

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Franklin County, Virginia, **Ferrum College** stands as a place where faith, purpose, and possibility meet. Since its founding in 1913 as a mission school, Ferrum College has remained steadfast in its calling—to educate, to serve, and to transform lives. As a private liberal arts institution grounded in faith, the College offers a broad array of liberal arts and professional programs, all shaped by a deep commitment to academic excellence, environmental stewardship, and a life of service.

From its earliest days to the present, Ferrum College has embodied values in action. Today, that spirit is captured in its guiding vision - *Ferrum Rising* - a promise that students will arrive with promise and leave with purpose, equipped to achieve more than they ever imagined. With nearly 1,000 students, including undergraduates, graduate students, and those pursuing career and technical education, Ferrum College provides an intimate yet dynamic learning environment. With over 80 programs of study - from Agricultural Sciences and Environmental Science to Nursing, Criminal Justice, Health and Human Performance, Music and Theater, and Teacher Education - students are prepared not only for careers, but for lives of meaning and impact.

Ferrum College proudly embraces its identity as an “College of Opportunity,” where access and affordability are not an aspiration but a lived reality. With 99% of students receiving financial aid, the College ensures that a values-based education remains within reach. Nearly half of its students are Pell Grant-eligible. Further, based on self-reported information, more than 40% are the first in their families to pursue a college degree. However, these figures underrepresent the full scope of first-generation and Pell-eligible students within the Ferrum College community. Most importantly, at Ferrum College, these are not just statistics; they are stories of resilience, determination, and transformation.

Founded by the women of the Virginia Methodist Annual Conference, Ferrum College continues to honor its heritage by transforming ‘promise into purpose,’ demonstrating that it can make an extraordinary difference in the world. This mission is evident in the daily life of the institution. For example,

- Through the Office of Spiritual Life, Ferrum College offers a true ministry of presence - creating a welcoming and affirming space where all students can lead, serve, and grow in faith and community.
- Long before sustainability became a global imperative, Ferrum College was a leader in environmental stewardship. Its Environmental Science program - one of the oldest in the nation - reflects a deep and enduring commitment to caring for God’s creation.
- The Blue Ridge Institute & Museum preserves and celebrates the spiritual and cultural heritage of Appalachia, honoring the very communities the College was founded to serve.
- The Division of Nursing, fully accredited as of 2025, prepares compassionate, highly skilled professionals to meet the urgent needs of rural healthcare systems.
- In athletics, Ferrum College’s successful transition to NCAA Division II and Conference Carolinas reflects a commitment to excellence grounded in the conference’s guiding principle: Champions in Body, Mind, and Soul - an ideal that mirrors Ferrum College’s own belief in *Not Self, But Others*.

Ferrum College is more than an institution; it is a community shaped by faith, driven by purpose, and dedicated to the belief that education is a calling. Here, lives are changed, futures are shaped, and the promise of each student rises into purpose.

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