

MISSION DOCUMENTS

Oklahoma Christian University's Blueprint for the Future¹

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

The University's purpose is to transform lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

¹ Approved by the Board of Trustees March 27, 2009, and March 27, 2010.

DEFINING VALUES

Oklahoma Christian University is
a distinctly Christian community of higher learning and higher calling, valuing

Faith
Scholarship
Integrity
Stewardship
Liberty
Leadership

Faith

The University affirms that God exists, that He is the author and sustainer of our lives, that the Bible is the inspired revelation of God's will, and that He has manifested His love, His power, and His grace in the incarnation of Jesus, the Christ. OC's Christian worldview, grounded in a humble and honest search for truth, is integral to and nurtures every discipline and every activity. It is faith that opens the mind to the consideration of ultimate truths and empowers the quest for goodness. The spirit of Christ transforms members of the University community for lives of faith, purpose, resilience, service, relationship, and love of all humankind. The University cherishes its vital relationship with the founding fellowship of the churches of Christ, while also welcoming and nurturing students from various walks of faith.

Scholarship

The University affirms that God is the author of, and sovereign over, all creation; that truth has nothing to fear from honest inquiry; that ideas can and should be examined openly and respectfully; that reason is a gift of God; and that faith and learning are inseparable. The University cherishes and cultivates the mind to discover the truths of God's world and, therefore, encourages excellence, diligence, critical thinking, and creativity in all scholarly endeavors. The University is committed to a strong liberal arts core at the heart of the curriculum and to excellent professional preparation in all offered academic disciplines.

Integrity

The University affirms that, absent integrity, all other values lose their power for transformation and for goodness. Integrity demands vigilant and undivided devotion to truth, honesty, genuineness, transparency, and wholeness, as well as commitment and strength to act upon truth as it is discovered. Integrity is not solely a matter of the intellect, but encompasses development of the whole person—mind, soul, and body—and requires a climate of civility and respect for all people and their search for truth.

Stewardship

The University affirms that God is the source of all its human, financial, and physical resources that His servants and providence have made available to the University to use prudently to further its mission. Because the University community reflects the love of God for all people, students, faculty, staff, and alumni will apply their God-given gifts and their learning to serving others, thus contributing to a better world. The University's commitment to honor God demands

that its people and its programs pursue excellence in everything. The University will engage superior faculty and staff, embrace effective practices, attract quality students, and provide necessary resources and environment for excellence to flourish. The University will be a competitive and considerate employer regarding compensation, benefits, morale and support for families.

Liberty

The University cherishes the principles of religious, intellectual, social, economic, and political freedom that are blessings from our Creator and upon which this nation was founded. Freedom is purposeful selection of that which is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable². As an integral part of its educational mission, the University seeks to uphold, teach, and strengthen values which undergird liberty, free enterprise, and servant-leadership. As the University seeks to engage the culture and share the blessings of the Christian faith and liberty with the community and the world, it cultivates a global perspective and prepares students for life in a complex, demanding, and changing global community.

Leadership

The University affirms the value of preparing and encouraging leaders to use their talents and abilities in service to others. We believe the cultivation of servant leaders has a profound and lasting impact on individuals, families, communities, and nations. The University is committed to providing classes, symposia and other resources that help individuals to identify their God-given gifts and equip them to exercise those gifts to promote Christian principles of peace, compassion, and equality. We believe that effective leaders must possess a global perspective informed by a rigorous liberal arts education rooted in Biblical understanding. The University will seek to collaborate with like-minded individuals and organizations dedicated to developing leaders of character, vision and courage.

Vision Statement

Oklahoma Christian University
is committed to
excellence
in
faith, scholarship, and service.

² Philippians 4:8



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

— Since 1950 —

OC COVENANT

Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

The values and behavior of this Christian community are derived from the Bible, rather than the prevailing culture. Because we are a higher learning community dedicated to a distinctively Christian mission, we join together in a community covenant. This covenant is not a creed demanding strict belief in its veracity and inerrancy, and it is not merely an ideal to which we aspire; rather, it is a personal commitment that while we are members of this community, we will abide by the principles and ideals set forth in the covenant. The purpose of our covenant is to unite all of us at Oklahoma Christian University—students, staff, faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees—in a Christian community which is based on biblical principles and transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

We recognize that the University is not the church; however, we are a Christian community which seeks to be guided by the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in scripture. We welcome all students, regardless of their church affiliation, who agree to abide by this covenant. Because the University was founded by members of the Churches of Christ and because we seek to serve our church constituents effectively, we expect all full-time faculty and staff to be faithful, active members of the churches of Christ who fully embrace the principles of this covenant.

OUR FOUNDATION

- God interacts with this world as both Creator and Savior (*Genesis 1; Hebrews 1:1-3*).
- The Bible is God's inspired word, which shows us the nature of God, the risen Son, and the Holy Spirit (*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21*).
- We seek to honor God by imitating the nature of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit (*John 13:13-17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21*).
- As members of this Christian higher learning community, we are guided by specific principles set forth in the Bible (*Psalms 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

OUR CALL

- God calls us to do our best in everything we do (*Colossians 3:17; Colossians 3:23*).
- God calls us to submit our will to his (*John 15:14; James 4:7; 1 John 2:17*).
- God calls us to submit to one another in love (*1 Corinthians 10:23-24; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4*) and to show his love through the justice, mercy, and faithfulness of our lives (*Matthew 5; Matthew 23*).
- God calls us to live lives of holiness (*Ephesians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16*).

OUR COMMUNITY LIFE

- We strive to honor the Lord and be Christ-like in all of our conduct (*Colossians 3:12-14; Titus 2:11-14*).
- We strive to demonstrate love and respect for everyone, even those who have views that differ from ours, and avoid conduct or language that is demeaning to others (*Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:3-4; James 2:1-13*).
- We strive to exercise our Christian freedom responsibly within the framework of God's Word, humbly submitting to others (*1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 31-33*).
- We strive to use wise stewardship of our mind, body, time, abilities and resources and make thoughtful, biblically guided choices in matters of behavior, entertainment, and interpersonal relationships (*Philippians 4:8*).
- We strive to practice honesty and integrity in everything we say and do (*Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 21:8*).
- We strive to treat our bodies with the honor due the temple of the Holy Spirit—honoring God's plan that sexual relations be a part of a marriage between a man and a woman, dressing modestly, and avoiding any self-destructive practices (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*).
- For the sake of our personal influence and our life together in Christian community, we also agree to certain community standards of conduct which are not specifically set forth in the Bible, but which enable the community to operate peaceably and in harmony with these principles and with one another. These community standards are set forth in the Student Handbook, the Staff Handbook, and the Faculty Handbook.

By choosing to be a part of the Oklahoma Christian University community, every member of the student body, staff, faculty, and Board of Trustees affirms his or her understanding of, respect for, and commitment to abide by the principles, and standards of conduct set forth in this covenant.



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
— Since 1950 —

THE OC GRADUATE

Since its founding in 1950, Oklahoma Christian University has sought to fulfill its mission to “transform lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.” Educating and nurturing the heart, mind, and soul, OC encourages its graduates to be like Jesus Christ, who “increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Christian faith and scholarship, exhibited through academic and spiritual excellence, is the heart of the University’s mission. While students will pursue and attain this excellence to varying degrees, we identify here the qualities desired for all OC graduates.

THE OC GRADUATE KNOWS . . .

- The **liberal arts**, which enrich life and prepare for the inevitable challenges, opportunities, and changes of life.
- The specialized knowledge, research methodologies, problem-solving strategies, and practical skills that enable **competent living** in modern society and **successful competition** in the global marketplace.
- How to **communicate** clearly and **think** independently, critically, and creatively.
- How to **live and work harmoniously** with people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs without compromising truth.
- The **great themes and doctrines of the Bible**, including the message of grace, the Lordship of Christ, and the role of the church. Graduates will understand the comparative tenets of major worldviews and will be provided the tools and skills for thinking critically about and applying scripture to the issues of today
- The history and identity of *a cappella* Churches of Christ and their **restoration** heritage.

THE OC GRADUATE IS . . .

- Committed to **intellectual and spiritual inquiry**, nurturing the mind and spirit throughout life.
- **Devoted to Christ**, seeking to emulate Him and embody the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
- Dedicated to **truth, righteousness, and excellence** in every facet of life.
- A **faithful steward** of the blessings, resources, and talents received from God.

THE OC GRADUATE BELIEVES . . .

- The **Bible** is the **revelation** of the nature and will of God, the incarnation of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and is the **authority** for Christian faith and practice.
- Life has **meaning** only through a **relationship with God**, recognizing that the pursuit of knowledge in any field is ultimately a quest for understanding of God and His creation.
- **Faith and learning are integral** and cannot be separated with impunity.

THE OC GRADUATE LIVES . . .

- As a **servant-leader** in family, church, profession, and community, making a difference for good in the world, both locally and globally.
- With **integrity**, by acting consistently with beliefs and in covenant relationship with God.
- In **humble submission** to God’s will, diligently serving him and all humanity by following the two greatest commandments: to “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind,**” and to “**Love your neighbor as yourself**” (Matt. 22:37 & 39).

Oklahoma Christian University
**AFFIRMING OUR SPIRITUAL MISSION
AND HERITAGE**

- **We exist for the glory of God and Christ.** OC has always been and remains today firmly committed to the glory of and service to God and Christ. All other aspirations and activities are subservient to this immutable commitment.
- **Everything Belongs to God.** Since he created all and sustains all, we believe academic study and the capacities of mind and heart are sacred and gifts from God. Our scholarship and our lives are shaped by and given meaning by a worldview that God is creator and sovereign in our lives.
- **Jesus is Central.** God's love, manifested through the free gift of grace through Jesus, the Christ, is the central message of scripture. Eternal salvation comes only through faith in Christ, and right living comes only through obedience to Christ.
- **The Scriptures Are Our Ultimate Guide.** We believe the Bible is inspired by God, is the ultimate source of wisdom and truth, and is fully sufficient to guide our lives on earth and to prepare us for eternal life with God. As human beings, we do not fully understand the mind of God. Therefore, we seek to be diligent and humble students of the scriptures, always learning and growing in the likeness of Christ.
- **Our Response.** Our response to God is obedience to Him and service to our fellow man under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with full acknowledgement of our humanity and need for grace.
- **Path Less Taken.** OC is determined to avoid following the path to secularism taken by so many church-related colleges and universities. Though a university can be neither a Christian nor the church, as a community of believers we are firmly dedicated to the service of Christ and our fellow man. It is not merely our Christian identity we wish to preserve; it is more important that our people be Christ-like and Christ followers. Thus, as an institution, we will reflect the values that are taught in scripture.
- **Vibrant Relationship With Founding Fellowship.** OC is an independent university founded by members of churches of Christ to provide excellent Christ-centered higher education. All trustees, administration, and full-time faculty of the University have been called from that fellowship throughout its history, and governance of the University is entrusted to a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees that is responsible for stewardship over the University's mission. OC will cherish and nurture the relationship with the churches of Christ, while welcoming and serving students and communities who do not share that spiritual heritage.