Imperative

Guide all Baylor students through academic and student life programming to understand life as a stewardship and work as a vocation.
**BAYLOR’S UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS EMPHASIZE** the central importance of vocation and service in students’ lives and help them explore their value and role in society. At a Christian university questions such as “Who am I?” and “How should I best use my talents?” should be taken seriously and should guide students as they make life’s key decisions. To assist students in addressing such issues, Baylor will develop multiple opportunities, both curricular and co-curricular, for students to discern and understand their life work as a calling and all of life as a stewardship of service.

**PROGRESS SUMMARY**

**IMPERATIVE GOALS**

1. **Life Work as a Calling**
   Several programs have been implemented or expanded to help students understand their life work as a calling. Baylor received a $2 million Theological Exploration of Vocation grant from the Lilly Endowment. The resident chaplain program and Chapel programming have both been expanded along with Strength-based presentations. The Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement was established in 2004 and has partnered with the School of Education to establish a minor in leadership. In 2009-10, the division reviewed and reaffirmed calling as a critical component of its student development learning outcomes. The number of undergraduates expressing an interest in vocational ministry remains strong.

2. **Stewardship of Service**
   Several programs have been implemented to help students understand life as stewardship of service. These programs include discipline and vocation-specific missions, University Missions, Baylor Line Camp, community ministries and academic partnerships, student organization leadership development, community service and other campus programs. The Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative was established in June 2007. In 2008, Baylor was selected as the first Campus Kitchen in Texas. In fall 2009, Baylor hosted its first AmeriCorps*VISTA in the Division of Student Life and held the first national conference on poverty. In 2010, Baylor gained the assistance of five representatives from AmeriCorps*VISTA.
As the oldest tradition in American higher education and at Baylor University, Chapel has been a part of life for students and faculty alike since 1845. The standard for Chapel speakers has been greatly influenced by Student Life’s central organizing principle of “calling.” Today, Chapel is an opportunity to worship together and learn from scholars, social activists, preachers, musicians, scientists and others who excel in their callings as an expression of their commitment to Christ.

In fiscal year 2010 students who have completed 30 Baylor credit hours and have completed one semester of traditional Chapel may petition to fulfill their second semester requirement through one of the following alternatives: afternoon prayer services, spiritual formation practices, evening worship services and University-specific mission trips. These various experiences will enable spiritual disciplines that provide great depth of understanding and practice.

Established in 2004, the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement offers students curricular and co-curricular opportunities that prepare them for lives of service. Students are offered courses, service opportunities, mentor groups and guest speakers that engage them in critical thinking so as to discern their call to influence the world for noble purposes. The model helps prepare students for lives of service by engaging them in service opportunities and offering opportunities for reflection as students consider experiences that helped shape their lives.

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Strengths Presentations

Student Life staff continually receive training to prepare them for conversations with students about leveraging strengths to accomplish goals. The small group curriculum for Baylor Line Camp and Welcome Week also includes activities for new students to reflect on their strengths, while appreciating the diversity of strengths found in a community. Student leaders for each program are trained to facilitate these discussions. In spring 2010, the Division of Student Life held a regional Strengths Educator Training Conference in partnership with Gallup for 26 individuals from Oklahoma and Texas.

GOAL 2
Stewardship of Service

Discipline-Specific Missions

Originating under the title of vocation-specific missions, this program began in 2002, providing opportunities for Baylor students to engage in mission service while making use of their discipline-based education, training and professional giftedness. The program aims to see students led by faculty mentors on trips abroad, where they serve indigenous populations by offering basic health care (premed, prenursing students), literacy (education and social work students), technological infrastructure (business, engineering and computer science students) and religious education (preministry students), among other efforts. As a part of the trip, designated readings, shared discussions and personal journaling are used to ensure thoughtful reflection about the missions experience. By helping students see how their specific abilities and interests may be of service to others and how Christians are called to loving responsiveness to those in need, the program aspires to help inform a long-term sensitivity to a Christian calling, whether in the context of professional or lay ministry. [Fig. 6.3]
University Missions

In addition to discipline-specific missions, this department includes programs focused on global missions, local missions and missions awareness. Local mission teams include hospital, special needs, urban gardening, children’s tutorials and kid’s clubs. Each week Baylor students volunteer with partner organizations around the city to provide ministry to specific groups.

Participation at the Freshman Retreat increased from 40 students in fiscal year 2009 to 127 freshmen and 30 non-freshmen students and staff in fiscal year 2010. A post-retreat assessment indicated that students experienced the retreat as a meaningful time where they explored spiritual formation as they began college.

Baylor Line Camps

Begun in 2004, Baylor Line Camp is a program that equips new students in their transition to Baylor while emphasizing their personal strengths. Baylor Line Camp generates enthusiasm and excitement for all new students while encouraging the Baylor spirit in campus activities, traditions and athletic events.

In a continuous effort to improve the Line Camp program, Student Life staff in 2006 identified barriers that prevented larger numbers of incoming students from participating. By reducing the cost significantly and offering more sessions to avoid conflicts with students’ other summer activities, the percentage of students participating has increased significantly; 40 percent of the entering class attended Line Camp in 2010. [Fig. 6.4]

In 2011, 200 spaces are being added to Line Camps, making it possible for 50 percent of freshmen to attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Attending</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>369</td>
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<td>175</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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Source: Student Life

Community Ministries and Academic Partnerships (CMAP)

With the reorganization of Spiritual Life in summer 2008, the area of Spiritual Formation is fully integrated and intentionally positioned to deepen the spiritual lives of students in cooperation with students, faculty and staff across the University. With the employment of a full-time director, coordinator, administrative assistant, three ministry associates (seminary students) and two graduate apprentices, the Formation/Baptist Student Ministries area is in a distinctive position to provide primary leadership for these formational initiatives:

- More than 2,500 students were served dinner and more than 1,100 students completed interest cards for the various ministries of Spiritual Life at Spiritual Life-Welcome Dinner, an event held during Welcome Week on the first day of classes.
- Small group offerings were expanded to 13 in fall 2009 in an attempt to meet the developmental needs of students. Traditional biblical book study, graduate student small group, specific Bible study for freshmen and book studies from thoughtful Christian authors challenge and stretch students to think and explore their faith in new ways.
- The exploration of gifts, calling and vocation is facilitated by increased practical opportunities for Youth Ministry Team members to lead in local churches and increased training opportunities from Baylor faculty. Since fall 2008, Youth Ministry teams have traveled to 42 churches around the state to assist with youth programs.
- Cultural exchange has been the focus in international ministry, where weekly dinners averaging 100 students per night have grown to approximately 150 students each night.
- Chaplains have responded to regular gatherings designed for intentional relationships, training and resources with the student chaplains in Baylor Greek Life.
- Christian Formation Practices is offered as an alternative Chapel program to promote spiritual formation and faith development for students beyond their first-year experience.
Student Organization Leadership Development

While leadership development occurs within many campus programs, internships and other opportunities provided on campus, Student Activities views student organizations as a substantial vehicle for meaningful student development. Students’ ongoing leadership development through student organizations occurs within a framework of experiential learning supported by guided practice. To this end, the Department of Student Activities works closely with officers and advisors of student organizations to offer a variety of leadership development workshops and seminars that include risk management training as is consistent with state law.

Community Service

The Department of Student Activities facilitates meaningful service opportunities for students in order to develop and foster leadership in areas of social responsibility. The ultimate goal of service and service learning is to instill the spirit of volunteerism and service-learning into the lifestyles of students so they will continue to be committed to the value of service after they leave the University setting. Learning outcomes fostered by these community service endeavors include civic engagement, social responsibility, understanding the world outside self, personal/organizational obligation to larger community, stewardship, value for diversity, faith development, leadership, communication
skills and service learning. Programs such as the Poverty Summit (initiated as an annual event in fall 2008), Steppin’ Out, Baylor Buddies, Santa’s Workshop and Baylor Relay for Life help instill these learning outcomes within Baylor students and the surrounding community. In addition to the programming offered by the Department of Student Activities, hundreds of individuals are matched with volunteer and ongoing service opportunities throughout the Waco community by staff members. Department of Student Activities staff members work with more than 150 local service agencies and local churches to help meet the needs of the Waco community with the strength, heart and service of thousands of students each semester.

Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative

Established in 2007, the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative is a partnership between Academic Affairs and the Division of Student Life. In 2010, the Poverty Initiative partnered with Student Activities and the national Campus Kitchen Project to fund and hold the Hungry for Justice: Social, Economic, Environmental, Baylor University’s Third Annual Poverty Summit. Hungry for Justice attracted more than 300 students from 32 universities for a three-day conference focusing on social, economic and environmental issues stemming from poverty. This effort builds upon the more than 250 Baylor students, 17 outside speakers and five community members who gathered for the Second Annual Poverty Summit in October 2009. The Summit creates open dialogue about the issues surrounding poverty.

In 2008, Baylor was selected as the first Campus Kitchen in the state of Texas. Managed by student volunteers, Campus Kitchen’s mission is to recover food, prepare and deliver meals and provide nutrition education for economically disadvantaged populations. Campus Kitchen volunteers rescued more than 11,000 pounds of food to feed 6,000 people at community agencies and provided 3,000 hours of volunteer service. The student volunteers raised $2,637 to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to 65 families.

Ministry Student Enrollment

The number of undergraduate students who have indicated a vocational Christian ministry interest remains strong. Please note that the data for fall 2004 (fiscal year 2005) had errors due to migration to a new system. [Fig. 6.5]