



PARENTS' GUIDE TO PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

WHAT IS PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE? Pathways to Purpose is Spring Hill College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Quality Enhancement Plans are a requirement of accreditation and reaffirmation outlined by the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Spring Hill College's QEP focuses on a four-year plan to engage students in vocational discernment through curricular and co-curricular experiences. The Vocation Discernment QEP aligns with the promise of Spring Hill College in forming leaders engaged in learning, faith, justice, and service for life.

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT? Vocational discernment can have a lot of different meanings to different people. We encourage our students to develop their own sense of what vocational discernment means to them. To help scaffold this process, we think of vocation as the lives we lead and the people we aim to be in the relation to the communities in which we live. We ask students to think about vocation as (1) their values, (2) their purpose, and (3) their community.

WHO DISCERNS THEIR VOCATION? Everybody on campus has an opportunity to discuss questions and experiences related to discerning vocation, values, purpose, and community. Pathways to Purpose aims to create a culture of vocational discernment on campus by engaging staff, faculty, students, and alumni in conversations about their experiences and values. Discernment of vocation is an ongoing process that does not end at graduation.

WHAT VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT PROGRAMMING EXISTS? Pathways to Purpose partners with departments and organizations across campus to offer Vocational Discernment Courses across the curriculum, to embed reflective prompts throughout the Cohesive Undergraduate Experience, and to engage students through co-curricular opportunities. Students also have the opportunity to attend vocation meals, retreats, and workshops through Pathways to Purpose. More information about curricular and co-curricular opportunities can be found on the Pathways to Purpose website (www.shc.edu/pathways).

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY STUDENT'S VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT? Encourage your student to complete activities in the Guidebook (pathways.shc.edu/guidebook) to structure their journey. Share your own vocational story with your student, include moments of struggle or times your path ventured from the plan. Ask your students questions about how their coursework may connect to the world we live in; ask your students what needs they see in their community and how they can use their skills to meet these needs. Encourage your student to maintain relationships with professors and professional staff members and continue discussions of vocation.



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SPRING HILL COLLEGE

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