



About Franklin College



About Franklin College

- [Areas of Study](#)
- [Board of Trustees](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Directions](#)
- [General Facts](#)
- [History](#)
- [Local Hotels](#)
- [Public Events](#)

Quick Links

- [About Franklin College](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Admissions & Financial Aid](#)
- [Alumni and Friends](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [Student Life](#)

History

Franklin College has made a promise to its students and to the community to provide an atmosphere for learning, enrichment and personal growth. With each day, Franklin strives to live up to the challenge of that promise.

Today's Franklin College is a nationally-recognized institution which provides students with a quality liberal arts education. In addition, Franklin encourages students to broaden their horizons and challenge their own self-imposed limits through a pair of innovative programs: the Franklin College Leadership Program and the Professional Development Program.

The Franklin College Leadership Program is working to teach students methods for improved leadership by encouraging professors to introduce leadership education across the curriculum. A number of lecture-based courses have been altered to emphasize working in small groups. As a result, there has been increased participation by all students. In addition, individuals are now recognizing and assuming leadership roles. The classroom projects have been supplemented with annual lectures and films addressing leadership.

The college's Professional Development Program is a one-of-a-kind project designed to help students excel in the post-college world by increasing their knowledge of current events, culture, wellness and lifestyle issues, business protocol and etiquette. The centerpiece of the program, the 113-bed Dietz Center for Professional Development, was dedicated in 1994. The program and the Dietz Center are made possible by a generous gift from Trustee Dr. Clifford H. Dietz, his wife Paula and their daughters.

Franklin College Through the Years

Programs like the Professional Development Program and the leadership program are representative of the forward-thinking approach to education which has typified Franklin College since its founding in 1834 by pioneering Baptists. From its inception, Franklin College has been on the cutting edge. In 1842, it became the first college in Indiana to admit women.

During the Civil War, the college closed its doors while its students went off to fight. Following the war, the college reopened, and many of those who had fought returned to complete their education. Franklin College weathered the Depression and following World War II, enrollment passed the 500 mark with many veterans coming to Franklin to further their education.

Through the years, the spirit of Franklin's people has seen the college through the growth and prosperity that it enjoys today. In 1986, apartment-style residence halls, Johnson Memorial Hall and the Dietz Residence Halls, opened. In 1987, the restoration of Barnes Hall was completed and the building opened for classes and Old Main was restored and dedicated. A newly-restored Shirk Hall opened in 1988 as home of the Pulliam School of Journalism and the Indiana High School Press Association. In 1996, a renovated and expanded Spurlock Physical Education Center was dedicated.

In 1989, as a result of Central Newspapers becoming a publicly-traded stock company, Franklin College was able to sell some of the stock it had received from Central Newspapers' founder and Franklin College trustee Eugene Pulliam. As a result of this sale, the college's endowment increased by \$28 million to \$52 million and, at the end of the 1997-98 fiscal year, was approximately \$84 million.

The Franklin College Education

Franklin College is a four-year liberal arts and science institution. The college offers 25 academic majors to students and eight pre-professional programs, including pre-law, pre-medicine and pre-dentistry.

Unlike larger schools where many faculty face a "publish or perish" threat, Franklin College is a teaching institution where emphasis is placed on education and the classroom experience. The college prides itself on its close-knit campus and excellent faculty. With a 13-to-1 student faculty ratio, there are ample opportunities for the two groups to work together to ensure the best possible educational experience.

In addition to course work in the major areas, Franklin students are required to complete a schedule of general education requirements, including prescribed courses in composition, mathematics, public speaking, world history, religion and values, and environmental studies. The general education requirements also offer students options for courses in fine arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and intercultural studies.

Franklin's academic year operates on a 4-1-4 system. The fall and spring semesters are each four months long. In addition, a one-month "winter term" is conducted in January. During winter term, students study special subjects in depth during longer class periods, serve internships and gain experience in their fields of interest, or participate in travel courses.

The learning experience at Franklin is not limited to the classroom. Through events such as the E. Don and Joyce Tull Lecture Series, the Elmon and Lucille Williams Lecture Series and the Maurice V. and Rose S. Johnson Chair in Humanities, Franklin's students are exposed to nationally-known speakers.

The Franklin College Campus

When Franklin College opened in 1834, the campus consisted of one white frame house. It has since expanded to include Old Main (a combination of Chandler, Bailey and Stott Halls) and Shirk Hall, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as one other classroom building, six residence halls, the Chapel, the Eli Lilly Campus Center, the B.F. Hamilton Memorial Library, and the William R. and Clarice V. Spurlock Physical Education Center. The Dietz Center for Professional Development stands on the east edge of campus and includes living quarters as well as a library, seminar room, formal lounge, dining hall, wellness center and offices for the Professional Development Program and career services personnel.

Franklin College Alumni

The first student to earn a bachelors of arts degree from Franklin College was John W. Dame, class of 1847, for whom Dame Mall in the center of campus was named. Franklin's alumni total more than 7,700, many of whom have become nationally-recognized leaders in their communities and professions. Elmer Holmes Davis, who graduated in 1910, was a nationally-known author and news broadcaster. He was an editorial writer for *The New York Times*, director of the Office of War Information in Washington, D.C., and a news broadcaster for CBS News in New York and ABC News in Washington.

Indiana's 42nd governor, Roger D. Branigin, graduated from Franklin College in 1923. Branigin was known for his wit and humor, as well as his thoughtfulness and ability to relate to the public. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the college and served on its board of trustees. The Roger D. Branigin Chair in History is named for him.

George B. Walden was born in Franklin and graduated from Franklin College in 1917. He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the college in 1937. In the early 1920's, Walden discovered the process that made it possible to manufacture insulin in quantity, a medical breakthrough that aided millions of diabetics. Walden's other discoveries included a "reaction product" which Eli Lilly and Company manufactured under the names of Extraline and Lextron, and a process for purifying penicillin so that it could be manufactured.

Academy Award-winner Robert Wise attended Franklin College and received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the college in 1968. He produced and directed the films *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Hindenburg* and *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. He is a past president and honorary life member of the Director's Guild of America.

Other notable alumni include John R. Voris '01, founder of Save the Children Foundation; actress Marjorie Main '12 and Arch West '36, retired executive vice president of Frito-Lay Inc., who is given official credit for creating and developing the Doritos Brand Tortilla Chip.

Franklin College Results

Franklin College's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. The college has been honored by *U.S. News and World Report* magazine and *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*. The college was one of only 111 institutions in the United States to be included on The John Templeton Foundation 1993 Honor Roll, which recognizes colleges and universities that promote high integrity as well as education.

Franklin College's department of mathematical sciences was chosen as one of the 101 Joe Wyatt Challenge Success Stories. The challenge from Wyatt, president of Vanderbilt University, was to identify 101 examples in higher education of how teaching and learning have been enhanced through the use of information technologies. Franklin was included on the list because of its use of an innovative computer classroom which has made the teaching and learning of math a more active process. The same project earned Franklin College two grants from the National Science Foundation in one year.

Recognizing the quality of a Franklin education, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reclassified Franklin from a regional to a national liberal arts college in 1994. *Money* magazine listed Franklin College in its guide to top college values from 1994 through 1997. The Franklin College Leadership Program has made numerous headlines and is gaining national recognition as its reputation grows among respected experts in leadership education.

The Franklin College experience is paying off. Economics, Business and Accounting majors in 1997 ranked at the 99 percentile level nationally. Since 1992, the rank has never been below the 82 percentile nationally. Psychology majors in 1997 ranked at the 91 percentile level nationally. English majors in 1997 ranked at the 84.5 percentile level nationally. Over the past five years, 100% of Franklin education graduates have passed the National Teacher Exam.

Over a number of years, Franklin students and graduates have participated in the American College Testing Board's Student Opinion Survey and/or the USA Group Noel Levitz, Inc.'s Satisfaction Inventory. General satisfaction levels exceed national norms for peer private colleges and greatly exceed national norms for public colleges and universities. Franklin's students and graduates report that, in the main, faculty are excellent in the classroom, available for counseling, involved in student life, and serve well as role models and mentors. They also report that, with few exceptions, staff and administrators treat students personally with care and concern.

In test after test, Franklin College has proven itself to be a leader in providing students with a quality, liberal arts, values-focused education. To provide such an education is the promise which all colleges make to their students. At Franklin, we are keeping that promise.

Script Updated:
7 January 2004 (dtd)

Franklin College · 101 Branigin Boulevard · Franklin, Indiana 46131-2623
1.800.852.0232 · 317.738.8000 · www.franklincollege.edu