

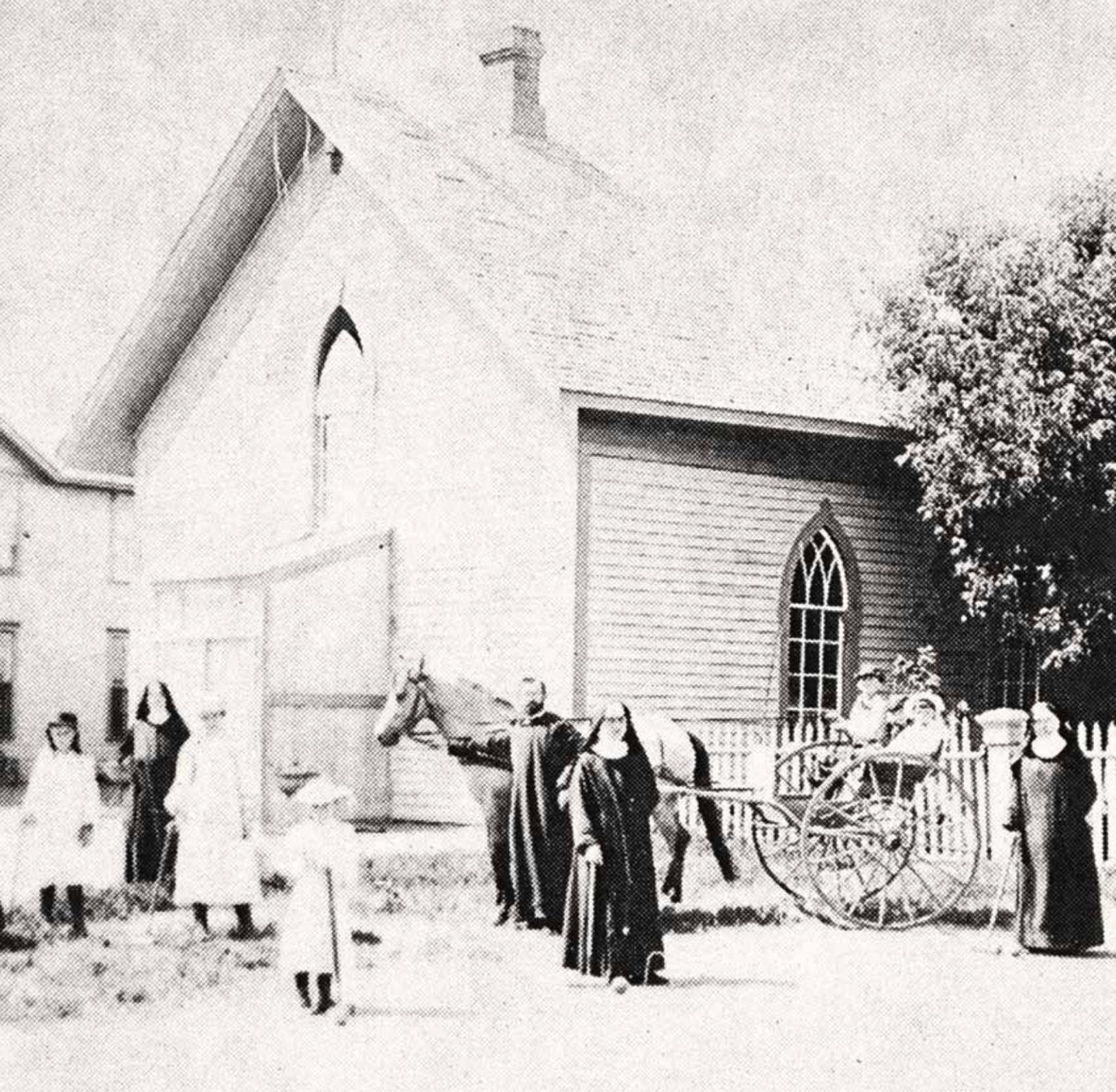
{ YEAR-ROUND CAMPUS }

Finally, proving that less can be more.



University of Mary





OUR FOUNDERS & SPONSORS

In 1878, a small group of Benedictine Sisters stepped off a train in Bismarck, Dakota Territory. With a pioneering spirit and much faith, they came to serve, to teach, and to heal. Their forward thinking, courage, dedication to service and their spirit of joyful adventure is a living legacy at the University of Mary.

Today, new challenges call for new pioneers, bold innovators guided by the same faith that inspired those Sisters so many years ago to step confidently into the future.



Student loan debt in the U.S. today stands at \$1.2 trillion and counting.

A New Era in Higher Education

Much like the GI Bill revolutionized higher education following World War II, another innovative change is vitally needed today. Rising costs, lengthy completion times and crushing student loan debt are causing our young people and their parents to question the value of a college education.

At the University of Mary, our mission is to serve the cultural, religious and academic needs of the people in our region and beyond. For that reason, Mary is now responding to the pressing demands of the times by offering a new, first-of-its-kind model for higher education—a pathway to a university degree that reduces cost, speeds up time to completion and decreases student debt.

Skyrocketing Costs.

The cost of a four-year education has skyrocketed over the last several decades. According to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), in 1981 public college tuition averaged \$6,900 per year. Today it is nearly \$17,000. The cost of private education doubled from roughly \$17,000 in 1980 to \$33,000 today. America's tuition price increases are clearly outpacing students' or parents' income.

With no end in sight to the rising costs, more and more families are left to wonder how they are going to pay for a college education, and many would-be students are delaying, and often abandoning, their college dreams.

Longer than Anticipated Time to Completion.

In addition to spiraling costs, the time it takes to complete a college degree has also risen dramatically.

According to the U.S. DOE, the percentage of students who receive their bachelor's degree in four

years stands at 39%, while 54.9% take five years and 59.2% take six years—that's five to six years for a four-year degree. The sad reality is that the majority of students take longer than five years to graduate—some up to six years.

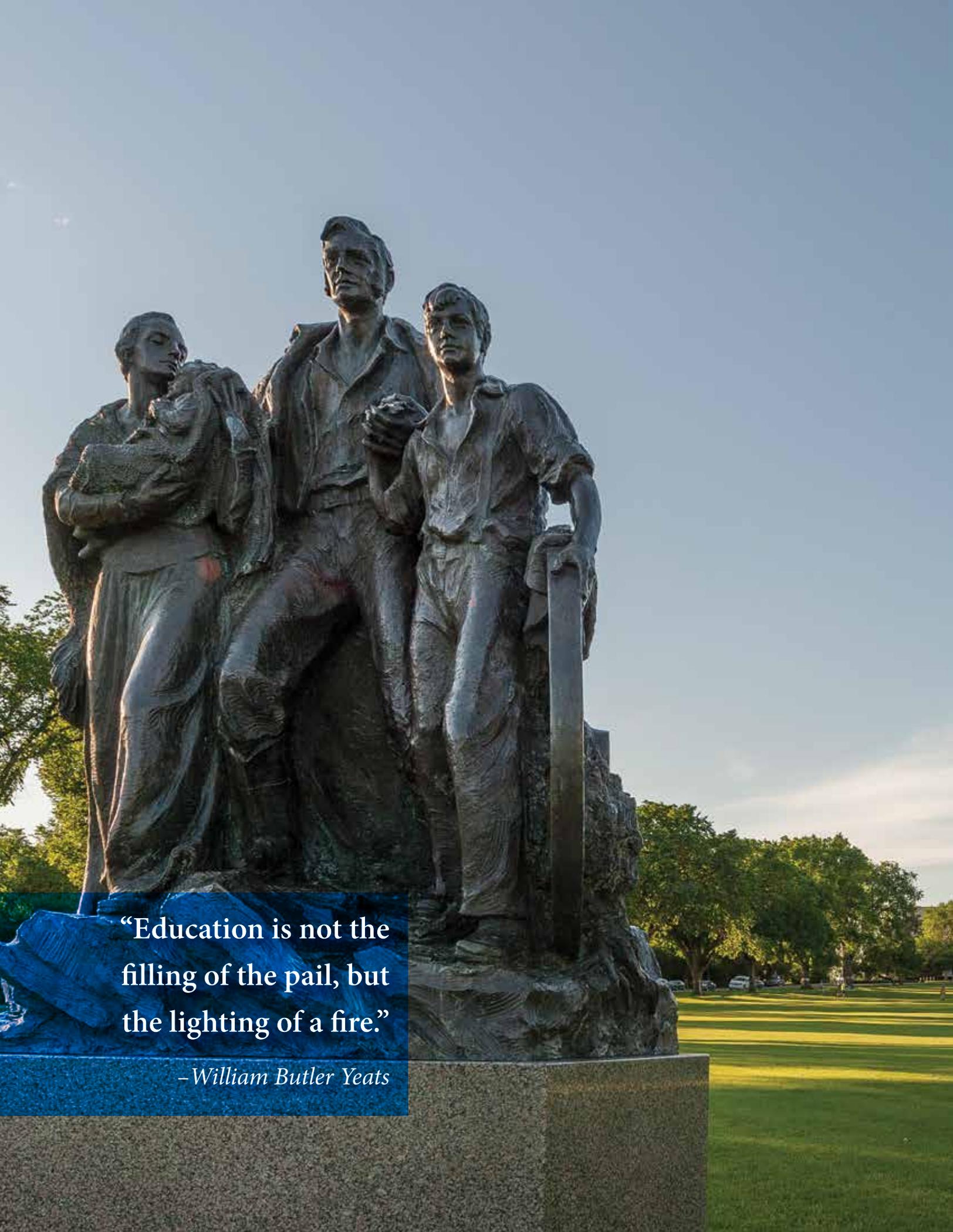
While most can agree that any college degree is better than none, everyone agrees that the added costs involved are making any additional time increasingly difficult to bear.

Crushing Debt.

If higher costs and more time don't pose enough of a challenge, today's college graduates face epic levels of long-term student debt, leaving many with decades of payments and a diminished standard of living. Promising young professionals tell of hopes and dreams for themselves and their families crippled by years of monthly debt payments. Their stories are heartbreaking.

Student loan debt in the U.S. today stands at \$1.2 trillion and counting, outpacing even credit card debt, which totaled \$880.5 billion in July 2014.

The impact of this student loan debt ripples throughout the U.S. For a growing number of Americans, this means abandoning a college education to enter the workforce. The net result is fewer career prospects, lower long-term earnings, and a growing disparity between worker skills and industry's increasing demand for an educated labor force.



“Education is not the
filling of the pail, but
the lighting of a fire.”

– *William Butler Yeats*



HERE IN NORTH DAKOTA...

In recent years, North Dakota has been blessed with economic growth unseen in the rest of America. While tremendously beneficial, this growth is also creating unique challenges. With nearly 30,000 job openings and a 2.7% unemployment rate, workforce demand has caused salaries to increase to the nation's highest for entry-level positions.

Frankly, prospective college students in North Dakota and in the surrounding area seriously consider entering these high-paying jobs right away instead of incurring debt and taking more than four years to enter the same job pool. With oil-field jobs starting at \$50,000, the opportunity cost to attend college is significant. In today's economy, it becomes very tempting to set aside the greater long-term earning potential made possible by a college degree.

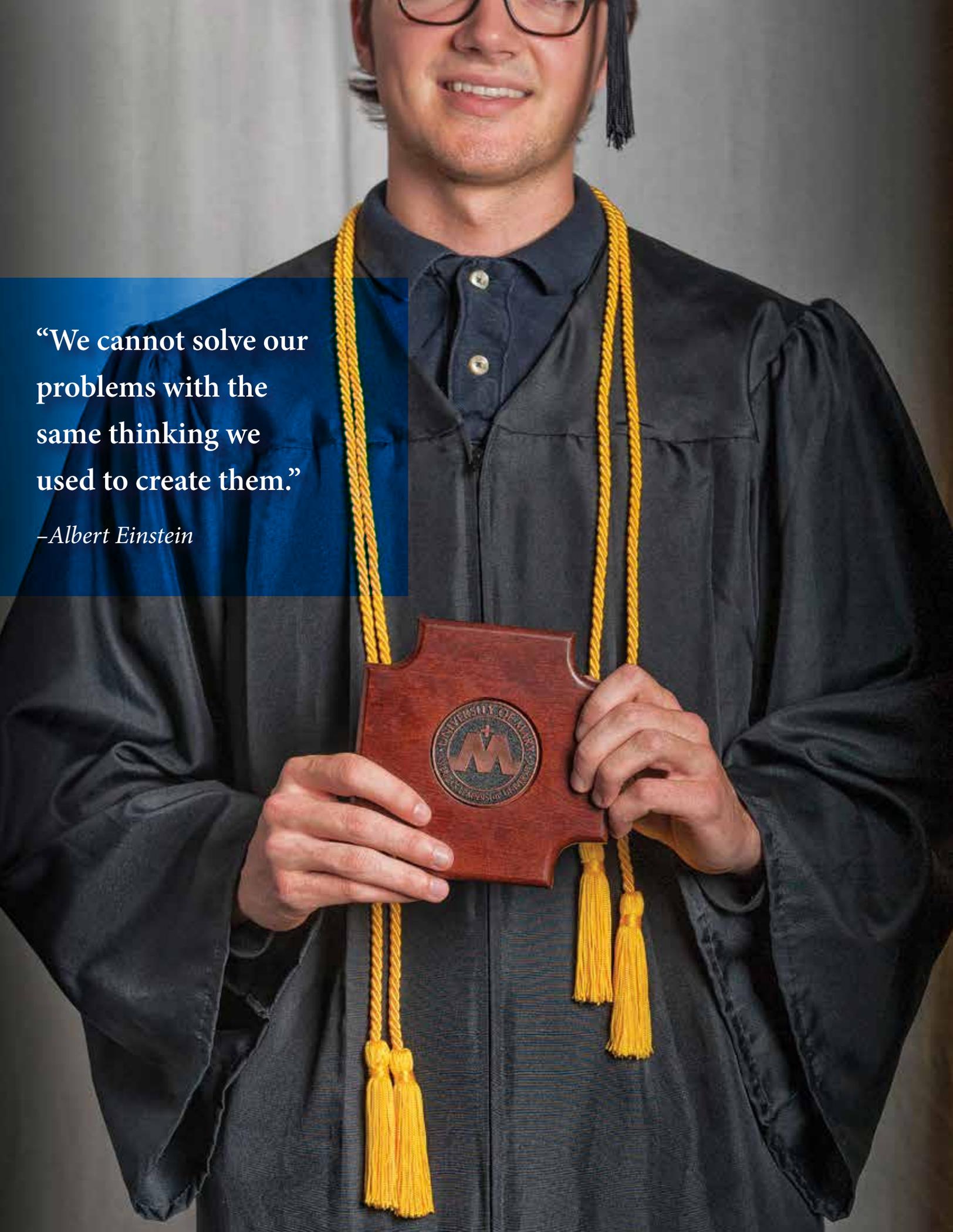


We have nearly 30,000 job openings today

Our unemployment rate is 2.7%

We offer the highest starting salaries in the country

A bronze statue, The Pioneer Family, on the grounds of the North Dakota State Capitol commemorates the hardy settlers of a new frontier.

A young man with glasses is smiling, wearing a black graduation gown and a blue stole. He is holding a wooden diploma cover with a circular seal in the center. The seal features a large 'M' and the text 'UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN' and '1817'. A yellow tassel is attached to the cover. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“We cannot solve our
problems with the
same thinking we
used to create them.”

–Albert Einstein



2.6
years

Complete your bachelor's degree in 2.6 years

Complete your master's in 4 years

{ Year-Round Campus }

Finally, proving that less can be more

The University of Mary has seriously examined both national and local conditions, with the conclusion that there has to be another, better way. We asked, "Why just one way to a university degree? Why not open a new pathway that enables students to experience vibrant college life and learning in every season, year-round?" We believe that the systems of the past may not be the way of the future. So, Mary is unveiling a new, innovative solution to serve you better in our Year-Round Campus.

A College Education Built for You

Less cost, less time, greater earnings. That's your story.

Leaving the four-year degree option intact for those who want it, the University of Mary is broadening its story to match yours so you can complete your bachelor's degree in 2.6 years and your master's degree in 4.

Mary is taking the traditional 8 semester degree and offering you those terms consecutively. Rather than the traditional pathway of "two semesters with a summer vacation," Mary gives you the opportunity to study year-round so you graduate sooner and get a head start on your life and career. Unlike accelerated degrees, Year-Round Campus offers you the same course load as traditional full-time degree programs. You still study at the same pace as every other student, with generous breaks between terms, but for **eight consecutive semesters**. You receive the same

education and formation, but in much less time. And through our Work Campus and Service Campus offerings, you can help pay for your degree, ramp up to your career and give back to your community in the process.

A Lifetime of Added Earnings

Mary's Year-Round Campus not only addresses the cost, time and debt challenges to your education, it also dramatically increases your long-term earnings and savings potential.

Estimated Year-Round Campus Benefits Compared to traditional education

Starting Annual Salary	
\$45,000	
\$125,658	Incremental Lifetime Savings ¹
+	+
\$180,535	Incremental Lifetime Earnings ²
+	+
\$16,000	Reduced Student Loan Balance

\$322,193 = (Lifetime Financial Benefit)

Benefits for a four year master's student exceeds \$529,409 over a traditional graduate student³

¹Based on a 7.50% annual deferral rate and 8% annual rate of return on investments

²Based on starting salary and a 3% annual salary increase, retirement at age 67

³\$7,500 difference in starting salary, \$22,500 more debt, 3% increase, 40 year career



{ YOU HAVE SOME QUESTIONS }

We can help answer them!

Financials:

Will the summer semester cost more?

The cost of the summer semester will actually be *less* than the cost of the traditional fall and spring semesters. And special scholarships and financial aid options designed especially for Year-Round students will be available.

Do traditional scholarships still apply?

Yes! All merit-based scholarships may still be received for eight semesters, allowing students to maintain their aid for their entire academic career.

Does this affect financial aid disbursement cycles?

Year-Round Campus students will be placed on a Borrower-Based Academic Year, meaning that they will receive financial aid disbursement every two semesters. *(The next question explains the impact of the program on Title IV grants.)*

Can you tell me how I will benefit from this quick completion program?

There are so many ways that students will benefit from this program. While the long-term financial benefits are best described using our total financial benefits chart or calling us for a personal consultation, here are some quick points to consider:

1. Early completion adds an extra year in the workforce, meaning an extra year of salary.
2. That extra year produces incredible value in terms of annual “cost of living” increases during employment, as well as compound interest in 401k contributions.
3. Students benefit by not incurring an extra year of tuition increases, as they complete their degree under two annual tuition adjustments rather than three.
4. With more open summer beds as the program grows, Year-Round students will take advantage of discounted housing costs and priority choices, along with many other benefits.

However, there are some points to consider. Year-Round students finish more rapidly but that also compresses the total payment time for themselves and their families from four to seven years of study to 2.6 years; so the sticker price is less but the payment time is shorter. For many, this will require careful planning, and the University is working with our partners in the financial community to achieve innovative solutions. Additionally, students who qualify for Pell grants or SEOG funding will now spread the funds over three terms per calendar year. But the financial benefits of early completion would far exceed the present limitations of the way some federal aid is distributed. We are ready to help with this analysis for every individual case.

Logistics:

Do Year-Round students have to sacrifice all of their vacation?

Students in the Year-Round Campus will still enjoy vacations throughout the year. In addition to an extended Christmas break and built-in breaks at times such as Easter and Thanksgiving, there will be generous breaks on either side of the summer semester.

In addition, summer courses will be constructed in block format, resulting in added flexibility for students who have important events in the midst of the summer term.

Can I opt out of the program if I decide it's not for me?

Yes. Year-Round Campus students can opt for a traditional four-year model, and we will work with them to develop a degree plan that still minimizes their time to completion.

If I am an athlete how does it affect me—can I still be eligible to participate in NCAA Division II Athletics?

NCAA Division II Student Athletes can utilize the summer term to decrease their time to completion, perhaps even allowing them to obtain a master's degree prior to exhausting their eligibility! However, student athletes will take less than 12 credits in the summer, so as not to use a semester of athletic eligibility.

How will this benefit student athletes already planning on being at Mary during the summer?

Due to the highly competitive nature of Division II athletics, many student-athletes already stay at Mary over the summer, working out with their respective teams, and taking a class and working a part-time job. This program will allow these student-athletes a more robust and vibrant experience.

Will I still have fun?

Absolutely! The summer term will have a particular “sparkle” because it is hard to find better weather than a North Dakota summer! While many campuses offer sleepy “summer school” classes, the University of Mary is doing something far better. Our campus life will be vibrant, with intramural sports, music concerts, outdoor activities, and other events for students to enjoy.

What work will be available on campus over the summer?

We anticipate many of our students working on our campus—or perhaps in a meaningful work or internship experience in the Bismarck-Mandan community—over the summer term.

Will amenities be available to me in the summer?

Yes! Our campus will operate in the summer in a very similar way to the traditional fall and spring semesters, including the amenities our students enjoy.

Does this program only start at fall semesters?

Most Year-Round Campus students will still begin their coursework in the fall semester following their final year of high school. While some students may begin in spring due to various circumstances, our advisors will work with them individually to set up a degree plan that best utilizes the year-round campus model and decreases time to completion.

Will year-round housing and meals be available?

The summer semester will be treated just like the fall and spring, offering students full housing and meal plans to meet their needs. The other great thing about Year-Round Campus is you'll also get these summer amenities at a discounted rate.

Can I still travel to Rome?

Yes! Students in Year-Round Campus will absolutely have the opportunity like all other students to encounter history and faith in the Eternal City with a 5-week program in Rome. In addition, students can work with advisors to investigate our study abroad opportunities in Peru or else where around the globe.

Course work:

What course load minimum will I need to have?

Students in the Year-Round model will maintain an average course load for nearly every term. Average load is 15-16 credits.

Will all of my required classes be available?

To ensure that the summer courses have sufficient numbers, the courses offered will be high-demand courses in the liberal arts or those required for multiple academic programs.

If I chose Year-Round Campus, can I still double major?

Our dedicated advisors will work with each individual student to achieve the soonest completion date possible based upon their chosen majors and circumstances. Nonetheless, the reduced time to completion will definitely benefit the student.

Can transfer students participate?

Many transfer students will benefit from the Year-Round Campus model. While a transfer student may not be able to complete in less than three years, nearly any student could utilize this program to reduce their time to degree completion and receive financial benefit.



The secret of getting ahead
is getting started.

-Mark Twain

COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE (BEGINNING 2015)



Year-Round Campus

bachelor's degrees

allow you to take all eight semesters without losing time so you can graduate in 2.6 years.

Also, our Year-Round Campus **bachelor's to master's** program

allows you to roll right from your undergraduate to graduate degree... finishing both in 4 years!

\$322,193

Lifetime Financial Benefit

Based on the University's study,* the increased incremental savings and earnings, and reduced student loan balances, would boost graduates' lifetime financial benefits by \$322,193.

* Analysis provided by O'Meara, Ferguson, Whelan and Conway headquartered in Ashburn, VA



“We — the rest of the country, the rest of the world — are watching you, because you represent something fresh and daring. You represent something exciting and promising, and we are watching. And we like what we see. Terrific things are happening at Mary!”

— Cardinal Timothy Dolan,
Archbishop of New York

LEARN MORE

If the Year-Round Campus sounds like the way you want to achieve your education, please contact us at:

web. umary.edu/YearRoundCampus

call. 701-355-8030 or 800-288-MARY

email. marauder@umary.edu

*Get a head start on your future
with University of Mary's
Year-Round Campus!*



UNIVERSITY OF MARY