



Hannah Voss '18
Rhodes Scholar Finalist
Honors Program



PROGRAMS OF
Distinction

Presidential and Dean's Scholars
Gregorian Fellows Leadership Program
Honors Program
Dr. Wangari Maathai STEM Fellows
Constitutional Fellows



To be distinguished is to be set apart, to rise above the status quo through hard work and attention to detail. The distinguished seek experiences that will sharpen knowledge while whittling away at weaknesses. Determination drives the distinguished to be the best — not next year, not later on today, right now.

The Programs of Distinction at Benedictine College are comprised of high-achieving scholars seeking greatness in their fields and beyond. Each program has a specific focus, but the same universal purpose: to provide additional academic avenues of growth and formation to exceptional students.



Presidential and Dean's Scholarships

Each year, 15 outstanding students are awarded full-tuition and three-quarter-tuition scholarships. Presidential and Dean's Scholars become leaders on campus and participate in campus-wide events supporting the college's liberal arts pillar.

Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.5
- Minimum 27 ACT, 1260 SAT, or 84 CLT
- Scholars must maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA in order to renew their scholarship each year

Application

- Online registration opens November 30
- Presidential Scholars Weekend: Early February

Read more about the program at [Benedictine.edu/presidential](https://www.benedictine.edu/presidential)

Competition

- **Presidential Scholars Weekend:** Each February the best and the brightest high school seniors from across the country are invited to participate in Presidential Scholars Weekend. Competitors complete an on-site essay based on 3–5 prompts and a 20-minute interview with two faculty members, administrators, or board members.

Program Highlights

- **Discovery Research Project:** Presidential Scholars individually participate in a yearly collaborative research project through the Discovery Program.
- **Great Books Forum:** Presidential Scholars host a Great Books Forum each semester in which faculty discuss a piece of literature that has influenced their career and life.
- **Faculty Fireside Chats:** Presidential Scholars host discussions each semester in which faculty discuss topics of interest in their respective discipline(s).
- **Service to the Common Good:** Presidential Scholars contribute to the surrounding culture through ongoing projects within the local community.

Benefits

- **Presidential Scholarship:** The 10 Presidential Scholars are the recipients of a full-tuition scholarship, renewable for four years (five if enrolled in a qualified five-year program).
- **Dean's Scholarship:** The five Dean's Scholars are the recipients of a three-quarter-tuition scholarship, renewable for four years (five if enrolled in a qualified five-year program).



Gregorian Fellows Leadership Program

The Gregorian Fellows Leadership Program provides students with the enduring principles and cutting-edge practices leaders need. Fellows meet national Catholic leaders, travel, and become leaders on campus.

Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.2
- Minimum 27 ACT, 1260 SAT, or 84 CLT
- Students who do not meet the academic requirements, but who have an extensive leadership résumé, may be considered for acceptance into the program

Application

- Only 25 program applicants accepted each year
- Submit online application and a leadership/community involvement résumé
- Deadline: December 15

Read more about the program at Benedictine.edu/gregfellows

Program Highlights

- **Retreat:** In their first year, Fellows take part in a Fellows-only retreat that consists of academic and practical components.
- **Presidential Roundtable:** Fellows meet with the President of the College and his Cabinet for an understanding of how leadership works within the college.
- **Distinguished Speaker Series:** Fellows attend on-campus lectures delivered by accomplished scholars and leaders who are experts in their fields or organizations.
- **Mentoring/Coaching:** Every Fellow has an opportunity for one-on-one mentoring and coaching with professional staff members.
- **Campus Involvement:** Fellows are required to join a campus club or organization to both observe peer leadership and to serve an active role on campus and/or in the community.
- **Fellows Workshops:** Fellows learn specific competencies to assist them in their effectiveness as leaders in society and for the Church. Workshops include networking skills, rhetoric, public speaking, time management, true vs. false freedom, team dynamics, crucial conversations, and leading in the Catholic approach.
- **Leadership Courses:** Fellows take two courses during their freshman year – GS-1650 Leadership and Organizational Change and GS-1700 Leadership: Visions and Values.

Benefits

- **Leadership Focus:** Gregorians learn about enduring and contemporary leadership principles.
- **Study Abroad:** Students in the Programs of Distinction receive priority consideration for the College's Florence program.
- **Access to Speakers:** The Gregorians sponsor prestigious speakers for the entire Benedictine community. Students in the program have the opportunity to meet with these speakers personally.
- **Special Recognition:** Students who complete their four years as Gregorians are recognized in the program at commencement.
- **Grant:** Gregorians receive a \$2,000 grant for educational purposes.



“There is nothing more influential than an individual devoted to leading through the lens of our beautiful Catholic identity – this is what has been enriched within me through the Gregorian Fellows Leadership Program.”

Victoria Krogh '21
Atlantic, Iowa



“The Honors Program has done more than enrich my academics and challenge me to reach new heights . . . I have found friends that share my passion for learning, asking interesting questions, and engaging fully with the world around us.”

Hannah Voss '18
San Antonio, Texas



Honors Program

Honors Scholars receive a challenging education that academically distinguishes them and is recognized at commencement. Highlights include the Honors Retreat, Curriculum and Experiential Component.

Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.75
- Minimum 29 ACT, 1330 SAT, or 89 CLT

Application

- Only 24 program applicants accepted each year
- Submit online application and required essays
- Deadline: December 15

Read more about the program at [Benedictine.edu/honors](https://www.benedictine.edu/honors)

Program Highlights

- **Week-Long Retreat:** Students in the Honors Program arrive a week before the beginning of the school year for an academic retreat, and participate in seminar discussions and area cultural excursions.
- **Core Curriculum:** The Honors Program curriculum begins with the academic retreat (which fulfills the BC Experience requirement) which includes the Honors English Research Seminar, an Honors section of Christian Moral Life, and Philosophy of Nature.
- **Further Coursework:** The curriculum of the Honors Program continues with four courses of further study, either from the Great Books sequence or from a changing selection of “Honors Approved Courses,” writing-intensive courses with a maximum enrollment of 16 students. Students in course-heavy, professional programs have the option of fulfilling this requirement through individualized study.
- **Senior Capstone Course:** The Honors Program curriculum culminates in a capstone course during senior year on a theme selected in consultation with Honors students and the professor on an enduring question regarding how we should live.

Benefits

- **Belonging:** Students in the Honors Program Begin college with a close community gathered around academic excellence.
- **Academic Focus:** Honors is not an extracurricular activity, but a way to engage a course of study more intensely.
- **Access to Speakers:** Honors sponsors prestigious speakers for the entire Benedictine community. Students in the program have the opportunity to meet with these speakers as a group.
- **Academic Mentorship:** Students meet with the Dean of the College to foster a spirit of intellectual leadership, and work closely with a faculty mentor for their senior project.
- **Special Recognition:** Students in the Honors Program receive special recognition at commencement.
- **Senior Project Grant:** Honors students receive a \$2,000 grant for their senior project.



Dr. Wangari Maathai

STEM Fellows

STEM Fellows provides professional development for talented students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, Astronomy, and Psychology.

Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.5
- Minimum 27 ACT, 1260 SAT, or 84 CLT
- Major in a STEM field
- Desire to pursue a career in a STEM field

Application

- Submit online application, required essay, and a letter of recommendation
- Deadline: December 15

Read more about the program at Benedictine.edu/stemfellows

History & Mission

- Benedictine College is the only Catholic college in America to boast of an alumna who is a Nobel Peace Laureate. Dr. Wangari Maathai '64 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy and peace. This fellowship honors her legacy.

Program Highlights

- **Seminars:** Freshmen and Sophomore STEM Fellows engage regional STEM professionals in seminars focused on career development and professional habits of mind.
- **Fellowship:** Fellows are required to join a STEM-oriented campus club or organization and participate in two STEM-related outreach events per year.
- **Faculty Mentored Research/Projects:** Junior STEM Fellows will work with faculty from their respective fields to develop professional proposals. Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis for funding (up to \$2000) to support senior fellows research/projects. Seniors will present their findings in a public event during their final semester at Benedictine College.

About Dr. Wangari Maathai

Benedictine College is the only Catholic college in America to boast of an alumna who is a Nobel Peace Laureate. Dr. Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy and peace. The native of Kenya graduated from Atchison's Mount St. Scholastica College, now Benedictine College, with a degree in biological science in 1964. She went on to become Africa's first female Ph.D. and is the first African woman to be awarded any Nobel Prize.





“Dr. Wangari Maathai ’64 serves as a model of how a scientist, trained within a Benedictine, liberal arts tradition, can apply that training to solve problems and make the world a better place.”

Dr. Terry Malloy, ’95

Professor and Chair of the Biology Department



Constitutional Fellows

The mission of the Center for Constitutional Liberty, the sponsoring organization of the Fellows, is to renew and advance understanding of the founding principles of the United States of America so that our nation's unique experiment in self-government will inspire, inform and direct new generations of Americans.

Eligibility

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.5
- Minimum 27 ACT, 1260 SAT, or 84 CLT
- Students who do not meet the academic requirements may be considered for acceptance on the strength of their essay

Eligibility

- Submit online application and required essay
- Deadline: December 15

Read more about the program at Benedictine.edu/constitutionalfellows

Program Highlights

- **Seminar:** Fellows attend weekly seminars comprised of lecture, discussion and distinguished speakers focused on the founding principles of America, Constitutional liberty, civic virtue, self-government and free speech.
- **Moot Court/Debate Program:** Fellows have the opportunity to participate in moot court and debate competition teams.
- **D.C. Internship Stipend:** Fellows who complete an independent research project or participate in moot court/debate will be eligible to apply for a stipend their junior/senior year for an internship in Washington, D.C. focused on public policy, law, or Constitutional liberty.
- **Distinguished Speaker Series:** Several times a year, the Center hosts distinguished scholars, public officials, writers and public intellectuals to speak at the College on issues of import to Constitutional liberty.
- **Conference:** The Center will host an annual academic conference.
- **Podcasts:** The Center conducts periodic video podcast discussions with scholars and speakers that are published on the College website and on the Center's YouTube channel.
- **Fellowship:** Fellows attend monthly social gatherings.
- **Recommended Course Track:** Fellows are provided a list of recommended inter-disciplinary courses that supplement the mission of the Center.

Benefits

- **Fellows will study and engage issues of Constitutional liberty within an inter-disciplinary context, including Political Science, History, Economics, Journalism, and Philosophy.** The Fellows program provides students interested in careers in law, public policy/government, or academia the critical thinking, speaking and debating skills necessary for success in these fields.
- **Independent Research:** Fellows will complete, by their senior year, an independent research project on an issue pertaining to Constitutional liberty, self-government or public policy.
- **Certificate of Completion:** Upon successful completion of the program, Fellows are awarded, upon graduation from the College, a Constitutional Fellow Certificate of Completion.

Other Enrichment Opportunities



Great Books Curriculum

Great Books scholars study the foundational works of Western thought in classes open to all majors, in a seminar environment. *Best College Reviews* named Benedictine's one of "The 25 Best Great Books Programs" in America.



National Merit Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Program provides full-tuition scholarships to any National Merit Finalist who is accepted to Benedictine College.



Koch Research Fellows

Through the program, fellows are connected to policy and research roles at more than 80 think tanks and non-profit organizations around the country.



Discovery Program

In collaborative Discovery projects with faculty, students develop valuable research skills and real-world experience. Findings are presented at the annual college-wide Discovery Day Symposium in April.



Student International Business Council

This student-run council, founded at Notre Dame, offers projects across its five divisions: Accounting, Consulting, Finance, Marketing, and Social Entrepreneurship.



Enactus

Students lead projects and participate in meaningful work, practicing their entrepreneurial, economic, and business skills for the benefit of others.



The Cray Center for Entrepreneurship

Student-led businesses include Holy Grounds Coffee Shop and the Raven School of Dance.



All-Steinway School

One of only 172 such schools nationwide, the college music department uses only Steinway & Sons pianos, kept in climate-controlled conditions, demonstrating Benedictine College's commitment to excellence in the arts.



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