VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

WHAT IS VOCATION?

Vocation gives our lives an overarching purpose, it is something that organizes our lives and so gives life meaning. Our vocations are built on our core values but also upon our relationship to the world. Vocation is a matter of how our gifts, talents, and interests match up to the needs of the communities in which we live. The search for our vocation is the search for a life that is fulfilling – both for ourselves and for the world.

> Vocation is the kinds of lives we seek to live and the kinds of people we want to be in relation to the communities in which we live and serve.

Vocation focuses on how we live our lives rather than what we do with them. Vocation asks us to explore our **values**, what matters to us, our **purpose**, how we will positively impact the world, and the **community**, the individuals and networks we will serve.

WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

Discernment implies the search for truth and the ability to think broadly about what is right and what is wrong. Discernment requires us to listen closely to ourselves and the world, to understand the needs of our communities and to hear a call. The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus say:

> Discernment is a learning process that involves the cooperations of human beings who try to relate their lives, talents, and resources to God's priorities.

Discernment is a constantly developing skill that we will never master. Discernment can be applied in all areas of life, not just in the search for vocation and purpose.

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Forming leaders engaged in learning, faith, justice, and service for life.

PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

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PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

Pathways to Purpose is Spring Hill College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The overarching goal of the program is to create and promote a culture of vocational discernment at Spring Hill College. Additionally, Pathways to Purpose focuses on creating experiences and opportunities for students to ask and explore questions of vocation, integrate and make sense of moments they feel purposeful or called, and understand that vocational discernment is an ongoing process.

PROGRAMS

GUIDEBOOK

The Guidebook for Vocational Discernment is designed to help students navigate through four years of college as they search for meaning, fulfillment, purpose, and prepare for life after college. The Guidebook offers advice from faculty, staff, and students across Spring Hill who outline best practices for self-discovery, personal values, gifts and skills, and making an impact on the world.

EXPLORE VOCATION RETREAT

The Student Retreat on Vocation is an overnight retreat offered twice per year. Co-facilitated by students, faculty, and staff, the retreat invites Sophomore and Junior students to attend twenty-four hours of activities designed to deepen understandings of vocation and purpose as they relate to the self.

CURRICULUM

Courses focused on applying vocational discernment to academic disciplines are offered across the curriculum. Students have the opportunity to explore their purpose and engage in discernment from an academic lens.

VOCATION LUNCHES

Each month a Vocation Lunch takes place in the Dining Hall where faculty and staff members invite students to join them for a casual lunch focused on topics of purpose, meaning, and varying paths on the road to vocation.

SMALL GROUPS

Any SHC student or employee can create a small group focused on topics of vocation. Groups vary from a focus on specific careers or industries to faculty groups developing pedagogy to students exploring their discipline through academic conference attendance.

SOPHOMORE DINNER

Each fall the entire sophomore class is invited to a campuse-wide dinner celebrating their acheivements and looking to the future of their time on campus. All sophomores are encouraged to invite a faculty or staff member who made a positive impact on their first year.

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