

University College History

The University College of Saint Joseph's University is the undergraduate division that serves the educational needs of adult and part-time students while meeting the need of employers for quality programs in the education and professional advancement of their employees.

The University College is responsible for undergraduate evening degree programs, the Bridge program, Summer Sessions, the January Intersession, off-campus programs, and special non-credit seminars. The University College offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in a wide range of liberal arts and business disciplines. Certificate and Associate degrees are also offered in various programs. Saint Joseph's University degree programs are approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education. They are accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 215-662-5606. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. The Haub School of Business and its Accounting program are accredited by the AACSB—The International Association for Management Education. Fewer than ten percent of the country's business schools have dual accreditation.

As early as 1852, at the college's first site in Willing's Alley, then president Father Barbelin organized and for several years successfully carried on a popular night school for adults. However, it was not until 1942 that a regular series of non-credit courses was given under the Engineering, Science and Management War Training Program. In 1943 under president Thomas J. Love, S.J. the College offered courses in liberal arts, business, and industrial chemistry—67 students enrolled. In the succeeding two years enrollment nearly tripled.

The Evening Division was formally established in 1946, and Michael F. Maher, S.J. was appointed dean. By 1968 enrollment had grown to over 3,000 men and women. The title "Division" was changed to "College" to represent more accurately what the program had become. In 1975, The Continuing Education Program was begun to allow part-time students the additional flexibility to take day as well as evening courses. This program is now designated as Bridge: An Adult Day Program. In 1981, the University was formally organized into three colleges. To reflect the change in institutional structure, the program's name became "University College" as it is today.

The University College is an integral part of Saint Joseph's University, a well respected, independent, Catholic, Jesuit University. Dedicated to a liberal arts education, Jesuit continuing education fosters disciplined reasoning, critical thinking, effective communication, and a love of learning. The University College connects the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and service with the contemporary needs of adult learners.

Source: University Catalogue