



Letter of Reference

Evaluations - As a supplement to your reference letter, please evaluate this student in terms of:

	No basis	Below average	Average	Good (above average)	Very good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	One of the top few encountered in my career
Academic achievement								
Intellectual promise								
Quality of writing								
Mathematical aptitude								
Productive class discussion								
Respect accorded by faculty								
Disciplined work habits								
Maturity								
Motivation								
Leadership								
Integrity								
Concern for others								
Overall								

The studies, method, and aim of Thomas Aquinas College are quite different from those of most other American colleges and universities. Rather than follow the ordinary approach, which isolates technical knowledge into specialties, Thomas Aquinas College unifies the principal arts and sciences—philosophy, theology, mathematics, the natural sciences, history, literature, language, and music—in an integrated curriculum which leads, in four years, to a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts. The entire curriculum is required of all students.

At Thomas Aquinas College, students use no “textbooks”. Rather, they read the works produced by the greatest minds: Aristotle, Plato, Sophocles, Dante, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Isaac Newton, René Descartes, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein, among many others. Students are expected to be active in their own education. Classroom lectures are replaced by guided analyses and discussions of these Great Books so that students gain daily practice in developing the skills of rational discourse. Classes—tutorials, seminars, and laboratories—range in size from 12 to 20 students.

The program of the College is not a mere survey of history or culture, though their readings bring students into intimate familiarity with history and the very sources of our culture. Rather, the curriculum, founded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, aims at philosophical and religious wisdom.

Graduates of Thomas Aquinas College now have successful careers in medicine, law, computer sciences, mathematics, business, politics, teaching and many other fields. But they are more than just good physicians, lawyers, scientists, and businessmen. They are good men and women who are prepared to be citizens of a free society.

The College has found that among the students entering the program, those most often successful have earlier been introduced to classical literature, have undertaken studies in philosophy or history, or have approached mathematics and science in courses emphasizing fundamental principles. The majority of entering freshmen are from among the top quarter of their high school graduating classes. Their average total SAT is above 1900. There have been many successful students who have begun their work at Thomas Aquinas College without any of these characteristics. Almost without exception, however, they have been students who, in high school or in college, have demonstrated inquiring minds, interest in a wide variety of academic subjects, intellectual honesty, and a sincere interest in the truth.

British journalist Christopher Derrick has written a book, *Escape from Scepticism*, which discusses Thomas Aquinas College and the state of liberal education in America generally. If you would like a complimentary copy, we'll be happy to send you one.

Please send me a copy of *Escape from Scepticism*.