Sacred Heart University Mission Statement

Sacred Heart University is a coeducational, independent, comprehensive institution of higher learning in the Catholic intellectual tradition whose primary objective is to prepare men and women to live in and make their contributions to the human community.

The University aims to assist in the development of people knowledgeable of self, rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to social and civic obligations, and able to respond to an ever-changing world. It does this by calling forth the intellectual potential of its students, nurturing each one's spiritual and moral growth, and deepening in them a sense of social responsibility. The University is committed to combining education for life with preparation for professional excellence.

Sacred Heart University is Catholic in tradition and spirit. As a Catholic university, it seeks to play its appropriate role in the modern world. It exemplifies in its life the Judeo-Christian values of the God-given freedom and dignity of every human person. Inspired by the ecumenical spirit of the Second Vatican Council, Sacred Heart University welcomes men and women of all religious traditions and beliefs who share its concerns for truth, scholarship, the dignity of the human person, freedom, and the betterment of human society. It values religious diversity as enhancing the University community and creating opportunities for dialogue in the common search for truth. Through its curricular and co-curricular activities and campus ministry programs, the University provides the context in which students have the opportunity to appropriate in a critical fashion their own religious traditions.

Sacred Heart University challenges its students to think critically, analyze carefully, evaluate with a sense of justice and proportion, and convey conclusions in an intelligible and articulate fashion. The University provides the environment in which its students can develop the aesthetic dimension of life by nurturing their abilities to imagine, create, and appreciate. It assists students to acquire a rich understanding of their own cultural and family heritages so as to assume their responsibilities as conveyors and creators of culture and family.

As a community of teachers and scholars, Sacred Heart University exists for the pursuit of truth. It joins with other colleges and universities in the task of expanding human knowledge and deepening human understanding. It encourages and supports the scholarly and artistic work of its faculty and students. Further, it has a responsibility to share its resources and its special gifts and talents for the betterment of the human community. All members of the University community are encouraged strongly to participate in the wider community through service to others, especially the poor.

From its founding, the University has been recognized for its caring approach to students. This expresses the University's belief that each student is born with a unique set of qualities and skills. It respects the personal and academic freedom of each of its members while, at the same time, fostering a genuine experience of community. By so doing, it creates the environment in which each person in the University shares in common goals and a common commitment to truth, justice, and concern for others.
Mission and Purpose

Sacred Heart University's fundamental mission is to assist in the development of human beings and of society by preparing its students to live in and make their contributions to the global community.

The University's Strategic Plan represents the institution’s ambitious ideas and prioritized initiatives to achieve its goal of becoming a leading, comprehensive, Catholic university that fulfills its mission in an international context. The Strategic Plan is a way for the members of Sacred Heart University to live out the mission, shaping decisions that impact key aspects of University life and prioritizing competing goods. The University is committed to:

1. Nurturing the full human growth, intellectual development, and professional preparation of its students;
2. Fostering student learning;
3. Searching for truth; and
4. Serving the larger community, Church and society.

In addition, the University affirms its special responsibility to provide educational and learning opportunities to economically disadvantaged people, especially in Fairfield County.

Core Values

The core values of Sacred Heart University are its guiding principles. They define what the University stands for and are, therefore, of intrinsic value to the University community. Flowing from its Catholic tradition, the University’s core values are the following:

- Preservation, transmission, and development of the Catholic intellectual and the liberal arts traditions;
- Commitment to excellence in all that we do;
- Pursuit of truth and knowledge as intrinsically valuable;
- Promotion of the common good of society; and
- Recognition of the dignity and worth of every human being.

These core values guide the University’s operating practices, business strategies, and cultural norms. Sacred Heart University is committed to these values for the long term.