

# MAGDALEN COLLEGE

## 2024 - 2030



### A New Vision for Magdalen College

December 2023

*Apud Deum autem omnia possible sunt*  
(With God, all things are possible.)

This vision has been developed and communicated by Magdalen's alumni.

# 1. Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts

Undergraduate, liberal education based on classic texts, with majors

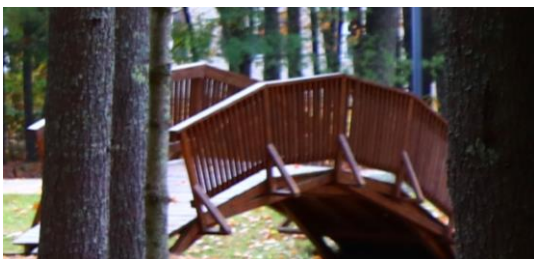
- a. We will maintain and continue to develop the nationally recognized Program of Studies that has formed students for over fifty years. This unique program integrates the very best of Catholic liberal education, drawing upon the wisdom of the college's founders and founding academic dean, Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman, Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Josef Pieper, John Senior, Donald and Louise Cowan, and others.
- b. In a unique synthesis, Magdalen's Program of Studies unites:
  - ◆ Dialogical seminars with expert teaching.
  - ◆ A comprehensive humanities sequence with extensive math and science.
  - ◆ The liberal arts with the fine arts.
  - ◆ A common shared curriculum with the discipline-based vision of four majors
  - ◆ The dynamic interplay of Faith and Reason, with the curriculum finding its ultimate coherence through six semesters of theology faithful to established Magisterial teaching.
- c. And all of this unfolds within a common life, on a stunningly beautiful campus, ordered by the rhythms of the daily liturgy and the annual liturgical cycle, aiming at the integrated formation of the whole person for this life and the next.
- d. To this we add a common commitment to liturgical beauty, manifest in reverent and beautiful liturgies, accented by the joyful musical contributions of the Magdalen Choir and Polyphony Choir.
- e. All of which finds expression in an unflagging and heroic devotion to forming Catholic laity, cultivating priestly and religious vocations, and building a Culture of Life with joyful fidelity, no matter what the cost.



## 2. St. Paul's College of Applied Arts and Trades

St. Paul was a tentmaker by trade, cf. Acts 18:1-4

- a. What do most Catholic young men want? They want to work with their hands, to do an honest day's work, perhaps owning their own company, so that they can provide for their families.
- b. There is currently no place in America that can satisfy this high demand within a Catholic context, while integrating a core of Catholic liberal education.
- c. Pending state approval, this program would establish an associate's degree and a B.A. in applied arts and trades—with a liberal arts core—running alongside the Magdalen Classic B.A.
- d. When other programs have been announced and attempted, they have generated a tidal wave of interest and applications. Thus far, those programs have been delayed for a variety of reasons, including obstacles to degree-granting authority and accreditation. Magdalen already has these for its current curriculum and could offer the first Newman Guide program of this kind in the United States, beginning in the fall of 2024.
- e. Magdalen already has members in its community and within the local area to establish professional partnerships, apprenticeships, and guilds for the most in-demand trades and applied arts. Local members of the community have expressed great enthusiasm and support for this initiative.
- f. These guilds would also run during the summer, giving students full-time opportunities to master their craft and trade.
- g. Pending accreditor and state approval, this program would offer its own, specialized, accredited degree.
- h. The program would be animated by two works in particular: Pope Saint John Paul II's *Laborem exercens* and Matthew Crawford's "Shopcraft as Soul Craft."



### 3. St. Margaret's Collegiate Academy

St. Margaret of Castello, canonized in 2021, is the patron saint of the disabled

- a. Where can young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities experience a Catholic collegiate community that honors their dignity within a vibrant spiritual and liturgical context? **There is not such a program in the United States.**
- b. Magdalen will create the first substantially Catholic collegiate experience for young adults with developmental disabilities.
- c. This will be a summer collegiate experience offering multiple two-week sessions on Magdalen's beautiful campus.
- d. The program will be designed for the student to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- e. The program will integrate (a) ability-appropriate courses in the Catholic intellectual tradition, (2) beautiful liturgies, the rosary, and other devotions, (3) sports and other outdoor activities, and (4) an experience of the fine arts such as choir. (And what beautiful music they will make!)
- f. Many Catholic families, who have been generously open to life, have at least one child with developmental disabilities. This program would serve those students and their families.
- g. This program would be warmly welcomed by Catholic philanthropists as an opportunity to serve members of the Church who are typically underserved.
- h. This idea has been 'lean-tested' with Catholic leaders in the United States and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.



## 4. St. Augustine's Accelerated Catholic High School

- a. How many families would like to cut the cost of college in half and the time to complete a college degree in half?
- b. Through this program—pending the proper approval of the state and the accreditor—students would earn a high school degree and a college degree in six years.
- c. How? In the last two years of high school, students would earn substantial dual enrollment credits. The years of high school would then be followed by two collegiate years with summer terms in between, leading to a B.A. in two more calendar years.
- d. Magdalen's faculty would also teach in this program and share the back office administrative costs with the college and other programs.
- e. Students in the high school could also participate—as appropriate—in programs derived from the St. Paul's College of the Applied Arts and Trades.
- f. This high school could conceivably be a boarding school or devoted to single-sex education. National experts in Catholic secondary and postsecondary education would participate in the planning and founding of the school. It would aim to become pioneer and model for faithful Catholic secondary education in America.
- g. The curriculum would be modeled on the curriculum and common life of Magdalen Classic.



PHASE ONE  
(WINTER 2024)

- Retire Magdalen’s current debt and meet with NECHE to seek an extension of the college’s accreditation in light of the new financial situation and new business plan
- Further develop the business model incorporating the “four pillars” outlined above, developing reliable financial forecasts
- Prepare media—digital, print, and video—to announce Magdalen’s rebirth to the nation
- Launch a national campaign to raise \$15M—drawing on a network of donors, friends, and visionaries—in order to establish and endow Magdalen’s new programs for the future

PHASE TWO  
(SPRING 2024)

- Recruit students for Magdalen Classic and a pilot program in the Applied Arts and Trades for Fall 2024
- Plan a national conference on Magdalen’s campus for the summer of 2024 to prepare and launch St. Margaret’s Collegiate Academy (to begin summer 2025)
- Convene national experts to begin planning St. Augustine’s Accelerated Catholic High School
- Prepare the campus and local networks for the first cohort of the Applied Arts and Trades
- Continue national campaign to raise \$15M

PHASE THREE  
(SUMMER 2024)

- Host a national conference on Magdalen’s campus to prepare for St. Margaret’s Collegiate Academy (to begin summer 2025), an event that will be covered in the national Catholic media
- Continue (1) national fundraising, (2) admissions campaigns, (3) planning St. Augustine’s Accelerated Catholic High School, and (3) developing local networks and facilities for the first cohort of the Applied Arts and Trades

PHASE FOUR  
(FALL 2024)

- Enroll the class of 2028 and its first cohort for the Applied Arts and Trades
- Prepare for the first cohort in St. Margaret’s Collegiate Academy to arrive in the summer of 2025
- Continue (1) national fundraising and (2) admissions campaigns, (3) planning the St. Augustine’s Accelerated Catholic High School
- Finalize master plan for St. Augustine’s Accelerated Catholic High School and begin the silent phase of the capital campaign, breaking ground in 2026