



ORLANDO
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

2024-2025
ACADEMIC CATALOG

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General Information

Letter from the President

What a joy it is for me to personally welcome you to Orlando Christian University (OCU)! Allow me just a minute to tell you about both our history and our future.

Since its establishment in 1987, Orlando Christian University's founding organization, The First Academy (TFA), has been training the next generation of Christian leaders. While an impressive 100% of The First Academy graduates have been accepted to college, the landscape for those considering Christian higher education has dramatically changed in the last 15 years. The cost structure, government regulation, and the proliferation of secular worldview call for an innovative approach to preparing the next generation of leaders for the church, and community organizations.

In 2002, TFA launched the Royal Scholars program. This program recognized the successful completion of both Advanced Placement (AP) classes and college dual-enrollment classes by high school students. As more and more students participated in the Royal Scholars program, the academic backdrop and a wonderful foundation was laid for the start of a new university.

In 2023, leaders at First Orlando (Orlando Christian University's sponsoring church) and TFA began pursuing a bold vision. Orlando Christian University (OCU) began offering classes in August of 2023. The university is committed to a Gospel-centered, leadership-focused, financially accessible, competency-based program that prepares students for non-profit and ministry leadership positions.

Orlando Christian University will provide an affordable, geographically-centered, theologically-solid, technologically-innovative launching point for our students. Costs will be contained because no additional facilities are needed, and a core of highly qualified academic personnel are currently employed at First Orlando and TFA.

The laboratory for a competency-based curriculum exists within the ministry models at First Orlando, TFA, and related community organizations.

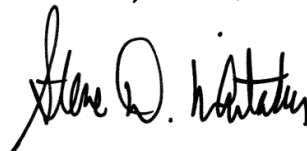
These ingredients will allow for a world-class college education, at a fraction of the cost, resulting in Christian leaders equipped and motivated to take on the challenges of this century and lead through the lens of a Christ-follower. The needs before us are daunting. . . .the cultural tides are shifting , but we are to be reminded that the harvest is plentiful. We are going to ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up the next generation of workers through OCU!

In closing, I am reminded of the word that the Lord gave to Jeremiah before Israel was taken into exile. "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"

While they were in exile, the Lord gave them the answer as to what they were to do. They were to, "...seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find our welfare."

Orlando Christian University is preparing students who will do just that for the city, for society, and for the church.

For the Glory of Christ,



Steve D. Whitaker, Ph.D.

President

Institutional Mission & Vision

The mission of Orlando Christian University

is to prepare servant leaders who seek the welfare of society, the advancement of the Church, and the proclamation of the gospel to all nations and peoples.

The vision of Orlando Christian University is to launch thousands of servant leaders who will graduate debt-free, are committed to excellence and service to the glory of God, and are called and equipped to lead in churches, the least-reached places of the world, schools, communities, and in both nonprofit and for-profit sectors.

Institutional Goals

Orlando Christian University will seek to fulfill its mission by:

1. Training servant leaders to value excellence in execution, faith in God's abundant provision, and joyful service to the glory of God
2. Cultivating a gospel-centered culture on our campus, among our faculty and staff, and within our curricula
3. Providing affordable and flexible access to Christian higher education with a focus on leadership preparation
4. Working to ensure competency and skillfulness in each graduate and in each academic program through excellence in both traditional and competency-based programs of study
5. Leading in forming partnerships across churches, ministries, nonprofits and the business sector
6. Providing an international and multicultural focus to the curricula and academic programs

Student Learning Objectives

In pursuit of the mission to "prepare servant leaders," OCU seeks to create a holistic learning environment in which students will:

1. Grow in knowledge of God's word and mission as evidenced by the ability to understand and explain Scriptural knowledge and practice.
2. Exhibit increasing Christ-likeness as evidenced by gospel-driven personal, communal, and missional relationships.
3. Cultivate leadership qualities as evidenced by personal discipline, skillful service, and compassionate initiative.
4. Pursue excellence in all of life as evidenced by quality academic work, faithfulness in ministry responsibilities, and financial stewardship.
5. Develop a Kingdom mentality as evidenced by an awareness of and appreciation for diverse local and global cultures, particularly in ministry contexts.

Statement of Faith

Orlando Christian University is a nondenominational institution, but each faculty and staff member must sign a statement affirming his or her adherence to the following doctrinal positions. Additionally, students must support these statements in their own lives/practices, live a lifestyle consistent with these practices, and support the school in teaching these as moral truth.

- **The Scriptures:** We believe that the entire Bible, all 66 books of the combined Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings. Through the providence of God, the Word of God has been protected and preserved, and is the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

- **God:** We believe that there is only one true, living, sovereign, holy, and eternally existent God. He exists in three co-equal persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each being a distinct person with a distinct function, but all of one essence and all possessing the same nature, perfection, and attributes. The triune God is the creator and sustainer of all things, the source of all truth, and is worthy of worship, confidence and obedience (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Genesis 1:31).
- **Jesus Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ is God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed many miracles, shed His blood on the cross to pay the debt for our sins, was buried, bodily resurrected, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return literally, visibly, and personally in glory and power (John 1:1-3,14; Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2:5-9; Colossians 1:15; I Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 1:11).
- **Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, co-equal and co-existent with the Father and the Son. He is the chief convicter of sin, the chief agent of regeneration and sanctification. The Holy Spirit lives within every believer and empowers every believer to live a godly life (John 14:16-19; 16:7-15; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:9,11; Titus 3:5).
- **Mankind:** We believe that in the beginning God created mankind in His image, and is not in any sense the product of evolution. Mankind was originally created with the ability to live perfectly for God's glory (Genesis 1:27, 31).
- **Sin:** We believe that Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of all mankind, therefore, all people have sinned and lost their ability to live for the glory of God. Every person's sin incurs both physical and spiritual death until there is forgiveness and salvation by the grace of God (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:10-23; 5:12-21; 6:23).
- **Salvation:** We believe the salvation of lost and sinful people is a free gift of God's grace apart from human works, based solely upon Christ's vicarious and atoning death, effected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and received only through faith in the person and finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from death (Ephesians 2:8-10; II Corinthians 5:21).
- **The Church:** We believe that the church is the body of Christ and the family of God. It is made up of saved and baptized believers, who regularly join together for worship, fellowship and ministry (Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Hebrews 10:25).
- **Evangelism:** We believe that it is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to seek to make growing disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
- **The Home:** We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by blood or adoption with marriage as the foundation. As a ministry of First Orlando, we follow the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 teaching of the definition of marriage. Marriage, as designed by God, is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment. In addition to these important beliefs, we also believe that God has given the parents and the home the responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6) We believe that a consistent and whole education will occur when home, church and school work closely together and are in agreement on the basic concepts of life.

Educational Philosophy

Orlando Christian University's culture of academic excellence and invaluable "living curriculum" (our faculty and staff) ensures character formation and ministry preparation without sacrificing content mastery. The University's relationship with First Orlando provides a unique ministry training ground and discipleship setting. These two ingredients allow for a world-class college education, at a fraction of the cost, resulting in Christian leaders equipped and motivated to take on the challenges of this century and lead through the lens of a Christ-follower.

Authorization

Orlando Christian University (OCU) is 501c3 religious education, non-profit institution. As such, it is exempt from state licensure requirements pursuant to Section 1005.06(1)(f), F.S.. OCU qualifies for exemption based on the religious nature of its educational programs and its adherence to the principles and doctrines of the Christian faith. As an institution that meets the criteria for exemption as provided by law, OCU is not under the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education of the state of Florida, and is not required to obtain licensure.

OCU will operate in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including those pertaining to non-discrimination and fair consumer practices.

This notice of exemption is provided to ensure transparency and inform prospective students, parents, and the public that OCU is legally exempt from licensure and operates within the parameters of the granted exemption.

Physical Facilities

Orlando Christian University is located on a 130 acre campus in the heart of the city of Orlando. The campus is characterized by its serene and picturesque surroundings, providing an ideal environment for academic pursuits, spiritual growth, and community engagement.

Our campus is conveniently located near the heart of downtown Orlando, providing easy access to cultural, social, and recreational activities. The Orlando area offers a range of opportunities for internships, service projects, and community engagement.

Facilities and Infrastructure:

Our campus features state-of-the-art facilities designed to support the academic, spiritual, and recreational needs of our students and faculty. Some key features include:

- Academic Buildings: Modern and well-equipped classrooms, laboratories, and event spaces tailored to accommodate various academic disciplines.
- Over 200,000 sq. ft. of classroom space available for use.
- Library: A comprehensive library housing an extensive collection of resources, including books, journals, and digital databases, to support research and study.
- Worship Center: A large, beautiful space for worship, spiritual reflection, and community gatherings.
- Dining Facilities: On-campus dining options offering diverse and nutritious meals for students and staff.
- Recreational Facilities: Athletic field, fitness centers, and outdoor spaces for student recreation and physical wellness.

Accreditation

Orlando Christian University holds applicant status with the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation (5850 T. G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 130, Orlando, FL 32822, 407.207.0808). Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to those institutions that meet the ABHE Conditions of Eligibility and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate status within five years.

Governance & Personnel

President

The President and CEO of Orlando Christian University reports directly to the university's Board of Trustees and provides leadership to the university.

Steve D. Whitaker

B.A., Hobe Sound Bible College
M. Ed., MidAmerica Nazarene University
M. A., University of Louisville
Ph.D., University of Louisville

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Orlando Christian University is vested with the authority to oversee the accomplishment of the mission, goals, and objectives of the institution.

Verne Bragg - Chairman
John Bozard - Vice-chairman
Clark Keator
Sandro Endler
Caleb Brasher

Administration

President: Steve D. Whitaker, PhD

B.A., Hobe Sound Bible College
M. Ed. MidAmerica Nazarene University
M. A., University of Louisville
Ph. D., University of Louisville

Provost: Matthew McGee

B.A., University of Central Florida
M. Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Faculty

David Blackwell

Adjunct Professor- Psychology
M. Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
M. Th., Princeton Theological Seminary
• 8 years teaching experience in field

Letizia Branz

Adjunct Professor - Mathematics
B.S., University of Central Florida
ED.S., National Louis University
• 5 years teaching experience in field

Jessica Damron

Adjunct Professor - History
B.A., History, Clearwater Christian College
M. ED., Regent University
• 18 years teaching experience in field

Yvonne Englund

Adjunct Professor - History
B.A. Psychology, Stetson University
M.S., Florida State University
• 16 years teaching experience in field

Erin Fernandes

Adjunct Professor
B. Mus., State University of New York
M. Ed., Grand Canyon University
• 11 years teaching experience in field

Neil Harrison

Adjunct Professor - Mathematics
B.S. Materials Science and Engineering, University of Florida
M.Div., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
• 17 years teaching experience in field

Roger Harvey

Adjunct Professor - Social Science
B.A. History, The Citadel
M. Ed., University of Phoenix
• 14 years teaching experience in the field

Chad Hudson

Adjunct Professor - Bible
B.S. Social Studies Ed. & Bible, University of Northwestern
• 9 years of teaching experience in field

Jennifer Jackson

Adjunct Professor
B.A. Elementary Education, Furman University
M. Ed., University of Georgia
• 23 years of experience in teaching and administration

Steven Kavanagh

Adjunct Professor
B.S., University of Pennsylvania
M. Div., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
• 29 years of experience in teaching and administration

Michelle Lindo

Adjunct Professor - Math

B.A. Biblical Counseling, The Master's University

Teaching Credential in Math, The Master's University

- 14 years teaching experience

Keith Manning

Adjunct Professor - Mandarin & Biblical Studies

M.A. Intercultural Studies, Southeastern Baptist Theol. Seminary

M. Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

- 7 years teaching experience in field
- International language school training in Mandarin
- 3 years working in a Mandarin-immersion context

Elizabeth Markowitz

Adjunct Professor - Mathematics

B.A. Economics, University of Florida

M.A. Mathematics Education, University of Florida

- 18 years teaching experience in the field

Michelle Mason

Adjunct Professor

B.A. Elementary Education, North Greenville University

Jeffrey McConkey Adjunct Professor - Math B.S.

Manufacturing Engineering, Bradley University

M.S. Industrial Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana

- 6 years teaching experience

Matthew McGee

Provost

Professor of Biblical Studies

B.A., University of Central Florida

M. Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Sean Mikels

Adjunct Professor - English

B.A. English Literature, University of Central Florida

M.Ed. Teacher Education and Educational Leadership, University of West Florida

- 11 years teaching experience in field

Florence Pierre-Louis

Adjunct Professor - Chemistry

B.S. Microbiology and Cell Science, University of Florida

M.S. Chemistry, Florida A&M University

- 11 years teaching experience in the field

Reed Reynolds

Adjunct Professor - Biology

B.S. Biology Utica College

M.S. Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, University of Florida

- 4 years teaching experience in field

Kelly Scott

Adjunct Professor - English

B.A. English Literature, Florida Southern College

M.A. English Literature, University of Central Florida ED.D.

University of Central Florida

- 25 years teaching experience in the field

Scott Toenges

Adjunct Professor - Biblical Studies

B.A. History, Crown College

M. Div., Alliance Theological Seminary

D. Min. Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Seminary

Casey Vaughn

Adjunct Professor - Journalism

B.S. Communication Studies, Clemson University

M.A. Journalism, University of Texas

- 8 years teaching experience in the field

Cherith Walton

Adjunct Professor - English

B.S. Early Childhood Education, University of Central Florida

M.S. Educational Leadership and Administration, Florida State University

- 8 years teaching experience in field

Amanda Whitaker

Librarian

Adjunct Professor

B.S. Public Relations, University of Florida

M.S. Information Studies, Florida State University

Steve D. Whitaker

Professor of Biblical Leadership Studies B.A. Hobe Sound Bible College

M. Ed. Midamerica Nazarene University

M.A., University of Louisville

Ph.D., University of Louisville

Admissions

Introduction

The mission of Orlando Christian University is “to prepare servant leaders who seek the welfare of society, the advancement of the Church, and the proclamation of the gospel to all nations and peoples.” In keeping with this purpose, Orlando Christian University seeks to admit candidates who demonstrate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, possess academic aptitude for college-level studies, exhibit moral character and integrity, and demonstrate commitment to the local and global Church.

In light of the high calling of the Christian, OCU expects every student to demonstrate a teachable spirit, maintain a positive attitude, and strive for harmony in the community. Detailed guidelines regarding social activities, conduct, and the college family are available in the Student Handbook. Admissions decisions are based on a comprehensive evaluation of each applicant’s academic qualifications, mission-fit, and guidance office recommendation.

Admissions Requirements:

Applicants:

For Phase 1 of Orlando Christian University’s development (including the 2024-2025 Academic Year), applicants are required to be current students of The First Academy (Upper School) located in Orlando, FL. Those students who are enrolled in a qualified class at The First Academy will be eligible to apply to Orlando Christian University. Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA in order to maintain their enrollment status.

Additionally, applicants will participate in a program of ministry formation through Orlando Christian University ([details of ministry program found here](#)).

Guidance Office Recommendation

An Enrollment Eligibility form attesting to the applicant’s moral character and academic readiness will be procured by the Provost from the TFA Guidance Office. If the Guidance Office flags the student in the area of mission fit, the Provost may request a meeting with the student to ensure that both parties are in alignment as to whether or not the student should enroll.

Minimum Age

For the 2024-2025 academic year, only Upper School TFA students, as early as rising freshman, can be enrolled at OCU.

Minimum GPA

Applicants must evidence in their official transcript a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a four-point scale.

Christian Faith

Applicants must sign OCU’s statement of faith conveying their agreement and commitment to the articles.

Moral Character

Applicants must have no major behavior infractions on their high school record. Those students who do, may apply for a waiver of this requirement to be approved only after a personal interview with the Provost or his designee.

Transfer of Credit

Upon receipt of an official transcript, transfer credit may be granted for courses that demonstrate quality, comparability, appropriateness, and applicability to OCU courses. However, courses with grades below a C or a grade-point below 2.0 are not transferable. The maximum number of transfer credits 45 for an associate degree. Please note below the criteria for various types of transfer credits:

Non-Accredited Institutions

For students coming from non-accredited schools, up to 24 credits toward Bible/Theology requirements at OCU may be granted. Transfer decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis after reviewing course descriptions, faculty credentials and syllabi. OCU will only consider courses with letter grades of C or higher for transfer credit.

Articulation Agreements

Orlando Christian University has an articulation agreement with The First Academy, where any class that was taken at The First Academy that was administered by a appropriately credentialed professor can be transferred in and recognized on a student’s OCU transcript.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

OCU accepts CLEP credit for most comparable General Education courses and Elective Courses. CLEP credit substitution for an OCU class will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Scores should be sent to OCU from The College Board at the student's request.

It is extremely important that students consult with their academic advisor before taking a CLEP exam/depending on a CLEP exam to count towards graduation requirements. All intended CLEP exams should be completed before the Senior year. Graduation applications will be denied if a transcript shows a pending CLEP score for a required course.

Advanced Placement Credits (AP)

Credit for applicable Advanced Placement (AP) is accepted if (1) validated by an AP exam administered by The College Board, and (2) meeting the minimum score (score requirements vary). Scores should be sent from The College Board directly to the Office of the Provost. AP credits typically accepted by OCU can be found below. Any AP tests not listed are subject to approval on a case-by-case basis.

AP Examination	Min. Grade	OCU Course	Hours Awarded
2-D Art and Design	3	2-D Art and Design	3
3-D Art and Design	3	3-D Art and Design	3
Biology	3	Biology	4
Calculus AB	3	Calculus 1	4
Calculus BC	3	Calculus 1	4
		Calculus 2	4
Chemistry	3	Chemistry	4
Chinese Language & Culture	3	Chinese Language & Culture 1	4
Chinese Language & Culture	4	Chinese Language & Culture 1	4
		Chinese Language & Culture 2	4
Computer Science A	3	Advanced Computer Science	4
Computer Science Principles	3	Intro to Computer Science	3
Drawing	3	Drawing	3
English Language & Composition	3	Writing and Research for Leaders	3
English Literature & Composition	3	Literature for Thinking and Teaching	3

Environmental Science	3	Environmental Science	3
Human Geography	3	Human Geography	3
Latin	3	Latin	3
Physics 1	3	Physics I	3
Physics 2	3	Physics II	3
Psychology	3	Intro to Psychology	3
Spanish Language & Culture	3	Spanish I	3
		Spanish II	3
Statistics	3	Statistics	3
United States Government & Politics	3	United States Government & Politics	3
United States History	3	US History I	3
		US History II	3
World History	3	World History I	3
		World History II	3

ACE Transcripts

OCU will accept the American Council on Education's credit recommendations (including military credits) for transfer credits earned through their examinations. Credit may be granted for courses with equivalent OCU courses. Up to 30 credits from providers such as StraighterLine or ALEKS may be transferable depending on applicability. Transfer credit is not typically awarded for vocational-technical training and Military Occupational Specialty courses.

Academic Programs

Associate of Arts in General & Biblical Studies

Program purpose

The purpose of the Associates of Arts in General & Biblical Studies is to equip students with a robust academic foundation that is thoroughly integrated with a biblical worldview, so that they are equipped for further academic study, while also preparing to serve in leadership roles in churches, ministries, nonprofits, and the business sector. This is accomplished by providing foundational biblical and theological course studies, a core of general studies that examine the building blocks of the world through a biblical perspective, and a dynamic Ministry Formation Program.

Program objectives

- Prepare students for additional collegiate study
- Expose students to a variety of academic disciplines
- Become thoroughly familiar with the Biblical Worldview
- Possess the ability to winsomely and effectively articulate a defense of the Christian worldview
- Begin initial preparation for students to serve and/or lead within churches, Christian ministries, non-profit, or school settings.

Program requirements

Biblical/Theological Studies
(choose 4 of the courses below)

Christian Theology	3
Apologetics	3
World Missions	3
Spiritual Formation	3
Capstone: The Bible in All of Life	3
Christianity and World Religions	3
Bible Elective	3
	12

Open Electives

(Open electives may be taken from any of the courses listed in the catalog)

Open Electives	27
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General Studies

US History I OR World History I	3
US History II OR World History II	3
Economics	3
Writing and Research for Leaders	3
Literature for Thinking and Leading	3
Psychology OR Human Geography	3
Natural Science/Maths Course	3
	21

Sample Course Map

Semester 0.5 - Freshman & Sophomore years at TFA or Transfer

Biblical Formation and Financial Stewardship
Human Geography
World History I
World History II
Introduction to Biology
Pre-Calculus
Christianity and World Religions

Semester 1 - Fall, year 1

Writing and Research for Leaders - Part 1
Introduction to Chemistry - Part 1
Environmental Science - Part 1
Media Production - Part 1
US History I

Semester 2 - Spring, year 1

Writing and Research for Leaders - Part 2
Introduction to Chemistry - Part 2
Environmental Science - Part 2
US History II
Summer 1 - Summer, year 1
Bible Elective

Semester 3 - Fall, year 2

Calculus I
Literature for Thinking and Leading - Part 1
Physics I
Economics
Apologetics

Semester 4 - Spring, year 2

Calculus II
United States Government and Politics
Literature for Thinking and Leading - Part 2
Physics II
Capstone Course: The Bible in All of Life

Student Resources

Library Services

Orlando Christian University students have full use of the Boyd-Moline library on the campus of The First Academy, as well as the Pat Williams Leadership Library on the campus of First Orlando. Each library is equipped with resources designed to support students in the course objectives found in the classes students take from Orlando Christian University. The librarians are available to assist students in their academic pursuits. The Director of the Library is Amanda Whitaker (MA Library Science, Florida State University).

The Boyd-Moline Library also houses the Writing Center, open from 8 am until 3:45 pm. The Writing Center exists to improve writing instruction and performance and to support students and teachers during any of the writing and/or research processes during the school year.

Library Hours: M/T/R/F hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday – 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Additional Learning Resources

The Writing Center exists to improve writing instruction and writing performance. The Director of the Writing Center is available to support students and teachers during any of the writing and/or research processes during the school year. The director assists through hosting monthly sessions for Orlando Christian University students. Each month, a different topic will be addressed, such as APA formatting, finding opposition, and how to write with a biblical worldview in mind. The Capstone Course is supported through The Writing Center. Copies of past award-winning Capstone Projects are available for review. A comprehensive Christian Worldview Reading Collection is also available.

The Writing Center is located in the Boyd-Moline Library.

Director

Amanda Whitaker

University of Florida (BS)

Florida State University (MS)

Colson Fellow

Email – amandawhitaker@orlandochristianuniversity.org

- Office Hours – 8 AM to 11 AM Monday – Friday /
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM Monday – Thursday

Academic Information Course Descriptions

BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

THEOL 101: Biblical Spiritual Formation (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to foster growth in Christian discipleship and financial stewardship among students. This course is designed to guide students towards a deeper connection with Christ, aiding them in their spiritual journey. Central to this goal is the cultivation of key spiritual disciplines, which are directly drawn from the teachings of the Bible. These disciplines are

intended to focus the mind and heart on the foundational truths found within the Scriptures. Additionally, the course addresses financial discipline, empowering students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make financially sound decisions rooted in biblical wisdom found in the Scriptures.

THEOL 102: Christian Theology (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to help students establish a foundation of concepts and terminology on which to build a theological framework. The overarching purpose of this course is to equip students with an understanding of God's Word more fully as it digs into the essentials of all major areas of systematic theology.

THEOL 102: World Missions (3 credit hours)

This elective course introduces students to world missions covering biblical and theological basis for missions, the history of missionary movements, and how to communicate the Gospel across cultures. This course will also explore mission strategies and help students identify their role in the Great Commission.

THEOL 104: Christianity and World Religions (3 credit hours)

This course delves into spiritual practices across various cultures, uniquely framed within a distinctively Christian perspective. Central to our study is the Bible, serving not only as our primary guide but also as the lens for examining and contrasting other worldviews. Students engage in a thorough analysis of how different religions and belief systems measure against a Biblical worldview, focusing on the role of faith in society and its influence on individual lives. The course invites students to critically compare and contrast the core tenets of Christianity with other worldviews, deepening their understanding of differing worldviews through a biblically-informed lens.

THEOL 201: Biblical Ethics (3 credit hours)

This course challenges the cultural norms of our day by helping students better understand how to make Biblically moral and ethical decisions on the issues of everyday life. Biblical Ethics is a systematic study of Christian ethics taken as a theoretical and practical discipline and offered at an introductory level. Attention is given to biblical and theological foundations as well as to current issues relevant to the witness of the Church in society.

THEOL 202: Apologetics (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to equip the Christian student for a defense against a full range of opposing arguments. Starting with an examination of the Bible to inform our approach and goals, students examine competing world-view claims and learn to defend their faith in a pluralistic marketplace. Topics include arguments for the validity of scriptures, God's existence, and historicity of Christ's resurrection as narrated in Scripture.

THEOL 203: Capstone: The Bible in All of Life (3 credit hours)

In this Capstone Project course, students develop and present a final paper and presentation that illustrate God's influence in life through a Biblical worldview. Selecting a topic with their Senior Thesis Advisor, students explore themes like 'The Presence of God' and 'The Mission of God'. The course guides them through the thesis preparation process, from initial topic selection to the final proposal defense, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and effective integration of Biblical perspectives and Biblical evidence in their scholarly work.

BIBL 103: Gospel of John (3 credit hours)

This course will systematically study through the Gospel of John. This course explores key themes in the Gospel of John: salvation, sanctification, and especially the deity, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Studying God's word can bring understanding, growth, and freedom to our lives.

COMMUNICATION

ENGL 101: Writing and Research for Leaders (3 credit hours)

This course is an accelerated course designed to challenge and enable students to become both skilled readers and writers. Students learn to use modes of discourse, rhetorical strategies and critical standards.

ENGL 202: Literature for Thinking and Leading (3 credit hours)

This course involves the study and practice of writing about literature. The students demonstrate an understanding of history, culture, and philosophy as those fields apply to many literary works. Literature is related to contemporary experience and/or history.

HISTORY

HIST 101: World History I (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with the understanding of the development of major civilizations in history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare students for their future as participating members of the global community. Students study primary sources and learn writing and critical thinking skills. This course will cover a time frame from pre-1200's to the Industrial Revolution.

HIST 102: World History II (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with the understanding of the development of major civilizations in history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare students for their future as participating members of the global community. Students study primary sources and learn writing and critical thinking skills. This course will cover a time frame from the Industrial Revolution to the present.

HIST 201: US History I (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary for dealing critically with United States history. The material covered extends from early America to the Civil War.

HIST 202: US History II (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary for dealing critically with United States history. The material covered will extend from the Civil War to the present day.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 101: College Algebra (3 credit hours)

In this course, fundamental skills of mathematics are applied to a vast variety of functions, equations and inequalities, probability and statistics, logarithmic and exponential relationships, and quadratic and polynomial equations. Technology is used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated.

MATH 102: Precalculus (3 credit hours)

This course allows students to investigate how advanced mathematics concepts can solve problems encountered in real world situations. The purpose of this course is to study functions and develop skills necessary for the study of Calculus.

MATH 201: Statistics (3 credit hours)

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: Exploring Data, Sampling and Experimentation, Probability, and Statistical Inference.

MATH 202: Calculus I (4 credit hours)

This course includes topics such as derivatives of functions and inverse functions, differentiability and continuity, increasing and decreasing functions, concavity, points of inflections, anti-derivatives, and using integrals to find area and volume.

MATH 203: Calculus II (4 credit hours)

This course expands on the topics found in Math 202: Calculus and adds additional topics such as polynomial approximations, parametric and vector-valued functions, sequences and series, and applications of integrals.

SCIENCE

SCIE 101: Introduction to Biology (4 credit hours)

This course includes units on molecules and cells, genetics, organisms and populations. Labs are required and conducted.

SCIE 102: Introduction to Chemistry (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: SCIE 101: Introduction to Biology

This course includes (but is not limited to) studying matter, physical and chemical properties, chemical modeling, energy, intermolecular forces, stoichiometry, calorimetry, thermochemistry, spectroscopy, and electrochemistry at the collegiate level. In laboratory investigations, students practice their investigative skills by developing or partially developing their own procedures, collecting and manipulating data, and analyzing that data in order to answer real life questions.

SCIE 200: Environmental Science (3 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Biology

This course covers the natural world (food webs, ecosystems, biomes) and also include man-made problems (pollution, global climate change, endangered species, overpopulation) and man-made solutions (aquaponics, wind turbines, electric vehicles). The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principle, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for them.

SCIE 201: Physics I (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Pre-Calculus

This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of conceptual understanding and problem-solving ability using algebra and trigonometry, but rarely calculus. This course provides a foundation in physics for students in the

life sciences, pre-medicine, and some applied sciences, as well as other fields not directly related to science.

SCIE 202: Physics II (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Physics I, Chemistry, Pre-Calculus

This course is an algebra-based, advanced physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, field, force interactions, change, conservation, waves, and probability.

SOCIAL STUDIES

PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

SOCI 101: Human Geography (3 credit hours)

This course is designed to help students better understand our constantly changing and complex world through a study of geography. Students study geography from the physical, political, and cultural perspectives through the five basic geographical themes of location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Special emphasis is placed on geographical skills and geographic literacy (locating countries, capitals, & physical features of the world). Through this study, students understand the relationship religion has with culture and society and how people in different cultures satisfy their spiritual needs.

SOCI 201: Introduction to Economics (3 credit hours)

This course, in addition to standard materials covered in economics, allows students to develop a comprehensive

understanding of principles of production, determination of prices, and distribution of income. This course takes place in the fall semester of the senior year.

GOVT 202: US Government and Politics (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with a critical perspective on politics and government. It involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and the analysis of specific case studies.

TECHNOLOGY

COMP 101: Intro to Computer Science (3 credit hours)

This course introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the Internet, work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. Students will also learn the basics of a computer programming language.

COMP 201: Advanced Computer Science (4 credit hours)

Computer science embraces problem solving, hardware, algorithms, and perspectives that help people utilize computers to address real-world problems in contemporary life. Students who take the AP Computer Science A course and exam are well prepared to continue their study of computer science and its integration into a wide array of computing and STEM-related fields.

MEDIA 101: Advanced Media Production (3 credit hours)

This course helps students develop media production skills on either the Broadcast or Print tracks, or both. In the Broadcast track, students will participate in more complex

editing, using the studio to tape and include various backgrounds, and will learn to create their own original music and script to be used in their news segments. Students will be able to produce a special video project and demonstrate leadership skills by providing feedback and creating, planning, directing and recording a television program. On the Print track, students will have the opportunity to advance their editorial, photography, reporting and design skills through the production of a school yearbook.

MEDIA 202: Media Production Capstone (3 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Advanced Media Production

This course is the capstone media class at OCU. On the Broadcast track, students must demonstrate an advanced knowledge and ability to independently produce scripts and video. They demonstrate skills as effective communicators by serving as anchors for a school news show and providing effective leadership for the crew. Students are responsible for the final editing of the show, a special graduation video, and other video projects. On the Print track, students will have the opportunity to advance their editorial, photography, reporting and design skills through the production of the Legacy Yearbook serving as editors who have the final design decisions for the yearbook.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPAN 201: Spanish I (3 credit hours)

This course promotes language fluency and accuracy and is therefore taught in Spanish. Students engage in exploration of culture through contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of literature, laws, conventions, cultural practices and perspectives such as values, attitudes and assumptions.

SPAN 202: Spanish II (3 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course is the highest achievement level in Spanish offered through Orlando Christian University. The class

promotes language fluency and accuracy and is therefore taught in Spanish. Students engage in exploration of culture through contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of literature, laws, conventions, cultural practices and perspectives such as values, attitudes and assumptions.

LATIN 202: Latin (3 credit hours)

This course prepares Students demonstrate proficiency in the language by translating texts and demonstrating comprehension of the Latin passages from Vergil's Aeneid.

CHIN 201: Chinese Language and Culture I (4 credit hours)

This course is designed to provide students with foundations in three modes of communication- interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Course focuses on varied opportunities to further develop their proficiencies across the full range of language skills within a cultural frame of reference reflective of the richness of Chinese Language and culture.

CHIN 202: Chinese Language and Culture II (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Chinese Language and Culture I

This course is the highest achievement level in Mandarin offered through Orlando Christian University. The class is designed to provide students with foundations in three modes of communication- interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Course focuses on varied opportunities to further develop their proficiencies across the full range of language skills within a cultural frame of reference reflective of the richness of Chinese Language and culture.

Academic Policies and Procedures

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

OCU supports the right of each individual within our academic community to engage in rigorous study and reasoned inquiry, understanding that intellectual growth and development are vital to an institution's flourishing. While

we respect diverse perspectives and encourage intellectual debate, certain boundaries must be in place when societal principles and ideologies come into conflict with our institution's foundational commitments. OCU's statement of faith and commitment to the authority of the Bible provides a framework within which academic freedom can be exercised and expressed. By fostering an environment that upholds academic freedom within the context of our institution's core values, we strive to enrich our community with knowledge, understanding, and the pursuit of truth in service to our broader mission.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Orlando Christian University's mission is to "prepare servant leaders who seek the welfare of society, the advancement of the Church, and the proclamation of the gospel to all nations and peoples." In light of this high calling, OCU expects a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid disciplinary consequences. Honesty and integrity are virtues that need to be pursued by all Christian students. Each student's record is to reflect his/her own individual effort. Students should not give nor receive assistance on tests or assignments unless faculty has specifically granted permission.

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or intent to help or conspiracy to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized information) and plagiarism (representing another's words, works, or ideas as one's own) are serious offenses. Whether you give or receive (without reporting it immediately) information, the offense is the same.

Any occurrences of cheating/plagiarism on a test, quiz, exam, or paper will result in progressive discipline, including the consideration of dismissal.

Any instance of academic dishonesty should be reported to the Provost. Students have the right to appeal by submitting written evidence and/or documents to the Provost within one week. The Provost must give due

consideration to all evidence and may choose to excuse the reported misconduct (when appropriate, given the appeal evidence and conditions) or to initiate a disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance Policy for Orlando Christian University (Leave of Absence Policy and Dual Enrollment Consideration)

Orlando Christian University (OCU) values the importance of class and chapel attendance as integral components of a student's academic and spiritual growth. For students who are dually enrolled, the attendance policy of the partnering institution will take precedence. In instances where OCU's policy and the partnering institution's policy differ, students are expected to adhere to the policy of the institution where they are physically attending classes. The following guidelines are provided to ensure a consistent understanding of attendance expectations:

Mandatory Attendance: All students are required to attend classes and chapel sessions. The Office of the Provost, or a designated official, will be responsible for determining the nature of absences (excused or unexcused).

Excused Absences: Absences may be excused for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or medical emergency
- Death or critical illness in the immediate family, including grandparents
- Emergencies or unforeseen circumstances
- Severe weather conditions impacting safe travel

Unexcused Absences and Tardiness:

- Excessive unexcused absences or tardiness will impact the student's grade. A grade reduction will commence once unexcused absences exceed the equivalent of one week of class attendance.
- The penalty for exceeding the absence limit is a one-letter grade deduction for each additional academic week (defined above) of accumulated absences.
- Lateness is monitored. Three unexcused tardies will be equivalent to one unexcused absence. Arriving later than one-third of the class duration will be counted as an absence.

Dropping a Course Due to Absences:

- Students who are absent from four consecutive classes or six non-consecutive classes without valid excuses will be dropped from the course.

Reporting and Documentation:

- Students are responsible for communicating with the Office of the Provost or relevant faculty regarding absences.
- Documentation may be required to validate excused absences.

Appeal Process:

- Students may appeal decisions regarding unexcused absences or grade penalties through the Office of the Provost.

Leave of Absence Policy:

- Students may apply for a Leave of Absence for medical reasons, family emergencies, or other significant life events that require extended time away from academic responsibilities.
- The Leave of Absence must be formally requested through the Office of the Provost and must include relevant documentation or evidence supporting the request.
- Approved Leaves of Absence will allow students to return to their studies without penalty, maintaining their status and progress in their degree program.
- The maximum duration of a Leave of Absence is one academic year, after which the student must reapply or return to active status.
- All requests for a Leave of Absence from Orlando Christian University must be requested from and approved by the Provost. Students can obtain Leave of Absence Request forms from the Provost's office or by sending an email to provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org

Responsibility and Accountability:

- Students are expected to manage their schedule and commitments to adhere to this policy. Consistent attendance is essential for academic success and community involvement at OCU.

OCU is committed to fostering an environment where attendance is viewed not just as a requirement but as an opportunity for learning and personal growth. This policy aims to uphold the standards of the university while considering the wellbeing and circumstances of each student.

COURSE REGISTRATION

ADD/DROP COURSE PROCEDURES

1. Add/Drop Period:

- Students may add or drop courses without penalty during the first two weeks of the semester. The specific dates for each semester will be published in the academic calendar.

2. Procedure for Adding Courses:

- Students must follow the TFA procedure for adding a course, then notify the Provost of their wish to add it as a concurrent course. This can be done by emailing: provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org
- Approval from the course instructor and the student's academic advisor is required.

3. Procedure for Dropping Courses:

- To drop a course, students must follow the TFA procedure and also notify the Provost's office by emailing provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org.
- Courses dropped during the add/drop period will not appear on the student's transcript.
- Students are responsible for understanding the impact of dropping courses on their academic progress and financial aid status.

4. Late Add/Drop Requests:

- Requests to add or drop courses after the designated period may be considered under exceptional circumstances and require approval from Provost.
- Late drops may result in a “W” (Withdrawal) notation on the student’s transcript.

5. Dually-Enrolled Students:

- For students dually-enrolled with partnering institutions, the add/drop policy of the partnering school will take precedence.
- Students must adhere to the deadlines and procedures of the partnering institution, in addition to notifying Orlando Christian University of any changes in their enrollment status.

6. Financial Implications:

- Changes in enrollment status may affect tuition and fees. Students are advised to consult the Financial Aid Office to understand any financial implications.

7. Responsibility:

- It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of and comply with add/drop deadlines and procedures.
- Ignorance of the policy will not be considered a valid reason for exceptions.

GRADING

A serious attempt is always made to provide students some evaluation of their progress that is consistent and meaningful. A student's grades may include test scores, quiz scores, homework, labs, projects, reports, term papers and classroom participation.

The grading system is as follows:

Academic Scale

100% - 90%	A	4.0
89% - 80%	B	3.0
79% - 70%	C	2.0
69% - 60%	D	1.0
59% & Below	F	0

ACADEMIC STANDING

Students are expected to meet specific minimum academic requirements in core subject areas. Failure to maintain these may result in Academic Probation or withdrawal from Orlando Christian University. Student(s) on Academic Probation may be removed from school activities that distract from maintaining academic requirements. Reinstatement to good standing in academic status will take place at the end of each semester by the Provost. The minimum academic expectations are that the student will pass every core subject at a level of 70% or higher. Academic Probation will be assessed at the end of each semester.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Requirements:

- **GPA Requirement:** Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- **Course Completion Rate:** Successfully complete at least 67% of attempted courses.
- **Maximum Timeframe:** Complete the degree within 90 credits (1.5 times the standard program length).
- **Probation and Dismissal:** Failure to meet these standards results in probation for one semester, followed by potential dismissal.

- **Appeal Process:** Students may appeal dismissal by presenting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Review Board appointed by the Provost
- **Readmission:** Dismissed students may seek readmission after one year, demonstrating readiness to meet academic standards.

WITHDRAWAL FROM ORLANDO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Withdrawal Process:

- Students wishing to withdraw from OCU must submit an OCU Withdrawal Request to the Office of the Provost. This can be done emailing the Office of the Provost at provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org
- A withdrawal review meeting with the Office of the Provost is highly recommended to discuss the decision and any potential implications.

Withdrawal Deadline:

- The deadline for a withdrawal request is the start of the 3rd week of a academic semester.
- Students intending to withdraw before this deadline should contact the Office of the Provost. Withdrawal may result in financial adjustments or consequences.

Late Withdrawal Requests:

- Withdrawal requests submitted after the deadline will be processed before the start of the next semester.
- Late requests may have financial and/or academic consequences.

Automatic Enrollment Renewal:

- Student enrollment at OCU automatically renews each semester unless interrupted by:
 - Graduation
 - Withdrawal
 - Academic or disciplinary dismissal
 - Expulsion
 - Non-payment of tuition or fees
 - Prolonged non-attendance or inactivity exceeding 14 days

- Non-return from a Leave of Absence

Re-Admission:

- Students who withdraw and later wish to return to OCU must reapply for admission.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transferring Credits to OCU

Eligibility and Evaluation:

- Transfer credits are considered for foundational studies courses from accredited institutions. OCU attempts to allow as many transfer credits as possible, and encourages prospective students with this posture.
- Courses must closely match OCU's offerings in scope and content.

Grade Requirement:

- Only courses with a grade of C- or better are eligible for transfer.

Credit and GPA:

- Transferred credits count towards graduation requirements but do not affect OCU's GPA.
- Transfer credits do not reduce tuition costs.

Application Process:

- Submit official transcripts and course descriptions to the Provost for review.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All dual-enrolled students are required to meet the graduation requirements of their secondary school. Additional requirements for OCU graduation include:

- Graduates must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours, with at least 25 percent earned at OCU.
- Must have a cumulative unweighted GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. The final GPA will be determined at the end of the final semester.
- Satisfactory completion of all required courses in their respective program.
- Full payment of tuition, fees, and fine (if applicable).

Financial Information

ORLANDO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY TUITION POLICY (ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025)

Policy Statement:

Orlando Christian University (OCU), in partnership with The First Academy, is pleased to announce a tuition-free program for the academic year 2024-2025 for all dual enrollment students enrolled through The First Academy.

Eligibility:

- This policy applies exclusively to students who are enrolled in qualified dual enrollment courses through The First Academy.
- Students must be officially registered in the dual enrollment program for the academic year 2024-2025.
- Eligibility is contingent upon meeting admission criteria set by both OCU and The First Academy.

Tuition Waiver Details:

- The tuition for eligible dual enrollment students for the academic year 2024-2025 will be fully waived.
- This waiver covers tuition fees only. Other expenses such as books, supplies, and any additional fees are administered by The First Academy and as such, are subject to their fee policy and fee schedule.

Responsibilities and Conditions:

- Students are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by OCU and The First Academy.
- The waiver is non-transferable and is only valid for courses offered during the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Students must comply with all policies and regulations set forth by OCU and The First Academy during their enrollment.

Application Process:

- Eligible students must complete the concurrent enrollment application process through Populi.
- Upon acceptance, students must complete all OCU enrollment requirements to receive the tuition waiver.

Commitment to Quality Education:

- We ensure that all courses offered through this program meet the rigorous academic standards of OCU and contribute meaningfully to the student's educational journey.

REFUND POLICY FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS

Policy Overview:

Orlando Christian University (OCU) understands that circumstances may change, leading to the need for students to withdraw from their courses. In such cases, the following refund policy applies:

Refund Eligibility and Conditions:

- Since tuition is waived for dual enrollment students from The First Academy for the academic year 2024-2025, any refund policy is subject to The First Academy's policy and will be administered by The First Academy.

Refund Guidelines:

- Students and their families are encouraged to review The First Academy's refund policy for detailed information on eligibility, timeframes, and the amount of refund available based on the time of withdrawal.
- OCU will coordinate with The First Academy to ensure a seamless process in line with these guidelines.

Contact Information:

For further details or assistance regarding the tuition or refund policy, students may contact the OCU Office of the Provost at provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org

Conduct and Discipline

Student Conduct Policy

I. Introduction

At Orlando Christian University, our community is committed to fostering an environment that is founded and centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ and promotes academic excellence, personal growth, and a deepened faith in Christ. This Student Conduct Policy outlines the expectations for student behavior generally though not exhaustively, reflecting our dedication to Biblical principles and academic integrity.

II. General Conduct Expectations

- **Respect and Integrity:** Students are expected to exhibit honesty, respect for others, and integrity in all their interactions.
- **Community Responsibility:** Each member is responsible for contributing positively to the campus community, showing respect for university property, and participating in community activities.
- **Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is paramount. All forms of cheating, plagiarism, or dishonest practices are strictly prohibited.
- **Church Membership/Attendance:** Each student and faculty member is expected to become a member of a local church and attend regularly.

III. Specific Policies and Standards

- **Dress Code:** Students must adhere to a dress code that reflects modesty and professionalism.
- **Alcohol and Substance Abuse:** The use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
- **Behavioral Standards:** The below are examples of Biblical standards for behavior that are expected to be followed. The list is not exhaustive:
 - **Respectful Interactions:** All members of the university community are expected to engage in interactions that are respectful, kind, and reflective of Christian values. This includes language, actions, and social media behavior.

- **Honesty and Integrity:** Students must demonstrate honesty and integrity in all dealings, including academic work, personal relationships, and interactions with faculty and staff.
- **Spiritual Conduct:** Students are encouraged to actively engage in their spiritual growth through regular attendance at chapel services, participation in Bible studies, and personal devotion.
- **Sexual Purity:** Students are expected to adhere to Biblical teachings regarding sexual behavior and as outlined in the school's statement of faith and the Baptist Faith and Message, 2000. This includes abstaining from sexual relations outside of marriage.
- **Community Service:** Students are encouraged to participate in community service activities, reflecting the Christian value of serving others.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Emphasis on resolving conflicts in a manner that is consistent with Christian teachings (See Matthew 18), including forgiveness, reconciliation, and seeking mediation when necessary.
- **Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment:** Strictly prohibiting any form of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, gender, or disability.
- **Prohibition of Violence:** Any form of violence, including physical assault, threats, or intimidation, is strictly prohibited.
- **Technology and Social Media Use:** Students are expected to use technology, including computers, mobile devices, and other digital tools, in a manner that is respectful, ethical, and consistent with the university's academic and Christian values. All forms of pornography are strictly prohibited. Additionally:
 - **Social Media Conduct:** Behavior on social media should reflect the same standards of respect, integrity, and Christian witness as in personal interactions. This includes avoiding posts that are offensive, discriminatory, or harmful. All social media activity are subject to the community guidelines and policies.
 - **Cyberbullying and Harassment:** Any form of cyberbullying or online harassment is strictly prohibited. Students must not use technology to threaten, harass, or bully others, both within the university community and beyond.

- **Academic Use:** Technology should be used to enhance learning and research. Misuse of technology for cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty is not tolerated.
- **Privacy and Security:** Students should respect the privacy and security of others' information. Unauthorized access to or sharing of private information is prohibited.
- **Legal Compliance:** All interactions and activities conducted through technology must comply with local, state, and federal laws, including copyright and intellectual property laws.

IV. Disciplinary Procedures

- **Reporting Violations:** Process for reporting and documenting infractions.
- **Encouraging Reporting:** All members of the Orlando Christian University community are encouraged to report violations of the student conduct policy. This includes students, faculty, staff, and other community members.
- **Confidentiality and Support:** Reports can be made confidentially. The university ensures support for those who report violations, protecting them from retaliation.
- **Reporting Channels:** All reports should be made directly to the Provost or President of OCU. They can be reached at president@orlandochristianuniversity.org and provost@orlandochristianuniversity.org
- **Anonymous Reporting:** The option for anonymous reporting should be available for sensitive cases. However, it's important to note that the ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.
- **Immediate Threats:** In cases where there is an immediate threat to health or safety, members of the university community should contact campus security or local law enforcement immediately.
- **Documentation:** Reports should be as detailed as possible, providing specific information about the incident, the individuals involved, and any witnesses.
- **Follow-Up Process:** Upon receiving a report, the university will initiate a preliminary review to determine the appropriate next steps. The re-

porting individual may be contacted for further information.

- **Interim Measures:** The university may take interim measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the community pending the investigation of a report. This may include temporary restrictions on the involved parties.
- **Investigation and Adjudication:**
 - **Preliminary Assessment:** Upon receiving a report of a violation, a preliminary assessment is conducted to determine if the report warrants a formal investigation.
 - **Formal Investigation:** If a formal investigation is deemed necessary, it is conducted impartially and thoroughly. This may involve gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and consulting with relevant university departments.
 - **Confidentiality:** The investigation process respects the confidentiality of all parties involved to the greatest extent possible.
 - **Support for Involved Parties:** Both the reporting and the responding parties have access to support resources throughout the process. This may include counseling services, spiritual guidance, or academic support.
 - **Decision Making:** Decisions regarding responsibility and sanctions are made based on a preponderance of the evidence. The decision-making body, typically a disciplinary committee, should include members trained in handling conduct cases and, where appropriate, representatives with a spiritual leadership role.
 - **Timely Resolution:** Efforts are made to resolve the investigation in a timely manner, recognizing the importance of resolving concerns promptly and effectively.
 - **Notification of Outcome:** Once a decision is made, both parties are informed of the outcome in writing. The notification includes finding, sanctions (if any), and information about the appeal process.
 - **Record Keeping:** Records of investigations and adjudications are maintained securely in accordance with university policies and applicable laws.

- **Sanctions:** Sanctions may range from a warning to expulsion, depending on the severity of the violation, the individual's disciplinary history, and any mitigating or aggravating circumstances.
- **Probation:** A period during which a student's behavior is closely monitored. Further violations during probation may result in more severe sanctions.
- **Suspension:** Temporary removal from the university for a specified period. Conditions for readmission will be clearly outlined.
- **Expulsion:** Permanent dismissal from the university. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious violations and is considered a last resort.
- **Withholding Diplomas or Transcripts:** In certain cases, the university may withhold a student's diploma or transcripts until the completion of the sanctioning process.
- **Notification:** Certain sanctions may require notifying parents or guardians, especially for students who are dependents.
- **Spiritual Guidance:** In addition to other sanctions, students may be encouraged or required to seek spiritual guidance or participate in spiritual activities to foster moral and personal growth.
- **Review and Adjustment of Sanctions:** Sanctions are subject to review and adjustment based on ongoing behavior and compliance with disciplinary requirements.
- **Appeal Process:** Procedures for appealing disciplinary decisions.
 - A student may appeal the disciplinary decision in writing. The Provost, may at their discretion, form an ad hoc committee made up of 5 faculty members to review the disciplinary case, and make a recommendation.

V. Rights and Responsibilities

- **Student Rights:**
 - **Right to Fair Treatment:** All students have the right to be treated with respect and dignity, and to experience fair treatment in all aspects of the disciplinary process.
 - **Right to Privacy:** Students have a right to privacy in accordance with university policies

and applicable laws. This includes confidentiality during the investigation and adjudication processes.

- **Right to Information:** Students have the right to be informed of the allegations against them, access to the information being considered, and be given an opportunity to respond.
- **Right to Representation:** Students may have an advisor of their choice present during disciplinary proceedings. However, advisors are not permitted to speak or participate directly in the proceedings.
- **Right to Appeal:** Students have the right to appeal decisions made in the disciplinary process, under the conditions outlined in the policy.
- **Community Responsibilities:**
 - **Responsibility to Uphold Standards:** Students are responsible for upholding the standards and values of Orlando Christian University, including adherence to all university policies.
 - **Responsibility to Self-Advocate:** Students should take initiative to understand their rights and responsibilities and advocate for themselves in a respectful manner.
 - **Responsibility to Report Violations:** Students have a responsibility to report known or suspected violations of university policies in a timely and honest manner.
 - **Responsibility to Participate in the Process:** Students will be expected to participate honestly and fully in the disciplinary process when called upon.
 - **Responsibility to Respect Decisions:** Once a decision is reached in the disciplinary process, students have a responsibility to respect and adhere to the outcome and any associated sanctions.

VI. Conclusion

- The Student Conduct Policy at Orlando Christian University is designed to guide our students in a path that is academically rewarding, spiritually enriching, and aligned with our Christian values.

College Policies and Procedures

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Orlando Christian University provides equal opportunities to all students, regardless of their race, color, national or ethnic origin, with regards to access to all school programs, privileges, and activities. The college does not engage in any discrimination on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administering its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or any other school-administered programs.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT

(20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

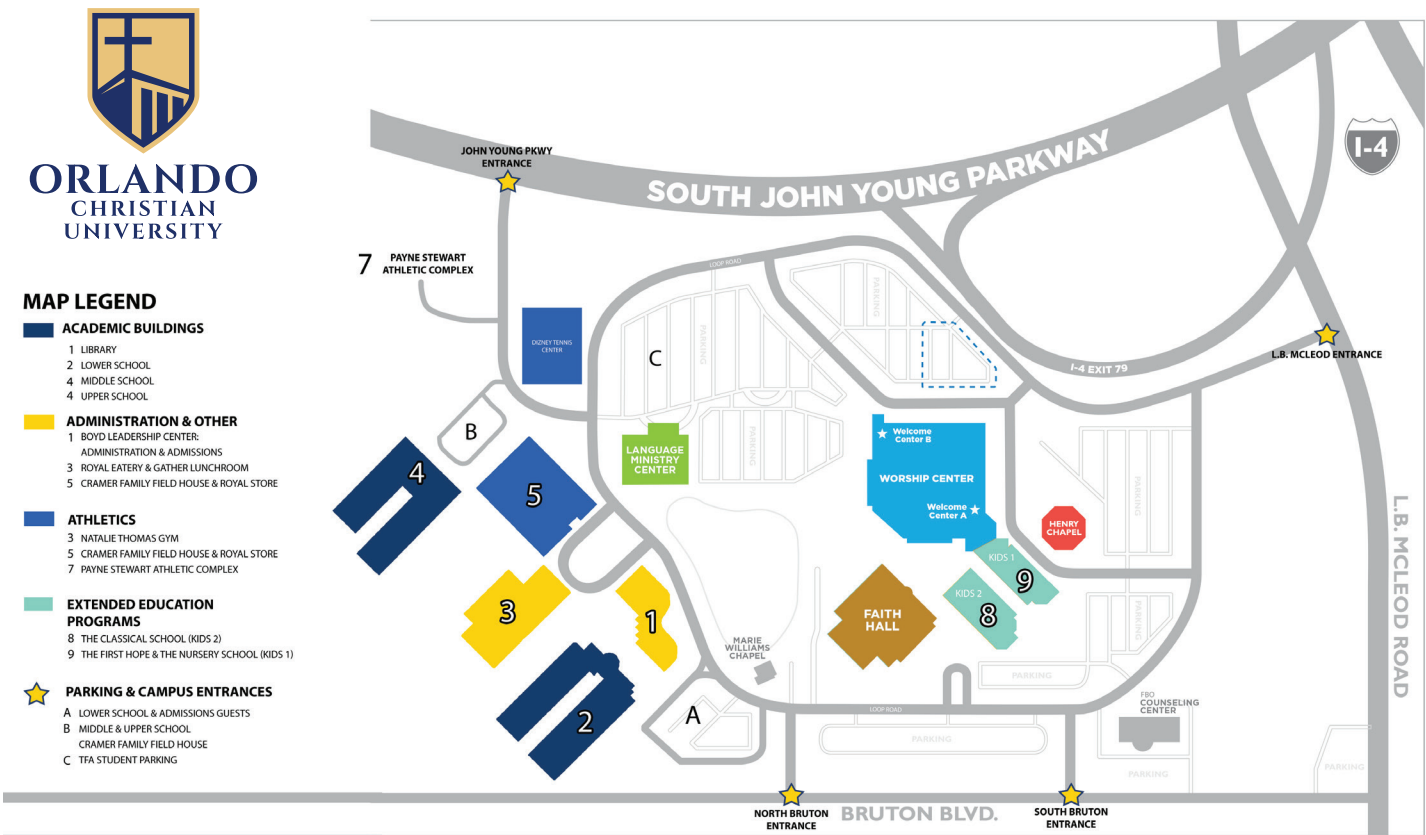
School officials with legitimate educational interest; Other schools to which a student is transferring; Specified officials or audit or evaluation purposes; Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student; Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school; Accrediting organizations; To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; Appropriate official in cases of health and safety emergencies; and State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

Appendices

CAMPUS MAP

Orlando Christian University resides on the joint campus of The First Academy and First Orlando, and has long-term space utilization agreements with both institutions.





Orlando Christian University

2024-2025 Academic Calendar

Date	Event
July 30 - August 4	New Faculty & Staff Orientation
August 5 - 7	All Faculty & Staff Preplanning
August 12	First Day of Fall Classes
August 18	Last Day to Add Courses (Fall)
August 22	Last Day to Drop Without Record / Census Date (Fall)
September 2	Labor Day (No Classes)
September 15 - 16	Advising Week for Spring Begins
September 17	Student Holiday
September 19	Advising Week for Spring Ends
October 7 - 11	Fall Midterms Week
October 14	Student Holiday
October 31	Last Day to Withdraw from Courses (Fall)
November 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break
December 13	Last Day of Fall Classes
December 16 - 19, 2024	Final Exam Week (Fall)
December 20	Fall Semester End
December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025	Christmas Break

January 6	First Day of Spring Classes
January 13	Last Day to Add Courses (Spring)
January 17	Last Day to Drop Without Record / Census Date (Spring)
January 20	MLK Jr. Day – No Classes
February 10 - 13	Advising Week for Summer/Fall
February 14	Student Holiday
February 17	Presidents' Day – No Classes
March 10 - 14	Spring Midterms
March 17 - 21	Spring Break
April 18	Good Friday – No Classes
April 21	Easter Monday – No Classes
April 25	Last Day to Withdraw from Courses (Spring)
May 1	Diploma Presentation
May 16	Last Day of Spring Classes
May 19 - 22	Final Exams Week
May 23	Graduation
May 27 - 28	Faculty & Staff Post Planning

Traditional Academic Patterns:

Academic patterns are usually by semester (two semesters of about 15 weeks each), trimester (three periods of about 12 weeks each) or quarter system (three or four quarters of about 10 weeks each). OCU's only deviation from traditional patterns is in longer semesters (about 20 weeks each), in order to match with the schedule of partner institution The First Academy.