

Our Mission

Preamble

St. Thomas University is a small, Catholic institution whose central liberal arts program is complemented by professional programs in education and social work. St. Thomas University takes pride in and seeks to nurture its Catholic and humanistic heritage, its concern for social issues, its interaction with the community beyond the campus and its sensitivity to the needs of individual students. A strong sense of community unites its alumni, students, staff, faculty, and friends.

Mission Statement

We are a liberal arts institution whose roots are in the faith and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We continue under its sponsorship. We provide an atmosphere hospitable to faith, in which the academic study of the Roman Catholic tradition and the experience of Christian life may be pursued with respect and freedom and where non-Catholic faculty and students are recognized and supported as full and equal participants in the University community.

We are a university primarily concerned with people, ideas, and values. We are an institution with a social conscience. We are united in the belief that women and men of divergent backgrounds and abilities should have an opportunity to learn and practice critical thought and to realize their intellectual potential in an academic setting that is both responsive and stimulating.

The liberal arts, and the principles of liberal education, stand at the core of St. Thomas University. Finding new and more effective ways of studying the liberal arts is a priority. We contend that one of the roles of the University is to help people put ideas and values into action. In that belief, we offer professional programs which reflect the knowledge, methods, and values of the liberal arts disciplines.

We take pride in welcoming students who show potential, as well as those of proven ability; those who pursue a traditional academic career and those who do not; those who study part time as well as those who study full time. We want our students to succeed, to grow in self-esteem, to experience the joy of intellectual accomplishment. We provide an educational environment in which faculty are accessible, flexible, and committed to excellence in teaching. We encourage our faculty to examine teaching and learning in a critical manner. We foster scholarship and research because we recognize their role in the advancement of knowledge, and in sustaining the quality of teaching and the intellectual life of the University.

We believe that learning engages the whole person; we seek to provide an environment conducive to enriching student life. In this regard, pastoral care is of special concern. Our shared campus with the University of New Brunswick provides our students and faculty with the best of two worlds—the advantages of a small, intimate, academic community and the amenities of a much larger institution. We take full advantage of this arrangement, upholding our obligations under the affiliation agreement we have with our neighbouring institution, and seeking new avenues of cooperation and partnership beneficial to both communities.

We strive to preserve the tradition of academic freedom. We seek to provide a learning and working atmosphere that is free of discrimination, injustice, and violence, and that is responsive, understanding, open, and fair.

We see ourselves as an important community resource. We welcome the opportunity to share our facilities, talents, and expertise with others; to form partnerships with groups and organizations—whether they are next door or around the world—whose mission, goals, and objectives are in harmony with our own; and to provide cultural, religious, artistic, athletic, and social programming that enhances the quality of life of our city and our province.

The Goals of a Liberal Education at St. Thomas University

Liberal education is an inquiry into what it means to be human — a quest to understand the rational, spiritual, and aesthetic dimensions of human life. Because St. Thomas University is devoted to open-minded inquiry, it encourages a variety of disciplinary approaches to this quest.

Liberal education is more important than ever. In a culture where image and icon often short-circuit reason, liberal education seeks to free people from thoughtless adherence to the authoritative opinions of their time and place. In an age where information is prepared for massive and quick consumption, liberal education seeks to strengthen the capacity to raise fundamental questions. In an era characterized by enormous pressures to conform, liberal education seeks to inspire the imagination and engage the spirit.

At St. Thomas University, the goals of a liberal education are pursued within a humanistic and Catholic tradition. The University aims to create an academic, cultural, and social environment in which each student can develop:

1. An independent, inquiring mind.

A liberal education teaches people how to think; it does not dictate what they ought to think. It encourages, through independent reasoning and fair-minded inquiry, the recognition of unstated assumptions, the thoughtful reconsideration of received ideas, and the challenging of simplistic generalizations. The liberal arts thus explore controversial and competing ideas in ways that demand informed, careful, and considered judgment.

2. A breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding.

Through both general and specialized studies, a liberal education seeks to stimulate an understanding of the content, methods, and theoretical approaches of different disciplines, as well as a capacity to integrate knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.

3. An awareness of the perennial questions and new challenges confronting humanity.

A liberal education encourages appreciation of the variety and complexity of circumstances and human responses to them in different times and places.

4. A depth and consistency of moral judgment.

A liberal education emphasizes the seriousness and difficulty of moral and ethical issues, and the necessity of examining them thoroughly.

5. An ability to write and speak with clarity and precision.

A liberal education recognizes the connection between clear thinking and effective communication. It fosters the ability to develop sustained, well-reasoned, and clearly presented arguments.

6. A capacity and life long desire for learning.

Because liberal education is a process of questioning, rather than a set of answers, it is by definition a life long project. Liberal education seeks to create in students a love of learning and the capacity to continue their personal and intellectual development long after they have left St. Thomas University.

The Value of a Liberal Education

When considering the value of any type of education, many people wonder first of all whether it will lead to a satisfying, well-paying job. In this respect, there is no doubt — a liberal education is an excellent personal investment. Although specialists and technically trained workers will always be needed, employers are saying emphatically that they need well-educated generalists who are flexible, creative, curious, and capable of seeing the broader picture. Employers in business, industry, government, health care, and other sectors are looking for people who have learned how to learn, people with excellent communication and teamwork skills — in brief, they are looking for well-rounded, liberally educated people. The bottom line? Studies show that university education is an excellent investment in general, and that liberal arts graduates in particular have lifetime earnings as high or higher than graduates of other programs.

From a broader perspective, liberal education is valuable because a democratic society needs citizens who can think for themselves and can participate in the improvement of that society. We need to be able to understand, in a critical and independent way, the issues and structures in which we are immersed. Liberal education contributes to this understanding by making us aware of the historical and cultural contexts of modern life. Students educated in the liberal arts recognize the issues that confront us, as citizens of a democracy, here and now.

From an individual perspective, liberal education is valuable because it enables personal growth and the cultivation of our human individuality. There is, after all, more to life than a career, no matter how satisfying that career might be. As individuals, we also need the intellectual and emotional nourishment provided by the creative arts — theatre, music, literature, art. Liberal education aims to help us understand and appreciate cultures and culture in the widest sense. As such it contributes to the development of well-rounded individuals with a depth of human understanding and a high degree of personal satisfaction. Employers, in turn, put a high value on well-rounded individuals because they are the ones who make the best informed, the most “human” judgments. The value of a liberal education, in short, is that it enhances your prosperity, your society, and your humanity.

Statement of Mutual Academic Expectations of Instructors and Students

In the interest of promoting an optimal learning environment, the St. Thomas University Senate has adopted this statement of the mutual academic expectations of students and instructors. The statement articulates what we agree to be the essential elements of a strong academic culture. It thereby provides both instructors and students with an ideal of what each should be able to expect from the other in their shared quest for a successful educational experience. This document is intended to serve as a statement of principles only. For specific regulations, consult Section Five of the Calendar.

Professionalism

In a sound academic culture, both instructors and students approach their roles in a professional manner. They are familiar with and respect the policies and regulations of their courses and of the University as a whole, and strive to uphold the ideals of the Mission Statement and to realize the Goals of a Liberal Education.

Instructors are both academically competent and reasonably current in their subject matter, and are committed to applying themselves to their teaching tasks to the best of their ability. Students show the same commitment and responsibility to their studies as they would to their employment. The normal expectation is that students do at least two hours of work outside the classroom for each hour of class time. Students are committed to applying themselves to their learning tasks to the best of their ability.

Assignments and Evaluation

As professionals both instructors and students take seriously their mutual responsibilities regarding assignments and evaluation. Instructors ensure that the value of each assignment, test, or examination is clearly established in the course outline and do not alter those values without the consent of the class. They strive to ensure that they grade students in accordance with clearly stated criteria and in accordance with prevailing standards. They return student work in a timely fashion and provide adequate comments to enable students to understand the reason for the grade. Finally, instructors show flexibility in the application of deadlines when students have legitimate reasons for special consideration.

Students accept the primacy of a scheduled test or examination over travel plans or work schedules. They respect deadlines for submission of assignments, keep backup copies, and take care to deliver assignments only to appropriate places. Students make use of the instructor's comments in order to improve their performance in the future.

Conduct in the Classroom

St. Thomas University is dedicated to free and reasoned discussion, to critical debate, and to the exploration of diverse and competing ideas.

Students can expect to be encouraged to participate actively in classes, to enter into intellectual debate, and to have their contributions treated respectfully by their instructors. Instructors can expect students to attend class regularly and to come prepared to contribute effectively to the work of the class.

Students can expect their instructors to terminate verbal and other behaviour in the classroom that is not respectful of others. Instructors can expect students to cooperate in the maintenance of a climate that is free from personal intimidation, insult, and harassment.

For further information on course regulations, evaluating and grading, academic standing, academic misconduct, withdrawal procedures, and appeal procedures, please see Section Five: Regulations.

St. Thomas University's History

The origin of St. Thomas University dates back to 1910. At that time, the Most Reverend Thomas F. Barry, Bishop of Chatham, invited the Basilian Fathers of Toronto to assume charge of an institution in Chatham, New Brunswick, providing education for boys at the secondary and junior college levels. The institution was called St. Thomas College.

The Basilian Fathers remained at St. Thomas until 1923. That year the school was placed under the direction of the clergy of the Diocese of Chatham. In 1938, the Diocese of Chatham became the Diocese of Bathurst. In 1959, a section of Northumberland County, including within its territorial limits St. Thomas College, was transferred from the Diocese of Bathurst to the Diocese of Saint John.

Degree Granting Institution

From 1910 until 1934, St. Thomas College retained its original status as a High School and Junior College. It became a degree-granting institution upon receipt of a University Charter on March 9, 1934, at which time the provincial legislature of New Brunswick enacted the following:

“St. Thomas College shall be held, and taken, and is hereby declared to be a University with all and every power of such an institution, and the Board of Governors thereof shall have full power and authority to confer upon properly qualified persons the degree of Bachelor, Master, and Doctor in the several arts and faculties in the manner and upon the conditions which may be ordered by the Board of Governors.”

St. Thomas University

In 1960, an act of the provincial legislature of New Brunswick changed the name of St. Thomas College to St. Thomas University. The following year, the high school courses were eliminated from the curriculum.

In 1962, a royal commission on higher education in New Brunswick recommended that St. Thomas University enter into a federation agreement with the University of New Brunswick and relocate on the campus of the latter institution. In 1963, an agreement was drawn up between St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick. According to this agreement, St. Thomas University continues to grant its own degrees in arts and education. The agreement further provides that St. Thomas University make regulations governing student admission to courses leading to such degrees and retain control of the content and administration of its curriculum. To avoid duplication, the two universities avail themselves of various services and facilities in common; namely, the library, the bookstore, and some athletic facilities. Moreover, students from each campus benefit from the cultural activities of the other.

Growth and Development

On September 2, 1964, St. Thomas University opened its new premises in Fredericton. Since its relocation, the University has undergone significant growth in the number of students, faculty, and facilities. From fewer than 500 students, 22 faculty and 3 buildings at that time, St. Thomas has grown to more than 2400 students, 121 full-time faculty and 12 buildings.

Expansion was well planned and St. Thomas is now nationally recognized for the beauty of its campus and the quality of its learning environment. In 1964, the institution consisted of the Administration Building (now George Martin Hall), Harrington Hall (residence), and Holy Cross House (classrooms, faculty offices and residence). Vanier Hall (residence) was added in 1965; Edmund Casey Hall (classrooms and faculty offices) in 1969; a new wing to Edmund Casey Hall in 1985; Sir James Dunn Hall (student area, classrooms) in 1994, and the J.B. O’Keefe Fitness Centre and the Forest Hill Residence in 1999.

The new century saw the opening of the Welcome Centre (Admissions) and Brian Mulroney Hall (classrooms, faculty offices, and student areas) in 2001; Chatham Hall was added to the Forest Hill Residence in 2003. During that year, St. Thomas University also began leasing classroom space in a CBC broadcast facility for use by its journalism program, a unique and beneficial arrangement. Margaret Norrie McCain Hall, an academic building consisting of a large auditorium, a two-storey student study hall, and numerous classrooms and seminar rooms, opened for students in January 2007.

Leadership

In the course of its history, St. Thomas University has had thirteen presidents. Listed here, with their dates of office, they are:

Very Rev. Nicholas Roche, C.S.B.	1910-1911
Very Rev. William J. Roach, C.S.B.	1911-1919
Very Rev. Frederick Meader, C.S.B.	1920-1923
Very Rev. Raymond Hawkes	1923-1927
Most. Rev. James M. Hill, D.D.	1928-1945
Very Rev. Charles V. O’Hanley	1945-1948
Very Rev. A.L. McFadden	1948-1961
Rev. Msgr. Donald C. Duffie	1961-1975
Rev. Msgr. George W. Martin	1975-1990
Dr. Daniel W. O’Brien	1990-2006
Dr. Michael W. Higgins	2006-2009
Mr. Dennis Cochrane	2010-2011
Ms. Dawn Russell	2011-

St. Thomas University is a member of many organizations including the Association of Atlantic Universities, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada, the International Federation of Catholic Universities, the International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Royal Society of Canada.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2015 – 2016

2015

April 27	Interession begins
May 11	Baccalaureate Mass
May 12	Spring Convocation
May 18	Victoria Day – University closed
June 18	Interession ends
June 29	Summer Session begins
July 1	Canada Day – University closed
July 10	Summer Convocation
August 3	New Brunswick Day – University closed
August 7	Summer Session ends
September 5-12	Welcome Week
September 7	Labour Day
September 10	Classes begin
September 10	Opening Mass
September 18	Last day to confirm registration by arranging payment of fees
September 18	Last day to add courses
October 5	Last day to apply for November 1 Graduation
October 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed
October 17	Deadline to opt out of Health Plan
October 30	Last day to withdraw from first-semester courses without academic penalty
October 30	Last day for partial refunds of first-semester fees
November 1	Deadline to declare major
November 11	Remembrance Day – University closed
November 12	Fall Term Reading Day – no classes
November 16	Last day to apply for Spring Convocation
November 27	Last day to hold class tests in first semester
December 9	Last day of classes for first semester
December 10-13	Reading days – no classes
December 14	Christmas examinations begin
December 19	Christmas examinations end
December 21	Make-up Exam Period

2016

January 4	University opens
January 5	Classes resume
January 15	Last day to add courses
January 15	Last day to withdraw from full-year courses without academic penalty
January 15	Application deadline for BEd Programme
January 22	Celebration of Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of the University
January 29	Last day to apply for March 1 graduation
January 31	Application deadline for BSW post-degree programme
February 12	Chancellor's Day – no classes
February 26	Last day to withdraw from second-semester courses without academic penalty
February 26	Last day for partial refunds of second-semester fees
March 7-11	Mid-term break – no classes
March 18	Student Research & Ideas Fair
March 24	Last day to hold class tests in second semester
March 25-28	Easter – University closed
April 6	Last day of classes in second semester
April 7-10	Reading days – no classes
April 11	Final examinations begin
April 16	Final examinations end
April 18	Make-up Exam Period
April 25	Intersession begins
May 9	Baccalaureate Mass
May 10	Spring Convocation
May 23	Victoria Day – University closed
June 16	Intersession ends
June 27	Summer Session begins
July 1	Canada Day – University closed
July 8	Summer Convocation
August 1	New Brunswick Day – University closed
August 5	Summer Session ends

Glossary of University Terms

In reading this calendar, you are likely to find terms that are unfamiliar to you. We've prepared this glossary to help you understand terms that are frequently used at university. If there are words that are not covered in this glossary that you find confusing or difficult to understand, contact the Admissions Office or, if you are in high school, speak with your guidance counsellor.

Academic year	An academic session from September to April.
Academic probation	Conditional permission to proceed in a program.
Admission	The acceptance of an applicant as a student, allowing the student to register.
Admissions office	The office responsible for responding to inquiries on the university's programs, regulations, and admission requirements. The admissions office adjudicates applications for admission to the University, coordinates campus tours and off-campus information sessions, and generally provides information on admission procedures.
Admission requirements	Prerequisites for admission to a program; guidelines for academic success at university.
Advanced placement	The process whereby students are excused from taking a particular course, usually at the introductory level, because they have already acquired the necessary background. Unlike advanced standing, this process does not reduce the number of courses which a student must successfully complete to obtain the degree.
Advanced standing	Recognition of transfer credit for courses completed elsewhere.
Application deadline	The date by which the completed application form and all required supporting documents must be submitted to the admissions office.
Applied arts	Programs which offer the fundamentals of a liberal arts education together with "career specific" technical training and practical experience. St. Thomas University offers applied arts programs in criminal justice and gerontology.
Audit student	One who attends classes with the approval of the instructor but who does not receive course grade or credit.
Bachelor's degree	The credential awarded to students who satisfy the requirements of a four-year undergraduate program in arts, criminal justice, gerontology, Journalism, or social work, or an intensive post-baccalaureate program in education or social work.

Chair	The professor responsible for an academic Department.
Certificate of Honours	The credential which recognizes that a St. Thomas standing graduate has subsequently completed all of the current program requirements for Honours in a particular subject.
Confirmation deposit	An advance payment on tuition made at the time of admission as an indication that a candidate is accepting the admissions offer.
Continuing student	A student who was enrolled at the University during the previous academic semester and is continuing this year.
Co-requisite	A course which must be taken concurrently with another course.
Course load	A unit of study in a specific discipline or on a specific topic. The number of courses in which a student is enrolled. The normal full-time course load for undergraduate programs is 30 credit hours per academic year (September to April).
Credit hour	The value assigned to a course. A six credit-hour course is normally taught for the whole academic year (September to April). A three credit-hour course is normally taught in one semester (September to December or January to April).
Cumulative GPA	The grade point average (GPA) on all courses completed within a program.
Dean's List	A list of outstanding scholars in four-year undergraduate programs who, in the previous year at St. Thomas University, have maintained a minimum average of 3.70 (A-) on a minimum of 30 credit hours.
Department	An academic division of the faculty teaching a specific discipline.
Discipline	A subject area or branch of knowledge.
Distinction	Recognition awarded to graduates in undergraduate degree programs who attain a combined average of 3.7 over their last two academic years (60 credit hours).
Elective course	A non-compulsory course chosen by a student for which credit is given toward a program.
Exchange student	A second or third-year St. Thomas student paying St. Thomas fees while studying abroad under an exchange agreement between St. Thomas and a partner institution, or a visiting student at St. Thomas from a partner institution.
Field work	Professional work experience which students must complete in certain programs.

Full-time student	One who is enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester and who is charged full tuition fees.
Grade Point Average	The GPA is a numerical average based on grade points from equivalent letter grades.
Honours	In-depth study in a student's area of concentration within the Bachelor of Arts Program. Required for admission to most graduate schools.
Interdisciplinary studies	A selection of courses from various disciplines, but related by a clear theme or unifying principle.
Intersession	The session in May-June during which a limited number of regular credit courses are offered by St. Thomas University.
Letter of permission	A document giving official approval for a St. Thomas student to take a credit course at another university for transfer credit to a St. Thomas program.
Limited enrolment	Programs or courses that admit a limited number of students.
Major	A formally recognized area of concentration within the Bachelor of Arts Program for which students must complete specific courses. A Major is required of all students in the BA Program and normally consists of 36 credit hours.
Minor	The approved selection of courses (usually 18 credit hours) in a specific discipline within the BA Program to merit recognition as a secondary area of concentration. Minors are not required for the BA Program.
Non-degree student	One who takes credit courses as a means of demonstrating ability to succeed at the University level, as a means of satisfying the entrance requirements for a specific program, or for purposes of professional development.
Orientation	A program of academic and social activities to introduce new students to the University.
Part-time student	A student who is enrolled in a maximum of two classes (six credit hours) per semester and pays a tuition fee per course.
Post-baccalaureate	A bachelor's degree program which requires the program completion of an undergraduate degree program as a prerequisite.
Practicum	Professional work experience which students must complete in certain programs.
Prerequisite course	A course which must be completed before registering in an advanced-level course in the same or related discipline.

Registrar's office	The office responsible for overseeing all students currently taking classes at the University. The registrar's office collects student fees, records courses and marks on transcripts, advises students, schedules exams, and generally provides information on academic procedures and regulations.
Registration	The process of enrolling in specific courses. The major steps in this process are admission to the University, payment of fees, selection of courses and completion of a registration form.
Seminar	A course, usually at the advanced level, in which classes are normally small and where the focus is generally on independent research shared with other students through the presentation of papers.
Sessions	The academic periods within which courses are scheduled to begin and end. Sessions include the regular academic year (September to April), first semester (September to December), second semester (January to April), intersession (May and June), and summer session (July and August.)
Summer session	The session in July and August during which a limited number of regular credit courses are available to students.
Transcript	A document prepared by the registrar's office recording a student's entire official academic history, including courses taken and grades assigned.
Transfer student	One who has previously attended another university.
Tuition	The cost of a university course or program.
Tutorial	Instruction given to students individually or in small groups.
Undergraduate student	One enrolled in a first university degree.
Visiting student	One who is taking courses for credit transfer to another university, usually with a letter of permission.