



Thomas Aquinas College

Letter of Reference

www.thomasaquinas.edu • 800-634-9797

To the Applicant:

Please complete this part of the form and then give to the person who will write your reference with an envelope stamped and addressed to Director of Admissions, Thomas Aquinas College, 10,000 Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, CA, 93060.

Applicant's name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Number & Street City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Phone _____ Email _____

Federal law requires that references be made available to applicants who enroll at Thomas Aquinas College unless they agree to waive their right of access. Applicants who do not waive their right or do not sign will be permitted to read their references should they enroll in the College.

I do wish to waive my right of access to this letter *I do not wish to waive my right of access to this letter*

Signature _____ Date _____

To the Referrer:

Thank you in advance for taking time to help the Admissions Committee in its evaluation of this candidate for admission. Because of the distinctive character of the College — the curriculum is based entirely on original works, which students discuss in class daily — you may wish to consider the information on the back of this sheet before beginning your letter and completing the evaluation chart, also found on the back of this page. If you have any questions or if you would like for the Admissions Office to send you further information, please do not hesitate to call. We would be pleased to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Daly, Director of Admissions

Statement of reference

Based on your personal or professional knowledge of the student, we would be grateful for a frank statement regarding the student's scholarship, academic and/or personal aptitude for class discussions, character, personality, and any other information which you think would help the Admissions Committee to reach a wise decision on the student's application. Careful discrimination between strong and weak characteristics of the applicant would be most helpful.

This reference is submitted by _____
(Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Last First

Title _____ Institution _____

Address _____
Number & Street City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Phone _____ Email _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send this statement to: Director of Admissions, Thomas Aquinas College, 10,000 Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, CA 93060
admissions@thomasaquinas.edu • (805) 421-5905 (fax)

Continued on reverse →



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. 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*.