Mission Statement

The Morningside College experience cultivates a passion for life-long learning and a dedication to ethical leadership and civic responsibility.

Vision Statement

The College is a student-centered participatory community, offering a liberal arts curriculum combined with a diverse array of practical experiences. The goal is the development of the whole person through an emphasis on critical thinking, effective communication, cultural understanding, practical wisdom, spiritual discernment, and ethical action. The Morningside College graduate is equipped for both personal and professional success.

Profile

Historical Background. Morningside College was founded in 1894 by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a private, four year, coeducational, liberal arts institution. It maintains its affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

Academic Year. The College operates on a two semester system with sessions from late August to December and January to May. Evening classes are offered each semester. There is one summer session of six (6) weeks and a May Term, which provides the opportunity for travel and for study outside the regular curriculum.

Enrollment. More than 2,400 students attend Morningside, representing 21 states and 9 foreign countries.

Co-Curricular Activities & Cultural Events. Students participate in a wide variety of activities including departmental, professional and religious organizations, honor societies, sororities and fraternities. A college newspaper, literary magazine, and radio station are under student direction. Intercollegiate athletics and intramural activities are available for both men and women. Music recitals and concerts, theatre productions and lecture series are held each semester.

Accreditation. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1413, (800) 621-7440 or (312) 263-0456; http://ncahlc.org); the Iowa Department of Education; the Iowa Board of Nursing; the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; the National Association of Schools of Music; and the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

The Campus

The Morningside College campus is located in a residential suburb in the southeastern part of Sioux City. The entire campus is a National Register of Historic Places District for its mixture of Romanesque, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Art Moderne buildings, interspersed with newer, contemporary buildings. The 68-acre campus is adjacent to a city park, swimming pool, tennis courts, eating establishments, and is a short drive from major regional shopping centers.
Lillian E. Dimmitt Alumni House (1921), was the home of Lillian E. Dimmitt, who was Dean of Women for 26 years. In 1983, the house was dedicated and used as a meeting place for alumni. It remains a site for meetings and smaller gatherings.

Bass Field, near the center of campus, is the location for a number of outdoor events, including intramural sports and other student activities.

Buhler Rolfs Hall, (2014) is the first completely new classroom building constructed on campus since 1974. Scheduled for completion in October 2014, it has classrooms and offices for the Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Program, the Education Department and the Nylen School of Nursing.

Charles City College Hall (1890), the first building on Morningside’s campus, is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. It houses classrooms and offices for the History, Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theatre Departments.

Lillian E. Dimmitt Residence Hall (1927) houses 380 students, and includes 14 apartments.

Eugene C. Eppley Fine Arts Building (1966) provides one of the finest music and art facilities in the region. The auditorium, which was remodeled in 2013, seats 1,300 people and is noted for the majestic Sanford Memorial Organ used for recitals and teaching. The organ was a gift of Art and Stella Sanford of Sioux City. The Eppley Art Gallery, located in the foyer, regularly features exhibitions by guest artists, faculty, and students.

Grace United Methodist Church (1960) is located southeast of the campus.

Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Learning Center (1984) includes the former Wilhelmina Petersmeyer Library and Marian Jones Hall of Culture. This building was first constructed as a gymnasium in 1913, converted to the Petersmeyer Library in 1955, and renovated and expanded in 1984. It was redesigned as a Learning Center in 2005. A renovation scheduled for completion in 2014 will create a new main entrance and convert the second floor into a study lounge. The building includes Library Services, the Writing Center, Student Academic Support Services and the Spoonholder Café. It also houses the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, the Mass Communication Department and visual art displays. The website for the Learning Center is http://library.morningside.edu.

Hilker Campus Mall (2008) is a pedestrian mall and green space that starts at the back of Lewis Hall, extends south past the Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Learning Center and terminates at Garretson Avenue near the Eppley Fine Arts Building. The mall incorporates three outdoor gathering spaces: the Buhler Outdoor Performance Center, the Lieder Fountain and the Kline Family Pergola.

Hindman-Hobbs Center (1989) includes facilities for all recreational and intramural programs and features three activity courts, a swimming pool, a golf room, a wrestling room, weight rooms, and an indoor track, as well as classroom facilities, and offices. It is the home of the Mustang wrestling and swimming teams. Recreational and fitness programs and all facilities are available to students, faculty and staff. The center underwent significant renovation during 2006, including the installation of new sports performance floors for the activity courts and indoor track.

Elizabeth and Irving Jensen Softball Complex (2006) is located near the center of campus and features cement dugouts, seating for 400, and a two-story press box. The complex is home to the Mustangs’ softball team.
Klinger-Neal Theatre (1964) includes a 300-seat theatre and support areas. The theatre features a variable performance space allowing for proscenium, thrust, and arena staging.

Krone Advising Center (2014) is connected to Buhler Rolfs Hall and is scheduled to be completed in October 2014. The building will house office for the full-time advisors who work with Morningside’s first-year students and Career Students.

Lags Hall (2007) features single bedroom housing. This apartment-style residence hall houses 60 students in 15 four-bedroom suites, complete with restroom and living room/kitchen area. The facility also features a large community room and fitness center. Lags Hall is home of the Morningside College Leadership Academy.

Helen Levitt Art Gallery (1998), adjoining the Eppley Fine Arts Auditorium, is home to the Levitt art collection which includes work by internationally famous artists. Works by Tamayo, Rauschenberg, Johns, Frankenthaler, Nevelson, Motherwell, Miro and Hockney are included in the million dollar collection.

Lewis Hall (1900), Morningside’s second oldest building, contains administrative offices, Student Services and classrooms and offices for the English and Modern Languages Department and the Economics, Political Science and Sociology Department.

Robert M. Lincoln Center (1974) houses the U.P.S. Auditorium, business library, conference rooms, and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Education, as well as classrooms and offices of the Business Administration Department.

The MacCollin Classroom Building, adjoining the Eppley Fine Arts Building, houses offices, art studios, practice rooms and classrooms for the Music and Art Departments.

Elwood Olsen Stadium (1940), formerly Roberts Stadium, is home to Morningside’s football, soccer and track and field teams. More than $2.5 million in renovations to the stadium were completed in 2005, including the installation of field turf and a new track, new field lighting, and a new parking lot.

The Olsen Student Center (1962) is the hub of student activity on campus and is the location for many college and community activities. Over $2 million in renovations to the main level of the building were completed in 2007, including complete remodeling of the Dick and Marty Wikert Dining Hall, lobby, Hickman Room, and Yockey Family Community Room. The building also houses the Mustang Grill, the Bookstore, the Office of Residence Life, Campus Security offices, Student Government and student activities office, Health Services, the Media Center, Computer Service Center, and the student post office.

Physical Plant Building (2007) is located on the south edge of the campus. It is home to the maintenance department and the print shop.

Donald E. Poppen Apartments and the Joan L. and Norman W. Waitt, Sr. Apartments (2003) house a total of 72 students. Each apartment has three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a shared living room/kitchen area. Study rooms, laundry facilities, and parking are also available on site.

Residence Complex (1966) houses 93 students.
Roadman Hall (1953) houses 248 students and one professional staff member. Along with student rooms, the building contains 12 apartments. It also houses the Information Services Center and includes the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) classroom. Extensive renovations of the south wing of Roadman were completed in 2005 and included installation of air conditioning in each student room, new restroom and laundry facilities, and a new combination kitchen/study area.

Rosen Verdoorn Sports Center-George M. Allee Gymnasium (1949) seats more than 2,500 spectators and houses athletic offices as well as the athletic training room and a weight room facility. In 2007, the college invested nearly $3 million in renovations to the facility, including construction of a new lobby, concession stand, M-Club Room, and restrooms. It is home of the Mustangs' basketball and volleyball teams.

James and Sharon Walker Science Center (2001) is a renovated science facility comprised of the A. W. Jones Hall of Science (1948) and the Jacobsen Annex (1969). Facilities include classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices for Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematical Science, Physics/Engineering, and Psychology.

Morningside College History

Morningside College was founded on December 5, 1894, when a committee of 15 ministers of the Northwest Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and 12 laypersons filed Articles of Incorporation. The college purchased the grounds and single building (known today as Charles City College Hall) of the failing University of the Northwest, started in 1890 by Methodist ministers and local businessmen. Under President G. W. Carr, classes started at Morningside College in the fall of 1895.

Morningside grew from a high school academy with a few college students to the largest college in northwest Iowa under the leadership of its second president, Rev. Wilson Seeley Lewis. Lewis oversaw the completion in 1900 of the second campus building, today's Lewis Hall, and began the college endowment before he was called to be Bishop to China.

The fourth president, Rev. Alfred E. Craig, rebuilt both original buildings after fire reduced them to shells, and erected the Alumni Gymnasium, the core of today's Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Learning Center. In 1914 Charles City College merged with Morningside. A German Methodist Episcopal college founded in 1868 in Galena, Illinois, it had moved to Charles City, Iowa, in 1891.

Under the fifth president, alumnus Frank E. Mossman, Morningside added its first residential facility (later named after long-time Dean of Women, Lillian E. Dimmitt) in 1927. Other residence halls include Roadman Hall (1953), the Residence Complex (1966), the Poppen and Waitt Apartments (2003), and Lags Hall (2007).

After difficult times during the Great Depression, Morningside experienced new growth under Earl Roadman, its seventh president. Roadman brought financial stability to the college, and persuaded the U.S. Army to bring its Aviation Cadet Training Program to campus during WWII. After the war, Roadman launched a massive building program to accommodate the returning soldiers, including Jones Hall of Science (1948), Allee Gymnasium (1949), and O'Donoghue Observatory (1953).


Since 2000, under the administration of President John Reynders, Morningside has invested nearly $50 million in new programs and capital improvements. Between