Mission

_Siena College is a learning community advancing the ideals of a liberal arts education, rooted in its identity as a Franciscan and Catholic institution._

**Mission: Learning Community, As a learning community,** Siena is committed to a student-centered education emphasizing dynamic faculty-student interaction. Through a blending of liberal arts and professional education, Siena College provides experiences and courses of study instilling the values and knowledge to lead a compassionate, reflective, and productive life of service and leadership.

**Mission: Liberal Arts, As a liberal arts college,** Siena fosters the rigorous intellectual development of its students through a healthy exchange of ideas both inside and outside the classroom. It provides opportunities to develop critical and creative thinking; to make reasoned and informed judgments; to appreciate cultural diversity; to deepen aesthetic sensibility and to enhance written and oral communication skills. It develops in each individual an appreciation for the richness of exploring knowledge from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.

**Mission: Franciscan Community, As a Franciscan community,** Siena strives to embody the vision and values of St. Francis of Assisi: faith in a personal and provident God, reverence for all creation, affirmation of the unique worth of each person, delight in diversity, appreciation for beauty, service with the poor and marginalized, a community where members work together in friendship and respect, and commitment to building a world that is more just, peaceable, and humane.

**Mission: Catholic College, As a Catholic college,** Siena seeks to advance not only the intellectual growth of its students, but their spiritual, religious and ethical formation as well. To this end, Siena is composed of and in dialogue with people from different religious and cultural traditions; fosters a critical appreciation of the Catholic intellectual heritage in conversation with contemporary experience; provides ample opportunities for worship and service; explores the moral dimensions of decision-making in business and the professions; and affirms the dignity of the individual while pursuing the common good.
Siena College Core Learning Goals
As a learning community and liberal arts college grounded in its Franciscan and Catholic heritage, Siena affirms the following learning goals for the core curriculum:

CG 1. Informed reasoning, Students will think critically and creatively to make reasoned and informed judgments. Through engagement with contemporary and enduring questions of human concern, students will solve problems in ways that reflect the integration of knowledge across general and specialized studies, and they will demonstrate competence in information literacy and independent research.

CG2. Effective communication, Students will read texts with comprehension and critical involvement, write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences, speak knowledgeably, and listen with discernment and empathy.

CG 3. Reflection on Franciscan Concerns, Students will reflect on concerns central to Siena’s Franciscan heritage. By the time they complete the core curriculum, students will have engaged four concerns: Heritage, Diversity, Social Justice, and Nature.

CG 4. Scientific and Quantitative Inquiry, Students will demonstrate an understanding of scientific and quantitative methods of analysis.
Core Franciscan Concerns

The Franciscan Concern component of the core ensures thematic exposure to themes of special importance to the Franciscan Tradition that can be explored from multiple perspectives. Students need to take one course in each of the four Franciscan Concern areas:

CFC 1: Heritage: Traditions and Their Texts, As a tradition born in the 13th Century, the Franciscan Tradition is embedded within Western heritage, and as a living tradition nearly 800 years old, the Franciscan Tradition is constitutive of subsequent Western heritage. The "Heritage" rubric embraces this broad sense of tradition. Courses will acquaint students with one or more of the major intellectual, cultural, or religious traditions in this history and the texts, figures, events, or movements associated with them. Courses in this category elucidate how these traditions address fundamental questions of humanistic or religious concern.

CFC 2: Diversity: American & Global Pluralism, The Franciscan concern for diversity flows from its affirmation of each individual as worthy of respect and compassion. Individuality implies plurality of perspective, both on the level of differences among persons and on the level of differences among peoples. Appreciating diversity requires that students have the opportunity to see things from perspectives they do not normally occupy. This includes the examination of diverse intellectual perspectives.

CFC 3: Social Justice: Principles and Practice, The Franciscan Tradition joins with other traditions and movements in placing a premium on social justice. Social justice permeates all levels of human affairs and admits investigation from a variety of perspectives. Broadly speaking, social justice concerns (a) the practical organization of human affairs allowing for maximal human flourishing, (b) the values and principles guiding or that might guide the organization of human affairs, (c) the extent to which such values or principles are practically realized or under-realized. The “Social Justice” rubric welcomes courses that study the theory or practice of justice from social, moral, political, religious, economic, environmental, aesthetic, or technological points of view.

CFC 4: Nature: Scientific & Normative Approaches to the Natural World, The Franciscan Tradition affirms the goodness of nature. As an intellectual tradition, it supports the scientific investigation of nature, and as a spiritual tradition it cultivates deepened appreciation for the entirety of the created world and heightened commitment to the effective stewardship of the Earth and all living things. The “Natural World” rubric welcomes courses which both investigate the natural world from a scientific perspective and also examine the impact and consequences of human involvement in natural systems.
Siena College Learning Goals

As a learning community and liberal arts college grounded in its Franciscan and Catholic heritage, Siena affirms the following learning goals:

**Siena 1: Reason**
Students will think critically and creatively to make reasoned and informed judgments. Through engagement with contemporary and enduring questions of human concern, students will solve problems in ways that reflect the integration of knowledge across general and specialized studies, and they will demonstrate competence in information literacy and independent research.

**Siena 2. Rhetoric**
Students will read a variety of texts with comprehension and critical involvement, write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences, speak knowledgeably, and listen with discernment and empathy.

**Siena 3. Reflection**
Students will comprehend that learning is a life-long process and that personal growth, marked by concern and care for others, is enhanced by intellectual and spiritual exploration.

**Siena 4: Regard**
Students will affirm the unity of the human family, uphold the dignity of individuals, and delight in diversity. They will demonstrate intercultural knowledge and respect.

**Siena 5: Reverence**
Students will demonstrate a reverence for creation. They will develop a worldview that recognizes the benefits of sustaining our natural and social worlds.

**Siena 6: Responsibility**
Students will commit to building a world that is more just, peaceable, and humane. They will lead through service