

THE HIGHER EDUCATION HOLISTIC IMPACT REPORT (HIR)

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I believe that higher education holds immense value beyond just the pursuit of jobs and money. Through my years of teaching, I have witnessed how it contributes to the cultivation of meaningful lives, fostering care for others and the community, all guided by strong ethics and principles.

Motivated by these observations, I decided to measure this impact, focusing on Catholic schools where my experiences have primarily been rooted.”

- JASON KING

BEIRNE DIRECTOR &
CHAIR CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES,
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Drawing on the belief of the transformative power of education and that conversations around its benefit have been too narrow, the Beirne Center for Catholic Studies, in partnership with YouGov, designed a study to delve deeper into the non-financial benefits of an education by addressing two key objectives:

1. Beyond Financial Gain:

- To explore and highlight the intrinsic value of an education that extends beyond mere economic outcomes.

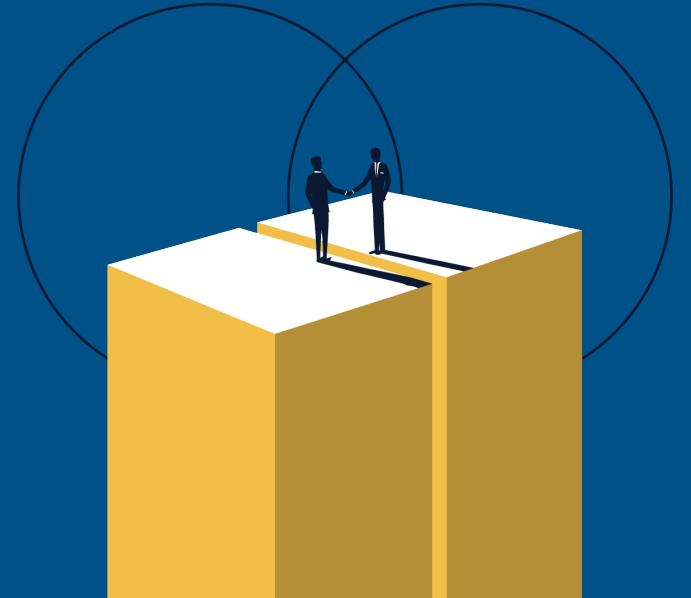
2. Influencing Life's Compass:

- To understand how a holistic approach to education influences graduates' core values, directs their purpose in life, and enhances their overall well-being and fulfillment.

As Catholic colleges and universities focus on holistic education, the study compared 1,000 graduates from Catholic colleges and universities to 1,000 from secular ones to explore the benefits of higher education beyond monetary measures.

STUDY OVERVIEW

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS THROUGH A TRUSTED PARTNERSHIP



YOUGOV

To ensure a robust and objective analysis, St. Mary's University collaborated with YouGov, a globally recognized authority in market research.

This partnership has allowed us to leverage YouGov's expertise in data collection and analysis to obtain reliable insights into the impact of higher education on college graduates beyond financial rewards.

METHODOLOGY

YouGov interviewed adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, with the goal of screening for and surveying graduates of Catholic and Secular colleges and universities.

Responses were matched down and weighted, yielding a target subsample of 1000 adults of Catholic colleges and universities and a target subsample of 1000 adults of Secular colleges and universities.

RESPONDENTS

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education, which was based upon the American Community Survey (ACS), public voter file records, the 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration supplements, the 2020 National Election Pool (NEP) exit poll, and the 2020 CES surveys. The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores.

The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 presidential vote choice as well as a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (2-categories). The weighted datasets were then trimmed and recentered around 1, to produce the final weights for adults of Secular colleges and universities and for adults of Catholic colleges and universities.

KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

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LIFE IS CLOSE TO IDEAL:

+10%



CLEAR SENSE OF DIRECTION:

+9%



LIFELONG SEARCH FOR PURPOSE:

+14%



SEEKING SIGNIFICANCE:

+17%



SEARCHING FOR MEANING:

+15%



SOCIAL FULFILLMENT:

+15%



COMMUNITY FULFILLMENT:

+13%



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

+9%



MORALITY IN DECISION-MAKING:

+19%



ALIGNMENT OF GOALS AND VALUES:

+9%

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LIFE SATISFACTION

Catholic graduates are 10% more likely to report that their life is close to ideal.



SENSE OF DIRECTION

Catholic graduates are 9% more likely to have a clear sense of direction in life.



DETAILED FINDING

IDEAL LIFE PERCEPTION AND SENSE OF DIRECTION



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For someone to say their life is close to ideal means that they first have a clear idea of what ideal is. But for a university to help students define an ideal, they must do more than just teach students how to do a job. We have to help them understand their role in the world and how they can make it better. This kind of education shapes people who know where they're going in life and why it matters.”



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CONTINUOUS SEARCH FOR PURPOSE

Catholic graduates are 14% more likely report that they are always looking to find their direction



PURSUIT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Catholic graduates are 17% more likely to say that they are searching for something that makes their life feel significant



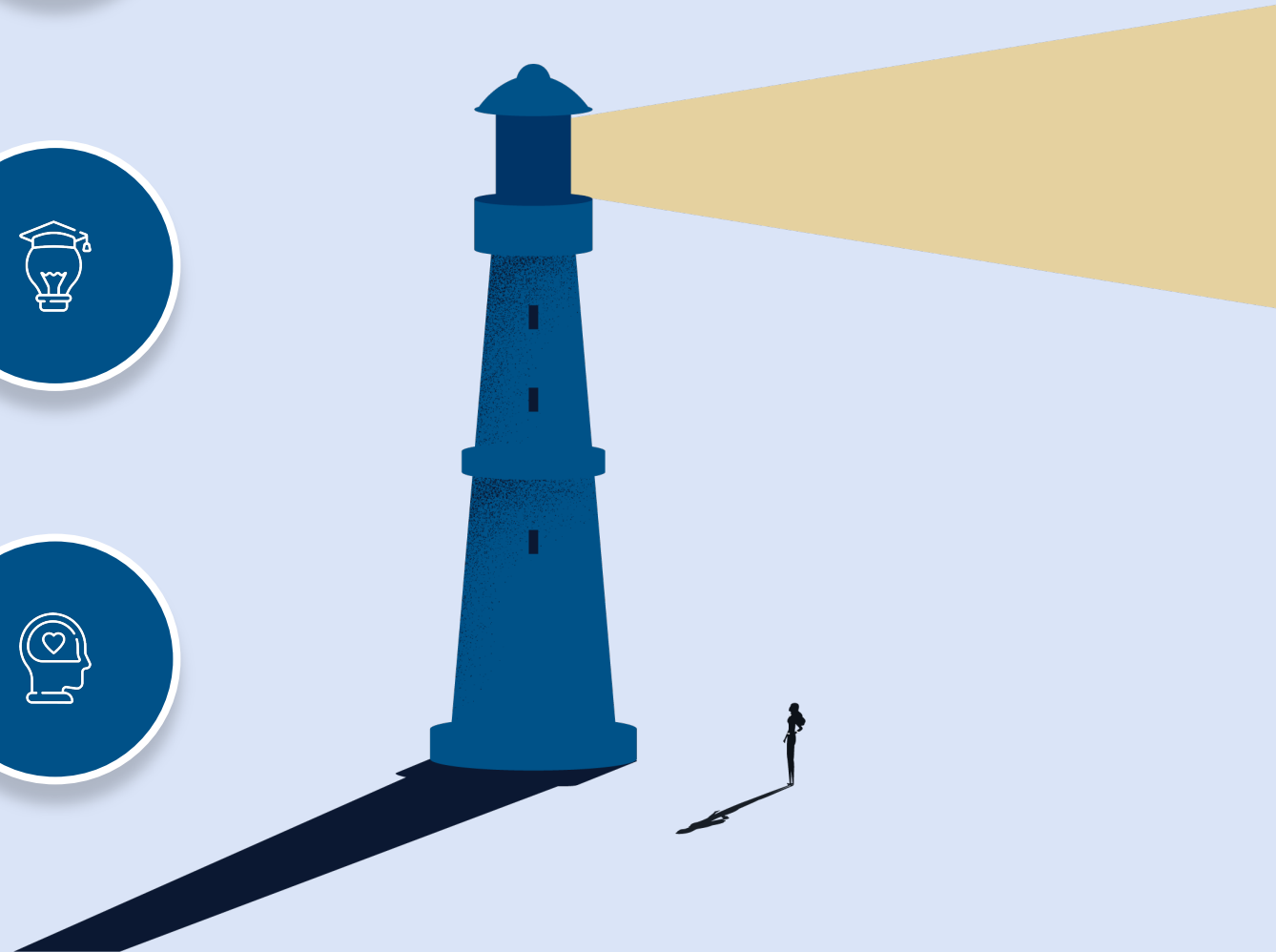
MEANING IN LIFE

Catholic graduates are 15% more likely to say they are searching for meaning in their life.

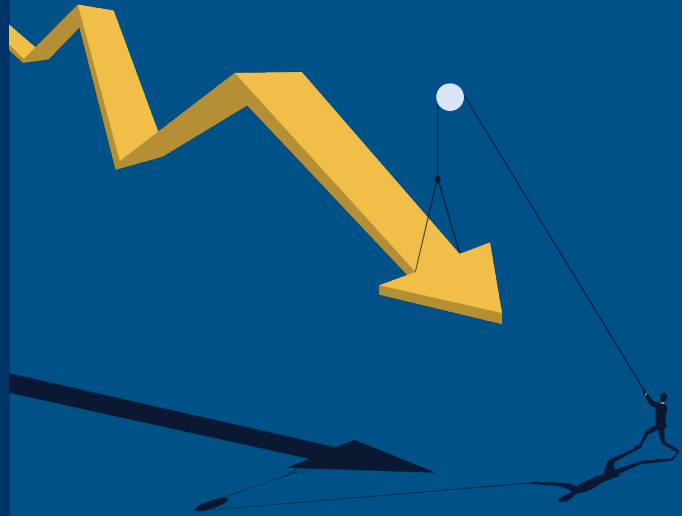


DETAILED FINDING

LIFELONG DIRECTION



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Colleges and universities must ingrain a commitment to a lifelong search for meaning and direction their students lives. People must continually grow and learn. We value education that encourages not just a pursuit of a career but a quest for a fulfilling life aligned with personal values and societal needs.”

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SOCIAL FULFILLMENT

Catholic graduates are 15% more likely to feel fulfilled in their social life



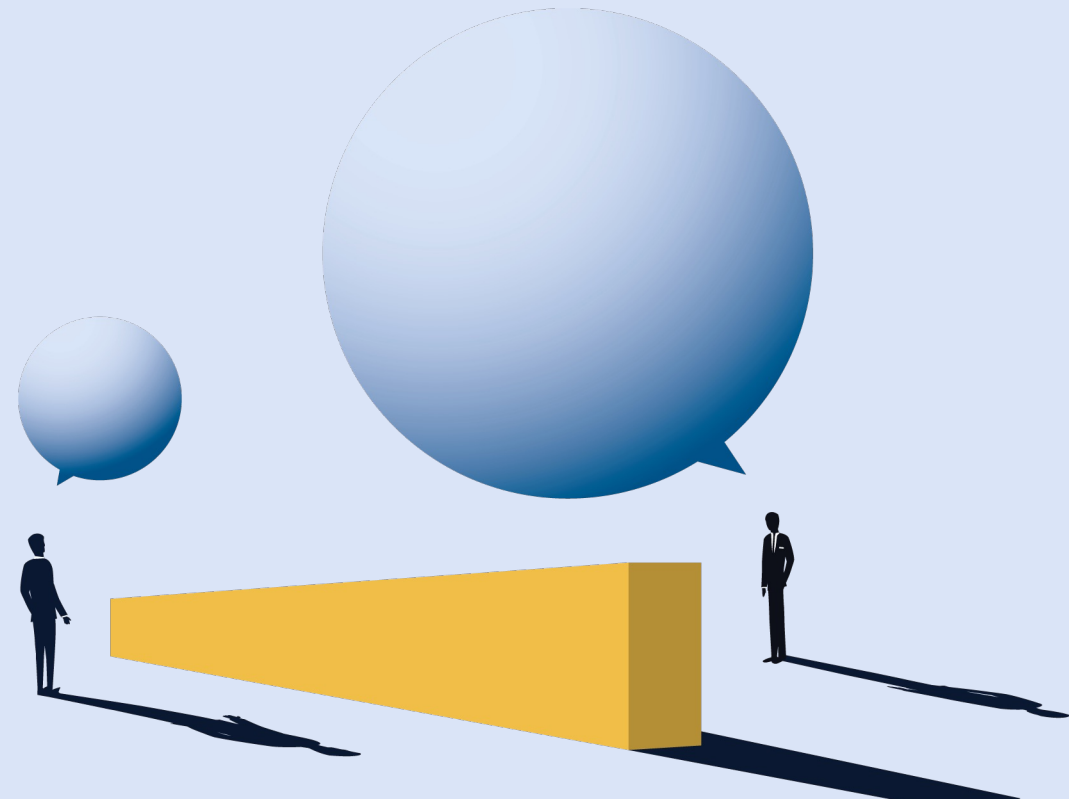
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Catholic graduates are 13% more likely to feel fulfilled in their community involvement.



DETAILED FINDING

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FULFILLMENT



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It is important for colleges and universities to place a strong emphasis on community involvement, encouraging students to engage meaningfully with local and global communities. This focus on active participation helps develop graduates who are deeply committed to and satisfied with their contributions to society.”

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CATHOLIC GRADS ARE
9% MORE LIKELY
TO BE CIVICALLY ENGAGED.



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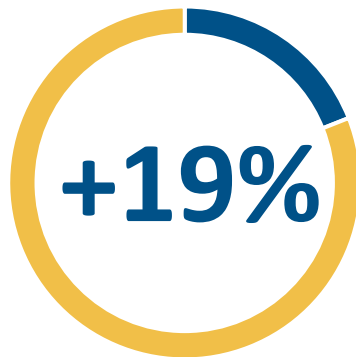
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MORALITY IN DECISION- MAKING

**CATHOLIC GRADUATES ARE
19% MORE LIKELY
TO SAY THAT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS
OF MORALITY SURVEYED ARE
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN DECISION
MAKING.**

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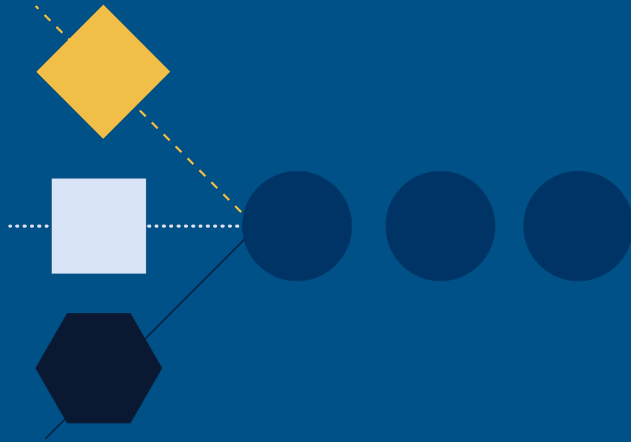
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Catholic universities deeply embed the importance of ethics in decision-making into their curricula, emphasizing ethical considerations across all fields of study. This educational focus ensures graduates are not only aware of values but also understand their practical implications in the real world.”

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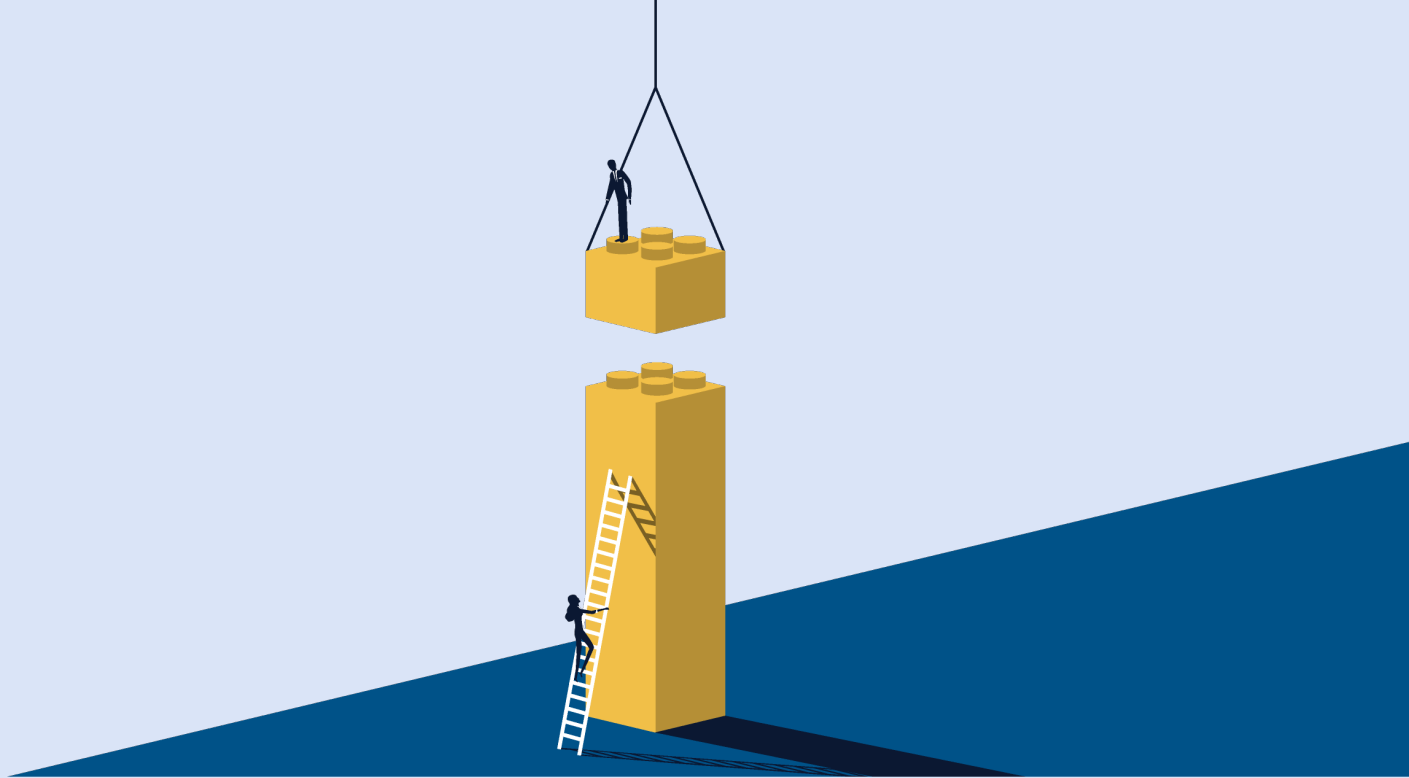
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ALIGNMENT OF GOALS AND VALUES

**CATHOLIC GRADS ARE
9% MORE LIKELY
TO SAY THAT THEIR UNIVERSITY, ITS
CURRICULUM, AND ITS COMMUNITY
HAS HAD A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE
OVERALL ALIGNMENT OF GOALS AND
VALUES IN THEIR LIFE.**



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UNIVERSAL IMPACT

THESE FINDINGS ARE OBSERVED
ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS,
IDEOLOGIES, POLITICAL AFFILIATION
AND LOCATION.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

WINSTON EREVELLES
PRESIDENT
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

These findings reaffirm our commitment to educating the whole person, nurturing intellectual growth, moral and ethical values, social responsibility, and personal development.

Together, these insights present a vision for higher education that fosters environments supporting intellectual, moral, and social development.

Looking ahead, this study provides a roadmap for higher education. Institutions must evolve, encouraging lifelong learning, ethical leadership, and a deep sense of purpose, across all academic disciplines.

St. Mary's University will continue to innovate and enhance our practices to ensure our graduates make meaningful contributions to society.

I call on all higher education institutions to embrace this holistic approach. By developing well-rounded individuals, we can create a more just, compassionate, and thriving society.



CALL TO ACTION FOR
MORE INFORMATION
OR TO JOIN
DISCUSSIONS ON THE
TOPIC.



ABOUT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ST. MARY'S MISSION AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY.

St. Mary's University invites and welcomes men and women of all faiths, and even of no faith, to walk together, talk together and search for truth together.

We strive to educate our students to become ethical leaders for the common good, to leave campus with generous spirits and humble hearts, and to view their professional careers as vocational journeys, not just careers.

Graduates leave St. Mary's, not with the narrow goal of personal gratification but aspiration to a life purposely lived: a life of true value.

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GET IN TOUCH

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THANK YOU

