Last April, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, announced SHU’s selection as one of only 25 educational institutions named to its national leadership consortium to participate in a major new initiative - Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility.

“You have an exemplary gem of a new core curriculum which I think will become a [model] for other institutions... Because it is very values-centered it raises universal value issues, moral issues about justice, about the common good, about the integration across disciplines,” said Caryn McTighe Musil, senior vice president of AAC&U.

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What is Core Communities?
Core Communities is Sacred Heart University’s newest integrative educational initiative—a learning-living community. Core Communities grows out of the University’s commitment to provide an exceptional educational experience that fosters academic excellence and promotes personal and social growth and responsibility.

Why is Core Communities for Me?
A learning-living community provides you with an integrative, rich, and varied educational experience that:
- Enhances academic achievement
- Nurtures strong friendships and peer relationships
- Cultivates habits of excellence in all that one does
- Develops skills and abilities leading to personal and professional success
- Promotes active and engaged learning
- Instills understanding of living a purposeful and meaningful life
- Encourages knowledge of social and global issues
- Fosters an understanding of the importance of contributing to the larger community and of promoting the common good of society

Who is Part of Core Communities?
A student who is selected to be part of Core Communities is dedicated to and passionate about the specific theme that frames both their academic and residential life experiences.

A Core Communities student values a college life experience that is active, engaged, and inspiring. The Core Communities student understands that learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom and is eager for the challenge that a full and varied educational experience offers.

What are the Costs of Core Communities?
There are no extra costs to you, only extra benefits if you are one of the 50 students selected to be part of Core Communities.

How do I Become Part of Core Communities?
Only 50 students will be selected each year to be part of Core Communities. If you think Core Communities is right for you then complete the application which must be in no later than Monday, May 18, 2009.

The application can be accessed online at http://www.sacredheart.edu/corecommunities.cfm or you can download the application information and e-mail it to guastellek@sacredheart.edu or mail a hard copy to:

Karen Guastelle
Dean of Admissions
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A Note from the Deans
We hope that you will give serious consideration to this opportunity to become part of Core Communities. Core Communities is a cutting-edge model of education that can help you to improve your academic achievement, build community between you and your peers, and deepen and enrichen your college experience. By linking your living experience with your classroom learning you will become engaged in a more coherent, integrative educational process that can better prepare you for personal and professional success. Only fifty students can be selected each year for Core Communities; if you want to begin your college career with an exceptional educational experience then Core Communities is for you.

We look forward to your becoming part of Core Communities.

Karen Guastelle
Dean of Admissions
Larry Wielk
Dean of Students
Michelle Loris, Ph.D., Psy.D.
Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences