

## **2 — Description of Meredith College**

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### **Meredith College Mission Statement**

In educating women to excel, Meredith College fosters in students integrity, independence, scholarship, and personal growth. Grounded in the liberal arts, the College values freedom and openness in the pursuit of truth and, in keeping with its Christian heritage, seeks to nurture justice and compassion.

Meredith endeavors to create a supportive and diverse community in which undergraduate and graduate students learn from the past, prepare for the future, and grow in their understanding of self, others, and community. To these ends, Meredith strives to develop in students the knowledge, skills, values, and global awareness necessary to pursue careers, to assume leadership roles, to continue their education, and to lead responsible lives of work, citizenship, leisure, learning, and service.

### **Meredith College Overview**

Chartered in 1891, Meredith College came into being when higher education for women was still considered a luxury. The current strength of the institution at a time when many women's colleges are closing or going co-ed speaks to the College's ability to adapt, thus ensuring its continued relevance.

Founded by North Carolina Baptists, today Meredith affirms all faiths even as its Christian heritage continues to inform its underlying values. Campus life is shaped by more than 2,200 students from 27 states and 37 countries, though the majority of students come from North Carolina. Total enrollment for 2008-09 included 2,001 undergraduate students and 249 graduate-level students; the undergraduate class of 2014 is the largest in the history of the College, with more than 480 students enrolled. A focus on improved student diversity has led to 43 percent growth in the multicultural population since 2003.

With 47 majors, Meredith's academic program is comprehensive and grounded in the liberal arts. In recent years Meredith's curriculum has had an increased emphasis on science and mathematics—traditionally male-dominated areas of study. Biology is the fastest growing major; others with high enrollment include psychology, business administration and interior design. Meredith's reputation for outstanding teacher education programs continues to grow, both on an undergraduate and graduate level. The student/faculty ratio is 10:1; average class size is 16. Ninety percent of Meredith faculty hold terminal degrees, and no classes are taught by teaching assistants.

The College's mission of *educating women to excel* guides all that takes place here. Students benefit from a college-wide emphasis on international education, leadership development and hands-on learning. Eighty-eight percent of Meredith students participate in internships, undergraduate research or some other form of hands-on learning, while 30 percent study abroad. All find themselves both challenged and supported by Meredith's exceptionally strong community, one of the hallmarks of the College.

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