

Statement of Purpose: Undergraduate Education

(Approved May 2011; revisions approved by the General Education Committee, approved by the Senate November 2017)

The mission of Samford University is to nurture persons in their development of intellect, creativity, faith, and personhood. As a Christian university, the community fosters academic, career, and ethical competency while encouraging social and civic responsibility, and service to others.

Samford seeks to graduate students of vision and thoughtfulness who will lead productive lives as engaged members of their communities. Such engagement requires a lifetime of listening and thinking and a willingness to learn long after the last exam. To nurture these habits of mind, Samford offers students opportunities for intellectual growth both inside and outside the classroom.

The academic study at the heart of this effort begins in the liberal arts tradition of critical reflection that transcends any one department or major. The General Education Core Curriculum provides its foundation with courses that require students to read challenging works and place them in conversation with each other, to write and speak confidently and persuasively, to analyze the depth of biblical scholarship and tradition, and to cultivate health and wellness.

The General Education Distribution Requirements sustain this intellectual growth by introducing diverse approaches to exploring our shared humanity, our relationships with each other and the creation that is our home. The Distribution Requirements invite students to learn new ways to understand their places in a complex world while encouraging them to apply the results of their academic inquiries to larger questions of meaning and value.

Undergraduate education culminates in a major field of study that students select to advance their knowledge and hone their skills in a field closely related to their interests and goals. Immersion in this field builds on the General Education Curriculum by developing the command of the content and methods for a particular discipline.

Outside the classroom, a broad range of co-curricular programs seeks to foster students' academic, emotional, social and spiritual lives within the context of a Christian community. Convocation and community service help integrate faith and learning. Student organizations, including sororities, fraternities, and campus ministries, provide leadership opportunities.

So educated, the graduates of Samford embark on lives of significance, marked by a maturing appreciation of their personal, religious, social, vocational, and ethical responsibilities.