

## The Academic Vision of Wisconsin Lutheran College

Wisconsin Lutheran College strives to develop in each student a Christian mind and a servant's heart that will allow him or her to excel in the world of ideas and in relationships with people. Each graduate will be committed to humble and responsible service through independent and creative thought and will use research and analytical skills to make critical judgments.

In order to achieve its academic vision, Wisconsin Lutheran College strives to meet the following **goals** in each of its students:

1. **Christian Faith and Living:** An educated Christian will grow in faith, character, ability to serve, and involvement in the community of believers. To this end, students shall:
  - a. increase their understanding of the biblical narrative and grow in their appreciation for the gospel and the Sacraments;
  - b. develop the ability to analyze doctrinal belief systems;
  - c. grow in the discovery, development, and application of their spiritual and personal gifts in a lifestyle of service to their church and world;
  - d. grow in their ability to integrate their faith in healthy relations with others, an appreciation of Christian freedom, a vibrant worship and prayer life, and an acceptance of cross-bearing; and
  - e. select spiritual mentors and enhance perspectives on Christian living through the instruction and example of others.
2. **Communication Skills:** Given the charge to "go and tell" by Christ Jesus, the ability to communicate effectively is essential. The organization and presentation of ideas in written and oral communication is vital for empowering the individual to lead and influence others. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop the ability to read and listen critically and comprehend complex ideas;
  - b. develop the ability to write and speak effectively;
  - c. develop the ability to successfully interact with others in diverse situations; and
  - d. develop a basic understanding of the structure and cultural context of a foreign language and be able to communicate basic ideas in that language.
3. **Mathematical Skills:** The complexities of technology illustrate the profound influence of mathematics in shaping today's world. Mathematics provides a mode of thinking which enables the individual to abstract, conceptualize, reason, and communicate in numeric, symbolic, and graphic forms. To appreciate its significance and applications, students shall:
  - a. develop the numeracy and problem-solving skills necessary to function effectively and responsibly in a technological society;
  - b. learn to express observed relationships in mathematical form and reason from them; and
  - c. use and comprehend statistical data and reasoning.
4. **Technological Proficiency:** Information technologies have become an essential part of our daily lives in today's society. A well-educated individual needs to understand the various information technologies and how to use them for communication and problem solving. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop knowledge and proficiency in the use of computers and other information technologies;
  - b. understand the ethical and legal issues related to the use of technology and act responsibly and morally in their use; and
  - c. develop the ability to integrate the use of appropriate technologies into a variety of contexts and disciplines.
5. **Scientific Reasoning:** An educated Christian should understand basic scientific principles to make informed decisions and appreciate the many physical blessings God has given us. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the basic structures, forces, and systems of God's creation; and
  - b. relate scientific concepts to the challenges of the physical universe.

6. **Behavioral Analysis:** An understanding of the interaction between and among various social systems as well as the nature and behavior of persons both as individuals and in relation to others is essential to the life and development of a Christian. To this end, students shall be able to:
  - a. demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of and the differences among various political, economic, and social systems from historical and systematic perspectives;
  - b. identify the sources and functions of the institutions and systems of belief that constitute human society; and
  - c. evaluate the flow of events in the world and make ethical judgments based on knowledge and biblical principles.
  
7. **Aesthetic Sensibility:** The educated Christian should have a sensibility to the various ways in which humans have artistically represented their culture along with a knowledge of how humans have been moved to express themselves in response to social, technological, religious, political, and historical contexts in which they have lived. Knowledge of the creative endeavors of humans, however, is not in itself sufficient to stimulate creativity. Participation in the creative process allows students the opportunity to experience their world and give meaning to individual feelings and values. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop a knowledge of, appreciation for, and responsiveness to literature and the fine arts;
  - b. actively participate in aesthetic experiences as a means for formulating aesthetic judgments from a Christian perspective; and
  - c. express imagination and originality by exploring and developing God-given gifts to make application of the creative process to any field of study.
  
8. **Intellectual Diversity:** The Christian student must be open to different ways of looking at the world. Appreciation for the complexity and diversity of human experience is essential if the Christian student is to address human needs with the Gospel effectively. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural diversity; and
  - b. develop the capacity to recognize and deal with the complexity, ambiguity, and diversity in life and find ways of resolving conflicts which arise from differences.
  
9. **Wisdom:** Ultimately an educated Christian seeks to exercise wisdom in his or her life. Wisdom encompasses knowledge, reasoning ability, discernment, decision making, and proper motivation. It applies, analyzes, synthesizes, and evaluates facts and principles, methods and disciplines. To this end, students shall:
  - a. develop the ability to evaluate and make judgments based on breadth and depth of knowledge in many disciplines;
  - b. develop the ability to discern truth through a thorough understanding of God's Word; and
  - c. demonstrate in their personal lives balanced perspective, judgment, prudence, and Christian maturity.
  
10. **Leadership:** The educated Christian realizes that the translation of his/her learning into leadership in one's home, church, community, and nation is the natural outcome of a distinctively Christian liberal arts education. Effective Christian leadership begins with an attitude of humble service to Jesus Christ and active followership of the Gospel. It consists of independent and public activity based on one's abilities and willingness to take initiative. Recognizing that leadership is both a spiritual gift and practical skill, the college strives to fulfill its mission for the church and the world by empowering students to:
  - a. demonstrate faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ as their leader through regular chapel and church attendance, prayer, and Bible study;
  - b. develop leadership skills through volunteer and service activities on campus and in the community;
  - c. demonstrate the wise gifts and abilities through active Christian leadership in their families, their congregations, their communities, and in the world at large.