SCIENTIA ET SAPIENTIA
A SURVEY OF THE COLLEGE

THALES COLLEGE
When I was deciding what college to attend, I was searching for an affordable institution that offered quality education grounded in truth.

I found what I was looking for in Thales College.

— THALES COLLEGE STUDENT
JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Thales College is not affiliated with any religious institution and does not instruct its students in the doctrine of any specific religion. However, we teach in the Judeo-Christian tradition, which preserves a record of those truths of the greatest historical, philosophical, and practical importance. Thus, we hold the following beliefs as true:

God exists and created the universe and everything in it. He created humans in His image and likeness. The order of creation operates according to fixed, immutable laws known as the Laws of Nature. These laws govern human morality as well as the physical world. They compose the basis of objective truth and are discernible by human reason, however imperfectly at times.

We hold the purpose of education to be to discover truth and conform our lives to it. Thales College guides students in discovering truth and encourages them to live moral lives of integrity following the dictates of truth through the rules, outcomes, and culture at our school. We recognize the importance of cultivating intelligent piety by providing an environment that is friendly to religion.

To fulfill the above purpose of education, the Thales College curriculum is based on the Western Tradition: its history, intellectual foundations, and interaction with other civilizations as well as the place of the American experiment in that history. As Americans, we belong to Western Civilization, and thus its tradition is our special inheritance.

Furthermore, the Christian faith holds a central place in the Western Tradition along with elements from the Ancient Hebrew, Greek, and Roman civilizations. The best of the Western Tradition, which includes its Christian foundations, teaches wisdom that is profitable for the flourishing of every human life.

MISSION OF THALES COLLEGE

The mission of Thales College is to provide an affordable Liberal Arts and Professional education so that students develop the wisdom—in intellectual ability, meaningful knowledge, moral character, and professional excellence—needed to thrive in life and work.

The College is named after Thales of Miletus, a master of thought and one of the first ancient Greek philosophers. Thales used his knowledge to lead Miletus to success in business and advance the best thinking of his day. We aim to model his example of learning and leading in the community.

Thales College is a return to what higher education was meant to be and a fresh take on college for the 21st century. We combine the best of the past and present to prepare our students for their future by providing the knowledge, thinking and professional skills, and character traits necessary to thrive and succeed in today’s work environment. Curriculum and extracurricular experiences are intentionally curated to include the best possible content that will fully prepare students to succeed.

Our unique accelerated degree program allows students to learn and graduate in record time, equipped to enter the workplace and contribute in meaningful ways. Affordable tuition at a rate of $4,000 per term enables students to graduate without crippling debt, starting life out on a strong financial footing.

"Thales College forms students with the skills and intellectual knowledge they need to be fulfilled, competent thinkers and contributive members of society."

– Bob Luddy, Founder

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WHY THALES COLLEGE

Thales College was established for the purpose of intellectual and character formation and the relentless pursuit of truth. Likewise, the purpose of attending college is to learn from the masters of thought based on 2,500 years of recorded history.

Our graduates are highly employable because of their strong intellect, measured risk-taking, problem-solving abilities, vocational skills, well-formed characters, and willingness to contribute to society. We prepare them by combining rigorous academics with individual professor-to-student mentoring, internships and other work experience, and networking opportunities with community leaders. Their learning, thinking, and writing capabilities are continually developed, forming the basis of lifetime learners and contributors.

Students value the close-knit community at Thales College. The sense of belonging is fostered in a variety of ways. It starts with the strong minds and characters of our students, faculty, and staff, along with a shared vision of values, expectations, and objectives. We also encourage unity among our students and mentors via the design of our classes and campus common spaces. Socratic discussions and Oxford tutorials generate confidence and personal growth within each student. Student life is nurtured through conversations, playing games, studying, and attending events together.

Students will learn the effective use of time by graduating in three years with a strong work ethic, wisdom, and job skills learned during internships. Our graduates are fully acclimated to the rigor of professional life and ready for their first professional job.
THE CLASSICAL CORE

While the acquisition of knowledge is an essential part of every Thales College class, the pursuit of wisdom is the special responsibility of our Classical Liberal Arts Core. What Aristotle called phronesis, or practical wisdom, is the power to consistently make sound judgments in life, choices that will lead a person to eudaimonia, or human flourishing.

The cultivation of wisdom at Thales College consists of three key elements:

A centuries-old instruction in virtue and character formation

Virtues are deep-seated habits to think, feel, and act in line with what is true, good, and beautiful. The virtues are both moral (humility, courage, self-control, justice, compassion, integrity) and intellectual (curiosity, love of truth, intellectual charity, argumentative rigor, clarity of thought and expression). We cannot make our students virtuous by telling them about virtue. But by studying and discussing the Great Books of the Western Tradition, students apprentice themselves to the virtuous masters of the past and are given opportunities to put the virtues they observe into practice in the classroom and beyond.

Both the ancient and medieval Liberal Arts and the Renaissance Studia Humanitatis were beneficial for cultivating virtue. Our curriculum updates these older models with classes in writing, logic, rhetoric, literature, history, politics, western civilization, and philosophy.

Theoretical and scientific knowledge to ground students in reality

One cannot possess practical wisdom if one doesn’t understand some basics of how the world works. In that sense, theoretical knowledge, especially of mathematics and science, is intensely practical. Historically, the four traditional Liberal Arts known as the Quadrivium—arithmetica, geometry, music, and astronomy—were intended to meet this need. At Thales College, all students study logic, calculus, physics, statistics and probability, and Austrian economics to become grounded in reality.

A philosophical framework to guide one’s life

These components of wisdom by themselves are not enough. They require an overarching framework to give them purpose and combine them into a coherent whole. The philosophical perspective that frames everything we teach at Thales College is the Judeo-Christian religious tradition and, more broadly, the Natural Law tradition embraced by both Christian theology and the ancient pagan philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics. The Thales College Liberal Arts Core includes a Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) sequence in which all students study the nature of knowledge, God, value, the human person, human action, the ethical life, politics, citizenship, and leadership.

Because we care about developing virtuous individuals, we want our graduates to become not just knowledgeable, but also wise, and not just smart and capable professionals, but also good spouses, parents, friends, and citizens of our nation.

OUR MOTTO: SCIENTIA ET SAPIENTIA

By integrating Classical Liberal Arts and Professional education, the Thales College curriculum helps students acquire the professional knowledge (scientia) and wisdom (sapientia) for a life well-lived and work well-done.

Some colleges allow students to graduate quickly by offering only technical training. Conversely, there are classical colleges that offer a traditional approach to studying the Classics without gaining practical skills. What makes Thales College special is the marrying of the technical with the classical, without compromising either—and all in an affordable three years.

The Classical Core develops the necessary thinking skills and theoretical framework for success in any field. The professional major sequences provide the career-specific vocational and technical knowledge needed to excel in the student’s chosen field of Mechanical Engineering, Classical Education, or Entrepreneurial Business.

"The purpose of education is the relentless pursuit of truth, leading to wisdom." – Alice von Hildebrand
## B.S. IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical engineering is one of the oldest known technological disciplines. Historically associated with the development of machines, engines, or flow devices, mechanical engineers today are employed in broad occupations related to energy, transportation, and manufacturing, among many others. Our program will challenge students to develop their analytical and communication skills while increasing their scientific and technical knowledge. Our curriculum has been designed to meet the accreditation requirements of ABET. While meeting these standards, Thales College goes beyond to pursue higher aims such as the cultivation of intellectual and moral virtue in our students and inspires our graduates to make positive impacts in society. To facilitate these goals, engineering at Thales College has several unique aspects related to pedagogy, course content, and professional training which are outlined here.

### Content and Delivery

Classroom studies are enhanced by access to local industries, especially our partner institution, CaptiveAire—a nationwide manufacturer of commercial ventilation systems. In addition to traditional lectures and assignments, our courses include faculty mentorship, individual presentations, and seminar-style discussions. These are designed to enhance the student’s ability to analyze deeper, foresee the broader ramifications of an idea, formulate and communicate solutions, and engage with feedback on such topics. These unique features have been implemented with the purpose of providing our students the opportunity to develop into holistic, innovative, and virtuous leaders within society.

### Engineering Virtue

The motto of Thales College is *scientia et sapientia*. Today this phrase might be translated as “knowledge and wisdom”. This framing could imply technical and professional knowledge in combination with knowledge which is rooted in virtue and promotes *humanitas*. Indeed, the idea of scientific progress originated within the bounds of Christian caritas (“charity” or “love”). As the Western world has secularized, the ideas of “science” and “progress” have become unh unhemed from their roots. We seek to recover and restore these virtues within the field of engineering through our educational program.

### A Classical Approach to Mathematics and Science

It is often thought, mistakenly, that mathematics is about numbers. Mathematics is the study of things, their ordering, and relations. These things are often represented by numbers. And their ordering and relations often yield arrangements which humans have described poetically with terms such as proportion, symmetry, and harmony. These ideas convey a sense of beauty along with the truth about the objects and our knowledge of their interactions. By studying mathematics with an aim towards seeing beauty and being formed by it, a sense of goodness is cultivated in the soul of the student. Our mathematics sequence rearranges standard material and injects reading and reflection from primary sources to enhance these aspects of our teaching.

### COURSE SEQUENCE

#### FIRST TERM
- Life & Career Dynamics (3)
- Writing & Rhetoric I (3)
- Western Civilization I (3)
- Introduction to Philosophy (3)
- Calculus I (4)

#### SECOND TERM
- Entrepreneurial Masters (3)
- Foundational Economic Concepts (3)
- Writing & Rhetoric II (3)
- Western Civilization II (3)
- Physics I (4)

#### THIRD TERM
- Logic (3)
- Philosophy of the Human (3)
- Introduction to Programming (2)
- Technical Drawing (3)
- Calculus II (4)

#### FOURTH TERM
- Chemistry I (4)
- Statics (3)
- Ethics (3)
- Calculus III (4)
- Physics II (4)

#### FIFTH TERM
- Dynamics (4)
- Materials (3)
- Transport Phenomenon (3)
- Philosophy of Economics (3)
- Differential Equations (3)

#### SIXTH TERM
- Product Design & Development (3)
- Engineering Economics (3)
- Mechanics of Materials (3)
- Advanced Thermal-Fluids (4)
- Thermodynamics (3)

#### SEVENTH TERM
- Codes & Standards (2)
- Capstone (3)
- Mechanical Design (3)
- Electronics & Controls (3)
- Politics & Culture (3)

#### EIGHTH TERM
- Introduction to Biology (3)
- Advanced Manufacturing (3)
- Mechatronics (3)
- FE Review (3)
- Capstone (3)
- Virtuous Leadership (3)

*Number in parentheses (3) denotes credit hours.*
B.A. IN CLASSICAL EDUCATION

The classical education renewal movement is growing with incredible momentum throughout the United States. Parents are drawn to classical schools over the public school system and standard private alternatives, and new schools are opening each year. However, these schools are often challenged by a lack of high quality, classically trained teachers. Teachers at these schools typically fall into one of two categories: (1) classically minded individuals well-educated in the liberal arts but with little or no classroom training, or (2) experienced and well-trained teachers who have been drawn to classical schools but have a superficial grasp of classical philosophy and what makes the classical approach to pedagogy unique and powerful. Both groups struggle to implement a classical vision of developing virtuous individuals while pursuing the true, good, and beautiful consistently in the classroom.

Now classically trained teachers who can meet this need will be in high demand at schools across the country.

Specialized Tracks

At Thales College, our Classical Education major equips future teachers of all grade levels. The program teaches the history, theory, and practice of classical education. The lower school track for Grades K–5 teaches how to approach elementary math, reading, history, and science from a classical perspective. The upper school track for Grades 6–12 prepares future teachers to specialize in the humanities, mathematics, or natural sciences. Both tracks prepare students to be skilled teachers, future leaders in school culture and governance, and lifelong learners who model the classical ideal of a life well-lived.

Teaching Opportunities

Thales College’s close alliance with Thales Academy, a rapidly growing network of classical K–12 schools throughout the Southeast, allows our Classical Education majors to receive extensive student teaching experience in fully paid internships. Working within a real classroom, managing classroom behavior, and developing strategies in real time under the mentorship of an experienced teacher gives students a safe environment in which to test their skills and grow in virtue. With multiple Thales Academy campuses located within 15 minutes of Thales College, students will benefit from working in a school setting nearly every term during their degree.

Our student teachers develop a robust Future Teacher’s Portfolio which includes a philosophy of education; teacher and student goals and commitments; ideas for classroom aesthetics, culture, and traditions; curriculum content; lesson plans; laboratory protocols; and handouts, assignments, rubrics, and assessments. The hands-on classroom experience will teach students about their own strengths, weaknesses, and intellectual inner-life on the model of Socrates, who noted at his trial that “the unexamined life is not worth living.”

COURSE SEQUENCE

FIRST TERM

- Life & Career Dynamics (3)
- Intro Philosophy (3)
- Western Civilization I (3)
- Writing and Rhetoric I (3)
- Calculus I (4)

SECOND TERM

- Entrepreneurial Masters (3)
- Foundational Economic Concepts (3)
- Writing & Rhetoric II (3)
- Western Civilization II (3)
- Physics I (4)

THIRD TERM

- Literary Masters: Ancient & Medieval (3)
- Philosophy of the Human (3)
- Logic (3)
- Stocks, Bonds, Investments, and Personal Finance (2)
- Theories of Classical Schooling (4)

FOURTH TERM

- Literary Masters: Renaissance to Modern (3)
- Ethics (3)
- Moral & Intellectual Development of Young People (3)
- Principles and Methods of Classical Pedagogy (4)
- Choose from: Reading Fairy Tales and Mythology; Euclidean and Non-Euclidean Geometry; Chemistry I (3/4)

FIFTH TERM

- Philosophical Masters: Ancient & Medieval (3)
- Philosophy of Economics & Human Action (3)
- Principles of Classroom Culture & Direct Instruction (3)
- History of Education (3)

SIXTH TERM

- Philosophical Masters: Renaissance to Modern (3)
- Probability & Statistics (3)

SEVENTH TERM

- Politics and Culture of a Free Society (3)
- American History I (3)
- Teaching the Historical Imagination (3)
- Writing Across the Disciplines (3)

EIGHTH TERM

- Virtuous Leadership in a Free Society (3)
- American History II (3)
- Senior Capstone (2)

Number in parentheses (3) denotes credit hours.
The Thales College Entrepreneurial Business degree is designed to provide a deeper understanding and practice in technical skills and economic theories that prepares students for the competitive market ahead. Thales College teaches free market economic theories and highlights the use of technical skills both in the classroom and through real world internships. Students learn how entrepreneurs think and solve future challenges in any field of business or industry through faculty mentors and internship opportunities. The Entrepreneurial Business degree prepares both aspiring entrepreneurs and those working in any business enterprise.

**Technical Skills**

The needed technical skills and knowledge of business can be summarized through business law, finance, accounting, and specifically free market economics. Entrepreneurs cannot be successful without these, at least not in the long term. Each is imperative if an entrepreneur is serious about their business. Although it is not necessary to be an expert, a baseline understanding of each area is required to delegate jobs properly to others within their business.

**Free Market Economics**

Free market economic theory is imperative to understand how businesses operate and how to leverage the technical skills of business. It includes how supply creates demand, comparative advantage, and transactional and opportunity costs. Understanding this theory is what allows an entrepreneur to truly hone their soft skills such as alertness, thinking, visualizing, contemplating, and serving future markets. These skills are what separate entrepreneurs from industry maven who simply execute the status quo.

**Philosophy of Business**

Alertness, as specifically outlined by Israel Kirzner, is especially vital as a prerequisite for thinking about future products, processes, and services. New thoughts and ideas are outcomes from making observations and engaging in Socratic discussion that stimulate new ways of thinking. This keen observation is a skill that can be developed over time.

Although formal education cannot create entrepreneurs, our business curriculum is designed to teach students the skills that support entrepreneurial business thinking. The Philosophy of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership includes:

- Peter Drucker: Basis of Management
- Clayton Christensen: Disruption
- Charles Koch: Market Based Management
- Bernie Marcus: Think Big Act Big
- Bob Luddy: How to Develop and Grow a Business
- Ken Iverson: Common Sense Management and Innovation
- Milton Friedman: Basic Economic Thinking
- Ludwig von Mises: Human Action

“Entrepreneurship is neither a science nor an art; it is a practice.”

– Peter Drucker

**B.A. IN ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS**

**FIRST TERM**

- Life & Career Dynamics (3)
- Intro Philosophy (3)
- Writing and Rhetoric I (3)
- Calculus I (4)

**SECOND TERM**

- Entrepreneurial Masters (3)
- Foundational Economic Concepts (3)
- Writing & Rhetoric II (3)
- Western Civilization II (3)
- Physics I (4)

**THIRD TERM**

- Literary Masters: Ancient & Medieval (3)
- Philosophy of the Human (3)
- Logic (3)
- Stocks, Bonds, Investments, and Personal Finance (2)
- Accounting I (3)

**FOURTH TERM**

- Literary Masters: Renaissance to Modern (3)
- Ethics (3)
- Accounting II (3)
- Corporate Finance (3)
- Business Development and Selling Your Ideas (3)

**FIFTH TERM**

- Philosophical Masters: Ancient & Medieval (3)
- Philosophy of Economics & Human Action (3)
- Product Design (3)
- Financial Modeling in Excel (3)
- International Finance (3)

**SIXTH TERM**

- Philosophical Masters: Renaissance to Modern (3)
- Probability & Statistics (3)
- Marketing (3)
- Entrepreneurial Ventures—Clayton Christensen (3)
- Philosophy of Business and of Effective Management (3)

**SEVENTH TERM**

- Politics and Culture of a Free Society (3)
- American History I (3)
- Business Law & Ethics I (3)
- Capital Allocation (3)
- Data Analytics for Business (3)

**EIGHTH TERM**

- Virtuous Leadership in a Free Society (3)
- American History II (3)
- Senior Capstone (2)
- Business Law & Ethics II (3)
- Business Strategies, Debate (3)

Number in parentheses (3) denotes credit hours.
BENEFITS OF THALES COLLEGE

» Excellent academic and professional preparation for a wide variety of careers
» Real-world skills development employers are eager to find: Critical thought, professional behavior, technical ability, effective communication, and interpersonal skills
» Personal, moral, and self-confidence development

» Minimal or no student loan debt
» High likelihood of success in the workplace
» Daily schedule that prepares students for professional life with classes in the mornings and internships, work, or study in the afternoons
» Accelerated degree completion in under three years

"The greatness of wisdom, which is nothing if not of God, is invisible to the carnal-minded and to the clever."
— Blaise Pascal, Pensées

Learn more at www.ThalesCollege.org
admissions@ThalesCollege.org