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Catholic University Project: DeSales University

“Be who you are and be that well.” – St Francis de Sales. This quote from the saint that DeSales University is named after inspires its students to grow into the men and women God made them to be. There are many areas to explore about the school: its history, academics, student life and and faith life, athletics, and admissions and tuition. In order to appreciate the full experience at DeSales University, it is important to understand its rich heritage and explore the many opportunities for academic and personal growth that the school has to offer to its students.

Bishop Joseph McShea wanted to expand education in the diocese of Allentown to provide a Catholic college for men. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales founded Allentown College in April 1962 and classes began for its first students in September 1965. Major changes were made over the next 30 years. In September 1970, the college accepted female students and became co-ed. University status was granted to the school in 2001. Since the 1960s, DeSales University has been providing excellent academic programs to both young men and women from all over the country.

There are undergraduate, graduate, and distance learning programs available at DeSales. With more than 30 majors to choose from, the students have a wide variety of options, including the choice to design their own major and participate in study abroad programs. I would be interested in a degree in theology because it would help me grow in

my faith and give me more opportunities to serve in ministry. I would have to take classes on Jesus and the Church like Catholic Theology, Gospels, Old Testament, The Church and Sacraments, Jesus Christ, and Faith and Reason. Not only would I want to receive the best education possible at DeSales, I would also like to be both active in my faith and get involved in extracurricular activities.

If I were to become a DeSales student, I would live in Tocik Hall for female freshmen. It is a residence hall for first-year students who live in suites of four – with 2 students in each double room with a shared bathroom in-between. There are about 60 clubs on campus to join for me to meet new people. I would become a member of the Pro-Life Club because I am passionate about defending life at all stages. The Exercise is Medicine Club would be good for me as well because I need support to keep myself active. For spiritual growth, I would take advantage of the daily Masses at Wills Hall Chapel on Mondays-Fridays at 5pm and Sunday Masses at 8pm in Connelly Chapel. The Center for Service and Social Justice provides local, national, and international service projects. Students can give blood, tutor, help the elderly, build homes for the poor, and make medical missions to Mexico. While campus life, liturgy, and service are significant experiences for the students, athletics plays a large role in promoting school spirit at DeSales.

The DeSales Bulldogs compete in the Freedom Conference as a Division III school. Donning their navy blue and scarlet colors, the 17 sports teams bring life and enthusiasm to the student body. There are both Men's and Women's teams for basketball, soccer, track and field, lacrosse, tennis, and cross country. Sports for men only include baseball, basketball, and Golf. The women's sports are field hockey, softball, and

volleyball. If students cannot commit to the rigorous team schedules, they can play for fun in any of the intramural sports and club teams. Two fitness facilities are open to students where they can work out and check out sport equipment on their own time. Staying fit and healthy is important to many students, so it is wonderful to have so many different choices to get exercise at the school. After discovering all the amazing aspects of DeSales University, one of the most important questions to ask now is, “What does it take to get in?”

In order to apply and get accepted, students must have gone through a college preparatory program and submit official high school transcripts with a record of all the following classes: 4 years of English, 3-4 years of college preparatory mathematics, a minimum to 2 years of modern, foreign, or classical language, and at least 2 laboratory science courses. ACT/SAT I scores are required, in addition to counselor and teacher recommendations. DeSales has a rolling admissions program as students are notified within 4 weeks after the University receives their application. If they are interested in scholarships to help fund their education, the Priority Deadline is December 1st of every year. The total cost for a resident student is \$50, 972 per year. This amount includes tuition, room and board, mandatory fees, books, and personal expensive. Federal and State aid, loans, scholarships, work study, private funding, and military benefits are other ways students can get financial support for their education. While the cost of attending DeSales is expensive, the benefits are definitely worth it!

Spending four years as a student at this school would be a valuable experience overall. DeSales University has so much to offer for academic, spiritual, and physical development. During my research, I especially enjoyed learning about the different

majors and minors that are available, and I am glad that the school also has a great service program that gives back to the community. I am not sure where God will lead me for my future education and career, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to learn about such a wonderful Catholic university.