

**Mission Accountability Self-Study**  
**The University of Detroit Mercy**  
(prepared for CMHE campus site-visit, March 12-14, 2017)

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**Preamble**

The University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit Mercy) embodies the educational spirit and tradition of two religious congregations: the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and the Institutes of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (Sisters of Mercy). Detroit College, founded by the Jesuits in 1877, grew into the University of Detroit. Several decades later, in 1941, the Sisters of Mercy established Mercy College of Detroit. Both religious congregations established their respective colleges to improve the lives of men and women through higher education. For the Sisters of Mercy, educational works grew out of the needs of the people served. Education was a tool to enhance and improve the lives of persons impacted by poverty and oppression, especially women. Within the Jesuit tradition, education was understood as a tool for teaching young men and women, especially in urban areas, to serve “the greater good” and to become men and women for others.





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the clinic are African-American residents of Detroit, and the great majority of clients have incomes below or just above the federal poverty line.

<http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/mcauley-health-center/>

- **Psychology Clinic**

The Psychology Clinic is a training clinic for the doctoral program in clinical psychology and provides a range of psychological services to predominantly uninsured and underinsured children, adolescents and adults in the metropolitan area. Located on campus, all services are provided by graduate students who are supervised by licensed psychologists both on faculty and practicing in the community. Fees are adjusted based on household income to provide access to underserved communities. Clinic services for mild to moderate and chronic mental health concerns include psychological assessment and testing, individual psychotherapy, child and adolescent psychotherapy and parent guidance and couples' therapy. Notably, children and adolescents comprise a significant percent of clients served. Graduates of the doctoral program, cognizant of the social justice mission, comprise the majority of non-faculty clinic supervisors. The clinic works with community and campus organizations to provide services and outreach activities to ethnically diverse and underrepresented groups in federally designated health professional shortage areas, particularly Detroit and low-income communities in Wayne County. Campus and community partners have included Office of Disability Services, Athletic Department, Immigration Law Clinic, Jalen Rose Academy, Gesu School and Highland Park High School.

<http://liberalarts.udmercy.edu/programs/depts/psychology/clinic/index.htm>

The clinical courses and community clinics further the University's mission priorities of serving the vulnerable and underrepresented and of encouraging students to lead value-driven lives of service to others. Moreover, the Counseling Clinic and Psychology Clinic, both of which serve students, demonstrate care for the whole person, another central aspect of the University's Mercy identity.

### **3) Service-learning and the Emerging Leaders Program**

The University places a strong emphasis on service-learning, through which students use skills being developed in the classroom to serve the community. Notably, the University's service-learning courses further all three major aspects of the University's Mercy charism. Through service-learning, Detroit Mercy educates the whole student; inculcates in students attitudes of compassion and commitments to social justice; and allows students to engage in the works of mercy by working with and serving the vulnerable, the underrepresented, and the overlooked. Moreover, service-learning opportunities prepare students to understand theories of social justice.

The University's twenty-year service-learning program is coordinated through the **Institute for Leadership and Service**. The Director administers the program; works with faculty, students, and community partners; provides orientations and other training regarding service-learning; and identifies opportunities for both project- and advocacy-based service. At the beginning of every service-learning course, the Director of Service-learning offers a thirty minute presentation that includes a brief history of Catherine McAuley and highlights the aspects of the University's m

in about 90 service-learning classes each year, which equates to over 12,000 hours of service each year.

Service-learning is required for all students in the College of Business Administration and the nursing program. Students serve at a variety of different agencies and organizations focused on issues ranging from the environment, to poverty, to health care.

Service-learning is incorporated into the hard sciences as well as into the social sciences and liberal arts. For example, freshmen engineering students evaluated energy use in the building housing a non-profit organization, designed solutions, and created cost estimates that would result in \$250,000 in savings for the organization. Similarly, a team of mechanical and electrical engineering students created a set of Health Information Kiosks for the Detroit Science Center. These kiosks allowed visitors to the Detroit Science Center to receive bar coded health information bands that they could then take to a kiosk to see information about their current state of health, risk factors, and recommended changes.

The **Emerging Leaders Program** is an integral part of the Institute for Leadership and Service. This Program prepares students for leadership in service of the common good. Students who participate in the Program explore their leadership potential and abilities through involvement in programs, events, and activities that include learning, leadership, spirituality, and service on and off

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African Americans, and Africans in the diaspora. This minor is directly relevant to one of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy (Anti-Racism).

<http://liberalarts.udmercy.edu/programs/special/African-american/index.htm#tabs-3>

- The College of Liberal Arts and Education offers a minor in Women's and Gender Studies that seeks to inculcate in students a commitment to social justice, equity, and the recognition and examination of underrepresented and disadvantaged peoples. In describing the Program's commitment to women's equality, the website for the Women's and Gender Studies Program relies in significant part on the Direction Statement of the Institutes of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and on similar statements from the Society of Jesus.  
<http://liberalarts.udmercy.edu/programs/special/wgs/>
- The School of Law offers concentrations in Immigration Law and in Family Law, two of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy (Immigration & Women); as well as courses on Spirituality and the Law and Canon Law. Spirituality and the Law is specifically designed to help students integrate their professional and spiritual identities and to infuse students' legal work with a richer spiritual perspective.
- The McAuley School of Nursing has created a capstone course entitled Professional Practice from the Mercy and Jesuit Perspectives. This course addresses the role of the professional nurse as an advocate and systemic change agent.
- The Mechanical Engineering undergraduate curriculum features a capstone course that puts the mission into action. Engineering and College of Health Profession students work together to design new specialty products (e.g., a bionic arm) for disabled veterans who volunteer to participate in the course.
- The Department of Philosophy offers a course in Peace and Social Justice. This course explores with students many of the critical concerns of both Sisters of Mercy (notably Nonviolence/Peace) and of Jesuits.
- In 2014, a group of nursing students traveled to Ireland to explore nursing education and the health care delivery system at The Mater Hospital in Dublin, Mercy School of Nursing in Cork, and St. Joseph Home in Trim. This trip included a visit to the Mercy International Centre (popularly known as the Catherine McAuley House) in Dublin; indeed, Ireland was chosen because of the close connection to the University's Mercy heritage. Students in the College of Business Administration also have traveled to the Mercy International Centre to study Catherine McAuley as a social entrepreneur.
- The Theater Department has articulated a commitment to focus on social justice themes in its selection of productions and associated community activities.
- The Detroit Mercy Ethics Bowl is a yearly event involving students, staff, alumni, faculty, and administrators throughout the University. It is inspired by TV's College Bowl, but modified rules adapt the game to the subject of ethics. The first place team represents the University at a Regional Ethics Bowl with the potential to move on to the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl at the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.  
<http://www.udmercy.edu/events/2016/11/18/16th-annual-detroit-mercy-ethics->

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**Men's Wilderness Retreat:** a two-day experience for young men on campus, facilitated by Ministry staff and student leaders. The retreat includes small group discussion, adventurous activities, speakers, and prayer. Serves between 10-15 students per year.

The **Explore Retreat:** a three-day/two-night experience for a mixed group students hosted by the Mercy Center and facilitated by a team of students and an invited retreat director. It is an opportunity for students to find meaning and purpose in their lives by listening more closely to God's call. Activities include small group discussion, a variety of activities, silence, and meditation. Serves between 10-20 students per year .

**Specialized Retreats**, such as an annual retreat for business students.

- **Companion Leadership Program:** The University Ministry Companions are peer leaders in the Detroit Mercy community. Leadership development includes leadership days of reflection, bi-monthly meetings on building leadership skills and one-on-one meetings with the Ministry Staff. Student Companions/leaders are encouraged and taught to facilitate almost every program, retreat, and experience for Ministry.
- **Service in the City:** This program is developing into a weekly service and reflection program that helps students form relationships with a small group who serve together and with staff and clients of local service organizations.

<http://www.udmercy.edu/ministry/>

The **Office of Student Affairs** is dedicated to the care of the whole student and includes the **Student Life Office**, the **Student Wellness Center**, **Residence Life**, and the **International Services Office**. The Office of Student Affairs and its constituent offices represent the values of Mercy in the programming of events and in its interaction with students in a variety of contexts (residence life, student conduct, etc.).

Notable programs and events offered by the Office of Student Affairs (often through its constituent offices) include:

- **Prologues, Transitions, and Viewpoints:** An orientation program designed both to educate students about the University's mission and identity and to inculcate in students attitudes of compassion.
- **Annual Celebrations and Service Opportunities**, including **Hunger & Homelessness Week**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, including (th)-4 O [(Hu)4 (n)4 (g)5 10.8 12.26 (e)2 (s)Sa0.509 4.6







The Office of Mission and Identity provides retreats, blogs, lectures, videos, and other venues through which employees can develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the University's Mercy charism. The following three programs of the Office of Mission and Identity have proven particularly significant to the furtherance of the University's mission:

- **Half-Day Retreats for New Employees and Other Retreats** (1/2 day) - th

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The impact of service-learning on students has been documented by numerous studies authored by Detroit Mercy faculty—most recently in a 2013 study entitled “Service-Learning and Leadership: Evidence from Teaching Financial Literacy,” in the *Journal of Management Education*. The study found that after engaging in service-learning, students exhibited significantly higher concern about seven out of seven social justice issues as defined by Catholic Social Teaching, and registered improvements on eight out of ten dimensions of leadership.

The Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership, a national **survey** in which the University participates, also provides evidence of the effectiveness of the University’s mission efforts. Findings include:

- 77% of Detroit Mercy’s students say they “have a clear understanding of UDM’s Mission.”
- 71% say they “have had several opportunities to live the UDM Mission.”
- When asked to compare their current self-perception to their pre-college self-perception, students reported gains in all areas of individual values, group values, and society and community values.

In addition to survey results, **student testimonials** attest to the effectiveness of the University’s mission efforts. For example, the 2016 address by the University valedictorian is a clear statement of mission values. That address can be found at [http://www.udmercy.edu/commencement/grad-day/baccalaureate/Valed\\_Speech\\_2016.pdf](http://www.udmercy.edu/commencement/grad-day/baccalaureate/Valed_Speech_2016.pdf)

Available evidence concerning **brand recognition** suggests that the University is known more for Jesuit identity than for Mercy identity. This is true both within and outside the University. However, in recent years there has been great interest in ensuring that Mercy identity enjoys equal prominence with Jesuit identity

