



## A NOTE TO THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

A college catalog serves several distinct purposes. As the official academic publication of the College, it contains information about the curriculum, graduation requirements, the academic rights and responsibilities of a student, and support services.

For a prospective student, the catalog also provides an introduction to the College. This catalog will give you a sense of Cottey's commitment to the unique advantages of a learning environment where young women are inspired to take charge of their own destinies and achieve extraordinary success.

Our focus is clear—to provide opportunities for all of our students to succeed and to prepare them thoroughly for the next educational step. We do this by offering students a rigorous and personal education, emphasizing the liberal arts and sciences. We do it by giving students leadership experiences, such as those offered through our Helen and George Washburn Center for Women's Leadership, and through various student organizations.

The Admission and Financial Aid section outlines the steps necessary to become a Cottey student. To obtain more information and an application for admission or arrange a campus visit, contact the Office of Enrollment Management.

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Cottey College  
1000 W. Austin  
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# COTTEY COLLEGE

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## Programs of Study

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POL	Political Science and International Relations.....	37
PSY	Psychology.....	37
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Directed Study  
 Education  
 Internship  
 Learning Communities  
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# COTTEY COLLEGE

## Major Guides

If you have an interest in majoring in one of the fields below, Cottey can help you prepare to declare your major. Please visit <http://www.cottey.edu/home/aac/prgramstudy.html> for a listing of programs of study for different majors. Each guide for a prospective major will list potential career opportunities and a sample four-semester course of study at Cottey College.

Accounting	English	Physical Education
Anthropology	Environmental Science	Physics
Art	French	Political Science
Biology—Molecular	German	Psychology
Biology—Organismal	History	Religion
Business	International Relations	Sociology
Chemistry	Journalism	Spanish
Computer Science	Mass Communication	Speech
Dance	Mathematics	Theatre
Economics	Music	Women's Studies
Education	Philosophy	

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## Information Subject to Change

The information contained in this catalog is subject to change without published notice. Such changes may result from action by the administration or Board of Trustees of Cottey College.

## Equal Opportunity Policy

Cottey College is committed to equal educational opportunity and does not unlawfully discriminate in its educational policies and practices on the bases of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other factor protected by law.

The coordinator for equal opportunity is the director of human resources, Main Hall, Cottey College, Nevada, MO 64772; the coordinator for student disability services is located in the Student Life Center, Hinkhouse, telephone (417) 667-8181.

## ACCREDITATION

Recognized as a two-year college of liberal arts, Cottey College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

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Chicago, IL 60602-2504  
(312) 263-0456 or (800) 621-7440  
[www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org)

National Association of Schools of Music  
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21  
Reston, VA 20190-5248  
(703) 437-0700  
<http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/>



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to be the President of this dynamic, nationally known, two-year college committed to higher education for women, by women, about women. Founded in 1884, Cottey is unique as the only college owned by a nonsectarian women's organization, the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The founder of Cottey College, Virginia Alice Cottey, presented her College to the P.E.O. Sisterhood in 1927 because the organization shared her commitment to providing education for women. The P.E.O. Sisterhood has built on the vision of the founder by generously supporting the College through annual dues, gifts, and stewardship of the College.

Virginia Alice Cottey wrote in the first catalog: "We have endeavored to make our course of study thoroughly practical and adapted to the needs of young women of the present day." Cottey College continues to meet the educational needs of women in the twenty-first century by maintaining high academic standards and offering a rigorous liberal arts curriculum, enriched by opportunities for personal growth through cultural and residential experiences.

The curriculum outlined in this catalog is a course of study in the arts and sciences designed to prepare students for continued education beyond the associate's degree and for leadership roles as responsible, engaged citizens of a complex global society. The curriculum focuses on enhancing intellectual ability, knowledge of the liberal arts and personal skills.



Credit: © 2008. Don Wilkinson/Joplin Business Journal

This course of study is reviewed and revised regularly by the College's faculty to ensure the academic program meets the needs of our students. Evidence of success in meeting this goal is that 90 to 95 percent of Cottey's graduates continue their education at hundreds of institutions. Our alumnae report that they arrive at transfer institutions of their choice well prepared to face the challenges of completing their bachelor's degrees. They credit Cottey's strong academic program, frequent interaction with a supportive faculty and staff, and the opportunities and encouragement they had for leadership development as some of the reasons for their success. In addition, Cottey's location in a small, safe midwestern town, free from the distractions of large urban areas, provides our students the opportunity to focus, learn, and grow.

I am honored to lead a dynamic institution with a distinguished history, an established reputation for academic excellence, and a commitment to continued growth and accomplishment. The merging of past and present on an historic campus that prepares students for the demands of a technological world, the small and supportive campus community that recognizes and prepares students for the challenges of a global society, the devotion of the Cottey community members to mutual support and learning—these are the features that distinguish this College.

I am impressed by the learning environment at Cottey College. I recognize this as an environment in which I will continue to learn and grow as I contribute to the learning and growth of others. This is the synergy of Cottey College. I invite you to be a part of this dynamic campus.

# MISSION

Cottery College, an independent liberal arts college, educates women to be contributing members of a global society through a challenging curriculum and a dynamic campus experience. In our diverse and supportive environment, women develop their potential for personal and professional lives of intellectual engagement and thoughtful action as learners, leaders, and citizens.

## A COTTEY EDUCATION

Cottery is a women's college that focuses on the first two years of a liberal arts education. Young women who attend Cottery receive the full support of a close-knit community as they pursue an education that will prepare them to be learners, leaders, and citizens in our global society.

The high quality curriculum at Cottery challenges students to explore a range of academic disciplines. Students who begin study in their chosen major will also benefit from the broad exposure provided by a liberal arts foundation. Those students who have not yet decided on a major are exposed to a variety of courses and receive assistance in determining their interests and academic strengths.

Cottery professors are highly qualified scholars trained at excellent higher education institutions. Ninety percent of faculty members hold the highest degree in their field. As scholars and outstanding teachers Cottery's faculty are committed to encouraging curiosity and thoughtful inquiry. In small classes, students explore concepts, express ideas, and are challenged to excel.

The College has in place excellent physical and human resources dedicated to the education of women. Modern, well-equipped classrooms and laboratories, a commitment to the use of technology to enrich learning, and internship and volunteer opportunities provide an excellent learning environment.

Cottery students live and study with other young women from across the nation and around the world. In this context of both diversity and community, there are significant opportunities for personal growth. Cottery's unique, apartment-style suites contribute to building friendships and give students the chance to learn about themselves and others. The leadership development program allows students to combine theory and practice to develop the skills and self-confidence that will shape their future education and career path.

A highlight for second-year students is the opportunity to visit a major cultural center of Europe—such as London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, or Florence—with their class for spring break at very little additional cost. Cottery professors and staff enhance the cultural experience by developing learning modules in advance and accompanying students on the trip. Learning modules incorporate historic landmarks, theatre, music, architecture, food, and more.

A Cottery education is designed to prepare students to continue to the baccalaureate level and beyond. After two years of focused study and work with dedicated faculty, Cottery graduates transfer to institutions across the country. In recent years our alumnae have attended such well-known schools as Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Stanford. Some of our graduates prefer to transfer to another small liberal arts college, while others select public colleges, regional universities, or major research universities. Despite the fact that they transfer to a wide variety of institutions, alumnae report one thing in common—the ability to shape their destiny based on the intellectual motivation and excellent academic preparation they received at Cottery.

Upon completion of a program of study and engagement in co-curricular programs at Cottery, students will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Ability to listen, read, write and speak effectively in English
- Ability to employ various technologies as tools to collect, apply, analyze, and disseminate information
- Ability to employ sound reasoning skills in problem solving including quantitative reasoning and analysis
- Ability to recognize connections among fields of knowledge
- Knowledge of the nature of scientific inquiry and the role of science in the modern world
- Knowledge of human experience, history and the creative process
- Knowledge of diverse cultures and their increasing complexity and interconnectedness
- Participation in programs contributing to physical fitness and wellness
- Knowledge of the cultural and historical experiences of women
- Ability to be active contributors toward positive change through leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement
- Ability to employ interpersonal and intrapersonal skills
- Ability to identify personal and professional goals
- Knowledge of the importance of kindness, understanding, tolerance, and caring attitudes and behaviors toward self and others in a global society

# A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Virginia Alice Cottey was a woman of vision. Guided by the belief that women deserved the same education as men, she founded Cottey College in 1884 to educate women to be “knowledgeable, thinking, mature adults.” In 2009, Cottey celebrated its quasiquintennial with the theme “One Vision~125 Years.”

Backed by the \$3,000 she and her sisters had saved, Virginia Alice Cottey selected Nevada, Missouri, as the site for her school. She opened Vernon Seminary on September 8, 1884, in a two-story red brick building with 28 students from kindergarten through a two-year collegiate course. The original name honored the county in which the school was located, yet local people referred to it only as the Cotteys’ school or Cottey College. In 1886, the founder proudly renamed her school Cottey College.

It was important to the founder that a Cottey education be of the highest caliber. As president, Virginia Alice Cottey maintained strict curriculum guidelines. In the 1904-05 catalog she wrote:

*We have endeavored to make our course of study thoroughly practical and adapted to the needs of young women of the present day. It has been arranged with a special view of making our pupils accurate thinkers, and...also of giving them a love for good books and a strong desire for further research...*

As time passed, Virginia Alice Cottey realized that she could not guide her college forever and she began to search for a group that could sustain her dream after she was no longer able to do so. In 1926, she accepted an invitation to join the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic educational organization. As the organization’s educational purpose became clear to her, she realized that the ideals of the P.E.O. Sisterhood were the same ideals by which she guided her College. Deciding that P.E.O. and Cottey belonged together, she presented the College to the P.E.O. Sisterhood in 1927.

With the support of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Virginia Alice Cottey’s dream continued. In 1939, the founder was present for the dedication of P.E.O. Hall. The dormitory was the first major building project completed under the ownership of the Sisterhood. In 1941, the College was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Thanks to the nationwide membership of P.E.O., the College further expanded the national diversity of the student body.

Virginia Alice Cottey died July 16, 1940, at the age of 92. Her devotion to her ideals encouraged the aspirations of Cottey faculty, students and alumnae for 56 years. Her dream and its guiding principal, as stated in the 1907-08 catalog would also inspire those who would come to Cottey after 1940:

*The College was founded...for the purpose of affording [women] superior facilities for obtaining a thorough, practical, yet liberal education, at very reasonable rates...A strong faculty, trained in the best colleges and universities, will strive in every legitimate way to awaken and deepen the interest necessary to success.*

In the years following World War II, the College expanded the physical plant and the student body. In 1949, the College initiated a program to recruit international students. Cottey became known as the “College of World Friendship” in the decade that followed. During the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, some women’s colleges were unable to respond to the increasing academic interests of women and closed or became coeducational, but Cottey College’s commitment to women’s education remained firm and viable. Cottey celebrated its centennial in 1984 with the theme “A Century of Commitment to Women.” The year of celebration reaffirmed the ideals of the founder.

Response to a changing world calls for ambitious planning and steady progress. In the last decade of the twentieth century Cottey celebrated renewed growth by dedicating two new buildings—the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts in 1990, and the Rubie Burton Academic Center in 1998. The new buildings improved the design and function of performance and academic spaces and created an opportunity for increased use of technology.

The future is bright for Cottey. After two years of study, research, and dialogue by the college community, Cottey College reaffirmed its dedication to providing a rigorous liberal arts education for women. This commitment is expressed in Cottey’s *2011 Plan: Building a Model for Women’s Education*. The planning process yielded a revised mission statement that is on page 5 of this catalog, and the following vision statement:

*In 2011, Cottey College will be known as a model liberal arts college for women’s education, providing opportunities to develop scholarship and creativity and to exercise responsibility, initiative, and leadership.*

Virginia Alice Cottey would be proud of what her dream has become. The legacy of her vision is an institution committed to inspiring in students a love of learning, a desire for knowledge, and a will to be contributing citizens. It is also a legacy of excellence.

# COTTEY COLLEGE HONOR CODE

The Honor Code of Cottey College defines and expresses the ethical spirit in which we, the members of the Cottey community, pursue the education of women. Recognizing that a community of learning cannot function well without respect for basic moral order, we also understand that the furthering of excellence requires still greater commitments. Thus, in addition to basic moral principles, we also affirm Virginia Alice Cottey's emphasis on the development of excellent personal character, and the more specific ethical standards of the professional associations that oversee the conduct and quality of higher education.

We, the members of the Cottey College community, commit ourselves to act with:

1. Personal responsibility.
2. Academic honesty and integrity of word.
3. Moral respect for persons and their property.
4. Ethical concern for the good of the College community and the broader society of humankind.

Embracing these ideals, we aim for the ongoing fulfillment of the mission of this college as a center of higher, humane learning.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

At Cottey, higher education in the liberal arts and sciences continues to be a matter of great excitement and a source of hope for society. This is because liberal arts education, by its very nature, seeks deepened understanding, reasoning, and intelligence in all areas of human concern. Liberal arts education seeks not only greater understanding of the sciences, but also heightened appreciations of human expressions in the humanities and the fine arts. Seeking to be practical in the finest sense, liberal arts education aims to help humans discover principles by which to live—principles born from growing insightfulness and reasonable self-discipline. The educational community of Cottey College seeks continually to align its own academic program with these finest and deepest concerns of liberal arts education.

The academic program at Cottey prepares a student to reach high educational goals. Highly qualified faculty members not only have expertise in their academic area, but also embrace their role as teachers and mentors, capturing the intellectual imaginations of their students. Small class sizes foster closer interactions with faculty and better engage students in the learning process. Cottey's program integrates technology to enhance a student's academic experience, and to prepare her for an increasingly complex world.

### TRANSFER ORIENTED

While Cottey students commence their undergraduate careers at Cottey, they and the entire Cottey community proceed with the expectation that Cottey students will accomplish their ultimate undergraduate goals at baccalaureate institutions. Programs at Cottey College, therefore, focus not only on the development of student abilities, but also on assisting students in the selection of transfer institutions, and upon identifying their strengths, abilities, values, goals, and areas of interest. Each year approximately 95 percent of Cottey graduates continue their education at a wide variety of institutions. Whether they transfer to prestigious colleges or flagship universities, Cottey graduates report that they were extremely well prepared to declare a major and to excel academically.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Cottey College grants the Associate in Arts degree (A.A.) or the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. Students must fulfill the graduation requirements as set forth in the catalog which is in effect when they enter the College. Both degrees require the completion of 62 credit hours with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher. Thirty-two credit hours must be earned at Cottey College.

All graduates must complete a 24-credit common core curriculum. The core includes 11 credits in basic skills such as English composition (writing), mathematics and physical activity. The other 13 credits are distribution requirements in the fine arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

Depending on their interests and prospective majors, Cottey graduates earn either the A.A. or A.S. degree by meeting additional degree requirements beyond the core curriculum. The A.A. degree requires 12 additional credits focusing on the humanities, foreign languages and fine arts. The A.S. degree requires 11 additional credits focusing on the sciences and mathematics. Graduation requirements are listed on the next two pages.