Why Aquinas? Why Now?
Since our official founding in 1961, Aquinas College has been many things to many people: a school, a family, a place to focus on faith and prepare for professional success.

Over the last half-century, we have grown from a small commuter school to a residential institution of higher education; we now find ourselves poised to become a nationally recognized Catholic college known for our Dominican approach to higher education. We have a solid plan to reach our goals and a vision for how our growth will serve the Church and society in the future.

All we need is you.
In a sense, Aquinas College is building on a strong foundation and preparing to truly grow into the unique space we have carved for ourselves in the world of higher education. It is an exciting time to be a part of Aquinas.

Be part of our next chapter. Add your spark to our flame, and help us burn bright for generations to come.
MISSION

The Mission of Aquinas College is unchanging because Truth itself is unchanging. Taking inspiration from St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas, the College exists to serve the Church by transforming lives for the Gospel of Christ.

Aquinas College is a Catholic community of learning in the Dominican Tradition with Christ at its center. The College directs all its efforts to the intellectual, moral, spiritual and professional formation of the human person in wisdom. Students are formed individually and in Christian community so that the harmonious integration between faith and reason can permeate every dimension of their lives. Immersed in exploring the relationship between human civilization and the message of salvation, the College community embraces the Dominican imperative to preach the Gospel, serve others and engage culture in truth and charity.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Derived from the Catholic and Dominican moral and intellectual tradition, our core principles are:

- The dignity, freedom and flourishing of every human person as made in God’s image
- The complementarity of faith and reason as the basis for academic community
- The prudent stewardship of God’s individual and communal gifts

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND DOCUMENTS

- Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community, Preaching/Service
- Ex Corde Ecclesiae
In the words of St. Paul, “NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Vision 2020 is our roadmap for the future, articulating our goals for the next six years. It is a unique effort to bring all students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members and friends of the College together under one mission: smart, prudent growth for the school we love.

IGNITE: The Campaign for Aquinas College is our comprehensive fundraising initiative that, with your help, will bring Vision 2020 to life.

Through this effort, we aim to raise and dedicate $30 million toward the following areas:

**STRATEGIC AREA 1**

**ACADEMIC DISTINCTION**

**STRATEGIC AREA 2**

**STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

**STRATEGIC AREA 3**

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**STRATEGIC AREA 4**

**OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY**
The academic culture at Aquinas is both rigorous and incredibly supportive. Knowing that your professors believe in your ability to achieve is a powerful motivator to succeed confidently.”

AUGUSTA KENNEDY, CLASS OF 2018
CHICAGO, IL
HIGH STANDARDS WITH HEART.

In a few years, Augusta Kennedy is going to make compassionate, ethical contributions to the health care field. Today, she is a nursing major in the BSN program at Aquinas College, heading to her next class and looking forward to graduation.

Augusta chose Aquinas for its rigorous academic reputation, its community feel and its innovative nursing program. She was impressed by the program’s deeply-rooted goal of respecting human dignity in every patient – it is what drove her to pursue nursing in the first place – and drawn to the strong foundation rooted in the liberal arts and traditional Catholic theology.

What she found at Aquinas was a unique academic culture designed to help students thrive. She found high expectations matched with unwavering support and teachers genuinely interested in their students. She found an academic path personalized to her strengths and goals. And she found an incredibly close-knit community anchored by support, accountability, motivation and a steadfast common desire for success from faculty, classmates and the students themselves.

“An Aquinas education” she says, “is not just all about the individual – it is about the community.”

DISTINCTION
EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND.

The classroom is at the core of the Aquinas mission as a place where students are challenged to think, learn and grow academically as well as spiritually. With every program added, every resource expanded, and the best and brightest faculty recruited as a part of Vision 2020, we will continue to recruit more top students, attract excellent faculty and earn national attention for what our students and alumni already know: our unique brand of rigorous, whole-person, supported academics.

• **Professorships**  Goal: $12,000,000
  Expanding support for faculty teaching, research and other expenses allows Aquinas to attract and retain some of the best talent from around the world in their respective disciplines. Dedicated professors support students in their quest for complete formation inside and outside of the classroom.

• **Scholarships**  Goal: $1,500,000
  Deeper resources for financial aid and scholarship support will help more students offset the cost of tuition and other expenses incurred while earning both bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

• **School Excellence Funds**  Goal: $2,000,000
  Increased unrestricted funding available to the four schools of Business, Nursing, Arts & Sciences, and Education will support areas of greatest need within each schools.
**Simulation Lab**  
Goal: $1,400,000

Housed on the 6th floor of St. Thomas West Hospital in Nashville, the Castello Nursing Simulation Learning Center features 24 patient rooms designed to give nursing students access to life-like situations to learn how best to care for patients. Continued technology upgrades and additions to the lab will keep it on the cutting edge and further set our nursing program apart from others around the country.

**Multimedia Lab**  
Goal: $200,000

The planned Aquinas Multimedia Lab (*available for named recognition*) will give students, faculty and staff access to the latest multimedia technology to build in-demand skill sets and further enhance learning and research experiences.

**Faculty Development Fund**  
Goal: $1,000,000

Support of this initiative will allow faculty time for further specialized research, shaping them as respected leaders within their disciplines and visible ambassadors for Aquinas College name in their fields of study.
What I appreciate most about student life at Aquinas is the close-knit community in the dorms. It is supportive, academically focused and faith-rooted – and that doesn’t happen just anywhere.”

GREGORY SMITH, CLASS OF 2018
BIRMINGHAM, AL
HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

Gregory Smith is pretty sure that the close group of friends he is made at Aquinas will be in his life for a long, long time – a fact he is looking forward to as much as he is looking forward to graduation in a few years.

What brought Gregory to Aquinas as an English secondary education major was a combination of academics and campus culture. He visited several smaller schools, but something about this campus visit told him that Aquinas was different, from the individual attention he received even as a prospective student to the close-knit Catholic community that welcomed him. He fell in love with the school even before he noticed the Dominican Sisters on campus or experienced a lively House event.

Today, Gregory lives in the Seton Lodge residence hall on campus, participates actively in House Life and appreciates the social and spiritual opportunities that campus life offers. Compared to his high school friends who went to other colleges, Gregory has a special appreciation for the fact that his residential community shares moral values that are close to his own.

“It creates an environment of peace, love, caring and tight bonds,” he says. “I can’t wait until there are more opportunities for Aquinas students to live on campus and experience what I have.”
HELP US BUILD ON OUR CAMPUS AND ON OUR TRADITIONS.

Meeting the evolving needs of both our residential and commuter students is a major focus at Aquinas for the next several years. With your help, we will grow with intention, adding amenities, services and academic programs that will help us attract and retain more exceptional students. And we will never lose what our prospective, current and former students love most about student life: our “small town” campus feel within Nashville’s vibrant, bustling urban environment.

• **One Stop Student Services**  Goal: $500,000
  Students will access the registrar, financial aid, student activities, student health services and more from one convenient and central location.

• **Career Services**  Goal: $500,000
  We will equip every student with professional resume help, interview preparation, career fair opportunities, real-world guidance and more.

• **Athletics**  Goal: $500,000
  Competitive intercollegiate athletic teams and intramural sports will broaden the student experience, attract new students and give our campus community something to shout about.

• **Residence Halls**  Goal: $8,000,000
  Expanding our on-campus housing options for both male and female students is essential to our growth goals. An exceptional student “home base” is the key to recruitment, retention and building lifelong community for our students.
• **Study Abroad**  Goal: $2,000,000
  Supporting and maintaining our satellite campus in Bracciano, Italy, will give more students the chance to immerse themselves in international culture and make memories that will last a lifetime.

• **Chapel**  Goal: $6,000,000
  A gorgeous new space for daily Mass will become the heart of our spiritual growth.

• **Library**  Goal: $5,000,000
  Expanding our on-campus library system will give students greater access to a world-class collection of books, periodicals, videos, journals and research tools in print and digital formats.

• **Fourth Pillar Program**  Goal: $2,000,000
  Growing the Fourth Pillar Program at Aquinas College will continue our mission to create student leaders who are informed, engaged and reflective about local, regional and national issues that impede or prevent a minimum standard of life for all people.
The Aquinas culture of faith will have a profound effect on the personal life of each student, on the life they promote within their families, and their endeavors in the professional world. I envision their lives of faith as being a light that illumines the broader culture and has a lasting effect on society.”

MOTHER ANN MARIE KARLOVIC, O.P.,
CHAIR OF THE AQUINAS COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND PRIORESS GENERAL OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF ST. CECILIA CONGREGATION

SPIRITUAL
As the spiritual and operational leader of Aquinas College, Mother Ann Marie Karlovic’s vision for each student stretches beyond final exams, graduation or even professional success. From the day they set foot on the 83-acre Aquinas campus, all students are welcomed into a community of faith that is committed to loving, supporting and shepherding them on their journey toward becoming a fully formed human being.

Faith is a cornerstone of student life at Aquinas, with the presence and guidance of the Dominican Sisters on campus playing an essential role. Dedicated to nurturing the life and practice of faith, the Sisters help each student cultivate his or her own relationship with the Lord – a lifelong gift that transcends even the most rigorous academic training. Every day brings time for prayer and retreat, and the focus on respect and service to others fosters a joyful, supportive and encouraging campus culture that is extremely rare in today’s campus environments.

Mother Ann Marie believes that Vision 2020 is more than a strategic plan. It is a vision to be lived by each member of the faculty, staff and administration as we expand our Christ-centered Catholic community of learning, where every student can benefit from whole-person education in order to be a blessing to the world beyond the campus gates.
HERE, THE CHURCH IS MORE THAN A BUILDING ON CAMPUS.

Worship is at the heart of the mission of Aquinas College. The relationship that each member of the community has with Christ is at the core all other relationships, which creates a culture of faith, scholarship, friendship and service that is joyful and transformative. A new Mass chapel, opportunities for perpetual adoration and a dedicated Center for Faith and Culture provide a place for members of the campus and the greater Nashville community to grow in knowledge, love and service of the Gospel.

- **Center for Faith & Culture**  Goal: $1,000,000
  The Aquinas Center for Faith & Culture was founded in the 2012 to serve as a catalyst for the revival and renewal of Catholic life and culture through the promotion of Catholic literature, art, music and film. Through various media, the Center serves as a means of evangelizing the modern world. Continued support for the Center will expand its reach on campus and to the greater Nashville community.

- **Adoration Chapel**  Goal: $100,000
  The Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel was dedicated in 2014 and is open to the Nashville community for private prayer and devotion 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Chapel**  Goal: $6,000,000
  The College community has quickly outgrown St. Jude’s Mass Chapel on campus and hopes to build a Mass chapel that will accommodate weekday and weekend Masses for students on campus.

- **Campus Ministry Staff**
  The Campus Ministry Staff provides students, faculty, staff and friends of the College with year round opportunities for prayer, ongoing formation, presentations, Bible studies, service and mission trips, and retreats that encourage a faithful, integrated relationship with Christ.
Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel, dedicated October 2014

GROWTH
For the first time in my memory, Aquinas is well positioned to expand and evolve. The Vision 2020 plan ushers in the most transformative period in the school’s history, and I am honored to be a part of it.”

STEVE BACHUS,
AQUINAS COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Steve Bachus came to Aquinas on a basketball scholarship in 1979, when the school was still a junior college. Aquinas was the springboard that launched his journey toward a college degree, CPA certification and professional success in a career at Vanderbilt University. Today, he sits on the Aquinas College Board of Directors.

Why does Steve stay so connected to Aquinas? Immersed every day in the world of academic operations in his professional life, Steve has a particularly keen sense of what makes Aquinas different: our closely connected academic and faith community and the relationships that knit it together. He sees the result of our focus on treating students as individuals and how that creates a high standard of excellence and a culture of respectful accountability. And he also shares in the belief that these expectations apply to our operational stewardship and our commitment to serving future students.

Like many others who believe in the mission of Aquinas College, Steve sees the school’s potential for growth and recognizes that the time to act is now. Through prudent planning, intentional growth and smart strategies, Vision 2020 is preparing Aquinas College for its bright future.
Future home of **classrooms**, built to further enhance learning and research opportunities.

Future home of **library**, giving students modern access to a world-class collection of books, videos and other tools.

Future home of **Residence Halls**, a key component in creating an exceptional student “home base.”

Future home of a new **Chapel**, a space for daily mass, ceremonial rites and on-campus worship.

Future home of **One Stop Student Services**: a place for students to access the registrar, student activities, health services and more.

*Master plan is subject to change*
A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

“It is better to illumine than to shine.” - St. Thomas Aquinas

Aquinas College’s Vision 2020 is a collaborative effort of the entire College community that provides a clear vision for the future supported by prudent stewardship that allows for sustained, transformative growth. This robust and comprehensive plan supported by friends and benefactors enables the College to continue the tradition of educating students who are formed in the integrated relationship between faith and reason, professionally prepared and ready to engage the culture in truth and charity.

Master Plan*

The residential halls, academic buildings, a chapel, dining hall and student facilities in the College’s master plan reflect the integrity of the four pillars of Dominican education: worship, study, community and service.

Systematic Enrollment Management

As excellent stewards of our donors’ and students’ investments in rapidly changing times, we plan to adopt a sustainable and efficient best-in-class model for professionally managing student recruitment, financial aid and the entire application review process.

Comprehensive Advancement Strategy

With a long-term goal of financial independence for every aspect of the College, our vision for growth includes reducing the school’s tuition dependence by adopting new, best practice-based models for development and fundraising, alumni relations, marketing and communications.

Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency

As we grow over the next several years, we are committed to maintaining a culture that promotes the strategic administration of resources that will enable the operational infrastructure to provide efficient, effective service to the Aquinas College community.

Brand Identity

Your investment supports Aquinas College as it becomes better known as a valued institution of Catholic higher education in Nashville, the state of Tennessee and around the world.
Comprehensive Campaign
PRIORITIES

ENDOWMENT  $27,000,000

- Accounting Professorships: $3,000,000
- Finance Professorship: $2,000,000
- Marketing Professorship: $2,000,000
- Arts & Sciences Faculty Professorships: $12,000,000
- Education Faculty Professorships: $2,000,000
- Nursing Faculty Professorship: $5,000,000
- Faculty Development Fund: $1,000,000

SCHOLARSHIP  $7,000,000

- School of Business Scholarships: $1,500,000
- School of Arts & Sciences Scholarships: $1,500,000
- School of Education Scholarships: $1,500,000
- School of Nursing Scholarships: $2,500,000

FACILITY  $55,930,000

- Teacher Resources Room: $300,000
- Nursing Simulation Lab: $1,400,000
- General Classroom Building: $5,000,000
- Science Building: $15,000,000
- Library: $5,000,000
- Chapel: $6,000,000
- Adoration Chapel: $100,000
- Aquinas Main Renovation: $6,000,000
- Campus Beautification: $1,500,000
- Residence Halls: $8,000,000
- Gymnasium: $2,000,000
- Construction Contingency: $5,630,000

PROGRAM  $13,750,000

- Business Excellence Fund: $1,000,000
- Arts & Sciences Excellence Fund: $1,000,000
- Education Excellence Fund: $1,000,000
- Teacher Resources Room: $300,000
- Technology for Education: $500,000
- Nursing Multimedia Lab: $200,000
- Nursing Excellence Fund: $1,000,000
- Center for Faith & Culture: $1,000,000
- Centers for Excellence (other): $1,000,000
- Fourth Pillar Program: $2,000,000
- Bracciano – Study Abroad: $2,000,000
- General Technology: $1,000,000
- Athletics Seed Money: $500,000
- One Stop Student Services: $500,000
- Hall Directors: $250,000
- Career Services: $500,000
GIFT SCHEDULE

We are calling on alumni and supporters at every giving level to make Vision 2020 a reality. Every gift and every donor plays a vital role in the growth and success of Aquinas College.

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Ready to contribute your spark?

THE EASIEST AND FASTEST WAY TO GIVE IS TO VISIT
Ignite.AquinasCollege.edu

WAYS TO GIVE

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

• **Online donation**: Make a one-time or recurring donation using our secure online form.
• **By mail (cash or check)**: Please make your check payable to Aquinas College and send to Aquinas College, Office of Advancement, 4210 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205.
• **By phone**: You may make your donation online with a credit card, but if you prefer, we are glad to take your credit card information by phone at (615) 297-7545 during regular business hours.

STOCK OPTIONS / APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Many benefactors donate appreciated securities to Aquinas. The tax benefits allow you to:

• Claim a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the shares;
• Avoid the capital gains tax that would have been due if the shares were sold.

Visit AquinasCollege.edu/Support for instructions on transferring stocks. Then, contact us at (615) 297-7545 so we can track your gift in a timely manner and ensure that you receive the proper credit for your gift.

PLEDGES / LETTER OF INTENT

Payment schedules can be arranged for your convenience whether yearly, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. Pledge reminders will be sent to you as per your instructions.

Official receipts for tax purposes and a letter acknowledging your gift will be mailed to you within a week of receipt.

Download and complete a letter of intent at AquinasCollege.edu/Support

MATCHING GIFTS

A matching gift is an employer-sponsored program to encourage philanthropy among company employees in support of their chosen charity or organization. The matching gift program enables many donors to increase the impact of their contributions as most companies will match dollar for dollar, and some will double- or triple-match employee gifts.

Find out if your employer offers a matching gift program at MatchingGifts.com/AquinasCollege

PLANNED GIVING

Establish a lasting legacy for you and your family by making a planned gift to Aquinas College. There are many options for planned giving.

Learn more at AquinasNashvilleLegacy.com and then give us a call at (615) 297-7545 to discuss options.
Located in the heart of Nashville

Aquinas by the Numbers

Founded in 1961
83 acres of campus
11 miles from international airport
Population of Nashville: more than 600,000

20 Programs of study offered
1:9 Faculty-to-student ratio
89% of classes have fewer than 20 students
Average class size 13

474 Students enrolled at Aquinas
85% of students call Tennessee home
18 Countries represented by student population

84% of families receive financial aid

50% of the student body are Catholic
1 of 2 Catholic colleges in Tennessee
Mass offered 7 days a week

Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel opened and dedicated on campus, Fall 2014.

As of Fall 2014
Aquinas is...
Steadfast in the Catholic Faith
Committed to High Academic Standards
A Vibrant Campus Community
...in the Heart of Nashville, Tennessee.

Aquinas College is a four-year, private liberal arts Catholic college located in vibrant Nashville, Tennessee. Through outstanding academic programs in nursing, business, education, and arts & sciences, we cultivate a community of students who encourage one another to grow academically and spiritually.

ignite.aquinascollege.edu