

ABOUT ARIZONA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (ACU)

In June 1960, a new institution of higher learning was officially founded under the leadership of pastors from the Sun Valley Conservative Baptist Association in Phoenix, Arizona. They called it Southwestern Conservative Baptist Bible College. Today, reflecting the growth of the college and the expansion of its mission, we know it simply as Arizona Christian University (ACU).

Over the past 50-plus years, the world has changed so dramatically that even the most imaginative minds of that time would have struggled to conceive of the changes to come. Virtually every area of human existence – politics, education, science, technology, medicine, interpersonal relationships, and even Christian worship – all have been re-thought, re-shaped, and re-invented.

Mission Statement

Arizona Christian University provides a biblically integrated education that prepares its graduates to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in ministries and professional occupations.

Vision Statement

Arizona Christian University exists to educate and equip followers of Christ to transform culture with the truth.

History

Founded in 1960 as Southwestern Conservative Baptist Bible College, Arizona Christian University is a regionally accredited, private, non-profit Christian liberal arts university in Phoenix, Arizona. Classes were initially held in the educational facilities of Bethel Baptist Church in Phoenix. Plans for developing a new campus led to the construction of four new buildings and the remodeling of an existing structure on a 35-acre plot in Paradise Valley. The land had been donated to the Arizona Baptist Convention with a stipulation that a Christian school be established on the property. The college moved to the new site in Phoenix on September of 1964.

Since its founding, the university has undergone a number of name changes, until its name was finally changed to Arizona Christian University in January 2011 in recognition of its growth from a small Bible college to a Christian liberal arts university. As an accredited, degree-granting institution, Arizona Christian University draws students from around the world, and the university's ministry to the evangelical community continues to expand.

The Four Pillars of our Core Values

Faith

The Bible is the foundation of faith and an ACU education. Every student at ACU will earn at least 18 credits of Bible and learn to apply a biblical worldview. Spiritual formation through discipleship, worship, service, prayer, and accountability will always be essential for ACU students.

Influence

ACU will grow in influence by graduating an increased number of motivated and well-equipped students in an expanded group of professions on multiple campuses with enhanced facilities. ACU will use strategic partnerships and alliances, recruit a more diverse student population, and promote global thinking by attracting international students and offering missions and study abroad options.

Relationship

Classmates and professors who know your name is the traditional and relational model at the core of the ACU community. Undergraduates are taught, mentored, and inspired by faculty who love them for who they are in Christ. Students sign a community covenant signifying their willingness to be accountable, authentic and transparent. Service opportunities exist in the neighborhood enhance the relationship with the community. ACU builds relationships by taking care of its faculty, employees and staff through excellent pay, health and retirement benefits, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and a nurturing, supporting team-oriented workplace.

Excellence

ACU will glorify God by pursuing excellence in spiritual formation, academics and the performing arts and athletics. We will prepare well-rounded leaders who love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. ACU administration, faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers will bring glory to God by using their gifts and striving to do things with excellence as unto the Lord.

Core Commitments

Arizona Christian University shall:

- Before all else, be committed to Jesus Christ – accomplishing His will and advancing His kingdom on earth as in heaven.
- Teach students to read, understand and trust the Bible, grounding them firmly in the truth through a biblical worldview.
- Be devoted to evangelism and to prayer without ceasing.
- Be committed to loving God with all our heart and soul, mind and strength, by pursuing excellence in spiritual formation, academics, athletics and extracurricular activities, doing all for the glory of God.
- Teach students to think critically, speak and write clearly and effectively, use technology effectively, develop interpersonal skills, and pursue personal and professional ethics through biblical literacy and integration.
- Provide opportunities for students to serve locally and globally, and promote a culture of lifelong commitment to servant-leadership.
- Influence, engage and transform the culture with truth by promoting the biblically informed values that are foundational to Western civilization, including:
 - † the centrality of family
 - † traditional sexual morality and lifelong marriage between one man and one woman
 - † the sanctity of human life
 - † compassion for the poor
 - † a biblical understanding of human nature
 - † an understanding of God’s purposes for limited government
 - † personal, economic and religious freedom
 - † free markets, capitalism, and property rights
 - † natural law, the original meaning of the Constitution and judicial restraint
 - † international human rights and the advancement of freedom throughout the world.
- Prepare students to be leaders of influence in their community, state, nation and world – through the church, the family, business, government, education, health care, media, the arts and every area of society.
- Be a leading conservative Christian liberal arts university.

Statement of Faith

The University shall be positively conservative in its stand regarding the Scriptures, in their 66 canonical books, as being the only trustworthy and authoritative written revelation of God. Its fellowship and discipline shall be predicated upon the following Declaration of Faith:

1. I believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being verbally inspired by God and therefore as being inerrant in the original writings and the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7; Isaiah 8:20; 2 Peter 1:20-21
2. I believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Isaiah 45:21-22; Jeremiah 10:10; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-14; Matthew 3:17
3. I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, is true God and true man, and is the only Mediator between God and man.
Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:1-14; Galatians 4:4; 1 Timothy 2:5
4. I believe that man was created in the image of God, but that he sinned and thereby incurred physical death and spiritual death which is separation from God.
Genesis 1:27; 1:31; 2:7; 2:6-17; Genesis 3; I Corinthians 15:21; Romans 6:23
5. I believe in the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.
I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 1:7; John 1:7; Ephesians 2:13; Revelation 1:5; 12:11
6. I believe that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit, and baptized by Him into that spiritual body (church) of which Christ is the head.
John 3:3-7; 1:12-13; 14:16-17; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 1:18, 24
7. I believe in the eternal security of all who trust in our Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

John 3:16; 3:36; 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; 2 Timothy 1:12; Jude 1

8. I believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate.
Psalm 16:10; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; Acts 2:22-36; I Corinthians 15; Acts 1:10-11; Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:23-28; I John 2:1
9. I believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial, and pretribulational return of our Lord Jesus Christ to rapture the Church (*John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-13*) and His visible Second Coming to the earth to establish His kingdom. (*Psalm 2:1-9; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 14:1-9; Acts 1:6-11; Revelation 19:11-20:15*).
10. I believe in the observance of two ordinances by the church: the baptizing of believers in water and the serving of the Lord's Supper in worship.
Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:34-39; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:20-34
11. I believe that a local New Testament Church consists of a company of baptized believers who have voluntarily associated themselves for worship, for instruction, and for service to our Lord.
Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; Titus 1:5; 2:1-10
12. I believe that a local New Testament Church is a worshiping body of believers committed to reaching the lost. Moreover, it must be free from interference by any political authority. Therefore, the Church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictates or patronage of the other.
Acts 6:3-6; Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29; Acts 13:2-4; Acts 15:2; Acts 15:22-31
13. I believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost. The saved shall appear in Heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards and to dwell with Him for all eternity. The lost shall be judged at the Great White Throne and be cast into eternal hell.
John 5:25-29; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Corinthians 3:11-15; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15; I Corinthians 15:35-58; Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
14. I believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that each should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.
Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:1-4; Matthew 22:21; Mark 9:38-40; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

ACCREDITATION AND ACADEMIC STANDING

Accreditation

- The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association
www.ncahlc.org 312.263.0456.

Affiliations

- The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) www.abhe.org. 407.207.0808
- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) www.cccu.org

Listed in

- The current edition of Accredited Institutions of Post-Secondary Education and Programs published for the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation by the American Council on Education
- The current edition of the Education Directory, Colleges and Universities, by the National Center for Education Statistics

Approved by

- The State of Arizona Veteran Service Commission Education Division
- The Arizona State Board of Education for teacher training in Elementary and Secondary Education in preparation for state certification
- The United States Department of Justice for education of international students

Licensed by

- The Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education

Memberships

- The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
- The National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)
- The Arizona Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFSA)
- The Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (WASFSA)
- The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)
- The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) – Affiliate member
- The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Arizona (ICUA)
- North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP)
- National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA Division II)
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)- Affiliate member
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges (ABACC)
- Association of International Educators (NAFSA)
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC)
- College & University Personnel Association for Human Services (CUPA-HR)
- Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Acceptance by Arizona Christian University requires a high school diploma. Preparatory studies in english, math, science, and social studies are desirable.

First Time Freshman

All high school graduates coming to ACU as first time freshmen (i.e., an applicant with no college credit outside of high school dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment, and who graduated from high school within one year of the applicant's start date at ACU). First time freshman must have a minimum 2.5 unweighted high school GPA, a minimum standardized test scores on the SAT (math and critical reading combined) of 950 or the ACT composite of 20, and the ACU Spiritual Life Recommendation form which gives evidence of the applicant's personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Homeschool Students

All homeschool students coming to ACU as first time freshmen must have a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.5, a minimum standardized test scores on the SAT (math and critical reading combined) of 950 or the ACT composite of 20, and the ACU Spiritual Life Recommendation form which gives evidence of the applicant's personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Transfer Students

All transfer applicants must present a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or higher and the ACU Spiritual Life Recommendation form completed which gives evidence of the applicant's relationship with Jesus Christ.

All applicant high school graduates, home school graduates, and applicants who completed the General Equivalent Diplomas (GED) are considered for admissions on the basis of their overall academic performance and satisfactory scores on a standardized evaluation test (ACT or SAT). Transfer students who have successfully completed 12 credits (2.0 GPA or higher) of at least 100-level general coursework or higher from a regionally-accredited institution of higher learning are not required to submit ACT or SAT Scores.

Degree Completion Program

Applicants with two years of college coursework or 50-60 hours of college credits that can be transferred to Arizona Christian.

If you have less than 50 credit hours, we can help you map out a degree completion plan to get you on track with your degree as quickly as possible. If you're eligible, this plan may include options for receiving academic credit from:

- Military Training
- Professional Certification
- Testing
- Prior Learning Credit