

Our Enduring Core Values

As we launch the 21st-Century Vision, many aspects of ACU will remain foundational to all we do. These core values describe who we are – and will remain – as a university. *At ACU, we will:*

ANCHOR TO OUR FAITH

Abilene Christian University is an institution of higher learning committed to biblical principles. The educational experience we provide is grounded in core Christian values. We welcome all students of character and ability who share our Christian values. ACU was established in 1906 by members of Churches of Christ, and we highly value this long-term affiliation. In all we do, we aspire to be non-sectarian in character. We seek to be Christians only, guided in our relationships by gentleness and respect. Central to our faith is the belief that God is the Father and the Creator, and Jesus is His Son; the belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which comes to the believer through baptism for the remission of sins; and affirmation of the central authority of the Bible, which is the fully inspired Word of God and our only creed.

ENGAGE IN LEARNING

We connect faith, learning and living, valuing education in and out of the classroom. We also emphasize development of the whole student. Students are sharpened and refined by their interactions with faculty and peers and through opportunities to apply what they learn – on campus, in the community and around the globe. We engage students in learning through writing, speaking, team projects, study abroad, learning communities, internships, service-learning and other experiential learning opportunities in and out of the classroom. Our graduates demonstrate well-developed teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills.

CHALLENGE TO EXCEL

We believe Christian commitment demands the highest standards of academic and personal excellence. Faculty focus on shaping students' intellect and character. Our students are challenged through rigorous classes, research with faculty, honors courses, selective internships and fellowships,

cross-cultural experiences, and national student competitions. We expect students to invest themselves in their education, and we help all students to hone and leverage their talents. ACU provides a high-quality learning environment through its programs, facilities, technology and student support. Graduates demonstrate integrity, a desire to give their best, and knowledge that enables them to actively contribute in a wide variety of settings, making them highly attractive to employers and graduate schools.

EQUIP TO SERVE AND LEAD

ACU encourages students to participate in service and leadership opportunities that help them grow intellectually, spiritually and socially. We teach students that Christian leaders are servants, as modeled by Jesus. Students examine the role of leadership through academic coursework, workshops and conferences and through participation in service-learning and leadership opportunities. Because our students understand the connections between academics, service and leadership, they are prepared for lives that make a positive contribution in the world. We encourage our alumni to be active servant-leaders throughout their lives.

CONNECT FOR LIFE

Students who enroll at ACU join a powerful network that spans the globe and links thousands of Christian friends. We continually seek ways to actively engage our students, alumni and friends; to connect them to one another; and to help them grow spiritually, intellectually and professionally. This network opens doors for current students and provides career, spiritual and social connections for alumni. Involved alumni and friends supply goodwill, help recruit students, and provide financial support for our mission.

COMMIT TO STEWARDSHIP

Our greatest stewardship responsibility is to prepare graduates for productive Christian lives. We are stewards of God's gifts: our Christian heritage, the talents of our students and employees, financial and physical resources, and our reputation, to name a few. We highly value our faculty and staff. We balance innovation and efficiency, always seeking ways to become more effective in educating students. Our stewardship enables us to enhance academic programs, maintain affordability, treat faculty and staff well, and provide excellent services, facilities and technology.