

PRESIDENTIAL  
PROSPECTUS



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# ABOUT OC

## Mission

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

## University History

What began in 1950 as Central Christian College (with an enrollment of 97) has grown into a comprehensive Christian university serving more than 2,200 students. Affiliated with the churches of Christ, OC welcomes all students who respect the university's commitment to academic and spiritual excellence and who respect the academic and spiritual pursuits of their fellow students.

## Location & Campus

OC's 200 plus-acre campus is located in northeast Oklahoma City, the state capital of Oklahoma. The university borders the city of Edmond. Students enjoy the academic, cultural and recreational benefits of a big city in a safe and comfortable suburban atmosphere.

## National Recognition

- Best University - Master's in the western region (*U.S. News and World Report - America's Best Colleges*)
- Best Western College (*The Princeton Review*)

## Academic Points of Pride

- One of only two members of the 111-school Council for Christian Colleges and Universities with ABET national accreditation for three engineering programs
- Gaming and animation program selected as one of the top programs by *The Princeton Review* and *GamePro* magazine
- National History Honor Society named "Best Chapter" of all U.S. universities with 3,000 or fewer students for 16 straight years
- 100% of history and political science graduates who applied to history or political science graduate programs or to law school have been accepted in the last five years
- 100% graduate school acceptance rate for Honors Program graduates in 2010 and 2011
- 95% medical school and graduate school acceptance rate for biology graduates
- 95% job placement rate for interior design graduates.
- 90% graduate and law school placement rate for language and literature graduates
- 90% job placement rate for communication design (graphic design) graduates

## Accreditation

- Oklahoma Christian University: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
- School of Business Administration: Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
- School of Education: National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education
- School of Engineering: Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- Interior Design Program: Council for Interior Design Accreditation
- Department of Music: National Association of Schools of Music
- Nursing Program: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Accreditation

## Academic Affiliations

- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Christian Higher Education Foundation
- Oklahoma Independent Colleges and Universities

## Faculty

- 317 full-time faculty and staff
- 100 percent Christian
- 69 percent of faculty hold terminal degrees
- 13-to-1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio
- 88 percent of classes/course sections contain fewer than 30 students

## Undergraduate Areas of Study

14 academic departments operate in one of three colleges (academic divisions): the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Biblical Studies, and the College of Professional Studies. Students choose from more than 60 majors and 30 additional areas of study.

## Graduate Areas of Study

Graduate degrees include the Master of Arts in Ministry, the Master of Divinity, the Master of Business Administration, and the Master of Science in Engineering.

## Library Resources

The newly-renovated Tom & Ada Beam Library contains more than 110,000 books and media, almost 30,000 electronic books, and access to more than 8,000 periodicals in electronic or print format.

## Technology

- All full-time OC students receive a MacBook laptop computer. Current students use their smartphones and mobile technology on OC's wireless campus.
- Information Technology's Help Desk provides more than 60 hours per week of staffed office hours plus 24/7 online support. IT responds to support requests with same-day resolution in most cases.

## Student Demographics & Enrollment

- Total Students Enrolled: 2,193
  - Undergraduate: 1,854
  - Graduate: 339
- 47 percent women, 53 percent men
- Countries represented: 46
- States represented: 50
- Undergraduate students from:
  - Oklahoma: 42 percent
  - Texas: 24 percent
  - Kansas: 4.5 percent
  - Colorado: 3.6 percent
  - Missouri: 2.3 percent
  - California: 2.8 percent
  - Other states and countries: 44.8 percent
- Undergraduate ethnic minorities: 28 percent

## Student Life

- 60 student organizations.
- Almost 1,000 students compete in 16 intramural sports.
- 80 percent of students live on campus.
- Recently completed \$34 million housing project. Almost 1,800 living spaces available on campus in 11 residence halls and nine apartment complexes; more than 850 new or renovated spaces available.

## Study Abroad Opportunities

- 20 study abroad and off-campus learning options, including the following institutional programs:
  - European Fall Program
  - Pacific Rim Fall Program
  - European Summer Program
  - HonduraServe Healthcare Missions Program
  - Ibaraki (Japan) Long-Term Exchange
  - Canada Shakespeare Tour
- About 120 students participate in study abroad programs each year.
- 25 percent of graduating seniors have participated in a study abroad program.

## Service & Missions

- More than 1,100 undergraduate students (60 percent) involved in ongoing service and ministry opportunities.
- More than 40 student service and ministry opportunities.
- 500 students, faculty, and staff members participate in mission opportunities each year. Some countries served include Australia, Austria, China, Croatia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Rwanda, Switzerland, and the United States.

## Athletics & Scholar-Athletes

- OC competes in Division I of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).
- More than 250 students participate in 14 sports, including baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and track and field.
- OC has won 41 national championships, including the 2003 men's tennis and 2009 and 2011 men's golf titles, and many individual and relay crowns in track and field. Sixteen of OC's national championships have come in the past three years.
- Placed in the top 10 in the national all-sports standings the past two years.
- 3.2 cumulative GPA for the entire athletic department.
- Named an NAIA Champions of Character institution for sportsmanship and service to the community.

## Financial Aid

- 95 percent of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

## Scholarships and grants

- Institutional: \$14,710,194
- Federal: \$2,358,393
- State: \$756,989
- Other external awards: \$1,406,559

## Self-Help

- Student Loans: \$8,177,896
- Parent Loans: \$3,805,131
- Work Study: \$935,225

## Costs per year

- Tuition and Fees: \$18,456
- Room and Board: \$6,625

# 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 and the Lordship of Christ.
- 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*).

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

A call for nominations and candidates for the presidency of Oklahoma Christian University is extended by a presidential search committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Oklahoma Christian's sixth president will articulate and exemplify the mission, convictions, and accomplishments of the university.

Presidential leadership will impact the following broad contexts for the compelling promotion of OC and its mission to internal and external constituencies. The President will lead by:

- Serving as a spokesperson for a clear vision of the university's mission and spiritual foundations;
- Honoring and nurturing the relationship with Churches of Christ as an active member of the fellowship;
- Sharing the OC story in ways that encourage and win financial support for the university's growing endowment;
- Championing academic excellence where it already flourishes at OC and nurturing it across all the university's liberal arts, sciences, and professional programs for both undergraduate and graduate degrees;
- Leading a team of skilled professionals who excel in financial management, recruitment, retention, and academic development; and
- Strengthening our unity by exemplifying the character, identity, history, and future of the university and its community.

To assist in gathering nominations, candidates, and dossiers, the OC Board of Trustees has authorized a Search Committee composed of representatives selected by its constituencies, including alumni, board members, faculty, staff, and students.

Applications will be received until the position is filled, but to assure full consideration, applicants must have all required materials on file by Sept. 30, 2011.

**Confidential nominations, letters of interest, vitae and references should be directed to:**

Presidential Search Committee  
Oklahoma Christian University  
PO Box 11000  
Oklahoma City, OK 73136

405.425.1061  
[presidentalsearch@oc.edu](mailto:presidentalsearch@oc.edu)



Dr. L.R. Wilson



Dr. James O. Baird



Dr. Terry Johnson



Dr. Kevin Jacobs



Dr. Mike E. O'Neal

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*Patterson Auto Center  
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*General Manager  
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Centennial, Colorado*

*\* ex officio*

# SURVEY

The Board of Trustees invited faculty and staff to participate in several forums to discuss the qualities and experience for our next president. More than 250 individuals attended on-campus forums and answered online surveys. The input has been invaluable to the search committee members, who read all of the comments verbatim. The thoughtfulness, honesty and love for Oklahoma Christian University, past and future, was well-conveyed and appreciated. A sampling of those comments are included here:

## What attributes should the next president have?

The new president must quickly invigorate the OC community with clearly defined and ambitious goals for OC's future. – *Staff member*

A president needs to be a leader first. We have excellent people in financial management, admissions, and student services. We need a person who can clearly set the course, communicate that course and show the way. – *Faculty member*

He or she must be a visionary who can "rally the masses." If the president has such qualities, he or she will be successful in fundraising and unifying the campus. – *Faculty member*

Leadership is key. Communication is key. A good leader will communicate and inspire, and work within his/her strengths, then delegate the rest to qualified individuals to their particular strengths. – *Staff member*

An individual's spiritual, organizational, interpersonal, academic, visionary and leadership skills are of most importance. Whether the candidate is internal or external should be irrelevant if the person possesses the aforementioned qualities. – *Trustee*

Vision for growth, external relationships, leadership skills, and vision for academic excellence will be the key attributes for success. – *Trustee*

## What is the greatest challenge facing OC and the next administration?

Having a clear mission and vision is the most important thing the president can have. – *Faculty member*

I think our mission is uppermost, particularly considering the globalized climate of diversity we live in. We need to be nimble in adapting to a rapidly changing reality while holding fast to bedrock Christian principles. – *Faculty member*

OC is all about the students. We need to attract and keep those top quality students and keep them here. We do this through scholarships. – *Staff member*

The next leader must be God-centered and committed to Christian higher education. He must look to God for counsel and guidance. Fundraising is crucial to maintain and surpass the solid financial standing OC now owns. – *Staff member*

The mission and vision must come first if we are to execute with excellence. That will inspire others to contribute and join us. – *Trustee*

Any organization is no better than the collective talents and capabilities of its employees. As a university, our number one job is to provide the best education possible. To do so, financial resources must be available. – *Trustee*

**What can we do to better serve OC's mission before the transition?**

Pray. – *Faculty member*

Remember who we are. Servants of the Living God and his Son. – *Faculty member*

Support Dr. O'Neal during his last year. – *Faculty member*

Continue to depend on God, stay focused on the mission and support each other as a team. – *Staff member*

Stay true to our mission of transforming lives for Christian faith, scholarship and service by leaning on God to direct this search and lead us to the right person. – *Staff member*

Be open and inclusive; listen to everyone's input. – *Trustee*

Pray. Communicate well with proper confidentiality and discretion. – *Trustee*

**Given the importance of selecting OC's next leader, will you commit to join the Board of Trustees in prayer for this process?**

Yes. My prayers are that the Lord would bless this process and bring someone to OC's presidency who has the wisdom to continue good things that have been accomplished, and to accomplish still greater things. – *Staff member*

Absolutely. – *Faculty member*

I pray that God will guide the search committee and the trustees to select the best person possible for the role of president so that this university can bring ever-increasing glory to Him. – *Faculty member*

Yes! I began a new practice last year inspired by a comment from Dr. O'Neal. Each day as I walk to my office, I pray for some aspect of the university. This presidential search will be on my heart and in my prayers routinely. – *Staff member*

May God raise up a leader who will be His servant in directing OC's efforts. One who can guide OC, its people and students in their pursuit of spiritual and academic training to walk with God in the world. – *Trustee*

