



VOCATION VOCABULARY

VOCATION: Vocation can have a lot of different meanings to different people. Students are encouraged to develop their own sense of what vocation means to them. Common synonyms we see are purpose, calling, and or mission. Ultimately, vocation gives our lives an overarching purpose, it is something that organizes our lives and so gives our lives meaning. Our vocations are built on our core values but also upon our relationship to the world. Vocation is a matter of how our gifts, talents, and interests match up to the needs of the communities in which we live. The search for our vocation is the search for a life that is fulfilling – both for ourselves and for the world.

Vocation is the kinds of lives we seek to live and the kinds of people we want to be in relation to the communities in which we live and serve.

Vocation focuses on how we live our lives rather than what we do with them. Vocation asks us to explore our **values**, what matters to us, our **purpose**, how we will positively impact the world, and the **community**, the individuals and systems we will serve.

DISCERNMENT: Discernment implies the search for truth and the ability to think broadly about what is right and what is wrong. Discernment requires us to listen closely to ourselves and the world, to understand the needs of our communities and to hear a call. The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus say:

Discernment is a learning process that involves the cooperations of human beings who try to relate their lives, talents, and resources to God's priorities.

Discernment is a constantly developing skill that we will never master. Discernment can be applied in all areas of life, not just in the search for vocation and purpose.



PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE
SPRING HILL COLLEGE

pathways@shc.edu | www.shc.edu/pathways