The Basics

Founded: 1887  
Type: 4-year liberal arts  
Church affiliation: Mennonite Church USA (independent corporation and board)  
Location: North Newton, Kansas (adjacent to Newton, Kansas, pop. 19,000)  
Campus: 90 acres  
Miles to Wichita: 28  
Miles to major metropolitan areas: Kansas City: 181; Oklahoma City: 187; Omaha: 303; Dallas: 389; Denver: 490  
Newest campus additions: renovated Luyken Fine Arts Center (2014); $5 million renovated Will Family Academic Center (2012); renovated Schultz Student Center and cafeteria (2012); $5.5 million sports complex (2005); $5 million Krehbiel Science Center and Mabee Observatory (2002)  
Vision: At Bethel College, we welcome with open hearts, stimulate personal and spiritual discovery, transform through the power of community and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.  
Mission: Bethel College is an independent institution of higher education. The mission of the college is to prepare students through active learning and rigorous instruction imbued with the spirit of liberal arts, to become critical thinkers and engaged global citizens.  
Values: Discipleship, Scholarship, Service, Integrity, Community, Peace & Social Justice, Diversity

Honors

Overall ranking: Only Kansas college among Best National Liberal Arts Colleges in Washington Monthly’s annual college guide 2017; only Kansas private college to be ranked in Forbes.com’s listing of “America’s Best Colleges” for 2017; one of only five Kansas colleges listed in Christian Colleges of Distinction 2016-17; only Kansas college in U.S. News & World Report’s Best National Liberal Arts Colleges 2017.  
Forensics: One of six colleges or universities that have sent students to the American Forensic Association’s National Individual Events Tournament every year since its beginning in 1978  
Character: A Templeton Character Building College; one of only eight colleges to be listed in Mother Jones in 2010 as a college that combines “great values with good value”  
Service: One of only four private liberal arts institutions in Kansas to be recognized as part of the most recent President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll  
Biomedical science: In 1996, 2003, 2007 and 2011, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) recognized Bethel College for the high number of science majors who go on to earn M.D. degrees and/or Ph.D. degrees in the sciences.

Academic Excellence

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Social Work  
Study and travel abroad: study abroad programs at 19 colleges and universities in 17 countries, including Australia, Austria, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Spain  
Calendar: two 16-week terms (fall and spring); 4-week January interterm; summer term  
Average class size: 21  
Graduation requirements include: an undergraduate research project, a public performance and/or an internship
Intentional Caring Community

Faculty Profile
Full-time: 43  
Part-time: 38  
Student-faculty ratio: 10:1

Student Body Profile
Enrollment: 460  
States represented: 27  
Other countries represented: 3

Residential: 67% of traditional-age students live on campus in one of three residence halls
Freshman class (2016-17): average ACT score 22.45; 12% in top 10% of high school class; 37% in top 25% of high school class

Opportunities for Participation

15 varsity intercollegiate sports: under the auspices of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics-Division II, including: football, men’s and women’s basketball, cheerleading, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s track and field, men’s golf, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis, women’s softball and men’s and women’s cross country

Facilities: Thresher Stadium, Joe W. Goering Field and Herbert Schmidt Track; Thresher Gymnasium, Memorial Hall gym; Ward Tennis Center; practice fields; biking/walking/running paths; cardio equipment and weight rooms

Mascot: Thresher
Colors: maroon and gray
Intramural sports: more than a dozen options
Clubs and organizations: nearly 40 options
Forensics: award-winning forensics and debate team
Theater: opportunities to perform on stage or behind the scenes in plays and musicals
Music: choral ensembles, jazz ensembles, chamber groups, orchestra, private lessons, community music groups and coffeehouse performance opportunities. Nearly every year since 2010, one or more Bethel music groups has been selected to perform at the annual conference of the Kansas Music Educators Association. In 2014, the Concert Choir performed at the Southwestern Conference of the American Choral Directors Association.

Spiritual Life

Affiliation: Mennonite Church USA
Other backgrounds: Though Mennonites represent the largest single denomination at Bethel, more than half our students come from backgrounds other than Mennonite.
Available activities: Bible study groups, praise and worship services, hymn sings, weekly chapel services and regular service opportunities

After Bethel

Teacher education program completers who passed the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) professional knowledge component: 100%, 2011-15
Bethel nursing student NCLEX pass rates: above the state average
Biology and natural science graduates who successfully pursued Ph.D. and/or M.D. degrees (since 1987): approximately 50%
Graduate school: 1 out of every 17 graduates earns a doctoral degree, ranking Bethel first in the state and 92nd in the nation in percentage of bachelor’s degree students who go on to earn a Ph.D.
Return on investment: ahead of Wichita’s public university; only Kansas private college ranked in Forbes.com for 2017