

# SECTION I.

## PROLOGUE

### *History*

At the time of its founding in 1913, Ferrum's community was the mountains of Southwest Virginia, and students came from homes in the southern Blue Ridge Mountain area. Public education in the area at that time was also in its infancy. In the Ferrum system of five branch schools in Franklin, Floyd, Patrick and Madison counties, teachers struggled to bring elementary and secondary education to a student body that at one time numbered 600.

Among those responsible for the founding of Ferrum was Dr. Benjamin M. Beckham, then presiding elder of the Danville District, who became the school's first president. The Woman's Missionary Society, under the leadership of their president, Miss Lutie Roberts, and the Board of Missions of the Virginia Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, provided the initial funds. Together they were able to secure land for the campus, a faculty of six, and ninety-nine students when the school opened its doors in 1914.

Ferrum continues to operate under the auspices of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women of the Virginia Annual Conference.

As public educational facilities became more available, Ferrum's branch schools were closed. In the early forties the elementary division was closed, and in 1955 the high school department was discontinued so that the educational programs could be concentrated in the junior college work that had begun in 1926. The junior college received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1960.

Under the guidance of Ferrum's seventh President, Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, the college's enrollment increased to over 1,000 and the campus experienced dramatic physical improvements, with over eleven new facilities being constructed by the early 1970s. They included modern classroom, dormitory and athletic buildings, as well as a new student center, library, audiovisual center, science laboratories, chapel, gymnasium and football stadium.

In 1974 the college began to offer bachelor's degrees in five human service fields. In December 1976 the college was awarded accreditation as a four-year college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Today the college offers degree programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Social Work degrees.

The Presidents of Ferrum have been Dr. Benjamin M. Beckham, 1913-1934; John A. Carter, 1934-1935; Dr. James A. Chapman, 1935-1943; the Reverend Luther J. Derby, 1943-1948; Dr. Nathaniel H. Davis '24, 1948-1952; the Reverend Stanley E. Emrich, 1952-1954; Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, 1954-1970; Dr. Joseph T. Hart, 1971-1986; Dr. Bill J. Elkins, 1986-1987(acting); and Dr. Jerry M. Boone, 1987-2002; Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, 2002 – present.

## ***Statement of Mission***

Ferrum College is a liberal arts institution founded on Christian principles and related to the United Methodist Church. It is our mission to educate students in the disciplines of higher learning and to help them be thoughtful and perceptive, to be articulate and professionally capable, and to be caring and concerned citizens of their community, nation, and world. We therefore commit ourselves to developing the whole student, both in openness to a wide range of intellectual discovery, and in the physical, spiritual, and social aspects of life.

Our campus environment supports service to others and the development of a personal code of values. Toward these ends, we expect all members of the campus community to treat each other with compassion, to respect each other's diverse qualities and backgrounds, and to support each other in the common pursuit of insight and discovery. In all these endeavors, we encourage students, faculty, and staff to appreciate excellence and to dedicate themselves to achieving it.

## ***Foundation for Learning***

In pursuit of its mission, Ferrum College educates the whole student in an experience of living and learning that blends the study of the traditional arts and sciences with professional study and preparation for the workplace. Fundamental to Ferrum College's philosophy of learning are the following concepts:

- Learning is an individual experience that best occurs in a closely knit, but diverse, community that values and nurtures the pursuit of truth, broad intellectual discovery, and the human potential for virtue and excellence among its faculty, staff, and students.
- Successful living requires understanding both human nature and the development of ideas and actions that shape the modern world.
- Ongoing integration of inquiry, study, and critical thought in the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom leads to a fulfilling life.
- Truly educated people understand the responsibilities of good citizenship in the communities where they live and work while realizing their relatedness to diverse communities and cultures worldwide.

## ***Hallmarks of a Ferrum College Graduate***

- Ferrum College graduates are professionally capable individuals who think critically, use creative inquiry, communicate effectively, and apply knowledge drawn from multiple disciplines.
- Ferrum College graduates are ethically, physically, socially, and spiritually engaged citizens of their community, nation and the world who serve others and appreciate diversity...

## ***Student Learning Outcomes***

The learning program at Ferrum College prepares its students to live responsible, productive, and creative lives in a dramatically changing world. It helps its graduates acquire and manifest the following skills and abilities, knowledge, values and attitudes, as well as habits and behaviors:

- They access, analyze, synthesize, and share ideas and information by reading, writing, speaking, and calculating using traditional and modern tools.
- They perceive, evaluate, and interpret societal, linguistic, aesthetic, humanistic, spiritual, scientific, and quantitative content competently, responsibly, ethically, and logically to represent and solve problems, to enable questioning of assumptions, and to pursue various truths.
- They possess a comprehensive background and demonstrated competence in a field of study that prepares them for continued personal and professional development and activity.
- They acquire a foundation for life-long intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social development by studying substantial content in multiple disciplines through rigorous methodology and active engagement.
- They recognize the diverse historical, ethical, scientific, and cultural perspectives necessary to understand and participate in a global and pluralistic society.

Ferrum College students achieve this development through their own persistence, a strong work ethic, and a sense of responsibility; our educational program; and their social and intellectual interaction with others.

The educational experience at Ferrum College seeks to develop the knowledge, actions and values of its students. The following outcomes embody the variety of learning opportunities available to every student.

### ***1.Communication***

- 1.1 Write and speak with unity of purpose, coherent organization, and effective use of English consistent with standard rules and ordinary conventions
- 1.2 Communicate ideas persuasively to a variety of audiences
- 1.3 Use appropriate technology, research methods, and quantitative and qualitative skills to collect and disseminate information
- 1.4 Appreciate diverse modes of creative expression
- 1.5 Read, comprehend, analyze, interpret, and evaluate as a process of forming mature judgments and arriving at sound conclusions

### ***2.Creative Inquiry and Critical Thinking***

- 2.1 Explore an area of interest through reading and research
- 2.2 Evaluate the validity, perspectives, and contexts of information

- 2.3 Use problem-solving skills creatively to synthesize an effective response
- 2.4 Articulate a personal aesthetic with regard to human expression and the natural world

### **3. Multidisciplinary Learning**

- 3.1 Demonstrate a breadth of knowledge in the liberal arts
- 3.2 Examine a subject and solve problems from the perspective of more than one discipline
- 3.3 Connect and apply knowledge to the campus and the world beyond
- 3.4 Apply knowledge of physical and emotional wellness

### **4. Professional Capability**

- 4.1 Demonstrate a depth of knowledge in their chosen fields
- 4.2 Demonstrate the skills to enhance the transition to employment and/or graduate and professional education
- 4.3 Work cooperatively and effectively with others
- 4.4 Use technology appropriate to their chosen fields
- 4.5 Integrate personal integrity with professional ethics appropriate to their fields
- 4.6 Apply the concepts and skills gained in the liberal arts core to the major

### **5. Citizenship**

- 5.1 Demonstrate an understanding of different religious beliefs and expressions of spirituality
- 5.2 Demonstrate respectful attitude and behavior as a community member
- 5.3 Demonstrate independence, persistence and responsible behavior
- 5.4 Demonstrate the ability to engage in collective decision-making and action in diverse environments
- 5.5 Engage in service to the community
- 5.6 Engage with people and culture from across the community, nation and world