

Spring Hill College
Quality Enhancement Plan

Title: Pathways to Purpose

Institution: Spring Hill College

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Executive Summary

Pathways to Purpose is an interdisciplinary and campus-wide program to create and promote a culture of vocational discernment at Spring Hill College. “Vocational discernment” resonates with the College’s mission as a Jesuit, Catholic institution. Through Pathways to Purpose, the College encourages students to

1. Ask and explore fundamental questions of vocation;
2. Integrate and make sense of those moments during their college experience when students feel called, purposeful, or inspired; and
3. Demonstrate an understanding of vocational discernment as an ongoing process.

Pathways to Purpose supports programs and activities – both curricular and co-curricular – that engage students, faculty, and staff in asking fundamental questions of vocation, purpose, and meaning. Examples of Pathways to Purpose programs include the following:

- Introduction to vocational discernment: As part of the College’s first-year seminar program, all new students are introduced vocational discernment as a life-long process.
- Curricular integration: Pathways to Purpose provides course development grants for faculty members to integrate fundamental questions of purpose and meaning into their course readings, discussions, and activities. In making grants, Pathways to Purpose gives priority to courses that satisfy the College’s core curriculum requirements.
- Sophomore Dinner: Offered each Fall during the first week of classes, the Sophomore Dinner celebrates the students’ success as first-year students and challenges them to plan intentionally for the next 3 years on campus.
- Student Retreat on Vocation: Open to sophomore and junior students of all majors, the Student Retreat on Vocation is offered at several times each semester. This one-night retreat away from campus focuses on exploring ideas about vocation, multiple purposes in life, and our roles in community.
- Vocational Meal: Faculty, staff, and students meet in the College’s dining hall several times each semester for informal conversations on meaning and purpose.
- Faculty/Staff Retreat on Vocation: At the end of each academic year, faculty and staff members reflect on their own vocations during an off-campus retreat.