Spalding University boilerplate description

**Spalding University Mission Statement and Activities** (2,000 characters)

In 1814, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCNs) founded a school for girls on the American frontier. Chartered in 1829 as Nazareth Academy, the school was located near Bardstown, Kentucky, until 1920, at which time, the SCNs opened Nazareth College as a second campus in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1921, the original campus was renamed Nazareth Junior College, and the Louisville campus became the first four-year institution in Kentucky to award baccalaureate degrees to women. In 1973 the College was incorporated as an independent, urban, coeducational institution in the Catholic tradition for students of all faiths. In 1984, in recognition of the wide range of programs offered, the institution was designated Spalding University.

Today, Spalding University is a private, independent, non-profit institution of higher education located within the heart of downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Our vibrant, inner-city community of students, faculty, and staff share a commitment to the university’s mission:

“Spalding University is a diverse community of learners dedicated to meeting the needs of the times in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth through quality undergraduate and graduate liberal and professional studies, grounded in spiritual values, with emphasis on service and the promotion of peace and justice.”

As one of the most diverse, private, four-year colleges or universities in Kentucky, Spalding offers professional certificates and degree programs at the associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels. Spalding’s total fall enrollment for Academic Year 2020-21 was 1,596 students; nearly 30 percent of all students identified as people of color or underrepresented minorities; 24 percent were first-generation college students; 43 percent of all undergraduates were eligible for federal Pell grants reserved for financially needy students; and 99 percent of first-time, full-time students received some form of financial aid or institutional support.

**Current Mission and Structure** (7,500 characters)

Spalding University is a private, independent, non-profit institution of higher education located within the heart of downtown Louisville, Kentucky and a vibrant, inner-city community of learning and scholarship where students, faculty, and staff provide over 330,000 service hours annually through a shared commitment to the university’s mission statement:

“Spalding University is a diverse community of learners dedicated to meeting the needs of the times in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth through quality undergraduate and graduate liberal and professional studies, grounded in spiritual values, with emphasis on service and the promotion of peace and justice.”

Spalding University represents a legacy of education established in 1814 by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCNs) as one of the most diverse, private, four-year college or university in Kentucky. It was the Commonwealth’s first four-year institution to award baccalaureate degrees to women. Located in the downtown Louisville Metro since 1920, Spalding has been continuously accredited since 1938 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Spalding is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution that aspires to become the first choice of students who value compassion and seek to engage in exceptional opportunities for community-based initiatives and experiential service-learning.

The university offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in liberal and professional studies to a diverse student population, many of whom are from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and are the first in their families to attend a four-year university. Spalding’s total fall enrollment for Academic Year (AY) 2020-21 was 1,596 students (855 undergraduates), as reported to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); nearly 30 percent of all students identified as people of color or underrepresented minorities (URMs); 24 percent were first-generation college students; five percent of undergraduate students were registered with Spalding’s Office of Accessibility Services as having a documented disability; 43 percent of all undergraduates were eligible for federal Pell grants reserved for financially needy students; and 99 percent of first-time, full-time students received some form of financial aid or institutional support. Many Spalding University undergraduates go on to pursue graduate and advanced professional degrees at Spalding; thus, undergraduate and graduate student populations display similar demographics and levels of financial need.

Spalding is distinguished by its diversity, emulated for the success of its interdisciplinary curricula and community partnerships, and is highly regarded for its faculty’s ability to train students with the cultural humility needed to work on behalf of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Each year, Spalding’s students, faculty, and staff volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours of service in partnership with over 300 local community-based agencies and nonprofits, and many graduates go on to serve in Medically Underserved Communities (MUCs), Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps), and in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Spalding’s service-oriented learning environment not only increases student interest in educational attainment, but positions Spalding as a key contributor in growing the regional skilled behavioral and health care workforce: nearly three-quarters of Spalding students remain within the Louisville Metro and surrounding counties post-graduation.

Spalding University welcomes students, faculty, staff, and administrators who are diverse in age, experience, intellect, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and culture. The university encourages all individuals to become members of the academic community, and for over 200 years, Spalding has been, and continues to be, an institution committed to providing innovative curricula and programs that address evolving educational and societal needs. This includes a dedicated commitment on behalf of the university to educate students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

A leader in serving underrepresented populations in higher education – offering formal degrees to women at a time when it was a rarity, and later admitting people of color while many institutions remained segregated – Spalding University continues to invest in its tradition of reaching diverse and deserving individuals of promise by providing over $5 million in merit scholarships and direct institutional aid to students each academic year. Additionally, Spalding is committed to serving students whose potential for success and drive to grow through education may be greater than their academic preparation or economic ability, and the university has developed an institutional model that works with each student independently to build upon their individual capabilities and equip them to compete both professionally and academically. Spalding also receives Title III waiver status from the Department of Education, which indicates that a substantial number of students qualify for need-based financial support.

Through its mission to cultivate a compassionate community of learners, Spalding University is devoted to progressive standards of academic scholarship, service-work, and seeks to provide immersive instructional methods that are tailored to each individual student’s capacity for success both academically and professionally. Opportunities for experiential, interdisciplinary learning are an exceptional asset unique to Spalding in its style of educational preparation of students for meaningful careers of service, and many of its undergraduate and graduate degree programs focus on professional preparation that is also based in a liberal arts tradition.

In academic year (AY) 2003-04, Spalding implemented an innovative six-week session format for traditional undergraduates, which allows students to immerse themselves in one or two subjects per session throughout a seven-session academic year. At the advanced and professional levels, curricula follow a hybrid format where instructional delivery is equally traditional, experiential, and available online for the convenience of working professionals. Graduate and doctoral programs vary according to discipline and are delivered in session, semester, or in weekend-only formats that utilize both rolling and traditional admissions processes. Spalding has a low student-to-faculty ratio (12:1) and is accredited to award associate, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees in programs that include accounting; athletic training; business; communication; creative writing; education; fine arts; health science; liberal studies; natural science; nursing; occupational therapy; psychology; and social work. Spalding’s academic programs are complemented by over 25 student organizations and clubs, opportunities to participate in NCAA Division III athletics, undergraduate internships, and service learning.

Spalding University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and recently completed its 10-year accreditation status review. The final on-site visit by SACSCOC committee representatives was conducted in March 2017 and was concluded without any negative findings reported to university leadership.