

Foreword

The newly established Office of Institutional Research is pleased to present the **Boston College Fact Book, 2004-2005**, the 32nd edition of this publication.

This book is intended as a single, readily accessible, consistent source of information about the Boston College Community, its resources, and its operations. It is a summary of institutional data gathered from many areas of the University, compiled to capture the 2003-2004 Fiscal and Academic Year, and the fall semester of the 2004-2005 Academic Year. Where appropriate, multiple years of data are provided for historical perspective. It is not all encompassing but will provide pertinent facts and figures valuable to administrators, faculty, staff, and students alike.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all contributors who offered their time and expertise to maintain the greatest possible accuracy and standardization of their data. We are indebted to IR staff members Jessica Greene, Carol Pepin, and Margaret Ryan for their assistance and input. A special thank you is also extended to graduate students, Jackie Gould and Thomas McGuinness, for their diligence and attention to detail.

A concerted effort is made to make this publication an increasingly more useful reference, at the same time enhancing your understanding of the scope and progress of the University. We welcome your comments and suggestions toward that goal.

This fact book, as well as those from previous years, is available in its entirety at <http://www.bc.edu/factbook>.

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The Mission of Boston College

Strengthened by more than a century and a quarter of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic and societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Boston College pursues this distinctive mission by serving society in three ways:

- by fostering the rigorous intellectual development and the religious, ethical, and personal formation of its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in order to prepare them for citizenship, service, and leadership in a global society;
- by producing nationally and internationally significant research that advances insight and understanding, thereby both enriching culture and addressing important societal needs; and
- by committing itself to advance the dialogue between religious belief and other formative elements of culture through the intellectual inquiry, teaching and learning, and the community life that form the University.

Boston College fulfills this mission with a deep concern for all members of its community, with a recognition of the important contribution a diverse student body, faculty, and staff can offer, with a firm commitment to academic freedom, and with a determination to exercise careful stewardship of its resources in pursuit of its academic goals.