinking and communication skills to the exploration of fundamental questions of the human condition.

5. Graduates will be able to establish patterns of lifelong learning to seek and integrate knowledge of self and the world.

6. Graduates will be able to provide leadership and service in community to improve the human condition.

7. Graduates will be able to communicate sensitivity to and understanding of gender and cultural differences in order to improve the human condition.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Coordinate (Note: Number in parenthesis denotes complementary academic learning goal.)

Graduates will be able to understand and practice Benedictine values as a way of life and this will be demonstrated by their ability to:

- Initiate, organize and be responsible for their own ongoing learning. (2)
- Develop the skills necessary to succeed in the world of work. (3)
- Practice inclusive dialogue, problem solving and written and verbal communication skills. (4)
- Integrate physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual and occupational aspects of their development. (5)
- Develop a capacity for shared ethical leadership and become agents of social change. (6)
- Develop the capacity for lifelong service to community. (6)
- Create true partnerships between men and women which are based on equity, integrity and respect. (7)
- Seek and value diversity in every aspect of their lives. (7)
- Develop the capacity to create global community. (7)
- Develop the capacity to reflect on the nature of one’s purpose for existence through the process of spiritual reflection.

**College of Saint Benedict**

Through living and learning in both separate and coeducational environments, a graduate of the College of Saint Benedict will be able to:

- Know and value herself as a woman.
- Work for equity and justice for herself and others.
- Understand the wholeness of life and her connection to community.
- Take risks and challenge herself to learn, grow and thrive throughout her life.
- Develop healthy behaviors which create emotional and physical well-being.
- Develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Claim and act on her own authority.

**Saint John’s University**

Through living and learning in both separate and coeducational environments, a graduate of Saint John’s University will be able to:

- Know and value himself as a man.
- Risk the inner journey of mindfulness, sensitivity and vulnerability.
- Develop confidence, self-esteem, emotional maturity and humility.
• Build community by forming lasting relationships.
• Challenge the prevailing confining/limiting expectations of gender and culture to foster mutuality.
• Work for nonviolence, equity and justice in the home and community.
• Practice healthy lifestyles which foster the achievement of individual potential.