

The background of the entire page is a photograph. On the left, there are out-of-focus autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. On the right, a dark grey bell tower structure is visible, featuring four white bells hanging vertically. The tower is set against a backdrop of dense trees with vibrant autumn foliage.

# Student Engagement

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LIGHTING THE WAY  
IN THE  
ASSUMPTIONIST  
TRADITION

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE





## How does a Catholic college impact students in their daily lives?



The Augustinians of the Assumption founded Assumption College in 1904, and its mission has been consistent since the beginning. Assumption, rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, strives to form graduates known for critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service.

Student Affairs staff support that mission throughout the residential and cocurricular aspects of student life. We plan and implement programs around a core set of principles so that we can light the way for Assumption students to achieve their full personal and academic potential.

The bell tower in front of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit has five bells that ring across campus. Our five principles do the same. We are very clear about our identity, which is grounded in the values and teaching of Catholicism, and, as a Catholic college, we believe that each student should be encouraged to explore and understand his or her personal faith tradition.

College is a time of tremendous personal growth for students. We look forward to working with each and every student at Assumption College as we grow together.

Warmest regards,

Catherine WoodBrooks

Vice President for Student Affairs



## PRINCIPLE 1



# Community

Assumption College seeks to foster friendships among students that help individuals grow, and become better family members, thoughtful citizens, participants in communities of faith, and stewards of the earth.

*“Love that is bold and daring is rare today, but that’s the kind of love that should define us.”*

Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon, founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption,  
Closing Address to the Chapter of 1868, in ES p. 138

Ninety percent of our students live on campus for all four years, and develop a strong sense of community. Respect and thoughtfulness are identified as community standards among the students, staff and faculty.

Resident Assistants get to know the students, and encourage active involvement in the residence halls and campus clubs and organizations. Assumptionists also live in a number of the residence halls, providing an active presence at events, as well as being available to students for spiritual direction. Faculty members facilitate “interest circles” and host “dessert and dialogue” programs in residence halls.



*“Being a Resident Assistant has opened new doors for me. It taught me to be a positive role model for the rest of my life. ‘Once an RA, always an RA.’ ”*

Sonny Choun ‘14



*“START Retreats allowed me to have conversations about faith with students of all different backgrounds. I made friends with people I didn’t know prior to the experience, and the retreats expanded my strong sense of community at Assumption.”*

Jay Williams ‘13



## PRINCIPLE 2

# Contemplation

Assumption College provides students with opportunities to open their minds, thoughtfully reflect on their experiences, and grow in the spirit of gratitude and generosity.

*“To seek the highest good is to live well.”*

St. Augustine

The heart of an Assumptionist education is the rich and productive relationship between teacher and student. This relationship is built upon the convictions that *truth* exists; that its pursuit orients *love*; that *tradition*, coupled with a fundamental openness, guides; and that *faith* sustains it.

Assumption College has developed programs that encourage our students to take the time to search their souls. The SEND Service Programs during winter, spring and summer breaks immerse students in different cultures, countries and economically challenged communities. Beyond learning through the good works they perform, students reflect daily on their experiences with the faculty and staff who accompany them.

As a Catholic college, we understand the importance of helping students integrate faith and reason. The *SOPHIA* (Sophomore Initiative at Assumption) encourages students to identify and focus on their personal, professional, and spiritual goals in light of their own talents and desires and the needs of the world and its many peoples.

Presentations and discussions like our *Faith and Culture Dialogues* and *Racial Healing Dialogues* help students to process complex social issues in light of Catholic teachings. Other topics that have generated discussion include gender roles and attitudes, political perspectives, altruism and civil liberties. Whether students attend retreats, weekly prayer or daily Mass, they are provided with opportunities to step back, think, pray and grow as human beings.



### PRINCIPLE 3

## Longing for God

Assumption College encourages the development of a more fully formed conscience that will enable our graduates to lead a virtuous life, preparing them for a pursuit of truth that will last a lifetime.

*“You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”*

St. Augustine

Faith formation begins at home and is championed at Assumption. The deepening of knowledge and expansion of life experiences reinforce and enhance the Catholic faith, as well as other faith traditions. Students engage in dialogue inside and outside the classroom about what it means to live a life guided by one’s faith and personal convictions, and, through this discussion, deepen their relationship with God.

In a recent survey, 90 percent of Assumption students were familiar with campus programs that allowed them to strengthen their religious commitment. Men’s and women’s Bible studies, candlelight prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and interfaith dialogue are just a few of the opportunities for greater spiritual connection. Daily Mass, Chapel choir and retreats provide students with opportunities to form a deeper, more personal connection with God and a greater appreciation of their faith. Leadership training ties together personal integrity and the traditional moral values that are the foundation of Christianity.



*“Campus Ministry has allowed my faith to develop into something real in my life that I can practice on a daily basis. As a member of the Campus Ministry Core Team, I have grown to understand the strength that comes from faith and the importance of living out the message of love for and acceptance of others.”*

Ashley Januszewski '13





## PRINCIPLE 4



# Vocation

Assumption College works with students to help them identify what God is calling them to and to make thoughtful life choices.

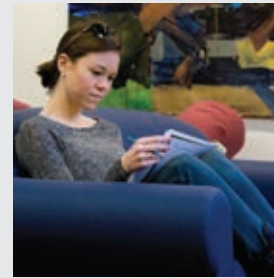
*"...intelligence is not in the quantity of things learned, but in the broadening of one's mind and character by the possession of the truth that extensive learning brings."*

St. Marie Eugenie Milleret, foundress of The Religious of the Assumption

Assumption recognizes that we all have vocations – mother, father, businessperson, social worker, teacher, lawyer, doctor, priest... The list goes on. The Assumption educational experience broadens the mind to achieve "the good life," and guides the heart to lead "a good life."

The Career Development and Internship Center's (CDIC) Career And Lifelong Learning (CALL) Program assists first- and second-year students with making academic and career choices and building their connections at Assumption. During junior and senior year, the CDIC advises on career, graduate school, and post-graduate service opportunities. Our commitment to vocation enables students to develop personally, professionally, socially, and spiritually.

Assumption offers student leaders training seminars to help them be more effective in their roles on campus, which also translates to valued skills after graduation. Guided by the principles of servant leadership such as empowerment, awareness, stewardship and conceptualization, students become more responsible within the campus community in which they live and thrive, and later in the broader community.



*"By realizing that God has a plan for me in all that I do – whether it's being the leader of a group, supporting a friend, or taking advantage of the many opportunities that Assumption has to offer – I can always find a purpose in every situation."*

Megan Evangelista '13





## PRINCIPLE 5



# Mission to Serve

Assumption College encourages students to take bold action that reflects a generous heart and compassion for others.

*“We wish to share the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the men and women of our time, especially of the poor and of all ‘those who hunger and thirst for justice’ (Mt5:6).”*

Assumptionist Rule of Life, #14

Service is a key element of the Assumption educational experience. Its role in the curriculum is clearly articulated through the College’s Community Service Learning (CSL) classes and the CSL minor. The Reach Out Center coordinates hundreds of student volunteers at social service agencies and schools around Worcester, contributing tens of thousands of hours toward the betterment of the community. Student-athletes host numerous activities throughout the year to support various organizations. Campus Ministry coordinates SEND immersion trips, through which students provide community service around the country and the globe.

The Reach Out Center takes a proactive role in making these community connections and helping students gain the leadership skills to be valued members of these agencies. The community service spirit continues long past graduation. You’ll find our graduates in education, social service agencies, parishes and hospitals – as employees and as volunteers.

Alongside faculty and staff, students serve on boards like the Social Justice Committee and engage in programs that focus on issues such as life and human dignity, fair trade practices, and homelessness and hunger.

Through these experiences, students are prepared to address global issues of mercy and compassion as young alumni, and many of them participate in a year of service immediately following graduation through organizations like: the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption (AMA), Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC), AmeriCorps, and Teach for America.



*“The SEND immersion trips have shown me the importance of living with a compassionate heart through service to others. Volunteering through the Reach Out Center and Habitat for Humanity has helped me to see the world through another person’s perspective and to feel true empathy for them. It was through these experiences that I understand the meaning of love, selflessness, and how a person can make a difference in this world.”*

William Rein '14







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