

The College

MISSION

The primary mission of Converse College, founded in 1889, is the liberal education of undergraduate women in a residential setting. Converse reaffirms the founder's original conviction that a small undergraduate residential college of the liberal arts is a uniquely powerful environment for developing the talents of women. As a community of scholars, where students and faculty pursue excellence and collaborate in the search for truth, Converse develops in students scholarly excellence, personal honor, confidence, and skills to be life-long learners. The college draws much of its character from its Christian heritage and welcomes students of all faiths. Converse expands its mission by offering graduate degrees and other programs for women and men. Ultimately, graduates embody the qualities of a Converse education as they assume roles of leadership, service, and citizenship.

THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN

Converse College believes that one of the best ways to help women realize their potential for constructive and creative living is to bring them together in small groups in which their special educational needs and expectations can receive the attention of the entire College. By emphasizing the intellectual and personal growth of each individual student, Converse seeks to prepare women for informed and responsible decision-making, reasoned and humane action, and significant and influential achievement. This goal for Converse women was first expressed by Dexter Edgar Converse, one of the founders of the College. He asked that the "instruction and influence of Converse College" enable the students "to see clearly, decide wisely, and to act justly" and that their education help them to "learn to love God and humanity, and be faithful to truth and duty, so that their influence may be characterized by purity and power."

THE FOUNDING OF THE COLLEGE

Converse College had its beginning on March 22, 1889, when thirteen of Spartanburg's leading citizens met to explore a proposal to establish a college for women. Among the men present was Dexter Edgar Converse, a pioneer in South Carolina's cotton textile industry. A native of Vermont, with a daughter of college age, he was keenly aware of the need in the South for a college for women which would provide a thorough and liberal education.

These citizens agreed to form a stock company and raise enough money through private subscription to buy the site and main building of old St. John's College. Within eighteen months these goals were achieved, and on October 1, 1890, the College, named for Mr. Converse, began its first academic session.

From its opening, Converse was operated as a private stock company supported mainly by Mr. Converse. On February 25, 1896, however, the stockholders voluntarily relinquished their stock and claims upon the property and the College, by special act of the South Carolina legislature, was incorporated as an eleemosynary institution with a self-perpetuating board of trustees. Thus, Converse College was established as an absolute and permanent gift to the cause of higher education for women.

ACCREDITATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Since its founding, Converse has become one of the leading colleges for women in the South. At the time of its admission in 1912, Converse was the only college in South Carolina that held membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Admitted to the American Association of Colleges and Universities in 1915, Converse is a founding member of that organization. Converse College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur,

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Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award degrees at Levels II and III (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, Master of Liberal Arts, Master of Education, and Educational Specialist). Refer to **section on Academic Regulations** for more information.

Converse was also the first South Carolina college with graduates admitted to membership in the American Association of University Women, as well as the first to have a chapter of Mortar Board, the national honor society for seniors. It is a member of the Southern University Conference and the Women's College Coalition. The Converse College School of Music is a charter member of the National Association of Schools of Music. The professional programs in the Division of Education are approved by the South Carolina State Department of Education under standards developed by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. Through NASDTEC's reciprocity agreements, Converse graduates in education find it easy to gain certification in more than half of the states in the country. In addition, the Converse program for teachers of the deaf is accredited by the Council on Education of the Deaf. The documents relating to Converse College accreditation are on permanent reserve in the Mickel Library. Anyone desiring to review these documents may do so during the College's normal operating hours.

CAMPUS LIFE

Time outside the classroom is as essential to Converse life as the hours spent in study. Students participate in organizations that provide a unique support structure within the College's environment. The offices which comprise the Campus Life team include Counseling Services, Health Services, Campus Safety, the Chaplain's Office, Student

Activities, Residential Life and Judicial Programs, Athletics, the Converse College Institute for Leadership, Leadership Programs and Orientation, and the Concierge.

The Honor Tradition: Built on trust and responsibility, the principles of Converse's Honor Code encompass all aspects of student life. A student signifies her acceptance of the responsibility to uphold the system by signing the Honor Pledge. Cases of Honor Code violation are handled on an individual basis by the Honor Board, which the student body elects from its own ranks each year. See the College's *Student Handbook* for a statement of the principles of the Honor Code, the Honor Pledge, and a detailed outline of Honor Board case procedures. Also see the *Student Handbook* or contact the Dean of Students for policies and regulations concerning student conduct.

Student Government: Elected by the student body, the Student Government Association ensures student self-government. The association represents the diverse interests of the Converse community and provides a link between the student body and the College administration. The Student Life Board is an instrumental part of SGA and serves as a deliberating team to evaluate, inform, discuss, research, and establish solutions to student and campus concerns. In addition to the Honor Board, a few of the most active campus organizations chartered by the Student Government Association constitution include:

- **Day Student Association**, which meets regularly in the Day Student Lounge, to plan events and discuss issues which meet the needs of the Day Student.
- **Student Activities Committee**, which organizes campus activities such as dances, coffeehouse entertainment, lectures, movies, and other special events

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- **Student Christian Association**, which works to create an atmosphere in which a student may exercise her individuality and act upon her spiritual beliefs as a member of the Converse community
- **Athletic Association**, which sponsors competitive activities and fitness programs on campus, such as intramural sports, faculty-student games, and the Walk, Run, Jog Program.
- **Student Volunteer Services**, which encourages student involvement in community volunteer agencies
- **Civitas Council**, which interprets and preserves social regulations and residence hall policies and hears cases involving violations of those regulations and policies

A yearly student activities fee of \$200 includes, but is not restricted to, class dues, school calendar, yearbook, and admission to programs presented by the Palmetto Players, Tarpon-Sharks Aquatic Club, the Converse Dance Ensemble, and the Student Activities Committee.

Residential Life and Judicial Programs:

Converse is a residential college and views on-campus living as an integral part of a student's growth and education. Traditional, unmarried, undergraduate students must reside in College residence halls unless they live with a parent or guardian within a 35 mile radius of the College.

Each residence hall has a staff that is responsible for working with residents to ensure a clean, safe living and learning environment. Resident Counselors are graduate and Converse II level students who live in each building and oversee the management of the residence hall. Each floor is staffed with a Community Advisor who is an undergraduate student. The staff facilitates the development of a community through programming, community builders and student interactions. Discipline in the residence halls is handled through Civitas Council, a judicial board comprised of representatives from each class as well as

the Office of Residential Life and Judicial Programs. A member(s) of the Residential Life Staff is on-call when the Residence Halls are open.

Each year, upperclassmen select rooms through a lottery within each class. Assignments for new students are based on a Roommate Preference Card. The Director of Residential Life and Judicial Programs hand pairs each student and places the pairs in designated first year buildings. All policies and procedures governing the residence hall are in the *Student Handbook*.

Judicial Programs include the Honor Board and Civitas Council. These student judicial boards are comprised of students elected from each class. Honor Board has jurisdiction over Honor Code violations, and Civitas Council has jurisdiction over Community Values violations. For a detailed description of case procedures and jurisdiction, see the *Student Handbook*.

Montgomery Events & Information

Desk: The Events & Information Desk, located in the lobby of the Montgomery Student Activities Building, serves as a welcome center for current and prospective students, faculty, and staff. At the desk, the staff provide the necessary resources to make campus life a more productive and enjoyable experience. Whether one needs to order flowers, make travel arrangements, send or receive a fax, or obtain local movie listings, the staff at the Events & Information Desk is available for assistance.

Religious Life: The Chaplain's Office effectively serves as the leader of religious life at Converse College. However, it is just one of the many places which exists to help and serve students and the Converse Community.

The Student Christian Association provides opportunities for worship, fellowship, reflection, and service. A weekly fellowship meets on Mondays at 8:31 pm, offering a time of singing, study, and sharing with guest speakers and each other. SCA also offers a spring break mission trip.

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Other religious organizations include the Baptist Student Union, the Presbyterian Student Association, the Canterbury Club (Episcopal), the Newman Club (Catholic), and the Wesley Fellowship (United Methodist). Converse students who wish to form an organization to meet their spiritual needs may do so by meeting with the Chaplain. (See p. 10, Chaplain's Office for additional information on services provided in the area of Religious Life.)

Student Activities: The Student Activities Office serves as a resource for students and student organizations that are planning events on campus. Big Sis/Li'l Sis Week, 1889 Week, Family Weekend, and May Day are all planned with assistance from this office. The office also advises student organizations on various fund-raising projects. The Student Activities Committee (SAC) sponsors a wide variety of entertainment, including dances, parties, comedians, lectures, variety performers, and weekend events.

WELLNESS CENTER

The staff at the Wellness Center believes staying healthy is critical to achieving academic success. Students can find help for good nutrition, exercise, self-knowledge, pastoral issues, relaxation, personal hygiene, medical issues, sexual responsibility, interpersonal relationships, alcohol and drug awareness, and study habits. The Center has three divisions: Counseling Services, Health Services, and Chaplain's Office. The Center is located in Andrews Hall and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Chaplain's Office: The Office of the Chaplain seeks to provide opportunities for students to pursue their own faith tradition and deepen their understanding of spirituality and services. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach a student may integrate personal reflection and social action embodying the Founder's Ideal to "see clearly . . . to act justly, and be faithful . . . to God and humanity." The Chaplain is available for personal counseling as well as

counseling for those students interested in pursuing a career in ministry. The programs and projects offered by the Office of the Chaplain are planned in conjunction with the Student Christian Association and the Student Religious Life Council. The Religious Life Council, an ecumenical group made up of Spartanburg chaplains and campus ministers representing several denominations, meets regularly to discuss issues and themes related to ministry to college students. They are instrumental in identifying local churches that meet a student's needs.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides individual counseling for students and offers outreach programs and workshops designed to educate students on issues related to emotional well-being. Two counselors are available for individual counseling Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Appointments are necessary and may be made through extension 9595. Counseling sessions are available at no extra charge to traditional undergraduate boarding and day students. If a referral is made off campus to a local psychiatrist or psychotherapist, the cost is the responsibility of the student and/or her family. Students who frequently make appointments, but do not attend without calling to cancel, may be referred off campus for any future counseling needs. The counselors also provide a variety of educational programs designed to meet the Wellness needs of the campus.

Health Services: The Health Services offers an outpatient service for evaluating health problems with treatment for minor illnesses or injuries. Referrals are made to local physicians or specialists for treatment of more serious health problems. The staff includes the Director of Health Services, a registered nurse, who is available during the Wellness Center hours of 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday. A nurse practitioner is available at the Health Services during special hours. Appointments are advisable. **A nominal fee is charged for appointments with the nurse practi-**

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tioner on campus, over-the-counter medications, allergy injections, laboratory work, and special medical supplies. All students must submit a completed health form to the Director of Health Services prior to entrance. This information is essential to the staff when administering medical care. The medical history enables the staff to assist the student in the prevention of future health problems. Also, it is strongly advised that all students have health insurance while attending Converse College. The Wellness Center Library is open during regular hours. Books, magazines, and articles are available on a variety of physical and mental health subjects. These materials may be checked out by students, faculty, and staff.

SEPARATION FROM THE COLLEGE

A student who wishes to separate from the College must secure a separation form from either Counseling Services or the Registrar's Office. Any student wishing to separate will begin the process by participating in a confidential exit interview with a member of the Counseling Center Staff. After completing the procedures prescribed by the separation form, the student must return it to the Registrar's Office. There are three categories of separation from the College: Leave of Absence, Withdrawal, and Administrative Withdrawal.

Leave of Absence: A student in good standing may discontinue her studies at Converse for a minimum of one academic session and a maximum of one year for one or more of the following reasons: financial considerations, travel plans, medical reasons, personal reasons, or alternate schooling. If, after a leave of absence of one calendar year a student does not subsequently enroll, the student will automatically be withdrawn from the College. To be granted a leave of absence, appropriate documentation must be provided prior to separation from the College. Students who are granted a withdrawal will receive grades of "W" for incomplete course work. To receive grades of "W" the appropriate form must be

submitted prior to the last day of classes. Students who leave the College without following the appropriate procedures will receive grades of "F" for incomplete course work.

Withdrawal: A student who wishes to withdraw from the College unconditionally may do so following submission of a completed separation form. Students who are granted a withdrawal will receive grades of "W" for incomplete course work. To receive grades of "W" the appropriate form must be submitted prior to the last day of classes. Students who leave the College without following the appropriate procedures will receive grades of "F" for incomplete course work.

Students who are granted a withdrawal or who automatically withdraw after a leave of absence of one calendar year must reapply to the College through the Office of Admissions.

A withdrawal or leave of absence from the College may negatively impact a student's financial aid eligibility if the student has not completed a sufficient number of hours. For further information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Administrative Withdrawal: The College reserves the right to suspend, expel, or enforce the withdrawal of any student whose academic standing is unsatisfactory, who violates the Honor Code, who persistently violates College regulations, or whose influence, by word or deed, is determined to be injurious to the best interest of the student body or the institution. A student who is administratively withdrawn will receive WS in all classes in which she is enrolled.

The College, upon the advice of its professional staff, may require a student to withdraw temporarily from the College for medical or psychological reasons. In these cases, the student will be encouraged to seek professional care. Such action is not taken for punitive reasons but because the welfare of the individual and the community mandates this procedure.

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LOCATION

Converse College is located in Spartanburg, South Carolina, near the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great Smokies to the west and South Carolina's coast to the east. Spartanburg is within easy driving distance of nature trails, picnic and camping areas, sandy beaches, and ski resorts. It is also a center for the visual, performing, and related arts, including performances sponsored by the Music Foundation and the Little Theatre and exhibits sponsored by the Art Association and The Gallery. Students may attend the annual concert series and dramatic productions sponsored by these organizations and may participate in the programs planned by the organizations for the Arts Council.

Several distinguished colleges and universities are in the region, including Davidson, the University of North Carolina, Duke, Emory, Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Clemson, Presbyterian, Sewanee, the University of South Carolina, Furman, and the Citadel. Wofford College is located in Spartanburg one mile from the Converse campus.

THE CAMPUS

Located in downtown Spartanburg, the Converse College campus consists of twenty-seven buildings on seventy acres. The buildings include Carmichael Hall, with classrooms, offices, and a lecture hall, Kuhn Science Hall, the Montgomery Student Activities Building, Blackman Music Building, and the Milliken Fine Arts Building, which contains art studios, classrooms, laboratories, offices, and a gallery. The oldest building on campus, Wilson Hall, houses administrative offices, formal parlors, a theatre, residence hall rooms, and a central dining room.

Twichell Auditorium, the primary concert and lecture hall, seats approximately 1,500 persons and contains soundproof practice rooms and teaching studios with pianos and organs which supplement the facilities in Blackman Music Hall. Blackman houses a 340-seat recital hall, a rehearsal hall, and a

recording studio, in addition to over 50 practice rooms, studios, and classrooms,

The Montgomery Student Activities Building houses Sneakers, the campus grill, the campus bookstore, the chapel, the gymnasium, an exercise room with Nautilus equipment, the swimming pool, the dance studio, classrooms, and various offices. Other buildings on campus include the Cabin, Gee Design Building, Ezell Building, the Wellness Center, Carnegie Building, and seven residence halls.