Tabor College Undergraduate Studies

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

MISSION

Preparing people for a life of learning, work and service for Christ and his kingdom.

VISION STATEMENT

Tabor College's vision is to be the college of choice for students who seek a life-transforming, academically excellent, globally relevant, and decidedly Christian education.

CORE VALUES

The core values that influence the mission and vision of Tabor College include a commitment to being Christ-centered in all aspects of life, a passion for learning, the promotion of service to others, and meaningful involvement in college and community activities.

Christ-centered: The primary value of Tabor College is its desire to be a Christ-centered institution. All activities and programs flow out of this value and are evaluated in reference to it. The Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith provides the biblical and theological foundation for the institution.

Learning: The purpose of Tabor is to promote learning. Tabor recognizes that learning occurs in informal settings as well as in the classroom and organized field experiences. Our goal is to develop students who are broadly educated, competent, and embrace the joy of learning which will last a lifetime.

Service: Service is at the heart of Christ-centered education. We emphasize the value of caring for others in all that we do.

Involvement: We believe that being engaged increases learning. Participation, both in the formal classroom and outside of it, is an effective way to prepare students for a life of work and service.

Community: Tabor values community. It desires to be a place where individuals feel like they belong, where there is a sense of mutual support, and members hold each other accountable.

OBJECTIVES

Tabor is...A Christian College

Tabor seeks to be more than just a "church-related" college. Its goal of providing a Christ-centered higher education is taken very seriously. Tabor requires that its faculty and staff be able to articulate and practice a strong faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tabor also seeks to integrate Christian convictions and values into its learning experiences throughout the College.

Tabor is...A Liberal Arts College

Tabor seeks to provide a Christian worldview, infusing the entire curriculum with important dimensions of meaning and purpose. The Christian perspective redeems the educational process from the moral crisis, despair, and the lack of purpose in a secular worldview.

In the liberal arts tradition, students, faculty, and staff should demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the main fields of knowledge
2. An understanding of the relationships between the fields of knowledge
3. An understanding of value systems in order to develop the mind and character for free and mature decision making
4. Methods of inquiry unique to the various disciplines of knowledge
5. An understanding of the creative arts in a wide range of human experience and knowledge
6. Independent scholarship
7. Competency in reading, writing, speaking, and the functional use of numbers
8. An understanding of how to care for the human body, use the environment, and use leisure time in order to maintain and improve physical and mental well-being

Tabor is...A Community of Learners

Aided by divine grace, love, and power, a community of learners may achieve high moral standards and experience the deepest meaning and potential of human nature.

In such a community, students, faculty, and staff should practice Christian virtues by demonstrating:

1. Healthy interpersonal relationships in order to be free to learn. Disengagement from people is an evasion of the educative task.
2. The ability to converse with people. Faculty serve as models for students as they think and talk through their own positions on various issues. Teachers share their own views and are willing to take a positive stance, but do not force students to subscribe to those views. The integrity of the student's perspective is respected.
3. Self-acceptance. Only persons who have come to terms with themselves are free to learn.
4. A loving and supportive attitude toward others. Because new knowledge and insights threaten a person's identity and world views, loving acceptance allows a person to learn, change, and make new and meaningful commitments that give identity and perspective.
5. Self-discipline, integrity, and responsibility. These are key ingredients of the learning process.
6. Respect for others, regardless of socio-economic background, gender, ethnic/cultural background, racial differences, and maturity of their personal faith.

Tabor is...A Church/Career Training Center

The first calling of all Christians is to follow Christ and bear witness to their faith. Skills should be acquired to do this as effectively as possible. One's vocation or profession becomes the arena in which one lives out his or her faith.

As a part of a church/career training center, students, faculty, and staff should demonstrate:

1. Skill in churchmanship, meeting the Church's need for qualified workers. This is an important reason for Tabor's existence.
2. Career skills consistent with liberal arts and Christian objectives. Tabor offers a select number of majors and professional programs to help develop technical skills and competencies required for effective service.
3. How, through a chosen career or profession, a person can exhibit personal compassion, dedication to honesty and integrity, sensitivity to socio-political realities, and understanding of technological developments, adaptivity to change, and ecological sanity and harmony.

Tabor is...A Center for Lifelong Learning

The College is a center for continuing education in central Kansas, among its alumni, in the Mennonite Brethren Church, and in the larger evangelical community.

As part of a center for continuing education, students, faculty, and staff should demonstrate an understanding:

1. That learning is a life-long process
2. That education is an enrichment of life rather than merely a prerequisite for employment

TABOR'S HISTORY AND THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

The Mennonite Brethren denomination is a part of the broader Mennonite family of Christian believers who trace their origins to Menno Simons and others in Europe in the sixteenth century. These believers were often called "Anabaptists" because they felt strongly that believers should be baptized "again," giving witness as adults to their mature and determined commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord. They were also convinced that the new birth is into an accountable community where they would read the Bible together to grow as disciples of Christ.

Along with these emphases, Mennonite Brethren have drawn on the mainstream of what is today called "evangelical Christianity," characterized by personal commitment to Christ, a high view of the Bible's authority, and the importance of proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Among the numerous Mennonites who migrated from Russia to the Great Plains of the United States and Canada, it was the Mennonite Brethren and a similar group, the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren, who saw the need for an institution of higher education and chose Hillsboro, Kansas, for its location. On September 5, 1908, 39 students and three instructors held the first classes of Tabor College. Before that school year ended, enrollment grew to 104, with a faculty of five. On April 30, 1918, a fire tragically destroyed the building which had housed the College for its first ten years. Supporters of the College quickly joined in constructing two new buildings, a dormitory-dining hall and an administration-classroom building, at a cost of more than $130,000. The two buildings are still in use.

While Tabor College has continued to be affiliated with the Mennonite Brethren Church since the College's inception, changes have been made in the organizational structure from time to time. The Tabor College Corporation owned and operated the College until 1934, when ownership was transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. The College now operates under its own charter. Its Board of Directors is responsible to the Mennonite Brethren churches of the Central, Southern, Latin America, and North Carolina districts.

Tabor College began to offer academic programs in Wichita in 1994. The undergraduate programs include: Business Administration, Christian Ministry, and Nursing. A master's degree in Business Administration was added in 2008.

DOCTRINE

Tabor College, as a ministry of the Mennonite Brethren Church, accepts the "Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren Churches of the United States" adopted in 1999. Mennonite Brethren follow evangelical Anabaptist theology, which emphasizes new birth into Christ and faithful discipleship, a mission of personal evangelism and social justice, and obedience to the Bible as interpreted within the community of faith. A full copy of the MB Confession of Faith is available online at the conference website http://www.usmb.org/confession-of-faith---detailed-version.

ACCREDITATION

Tabor College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602, Phone: 800-621-7440) and is approved to offer training under the Veterans Educational Training Program.

The College holds membership in the Associated Colleges of Central Kansas, the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Kansas Independent College Association, the Council of Mennonite Colleges, and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. In addition, Tabor College holds private accreditations in Athletic Training, Education, Music, and Nursing. Students who complete the social work major are eligible to be licensed at the Licensed Bachelor of Social Work level.

OUR LOCATION

Our Hillsboro campus is located in Hillsboro, Kansas (population approximately 3,500), an agricultural area fifty miles north of Wichita, the largest city in Kansas.

In addition to Tabor College, the town of Hillsboro has a hospital, two medical clinics, a municipal park with a public swimming pool, and a golf course. Numerous educational and cultural opportunities are available in communities within a one-hour drive of Hillsboro.

TABOR HILLSBORO CAMPUS

The campus consists of 43 buildings, located on a 86.5-acre tract in the southeast part of Hillsboro. Recent projects include the construction of the Solomon L. Loewen Natural Science Center, Dakota Hall, Hiebert Hall, Loewen Hall, and Wiebe Hall (a new residence hall and townhouses), a strength training facility addition to the Campus Recreation Center, a locker room, and the Joel Wiens Stadium.

Academic Facilities. The H. W. Lohrenz Building, built in 1920, contains classrooms, administrative offices, a small theater laboratory, and a chapel. The Mary J. Regier Hall was built in 1920. It houses the Visual Art Department and a general computer lab. The Business Studies building contains classrooms, offices of business faculty, and a computer laboratory. The Wohlgemuth Music Education Center, completed in 1990, houses the Music Department. It includes a rehearsal hall, practice rooms, classrooms, a piano laboratory, large reception area, and faculty offices/studios. The Solomon L. Loewen Natural Science Center, completed in 1998, is home for the departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and includes a lecture hall and classrooms, laboratories, computer room and conference room, nature library, and greenhouse.

Library. The Library had its beginning on the lower level of the first Tabor College building, erected in 1908. Following the fire of 1918, the Library was relocated to the first level of the H.W. Lohrenz Building, formerly known as the Administration Building, completed in 1920. The present Library, constructed in 1957, was renovated and enlarged in 1984.

A newly implemented online public access catalog provides access to over 53,000 cataloged books, videotapes, CDs, films, etc. Materials not converted into electronic format are accessible through the integrated subject/author/title card catalog. Public-access computers provide web-based access to the Kansas Library Catalog (KLC), a union listing of book and periodical title holdings of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas libraries. Materials not owned by Tabor Library are available through Interlibrary Loan via the international Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), of which Tabor College Library is a member. Currently the Tabor Library provides access to Britannica Online, Encyclopedia Americana Online, Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia Online, Infotrac Web, EBSCOhost, CQ Researcher, GaleNet Literature Resource Center, SIRS Discoverer, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Lexis-Nexis, and FirstSearch databases. A campus-wide computer network allows access to library computer resources from any location on campus. Off-campus users are allowed access through Tabor's proxy server.

The Library maintains approximately 150 periodical subscriptions in paper format. These periodicals are accessible through indexing in either paper or electronic indexes. The web-based periodical databases, Infotrac Web and FirstSearch, provide subject access to citations and full-text to numerous periodical titles.

The Library is intended to support a broad academic curriculum, but several subject areas of particular interest to the College and its constituency are especially represented in the collection, including Mennonite Brethren history, life and thought, peace studies, as well as materials on C. S. Lewis, Flannery O'Conner, and Madeleine L'Engle. An extensive juvenile literature collection includes Newberry, Caldecott, and William Allen White award-winning books. Some 2,000 recordings, including compact discs, as well as a large selection of cataloged scores, support the music program.

Video players, film projectors, record players, tape recorders, screens, and other audiovisual supplies are available for use. Video projectors and laptop computers are also available to faculty for multi-media classroom instruction. There is an interactive television projection room available for group presentations or classroom instruction.

Individual and group study rooms, as well as a conference room, facilitate personal study and group meetings. The Library building also houses offices and holdings for the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies.

Athletic Facilities. Athletic facilities at Tabor include four outdoor tennis courts with floodlights, a baseball diamond, the Vernon R. Wiebe practice soccer field, an athletic complex with athletic offices and locker rooms, Joels Wiens Stadium, and Reimer Field (a curbed metric all-weather track and artificial turf football field).

The Gymnasium has a regulation size game floor which includes two cross-court playing floors and a seating capacity of 1,500 for varsity games. The Campus Recreation Center includes two basketball courts, two racquetball courts, exercise area, walking/jogging track, strength training facility, and office space.

Student Center. The Student Center includes classrooms, student offices, bookstore, lounge areas, snack bar, cafeteria, student game room, Center for Academic Development ("Branch Office"), Blue/Gold Conference Room, Student Conference Room, and the student mail room.

Residence Halls. Tabor is a residential campus. All residence halls are air-conditioned, carpeted, and furnished with a dresser, single beds, desk, chairs, and mini-blinds. Students are expected to furnish bed linens, blankets, pillows, and towels.

Hiebert, Loewen, and Wiebe Hall townhouses also provide housing for upper-class men and women. The College owns seven houses and a duplex adjacent to campus which is used for additional student housing for upperclassmen.

Lounges. The Schlichting Center, a student lounge, provides visiting areas for friends and parents of students. Kansas, Dakota, and Cedar Halls and Hiebert, Loewen, and Wiebe Hall Townhouses have coed lounges.

TABOR WICHITA CAMPUS

Tabor College School of Adult and Graduate Studies is located in the northwest portion of Wichita and is easily accessible from all directions, including Interstate 235 and Highway 96. Our facilities in Wichita feature three large classrooms with state of the art technology as well as administrative offices which house key services for adult and graduate students. Also housed in this location are offices of the District Minister for the Southern District of the Mennonite Brethren Church and of the Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services International.