



# Chapter 1

*This chapter provides background information on Boston College's history and mission, and how the proposed IMP development advances its mission and objectives. It also identifies the team responsible for preparing the IMP.*

Boston College was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1863, the first institution of higher education to be established in the City of Boston. With three teachers and 22 students, it opened its doors on September 5, 1864.

Originally located on Harrison Avenue in Boston's South End, Boston College shared quarters with Boston College High School as it educated the sons of Boston's Irish immigrants, whom it had been founded to serve, in Greek and Latin classics, English and modern languages, philosophy and religion.

Toward the end of its first 50 years, Boston College outgrew its urban setting and moved to then-rural Chestnut Hill on the site of the former Lawrence Farm, where ground was broken in 1909 for its first building, Gasson Hall. The three other buildings that would form the core of the early campus soon followed: St. Mary's Hall in 1917, Devlin Hall in 1924 and Bapst Library in 1928.

Though incorporated as a university from its beginning, Boston College did not begin to fill out the dimensions of its university charter until the 1920s, when it added the Summer Session, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Law School and the Evening College. The 1930s saw the introduction of the Graduate School of Social Work and the College of Business Administration (now known as the Wallace E. Carroll School of Management).





continues to offer an education that is distinctive in both spirit and content, designed to serve as a transformative experience for young men and women. BC's focus is not only on the intellectual, but also on the personal, spiritual and physical development of its students. Each year, thousands of BC students participate in retreats and spiritual formation activities, as well as in a broad array of extracurricular activities ranging from sports to the arts. BC students perform 444,000 hours of volunteer community service in the City of Boston alone, assisting dozens of schools, hospitals and community and non-profit organizations.

Boston College also maintains its commitment to respond directly to society's most pressing





These seven strategic directions include:

Commit Boston College to becoming the leader in liberal arts education among American universities.

Develop and implement a student formation program that will be a contemporary model for colleges and universities committed to student formation.

Identify and support selected research commitments that will achieve excellence and distinction in addressing urgent societal problems.

Commit targeted resources to selected natural sciences emphases that will establish Boston College as a national leader in these areas.

Build on the strengths and reputations of Boston College's professional schools to establish leadership in critical professional areas.

Become a significant intellectual and cultural crossroads by leveraging Boston College's international resources and partnerships and its Jesuit and Catholic networks.

Become the world's leading Catholic university and theological center.

Upon the completion of the Strategic Plan, Boston College hired the nationally respected campus architecture and planning firm Sasaki Associates of Watertown to help develop a long-range Campus Master Plan that would provide Boston College with an opportunity to achieve excellence by using the strength and distinctiveness of its campus to reinforce its mission and strategic objectives. The plan was de





A common feature of the universities ranked ahead of Boston College is superior facilities. State-of-the-art facilities help to attract the best faculty and students, and improve the productivity of the entire university community. Boston College is proposing to rectify this deficit by building facilities to meet its most pressing needs and to help it compete with its peer institutions.

As a result, the University is proposing to build a new institute for integrated sciences to help its burgeoning science programs to flourish thro







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