

PRAY · PREPARE · PERFORM

ARIZONA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
STRATEGIC PLAN



INTRODUCTION MESSAGE

Arizona Christian University's Five-Year Rolling Strategic Plan builds on a 61-year history of conservative Christian higher education, recognizing the significant changes required in transitioning from a Bible College to a Christian Liberal Arts University. Throughout the plan, the institutional mission, vision, and values, serve as the overarching guidelines, bringing clarity and focus to the effort and final results. Arizona Christian University's Strategic Plan provides a framework in which we define our shared goals.

Organized around our four (4) core values FIRE; Faith, Influence, Relationship and Excellence. The Strategic Plan leverages five (5) pillar priorities including; Missional Fidelity, Financial Stewardship, Academic Excellence, Expanding Reach and Cultural Influence. Each of our core values and pillar priorities will be outlined in more detail in this document.

Our planning process results in a rolling Five-Year Strategic Plan. The rationale for this approach is to ensure that the plan is living, active, and threaded throughout the fabric of the university. As a rolling plan, it was paramount to identify a fixed framework that could be assessed annually and allow for the addition of new and removal of completed projects without invalidating the plan. The plan's development has progressed through several phases, beginning with ideation and culminating with implementation.





ABOUT ARIZONA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1960, Arizona Christian University is an accredited, private, nonprofit Christian liberal arts university in Glendale, Arizona. Since its founding in 1960, the University has undergone a number of name changes, including Southwestern College, until its name was finally changed to Arizona Christian University in January 2011 in recognition of its growth from a small Bible college to a Christian liberal arts university.

The university offers a wide variety of degrees to prepare students for successful careers, while remaining committed to its vision of transforming culture with biblical truth. Students actively engage in biblically-integrated academics and gain a liberal arts foundation with critical thinking skills that last a lifetime.

In November 2018, ACU announced exciting growth expansion plans. After nearly six decades located on Cactus Road in north Phoenix, ACU moved to a 68-acre campus that was formerly the home of the Thunderbird School of Global Management. The new campus offers more classroom space, an enhanced student life and space for the Firestorm athletes to practice and compete on-campus. With the move to Glendale, ACU can continue to grow the student population without sacrificing their Christian identity, mission and purpose.

MISSION

Arizona Christian University provides a biblically-integrated, liberal arts education equipping graduates to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of life, as leaders of influence and excellence.



VISION

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



FAITH

The Bible is the foundation of faith and an ACU education. At ACU, students learn and apply a biblical worldview in an integrated curriculum. Spiritual formation through discipleship, worship, service, prayer, and accountability will always be essential for ACU students.



INFLUENCE

ACU strives to grow in influence by graduating an increasing number of motivated and well-equipped students in an expanded group of professions on multiple campuses with enhanced facilities. It also uses strategic partnerships and alliances to recruit a more diverse student population and promotes global thinking by attracting international students and offering missions and study abroad options.



RELATIONSHIPS

Classmates and professors who know your name is the traditional and relational model at the core of the ACU community. Undergraduates are taught, mentored, and inspired by faculty who love them for who they are in Christ. Students sign a community covenant signifying their willingness to be accountable, authentic and transparent. They also participate in local service projects to enhance relationships with the surrounding community. ACU faculty, employees, and staff are well-cared for through excellent pay, health and retirement benefits, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and a nurturing, supportive team-oriented workplace.



EXCELLENCE

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

A photograph of a multi-story building at Arizona Christian University. The building features a prominent tower with a glass-enclosed top section and a large window. The lower portion of the building is glass-enclosed. The image is framed by a large red diagonal shape on the left and bottom-left, and a white diagonal shape on the top-right. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green trees.

PILLARS & GOALS

The five pillars are overarching themes that guide the plan's areas of focus and are intended to remain constant. These five pillars are imperatives to ensure the university's academic excellence, sustainability, and adherence to the institution's mission, vision, and core values.



PILLAR ONE

MISSIONAL FIDELITY

Steadfast adherence to the biblical principles encompassed in the University's mission, vision, and values.

GOALS

- Defend and Maintain ACU's Steadfast Adherence to Biblical Principles
- Strengthen the University's Independence and Sustainability Consistent with Biblical Principles



PILLAR TWO

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Faithful pursuit of sustainability and stewardship of financial resources and assets as expected from an exceptional and influential Christian university.

GOALS

- Develop and Grow a Diverse Portfolio of Revenue Streams
- Faithful Stewardship of University Resources and Assets
- Pursue Financial Independence



PILLAR THREE

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Grow ACU's elite academic programs, resources, faculty, and capabilities marked by attitudes of service and global influence.

GOALS

- Equip Students for Life, Careers, and Calling
- Offer Exceptional Forward-Looking Academic Programs



PILLAR FOUR

EXPANDING REACH

Become the preeminent university in Christian higher education.

GOALS

- Have a Missionary Mindset and Approach for Expanding ACU's Reach
- Raise the Visibility and Awareness of ACU



PILLAR FIVE

CULTURAL INFLUENCE

Active and biblical engagement with all of ACU's internal, external communities and neighbors to transform culture with truth.

GOALS

- Cultivate and Promote Active Cultural Engagement with God's Truth
- Equip the ACU Community for Cultural Influence