Dr. Robert Gussin, P'59, GP'61, understands the difficulties many students face in the transition from high school to higher education. A native of the Pittsburgh suburb of Scott Township, he faced obstacles when he first came to our Bluff. His personal experience moved him and his wife, Dr. Patricia Gussin, to establish two generous endowments for Duquesne's Spiritan Division of Academic Programs.

"As with many young folks coming out of high school, I think I was not really well prepared for college," Gussin said. "I struggled through the first two years without any extra help." He persevered through undergraduate and graduate pharmacy school, going on to a successful career and retiring as corporate vice president of Johnson & Johnson.

Robert & Patricia Gussin: Benefactors of the Spiritan Division of Academic Programs

Drs. Robert Gussin and Patricia Gussin congratulate Matthew Waggoner and John Domit, recipients of the 2017 Gussin Spiritan Division Students of the Year Award.
The Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs will help you, as a first-year student at Duquesne, develop the social and academic skills you’ll need to earn your college degree. Acceptance into the Division is based on many factors, including your grades, your willingness to succeed, your commitment to excellence, and your potential for success in a college environment.

After you’re accepted into Duquesne as a Gussin Spiritan Division student, you’ll enroll in summer, fall and spring semester classes. During that time, you’ll work closely with our faculty and staff to ensure that you’re well equipped to succeed in your major.

Once you’ve successfully completed the Division’s freshman year curriculum, you’ll transfer into one of Duquesne’s schools. All Duquesne University students must earn a minimum of 120 credits to earn their undergraduate degrees, and all Gussin Spiritan Division classes count toward graduation requirements.

Preventing You for Excellence

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The Summer Semester: A Unique Introduction to Life at Duquesne

As a Gussin Spiritan Division student, you’ll get a head start in your college career by earning the following six credits in a five-week, residential summer semester.

- Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum (English 101)
- Introduction to University Success
- Research and Information Skills
- Strategies for Academic Success

Taking these courses will develop your college writing, reading, problem-solving, decision-making and computing skills. You’ll also learn techniques for better time management, note-taking, test preparation and test-taking.

By working closely with our faculty, advisors and counselors, you’re more likely to be successful and earn higher grades than those who do not utilize these valuable resources.

Ongoing Services: Helping You Succeed

The Division will provide you with the following benefits:

- Small classes
- Early registration
- Free tutoring and counseling
- Personalized academic advisement
- A supportive learning community
- Extracurricular and social activities

“I now have a clear understanding of why I am in college and what I want to do with the rest of my life.”

— Michael Martik, Gussin Spiritan Division Alumnus

For more information, visit duq.edu/spiritan-division

A Catholic Education in the Spiritan Tradition

Who we are today has a lot to do with who we were yesterday. Founded in 1878 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or the Spiritans, to serve Pittsburgh’s immigrant population, Duquesne was built on a core set of values that guides us even now. We believe in building community, in having a global vision, in promoting high academic standards, and in a commitment to service.

And first and foremost, everyone at Duquesne is here to make sure you succeed, academically and throughout life.