

General Information

Characteristics

Bishop's is a predominantly residential university whose primary concern is offering to undergraduate students a quality education in Arts, Sciences, Business Administration and Education. Its academic programs are broadly based and stress the interrelationships of disciplines rather than their specializations. The residential aspect and small size of the University encourage an informal atmosphere in academic and social situations. Emphasis is placed on personal contact between faculty and students through small classes and frequent use of seminars, laboratories, and tutorials. Self-directed study is encouraged with student research projects and special independent study programs. Bishop's also offers a small number of graduate-level programs. Approximately 2,900 full-time and part-time students were enrolled in Bishop's courses in 2024-25.

Location

Bishop's University is attractively situated in the Sherbrooke borough of Lennoxville, amid the rolling hills of the Eastern Townships of southern Quebec. The campus occupies a 500-acre tract at the junction of the St. Francis and Massawippi rivers, bordered on the west by the borough of Lennoxville and on the east by open countryside. Several lakes, bike trails and numerous ski resorts within short driving distances supplement the recreational facilities on the campus.

Origin and Development

The University was founded as Bishop's College in 1843 under the sponsorship of the Right Reverend G. J. Mountain, third Anglican Bishop of Quebec, with the assistance of a group of clergy and laymen of the Eastern Townships. According to the intention of its founders, Bishop's was to have two functions: "to offer to the country at large the blessing of a sound and liberal education" and to provide training for the clergy. Ten years later, in 1853, the College received a royal charter granting it the right to confer degrees.

The early development of Bishop's was gradual. Its original grant of land, forty acres, was donated by Lieutenant-Colonel William Morris. On this site, the first building, consisting of the five central bays of what is now McGreer Hall, was erected and occupied in 1846. The chapel was consecrated in 1857, an Arts Building in 1861 (destroyed by fire in 1891), a new Arts Building (now the Johnson Building) and Divinity House (now Kwigw8mna) in 1892. The first degrees granted by Bishop's, in 1854, were in Arts and Divinity. In 1871, a medical faculty was established in Montreal, which functioned until 1905 when it was merged with the Medical Faculty of McGill University. A small Faculty of Law awarded 15 degrees between 1881 and 1888. Specialized programs in Professional Education and in the Natural Sciences were introduced in the 1920s.

The administration of Bishop's remained under the aegis of the Church of England until 1947 when the Corporation of the University was reconstituted as a nondenominational body.

In 1949, an extensive development program was initiated with public support. Most of the present facilities have been constructed since that time: Norton Hall and Pollack Hall residences, the

Memorial Gymnasium (now Memorial House, part of the Student Centre) and the central heating plant in 1949-50; the John Bassett Memorial Library, Mackinnon Hall residence and several faculty houses in 1958-59; the W.B. Scott Memorial Rink in 1961; the Jasper H. Nicolls Arts Building, the John Hamilton Administration Building and Bishop Mountain House students' centre in 1962-63; Abbott Hall, Kuehner Hall and Munster Hall residences in 1964-66; a new wing to the Andrew S. Johnson Science Building in 1966; the Centennial Theatre in 1967; an addition to the John Bassett Memorial Library in 1970; a new football stadium in 1971; the John H. Price Sports and Recreation Centre in 1975; Marjorie Donald House, a new wing of the Student Centre, in 1977. The Molson Fine Arts Building and an extension to the library were added in 1990. The Centennial Theatre was renovated and expanded to include an Art Gallery in 1991. In 1998, improvements were made to Memorial House and Marjorie Donald House, which now form part of the University Centre. An apartment-style residence, Paterson Hall, was opened in the fall of 2003. In 2008 a Field Turf surface was installed on Coulter Field. The Johnson Science Labs underwent an extensive renovation in 2009 and were re-opened in early 2010. The John H. Price Sports and Recreation Centre underwent extensive renovations which included a second double gymnasium and the Jane and Eric Molson Arena in 2015. The John Bassett Memorial Library was completely renovated, and a new Library and Learning Commons was inaugurated in 2018. Renovated Science labs and a greenhouse in the Johnson Building were inaugurated in 2019. Bishop's newest residence, completed in 2023, is a traditional style between Dewhurst dining hall and the academic buildings. This residence is near the centre of the campus featuring modern amenities and commons spaces.

Since 1949, the student body and faculty have more than trebled in size. Many new programs have been introduced, including a Bachelor's degree program in Business Administration, numerous specialization options and a variety of inter-disciplinary programs. In 1970, following the institution of colleges of general and vocational education (CEGEPs) at the pre-university level in Quebec, Bishop's, along with other universities in the province, reorganized its undergraduate programs to lead to the Bachelor's degree in three years of study beyond the collegial level.

Thus, Bishop's University had its beginnings more than 175 years ago as a private college supported by the Church of England. During its early development, a strong humanistic tradition was established in its programs and teaching. Since 1949, the University has evolved rapidly as part of a provincially supported system of higher education. Bishop's assumes a distinctive role in this system as a relatively small and residential university with broadly based programs. Bishop's aims to offer a well-rounded liberal education adapted to the needs and opportunities of the day.

Academic Organization

Bishop's academic organization includes two Schools – The Williams School of Business and the School of Education and a Faculty of Arts and Science, which is divided into three divisions: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Science and Mathematics.*

** The academic organization is currently under review*

Programs

Bishop's undergraduate programs lead to Bachelor's degrees in Arts, Science, Education and Business Administration. Subjects offered for Honours or Major specialization in Arts include Classical Studies; Drama; Economics; English; Environment, Agriculture and Geography; Études françaises et québécoises; Fine Arts; History and Global Studies; Liberal Arts; Modern Languages; Music; Philosophy; Political Economy; Political and International Studies; Psychology; Religion, Society and Culture; Sports Studies; Sociology. In Science, the major subjects are Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Psychology (Neuroscience). Interdisciplinary Concentrations or Minor specializations are also possible in many areas.

Students may design their programs within a broad framework of options. A student may opt to major in a single subject — e.g., English, Psychology or Chemistry; or in some combination of subjects from more than one Faculty or School— e.g., Geography and History and Global Studies or Mathematics and Music. Honours programs are offered in many subjects. Major or Honours and Minor specializations may be combined in a program.

In addition to offering undergraduate programs leading to the B.Ed. degree, the School of Education prepares graduates for the Master of Arts in Education and the Master of Education and multiple graduate certificates.

The University also offers individualized Master of Arts or Science and a Master of Science in Computer Science or Physics, a Graduate Certificate in Knowledge Mobilization, and a Graduate level micro-program in Climate Change.

New in Fall 2024, the Doctor of Psychology – Clinical Psychology profile. As a Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC) program offered by extension at Bishop's University, it focuses on professional clinical psychology and will equip students to conduct psychological assessments and perform psychological interventions.

Part-Time Studies

Bishop's University is dedicated to fulfilling the lifelong learning needs of community part-time students. Its mission is to assure accessibility within the Eastern Townships and beyond to high quality educational programs for adult learners pursuing part-time degree and certificate studies and those seeking personal and professional development. A variety of credit courses are offered year-round in the Fall, Winter and Spring semesters.

Association with Champlain Regional College

Champlain Regional College is part of the provincial system of colleges of general and vocational education (CEGEPs). One of its three sites has been on the campus of Bishop's University since 1971. While Champlain's administrative offices and some classrooms are located in the College's own building, virtually all other campus facilities are shared with Bishop's. A spirit of mutual cooperation between the two institutions and student bodies has allowed this arrangement, unique in the province, to succeed.

Please note that particular application and course registration deadlines for each institution must be observed. It is advisable to contact the Admissions Office for further information.

Inquiries about Champlain should be addressed to:

Champlain College Lennoxville
2580 College St.
Sherbrooke Quebec
J1M 2K3
Tel: 819-564-3666
E-mail: admissions@crc-lennox.qc.ca

Affiliation with the Thomas More Institute for Adult Education

Qualified graduates of the Thomas More Institute for Adult Education, 3405 Atwater Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, may be granted the Bachelor of Arts degree by Bishop's University, by an affiliation agreement concluded by the two institutions in 1974. The degree program of the Thomas More Institute is designed for mature adults, normally over 23 years of age, and offers to such persons special opportunity to continue their formal education in the Liberal Arts tradition. For information: 514-935-9585.
