

STUDENT HANDBOOK



GLOBAL CHRISTIAN
— **UNIVERSITY** —

2025-2026

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Mission Statement

The Mission of Global Christian University is to provide nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, local and distance biblical education.

Institutional Objectives

The purpose of GCU is summed up in Institutional Objectives:

- 1) To provide a strong grasp of the factual contents of the Bible, interpreted in a sound, scholarly, and spiritual manner.
- 2) To better understand the truths of the Bible primarily for the personal enrichment of all students.
- 3) To provide a way for students to earn either a Certificate Diploma, Associate of Arts degree, or Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies.
- 4) To prepare students for a professional calling in part or full-time ministry.
- 5) To prepare students who are Christian educators in an A.C.S.I. Elementary, Junior High, or High School to earn Continuing Education Units.
- 6) To maintain national accreditation and continue in good standing with Transnational Association of Christians Colleges and Schools (TRACS).
- 7) To create an educational model for startup Bible Colleges in foreign countries to follow, as well as help them become established as the Spirit leads.

Statement of Faith

We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, realizing that the original autograph copies were inspired by God, containing no textual fault. - 2 Timothy 3:16

We believe that the Scriptures are the verbally inspired Word of God, and are the final source in all matters relating to faith and conduct. - 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

We believe that the one true God is revealed through the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has manifested Himself to mankind in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 John 1:1-3; John 15:26; Matthew 28:19

We believe that man was created good and in the image of God but through voluntary transgression is lost and spiritually dead. - Genesis 1:27; 2:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 3:9-10

We believe that redemption may be obtained only through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing a sinner can do to save himself—except repent and call on the name of Lord Jesus Christ. - Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:10-24; 6:23

We believe that honest repentance and faith toward Christ Jesus will produce a sanctified vessel and separation from the world of sin. - 1 Thess 4:3-8; 5:23

We believe in water baptism by immersion as commanded in the Scriptures for all who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. - Matthew 23:19; Acts 2:38; 10:48; Rom. 6:4

We believe in the "Baptism with the Holy Spirit" as a definite experience available to all believers, with possible evidences including power, joy, or the ability to speak in other tongues. - Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Acts 2:4; 11:16

We believe in miracles, prophetic utterances, and supernatural gifts given by the Holy Spirit to the church today. - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

We believe in the foundational ministries of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the church today. - Ephesians 4:7-15

We believe in New Testament order and organization for the local church, and in the authority of indigenous church government. - Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 6:17

We believe that the unique human life, made in the image of God, begins at the moment of conception. Thus, all human life is sacred from conception until natural death, and every person possesses a God-given, unalienable right to live, and the Church, God's people, must defend the helpless, in all stages of life. - Psalm 39:4; 127:3; 71:6; 139:14-16; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:44; 1 Cor. 11:12; Job 14:5-7;

We believe that God created humans male and female, has ordained marriage as a union between one man and one woman (an exclusive union as defined in Scripture), and that these two complementary and immutable sexes reflect the image and nature of God, and rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person (Genesis 1:26-27). Furthermore, we believe any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, rejection of the immutable and complimentary genders, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. All employees, officers, and board members of GCU are to be attendees in good standing of churches in agreement with the Biblical perspective stated here regarding marriage, sexuality, and purity. - Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10

We believe in the literal bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth again. He will return from heaven in great glory and power, climaxing this final judgment and the eternal punishment of the ungodly and the eternal resurrection on the ungodly and the resurrection and translation of the righteous. - Matthew 16:27; 24:30; Acts 3:20; 1 Thess 4:16; 2 Thess 1:7-8; 2:8; Jude 14-15; Rev 1:7

We ask students to show respect for our doctrinal positions. Students are asked not to campaign for their differing positions or use the college setting to proselytize positions contrary

to these statements. GCU does not require students to adhere to these doctrinal statements fully, but substantial deviation may be a reason for dis-enrollment. GCU desires that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity along their journey of faith in Jesus Christ. Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31

Statement of Ethical Values and Standards

It shall be the practice that all individuals, committees, instructors, Board members, and employees of Global Christian University (GCU) shall conduct themselves when representing the College in a manner that follows Biblical guidelines and brings honor to Jesus Christ.

Specifically, these guidelines include but are not limited to the following:

1. Submitting to the authority of the Scriptures in all manner of faith and conduct at the control of the Holy Spirit. (2Tim. 3:16-17)
2. Honesty in communication. This includes truthfulness as well as that no relevant information shall be withheld in any communication, verbal or written.
3. Kindness and respect shall be demonstrated toward all individuals with whom any GCU employee shall come into contact with during the fulfillment of their employment responsibilities. (Gal. 5:22)
4. All reports shall be complete, timely, accurate, and provide the information necessary for decision-making and accreditation.
5. Any employee or Board member shall self-disclose any potential conflict of interest, be it financial or personal, in respect to their affiliation with GCU.
6. Refraining from any conduct that will reflect discredit upon the Lord and offend a weaker believer. (1Cor. 10:31)

Is GCU accredited?

Yes. Global Christian University is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org] having been awarded Accredited Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 13, 2021; this status is effective for a period of 5 years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (DOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

In April 2022, TRACS raised GCU to a Category III institution with the approval of its Master's in Biblical and Practical Theology.

Regarding the State of California, GCU is an approved school to offer both an A.A. and a B.A. in Biblical Studies and an MA in Biblical and Practical Theology according to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education in the State of California (BPPE). www.bppe.ca.gov. GCU is qualified for exclusion pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) Section 94874 (e) and has current

status as a nonprofit religious corporation under the Corporation Code. Our declaration has been evaluated, and exclusion pursuant to CEC Section 94874 (e) has been verified. According to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, it is declared that on the basis of the information submitted, our present curriculum meets the exclusion requirements.

Typical Global Christian Student

Most of our students fall into one of the following categories:

- Full-time college students seeking a Biblical Studies degree. Those who want to be in a Christian environment around faculty and peers who are passionate about their faith.
- Working professionals who take online or night courses for a Master's or Bachelor's degree.
- Part-time students may also be concurrently enrolled in Community College or another training program that deeply values the word of God and ministry training.
- Currently in, or pursuing full-time ministry, while finding it necessary to complete their Bible college education on a part-time basis.
- A Christian layperson who has a strong interest in the Bible, wanting to study in more depth than may be available at the local church level.
- Teachers in Christian schools are required to continue their biblical education by earning CEUs in order to maintain their ACSI credentials.
- Enlisted in the military, often taking courses overseas.

Enrollment

Admissions Qualifications

Students may show their readiness for undergraduate or certificate-level college courses by providing a high school diploma, GED, military service record (JST), or previous college transcript. These students may immediately register for their first class without a placement exam. These students should submit a transcript from their highest educational institution. All military persons should submit a JST (this will also provide proof of veteran eligibility at GCU.)

Students over the age of 18 without a GED or high school diploma may enroll in undergraduate or certificate programs. Concurrent Enrollment high school students attending a full-time high school or home school students that have completed the equivalent of ninth grade may also enroll in GCU's undergraduate college-level or certificate programs. These students will have to take an internal Placement Test to show their college readiness. This test is 40 minutes long and has 100 questions (it is similar to the Wonderlic Ability to Benefit exam). A score of over 50% in English and Math will show college readiness. Concurrent Enrollment high school students will be limited to 12 units per quarter

All students who take the first course for credit are required to achieve at least a “C” grade, as evidence of their competency to continue with the program. Graduate Programs require a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited US college or university.

Academic Advising

GCU provides academic guidance counseling upon request to help students know which classes they need to complete in order to fulfill their education goals. We can also assist you with the registration process. Visit www.globalcu.edu or contact info@globalcu.edu to get started.

The school does not provide testing or placement services for graduates. This is usually done through the student’s local church.

How to enroll

Getting Started: The first step is to go to www.globalcu.edu/apply and fill out the contact information. A username will be sent to you which is necessary to enroll using Populi.

Once you have been formally accepted into the student body of GCU you will receive a username. You can now enroll by going to: GCU.populiweb.com

Instructional Videos

<https://vimeo.com/357693054/47000f5730> How to reset your password.

<https://vimeo.com/357093102/9c03971db2> First-time student registration

<https://vimeo.com/357030074/59bedbfce3> Returning student registration

<https://vimeo.com/357690360/0660e800ca> How to make a payment

Student Enrollment Agreement

The Student Enrollment Agreement is signed during the Enrollment Process on Populi. It is a legal contract, designed by the BPPE section of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. It explains in detail what is required on the student’s end, as well as what the college will provide you. It provides costs for the entire program, the books that will be required, and what to do should you have to drop out of the program.

Credits & Certificates

What is the difference between a credit student, certificate student, or auditor?

Credit

Full credit means that 3 units of college credit are given at the completion of the course work which count toward our Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, or Master of Arts degree programs.

Certificate

Certificate level means the student does all of the undergraduate course work, including the final exam, but does not receive college credit toward a degree program. At the completion of the course, a certificate of completion is granted. Students who take 15 courses (45 credit hours) participate in the graduation ceremonies and are issued a beautiful diploma of completion. This is not a college degree, but the diploma does specify that you have completed a rigorous and thorough study of the Bible. The cost is less expensive than college credit courses.

Auditor

The student attends only for their own personal enrichment. They are not required to do the coursework or take the final exam. There is no credit given.

See the current Catalog or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for current tuition and fee rates.

Courses Locations

Live Courses Offered Online

GCU has a live-streaming course delivery method. Students can now take courses without having to travel to the satellite location, while still enjoying the benefits of being in a “live” environment. Questions and class discussions are welcomed in this format.

Live Courses offered at Bay Area locations

GCU has resumed in-person classes starting in the Fall of 2022. Details and course listings can be found on the main GCU website, www.globalcu.edu.

The main GCU Office and instructional location is 1799 Winchester Blvd, Campbell, CA 95008, inside the Liberty Center Building.

The San Jose Location is at The Cathedral of Faith, 2315 Canoas Garden Ave., Horton Youth Center Building.

See the current Catalog or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for current listings of courses and Instructional Locations.

Distance or Online Learning (FAQs)

Students may take any of the available courses online. Students have access to a live feed video and audio of the lectures when the course is taught live. Students can also view the written course lecture material.

The distance online format is convenient and adaptable to a busy work and family schedule. For students who enjoy studying independently, this program allows you to engage in class lectures at any time through a laptop or desktop computer, or through a smartphone or tablet device.

All distance course video content is viewed online through Populi, GCU's Learning Management System. These courses must include regular interaction with the instructor and be completed within the same 12-week timeframe of any specific quarter. Students are required to submit homework assignments online along with comments or questions to the instructor at least twice monthly. The "open book" final exam is taken online (some Master's level courses do not have finals). GCU professors and instructors will respond to questions and evaluate assignments within 5 working days of receiving the students' questions or assignments. Students enrolling in distance learning will receive a login password and instructions on how to view the video-recorded lessons.

Students enrolled in the on-site program often find it helpful to supplement their program by adding certain distance courses. This usually occurs when the desired course will not be taught again on campus in the immediate future.

The following questions will help explain how this is done:

- 1. Which courses are offered through Distance Learning?**
 - a. Go to <https://globalcu.edu/academics/distance/>
- 2. How long does it take to complete a distance class?**
 - a. The student has up to 12 weeks to complete a course, which is the same amount of time students take when completing a live class at one of our four campuses.
- 3. Is the price of a distance class the same as for a live class?**
 - a. Yes.
- 4. How many distance classes would I need to complete in order to graduate with either an Associate of Arts or Bachelor of Arts degree?**
 - a. It all depends upon how many classes you have already taken at other colleges that would be transferred into our program.
 - b. There is a minimum of 25% of the degree that must be completed at GCU; this is known as our "residence requirement." See the GCU Catalog or your faculty advisor for more information.
- 5. When can I start?**
 - a. You can start at any time and have 12 weeks to complete your course. New terms start each month.
- 6. When I do start my class, do I first have to contact the teacher for specific instructions?**

- a. YES! Assignments are to be done according to the format presented by the faculty member. We have seen students quickly do all the assignments and turn them all in only to find out that they were not done correctly and had to be redone!
- b. Be sure to FIRST contact your teacher.

7. Can I take more than one class at a time?

- a. Yes, you can take up to 5 classes at once; however, you would need to have completed them all in the 12-week term.

8. How do I submit my coursework for grading purposes?

- a. Each of your assignments is submitted to the Populi Learning Management System. The professor or instructor who teaches the class will correct your assignments, record your grades and give you feedback all through Populi (<https://GCU.populiweb.com/>)

9. How do I watch or listen to the lesson?

- a. All the instruction videos are hosted on our video platform and are accessible through Populi.

10. What about taking notes from the lectures?

- a. Good news! For many courses, GCU has a complete Course Notebook available for purchase, which is a virtual copy of your teacher's lecture. Taking your own notes is highly recommended for all courses.
- b. You will either be provided a digital copy of the Course Notebook or you will be directed where/how to purchase the Notebook.

11. How do I take the final exam?

- a. Once you have completed all of the course assignments, you are ready to take the final exam. Populi facilitates all exams. It will likely be the last assignment or lesson of your course. Contact your instructor if you have any questions before you begin. Some courses allow for one retake of the final. The highest score will be retained.

12. How do I sign up for a Distance Class?

- a. All GCU registration is done online through a learning management system called Populi. You will first need a username and password before being able to register.
- b. Go to www.globalcu.edu and visit the Contact Us or Apply section.
- c. If you already are an active student, log into your Populi account to enroll (<https://global.populiweb.com/>).

Hopefully, we have answered your question regarding Distance Learning; however, if not, please call us at 925-846-6464, or email your questions to info@globalcu.edu. If you have any questions regarding enrolling in a class, please contact registrar@globalcu.edu.

Course Schedule

Each quarter offers a different selection of courses. That selection is determined two months prior to the beginning of that quarter. The upcoming courses are also listed on the website under “Upcoming Courses.”

A mass email is sent to all students on the mailing list describing the upcoming courses.

Degree Outcomes

Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies

The Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies degree is a two-year undergraduate degree offered to students for the purpose of providing a solid Biblical Studies education. The following student outcomes are expected.

1. General knowledge of the content of Scripture
2. Knowledge and skills for accurate Biblical interpretation and application to life situations.
3. Students will make decisions in doctrine, life, and ministry based on the foundation of the Bible.
4. Exhibit the Christian faith in contemporary culture, having developed a biblical worldview and apologetic for Christian values and conduct.

Bachelor of Arts, Biblical Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies degree is a four-year undergraduate degree offered to students for the purpose of providing the academic preparation for real-life applications.

Expected student outcomes include:

- Students learn to think clearly, examine their Christian heritage, write distinctively, form a comprehensive biblical theology and worldview, and communicate the gospel effectively.
- Classroom lectures and interaction, study times, and research and writing provide the challenge necessary to expand the students’ biblical theology which results in a profound appreciation for creation, life, and truth.
- The Bachelor’s Degree qualifies graduates to pursue further theological or ministerial training at the Master’s level or at an accredited Seminary.

Masters of Arts, Biblical and Practical Theology

This Master of Arts in Biblical and Practical Theology is a two-year graduate level degree. The goal is to see each student minister in the power of the Holy Spirit and articulate the truth of God and hunger for more of God. Expected student outcomes include:

- Proclamation and Demonstration: We hope to equip this generation of servants and leaders in both proclamation and demonstration of the full gospel. There will be an emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Spirit and Truth: The degree is meant to balance a Spirit and Truth pursuit with the Practical Ministry and Theology combined. The transformational aspect of Biblical Truth will be balanced to not just produce head knowledge but active servants working in power.

Academic Advising

Global Christian University does not ordain students or graduates or promise entrance into part or full-time ministry. Academic advising is available for students seeking to improve their performance and grade point average. Please speak with the Instructor to arrange a time to confer. Career and pastoral counseling is best accessed through your local church or professional career coaches.

How do I transfer credits from a prior college I attended?

GCU will accept transfer college credit toward either of its three different degree programs (AA, BA, and MA) from other regionally or nationally accredited institutions that are recognized by the US Department of Education. For the two-year Associate of Arts degree, up to 67.5 quarter units (45 semester units) can be transferred. For the four-year degree, up to 135 quarter units (90 semester units) can be transferred. For the two-year Master's degree, 6 quarter units (4 semester units) can be transferred.

Students who already possess a four-year degree from another college will find it easy to earn an additional Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies. GCU can transfer up to three years of qualifying prior credit, meaning that the student need only take 45 quarter units (15 classes) from GCU to receive their additional degree. Students who already possess their two-year degree (or a comparable amount of units) need only take 90-quarter units (30 classes) to receive their four-year degree.

Students with more than 90 units, but less than 135 units can also transfer those units, assuming they meet the stated requirements for transferable units:

1. If units come from a college in California, that school must be approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) unless special arrangements have been made with the school in question.
2. If units come from a college out of the state of California, the school must be recognized by that state's Department of Higher Education. The schools in question will be reviewed by the Academic Committee.
3. Units must be considered "general education" in nature or related to one of the social sciences. Other acceptable credits include courses that touch any facet of Christian ministry such as graphic design, accounting, music, etc.
4. Be verified by the appropriately official transcript.
5. Veterans can ask for their military transcripts from Joint Services Transcript website. This will effectively take into account all training done in the military that counts toward college credit.

Graduation Requirements

See the Catalog you enrolled in or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for graduation requirements.

General Education Requirements

See the Catalog you enrolled in or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for general education requirements.

Tuition & Payments

See the current Catalog or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for current tuition and fee rates.

ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE ON POPULI

All tuition and fees are paid on Populi (global.populiweb.com) by using either a credit card or electronic check. Cash is not accepted. Checks can be mailed to the GCU office with the student account information, but this method is discouraged. See the current Catalog or the GCU website (www.globalcu.edu) for the best mailing address.

Withdrawal and Refunds

Please see the detailed information provided in the College Catalog, available for reading or downloading from the website: www.globalcu.edu.

Are student loans and grants available?

GCU has chosen not to participate in Title IV student loan funding with the federal government. Instead, GCU keeps the tuition at a very reasonable rate to avoid students having to acquire student loan debt. In the future, Title IV grant funding may be available. See the GCU website, www.globalcu.edu, for more information.

1098-T forms

Every January, GCU will send an electronic version of the 1098-T tax form to all eligible students. An eligible student is a United States resident who paid tuition in the previous calendar year. This tax form reports all tuition collected by the school for the student and scholarships and financial aid paid to the school against that tuition. In order to provide this form to a student in a way that allows the student to use it for their tax filings, we must collect social security numbers (securely stored in the Populi Student Management System) from all eligible students. For more information on the 1098-T form, please see the IRS website.

Course Assignments

- **Weekly Assignments:** In most classes there is a weekly homework assignment. Usually a set of study questions are given; sometimes an essay is required, or a reading assignment. Audit students do not have to do homework or tests.
- **Assignments must be turned in when they are due.** It is imperative that assignments be turned in when due. Points may be deducted for late work. To turn in the paper a week later gives the student an unfair advantage of already having heard the answer. Papers turned in later than the due date, other than because of excused absence, will have their grade reduced. Course syllabi may detail the exact due dates and late penalties.
- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBMITTED THROUGH POPULI:** Assignments are to be uploaded or otherwise submitted directly in Populi. The teacher will grade and offer feedback through email or Populi.

Grading Policies

Grades are recorded by letter and grade point according to the same scale in both on-site and distance learning. This scale is listed below. Only courses with an earned grade of C- or above will count toward the completion of a degree program. Courses in which a grade of D or F is earned are recorded on the transcript and are included in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). At times a P (pass) or I (incomplete) may be assigned. See the catalog for the actual breakdown of what constitutes an A, B, C, D or F.

Grade	Scores	GPA
A+	100	4.00
A	92-99	4.00
A-	90-91	3.66
B+	88-89	3.33
B	82-87	3.00
B-	80-81	2.66
C+	78-79	2.33
C	72-77	2.00
C-	70-71	1.66
F	69 or less	0.00

Letter Grade of A Excellent/More than required

Student response must be legible, grammatically correct complete sentences with none or very few typographical or spelling errors. The content must directly address the question asked and Scripture or other references properly noted. Answers must be well thought out thoroughly and clearly stated. Biblical information relevant to the question must be included that reveals a strong understanding of the meaning for the questions. The answer will provide more than the necessary content to respond to the question.

Letter Grade of B Good/Acceptable/Better than average

Student response must be legible (easily read without hesitation) and in complete sentences with few typographical or spelling errors. The content addresses the question and references of any kind are noted. Answers mostly address the question asked and are easy to understand. Biblical information relevant to the question must be included that indicates a basic understanding for the meaning of the question.

Letter Grade of C Average/ Acceptable/Passing

Student response is mostly legible and able to be read with some hesitation. Sentence structure and word choice are adequate. Spelling or typographical errors stand out due to the frequency with no attempt made to correct them. The content generally responds to the question. No references of any kind are noted. The answers indicate only a limited understanding of the question and may be confusing or off-topic.

Letter Grade of D Below Average/Needs to be re-written

Student response is hand-written and takes effort to read. There are frequent spelling and grammar errors such as incomplete sentences and incorrect punctuation. The content only touches on the question and does not adequately indicate an understanding of the content or meaning of the idea. The answer is incomplete or confusing. This response needs to be returned to the student for rewriting. Reworked assignments cannot earn more than an 80% of the original grade.

Letter Grade of F Failing/Not acceptable

Failing grades and incompletes are rendered on Transcripts and are the student's responsibility to fulfill the course requirements.

Student Policies & Procedures

Attendance Policies

Live Online/On-Site or Distance Classes have the same policy: students missing any portion of the class, for whatever reason, are required to watch the missed lesson (if recorded) on Populi by going to the “Lessons” section connected to their class. The teacher may also assign additional work to make up for non-recorded lectures (like extra reading) and may assign written work for make-up as well.

Excessive absences inhibit the student’s ability to attain the required academic outcomes of a course. More than two (2) absences, excused or not, per course may result in an automatic failure of the course. At the instructor's discretion, with consultation with the academic dean, make-up work for the excessive absences may be given, but such work should not be expected by students and instructors are not required to give such work instead of the failure of the course. If excessive absences become needed due to life circumstances, an Incomplete Grade or Withdrawal from the class should be considered.

Probation and Dismissal Policies

GCU does not place students on any form of academic probation. If a student has many incompletes or failing grades they may be required to finish or retake those classes before enrolling in new ones. Students will be subject to dismissal when the administration, upon recommendation from the faculty, determines that a student’s class conduct is disruptive or contentious to the point of preventing instruction or obstructing the learning of other students. The current Code of Conduct is maintained on the college’s website.

Leave-of-Absence policy

Since registering in classes at GCU is self-paced on a 12-week quarter, there is no formal Leave-of-Absence policy. Students are free to register, or not register at their discretion. There is no charge or notification required should a student choose to not register for a term. The institution may terminate the student’s enrollment for failure to maintain satisfactory progress if no enrollments are made for over 2 consecutive terms.

Student Rights

Students may make a grievance at any time by emailing info@globalcu.edu. If the student feels these grievances were unsatisfactorily addressed they can make further complaints (see the sections of this handbook for filing grievances with TRACS, NC-SARA, or State Agencies).

Grievances can also be mailed to the GU office. Further details can be found below in the Complaints section.

Non-Discrimination Policy

GCU, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and other federal laws and

regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran in the administration of any of its policies or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, and educational services.

Foreign Visa Policy

GCU does not admit foreign students who do not already have a legitimate visa to enter the United States, and GCU does not offer any visa services of any kind.

English Language Policy

All instruction (and recordings for Distance Education) is done exclusively in the English language. No ESL courses or translation services are provided by GCU. Incoming students are expected to be able to read, write, and converse in the English language at a post-secondary level. TOEFL iBT (Test Of English as a Foreign Language, internet Based Test) score of 90 out of 120 will be required.

Enrollment Agreement Policy

As a prospective student, you are required to review the college catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS), which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement.

Class Conduct

GCU students are expected and required to be courteous at all times and respectful to one another, the instructor, and the educational process of the class. Total agreement with all statements is not expected; thoughtful questions are welcomed. Individuals who create disruptions or are often contentious may be asked to restrain themselves or may not be allowed to continue their enrollment.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's words or thoughts and portraying them as your own. Algorithmically produced words or works will also be considered plagiarism. It is dishonest and has no place in the work of a Christian student/scholar. It is easily avoided by students by the simple process of citing a reference source and writing original work.

As an GCU student, you are expected and required to exhibit increasing use of many resources to enrich your learning experience. If you are pursuing a degree, you are required to purchase the *Accordance 11 Advanced* (or current version) software program and use it in the fulfillment of your assignments.

Please learn and apply the proper use of citations in your work. Here is a sample website. (<http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/evidence/citations>)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Underlying Principles

Studying at Global Christian University is a voluntary association with this community that is framed by Christian scriptures and tradition, and our heritage of serving the Bay Area for over 50 years. We desire to be a community of spirit and truth, full of the grace and love of God, ourselves, and others, equipping and empowering leaders for their marketplace or missions assignments before the Lord.

As such, time at Global Christian is an experience where students are intentionally asked to align certain lifestyle practices and behaviors for a season of time in order to learn and grow in community. When violations of the Standards of Conduct occur, the outlined process will be followed in an effort to help students grow and hold them accountable for the good of the individual and community. The following expectations and standards of behavior aim to promote the health, growth, and edification of the Global Christian community.

Scope and Standards

The Standards of Academic Integrity (standards against plagiarism) should also be reviewed.

Global Christian's policies and standards apply to conduct that occurs on Global Christian premises, at Global Christian University sponsored activities, and to off-campus conduct that is deemed to adversely affect the community and/or the pursuit of its objectives. Each traditional student shall be responsible for his or her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree.

The Codes of Conduct apply to a student's conduct even if the student withdraws from school while a disciplinary matter is pending. The presiding officer shall decide whether the Standards of Conduct shall be applied to conduct occurring off-campus, on a case-by-case basis, at their discretion.

Enumerated Standards¹

Self-Leadership

All Global Christian students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports and promotes Christian values, the well-being of the community, and the well-being of other members of the community. Therefore, the college reserves the right to

¹ NOTE: Some of these standards were adopted from Jessup University and Bethany University Student Standards policy.

confront behavior that is detrimental to the student infringes upon others or appears to diverge from accepted college standards of what is right and proper.

Compliance with College Officials

Students are required to comply with the direction of college officials or public safety officers acting in the performance of their duties. Students must also identify themselves to these persons when requested to do so.

Compliance with State and Federal Laws

Students are citizens of several communities: college, city, county, state, and nation. The imposition of sanctions by both the college and civil authorities may be the result of misconduct. Global Christian reserves the right to address students whose lifestyle choices reflect negatively on themselves or the institution.

Abuse of the Conduct Process

Student conduct process abuse is a concern for our community. Student who attempt to mislead or avoid the written policies and process will be held accountable. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure to obey the directives of college staff
- Filing a complaint knowingly without cause
- Failure to fully disclose all information to a college official during a disciplinary process or investigation
- Falsification or misrepresentation of information
- Interfering with the orderly conduct during an investigation or the disciplinary process
- Attempting to disrupt or disrupting any party's participation in the process
- Influencing or attempting to influence another person to obstruct an investigation or to abuse the disciplinary process and sanctions
- Harassment or intimidation of a community member involved in an investigation or in the disciplinary process
- Failure to comply with the sanctions imposed

Theft

Theft of any kind (the taking, using, and/or damaging another property without permission) is subject to disciplinary action. Theft also includes unauthorized possession of digital assets, duplication or use of keys /key cards to any college premises, unauthorized entry or use of college premises, and other abuse of college-owned and operated technology including computers, wifi, electricity, etc.

Physical Harm

Any conduct that threatens or endangers the health, physical or emotional well-being of another person (including oneself), will not be tolerated. Violent behavior and/or threats

toward another person or one's own safety are unacceptable ways to deal with conflict or emotional distress. The college does not tolerate fighting, violence, or threats of violent behavior. This includes any conduct that threatens or endangers the health, physical, or emotional well-being of a community member, including stalking and bullying.

Weapons

Firearms, weapons, ammunition, and knives over two inches long are not permitted on campus. Objects in violation may be confiscated by college personnel, and the student may be subject to the disciplinary process.

Community Respect

We ask students to show respect for our doctrinal positions. Students are asked not to campaign for their differing positions or use the college setting to proselytize positions contrary to these statements. Global Christian does not require students to adhere to these doctrinal statements fully, but substantial deviation may be a reason for dis-enrollment. Global Christian desires that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity along their journey of faith in Jesus Christ. Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31

Inappropriate Communication and Publication

Communication between members of the Global Christian community is expected to reflect an appropriate degree of mutual respect and civility. Therefore, students are expected to demonstrate respect for fellow students, faculty, staff, and guests of the college in all communications regardless of whether the communication is through a face-to-face exchange, email, social media, texting, blogs, telephone, etc.

Some examples of inappropriate communications include:

- Obscene, racist, sexist, ethnic, harassing, intimidating, or language that threatens the physical, emotional health, or safety of self or others.
- Use of email or computer networks to send unsolicited junk mail, chain letters, links to inappropriate sites, or to further any illegal or unauthorized activity.
- The pervasive use of oral or written profanity.

Guests

Guests are subject to all college standards of conduct and student hosts are responsible for their adherence to these rules. Students may be held financially responsible for the actions and conduct of their guests.

Sexuality and Relationships

We believe that God created humans male and female, has ordained marriage as a union between one man and one woman (an exclusive union as defined in Scripture), and that these two complimentary and immutable sexes reflect the image and nature of God, and

rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person (Genesis 1:26-27).

Furthermore, we believe any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, rejection of the immutable and complimentary genders, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. All employees, officers, and board members of Global Christian are to be attendees in good standing of churches in agreement with the Biblical perspective stated here regarding marriage, sexuality, and purity. – Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10

Cohabitation

Students may not live with someone of the opposite sex other than a family member or guardian while attending Global Christian University. Students also may not share a home or apartment with someone with whom they are romantically involved.

Pornography

Pornographic materials in any form (including via the internet) should not be viewed or possessed.

Sexual Assault and Nonconsensual Sexual Intercourse

Sexual assault is coercion or attempted coercion with or without the use of physical force for the purpose of sexual relations and will not be tolerated. For more information and the guidelines for reporting sexual assault can be found in the Sexual Misconduct Policy section of the Catalog and Student Handbook.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome, gender-based conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it unreasonably interferes with, denies, or limits someone's ability to participate in, or benefit from the college's educational program and/or activities and will not be tolerated. For more information and the guidelines for reporting sexual harassment can be found in the Sexual Misconduct Policy section of the Catalog and Student Handbook.

Possession and Consumption of Alcohol or Drugs

The possession, consumption, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances on campus or at college-sponsored events is strictly prohibited.

Possession and Use of Tobacco and Nicotine

The college does not permit the possession or use of any tobacco and/or nicotine products such as upon any premise of the college, this includes electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes, and all other kinds of smoking or inhaled products like cigarettes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, vape pens, hookahs, or other drugs including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Substance Abuse

Global Christian seeks to provide a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all students and requires that its campus is drug and alcohol-free. In accordance with this goal, the college strives to maintain a campus that is free from the illegal use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances as defined in schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act 21, U.S. Code 812, as amended; and, illegal drugs, defined as any drug which is not legally obtainable or any prescribed drug being used other than for its prescribed purpose.

Although recreational marijuana and medical marijuana may be obtained pursuant to a physician's recommendation under California law, California law still does not permit any marijuana at or within 1000 feet of a school campus. In addition, recreational and medical marijuana are still illegal under federal law. Global Christian University does not allow the possession or use of marijuana for any reason, no matter how small the amount or where it was consumed (on or off-campus). Violators are subject to campus, judicial, and/or legal sanctions.

Underage Possession and Consumption of Alcohol and Tobacco

The college will not tolerate the possession and consumption of alcohol and/or tobacco by students under the age of 21 regardless of their location (i.e., on-campus, overseas, study abroad, missions, etc.). California Penal Code Section 303 (a) and 308(a).

On-campus Intoxication or Influence

Intoxicated students or students under the influence of a controlled substance, coming onto campus, or attending a college-sponsored event will be sanctioned as if they had consumed them on campus.

College Property and Sponsored Events

The college prohibits the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and nicotine anytime, anywhere by anyone on all college property, and at all college-sponsored events. college property includes buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned or parked on school grounds. college-sponsored events include sporting events, academic, and Student Life sponsored programs and events held on and off college property.

Possession of Alcohol and Drug Paraphernalia

Alcohol and Drug paraphernalia (such as but not limited to, glassware commonly used to serve alcoholic beverages; empty beer bottles or cans; miniature spoons; bong; cigarette papers; pipes made of glass, metal, ceramic, hookah, electronic cigarettes, vape, oils, etc...) are not permitted on campus.

Students will be held accountable to all of these standards, and others described in the College Catalog and the Student Handbook. Please review the Catalog and Student Handbook for more details.

Anonymous Reporting: If you would like to submit a report of either Ethical or Sexual Misconduct, please report it here.

Standards for Academic Integrity

Overview

With emerging technologies and new student engagement modalities in higher education, a renewed focus on Academic Integrity is needed. Global Christian University (GCU) expects all staff, students, faculty, contractors, and administrators to submit work with academic integrity. TurnItIn describes academic integrity as “A commitment to **honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage.**”²

Academic integrity is not only a definition, but a set of values to uphold. The components of academic integrity are enacted in the following ways:

- Honesty: be truthful, give credit, and provide facts
- Trust: provide transparency, trust others, and give credence
- Fairness: apply rules consistently, engage with others equitably, and take responsibility for our own actions
- Respect: receive feedback willingly, accept others’ thoughts, and recognize the impacts of our own words and actions on others
- Responsibility: follow institutional rules and conduct codes, engage in difficult conversations, and model good behavior
- Courage: take a stand to address wrongdoing, be undaunted in defending integrity, and endure discomfort for something you believe in ([ICAI, 2020](#)).³

One of the chief ways academic integrity is breached is through the submission of unoriginal work. GCU desires to pursue the Spirit and the Word as an institution, and breaches of academic integrity by faculty, staff, or students interrupt this pursuit.

- As pursuers of the Word, led by the Holy Spirit, faculty and students detach themselves in their investigations of Scripture when unoriginal or generated texts are submitted instead of original works. The leading of the Holy Spirit is dismissed, contemplation with the Bible and the study materials are bypassed, and the deep, transformative work that God desires to have upon hearts is short-circuited.
- Students specifically must ‘earn’ their degrees through the work of study, synthesizing ideas, and producing the work assignments as required by each course. Using the work of others (whether by plagiarism, generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), or by other means) cheats this degree-earning process in whole or in part and is lying. Instead, GCU seeks to partner with the Spirit of Truth in every endeavor. (John 16:13).

² <https://www.turnitin.com/blog/what-is-academic-integrity-definition>

³ <https://www.turnitin.com/blog/what-is-academic-integrity-definition>

The hope of GCU is that we are known as faithful stewards of God's Word, deep partners with the Holy Spirit and as stewards of academic integrity.

Plagiarism and Other Unoriginal Works

Plagiarism and the submission of unoriginal works can be seen on a spectrum, which includes the use of artificial intelligence, purchasing pre-written papers, contracting others to write an original paper that the student represents as their own, and copying, verbatim or in spirit, the work of others without proper attribution. The following are more specific iterations of this category:

- **Student Collusion** – Working with other students on an assignment meant for individual assessment.
- **Inadvertent Plagiarism** – Forgetting to properly cite or quote a source or unintentional paraphrasing.
- **Word for Word plagiarism** – Copying and pasting content without proper attribution.
- **Paraphrase plagiarism** – Rephrasing a source's ideas without proper attribution.
- **Self-Plagiarism** – Reusing work which was previously published or submitted for another course without proper attribution and/or permission from the instructor.
- **Mosaic Plagiarism** – Weaving phrases and text from several sources into one's own work. Adjusting sentences without quotation marks or attribution.
- **Source-based Plagiarism** – Providing inaccurate or incomplete information about sources such that they cannot be found and/or verified.
- **Software-based Text Modification** – Taking content written by another and running it through a software tool (text spinner, translation engine) to evade plagiarism detection.
- **Manual Text Modification** – Manipulating text with the intention of misleading plagiarism detection software.
- **Contract Cheating** – engaging a third party (for free, for pay, or in-kind) to complete an assignment and representing that as one's own work.
- **Data Plagiarism** – Falsifying or fabricating data or improperly appropriating someone else's work, putting a researcher, institution, or a publisher's reputation in jeopardy.⁴

The following instances are further examples of academic dishonesty:

- copying the answers of another student on a test or quiz,
- using course materials during a test or quiz in which they should not be used,
- unauthorized collaboration on tests, papers, or other assignments,
- securing test questions from a student who took the course previously,
- providing false statements regarding the amount of material read during the semester,
- translating work(s) from another language without proper attribution,
- not citing or sourcing quotes, or summarizing another's content without attribution,
- impersonating another person in a test or assignment, and

⁴ <https://www.turnitin.com/resources/plagiarism-spectrum-2-0> (referenced on 5/30/2024)

- the use of AI in creating a project, starting a submission, or in any way composing or rewriting a response to an assignment.

What is not a violation of Academic Integrity:

- The use of Grammarly.com or other such spellchecking and grammatical checking/improvement tools (solely the spelling and grammar checkers)
- The use of paid editors (for longer graduate or doctoral submissions) in which they only line edit (fix grammar, punctuation, and clarity), but do not perform any content editing. Such editors may point out content issues and confusing structure, but they will not make such content edits. Prior approval from faculty must be sought for students to employ paid editors to work on papers.

Staff, faculty, and students may inquire about what the acceptable level of similarity is. The answer depends on a variety of factors and will be resolved on a case-by-case basis. The faculty, staff, and board of trustees will use the following rubric as guidance.

0-10%	Common Knowledge, General Statements & Know-How Allowance
10-20%	Grey area amount of similarity. The assignment should be checked for plagiarism or generative technologies.
20% +	The assignment has a substantial amount of similarity to other works or includes unoriginal, generative AI sections. The student has not done the work to properly cite sources or study, synthesize, and write original information to satisfy the assignment.

Response & Remedies for Violations

If an instructor, faculty member, student, or administrator feels a submitted work includes a violation of this policy, they are to escalate to their department head or the dean of their college immediately, with supporting documentation. The department head or dean will document the referral, and determine whether an infraction has occurred and what remedy is the appropriate response.

Remedy responses will vary depending on the type of infraction;

- Minor (missed citation, non-attributed summations, using quotes w/o reference, and other small unintentional plagiarism, lacking candor/honesty in self-reporting assignments)
- Substantial (use of generative AI in submission, repeated occurrence of unintentional plagiarism, passing other's work as one's own, cheating or collaboration on exams, repeatedly lacking candor/honesty in self-reporting assignments)
- Complete (passing another person's assignment as one's own, using generative AI to produce entire assignments, and repeated cheating or collaboration on exams).

Remedies may include:

- Explanation and resubmission of assignments with citations added, and quotes attributed.
- Interviewing and quizzing student on book report and course content.
- If the explanation is understandable (honest mistakes) resubmission may be done with, or without a grade reduction.
- Repeated issues must have a grade reduction, or at the discretion of the dean reviewing the infraction(s), a “0” grade may be assigned for the assignment instead of allowing a resubmission.
- Repeated Substantial or Complete Violations may result in the failure of the class or expulsion from institution.

In all cases, all conduct determined to be an infraction will be formally documented by the college dean and attached to the student's file.

Work resubmission schedules will be determined on a case-by-case basis. For shorter assignments, 1 week will be the usual rework timeframe, but for substantial issues, a longer timeframe may be appropriate.

Upon notifying the student of the violation finds and remedies, the student may appeal to the Appeals Committee (or the Board/Committee handling student affairs). This appeal must be done in writing within 48 hours of receiving the notice. The board must review, investigate and call witnesses with 7 working days and come to a conclusion of the matter. The Committee’s determination will be final.

Student’s Role in Forwarding Academic Integrity

Understanding plagiarism is part of the requirements of earning a degree at GCU. Navigating the coursework of all enrolled classes without plagiarizing is the fulfillment of this requirement. While GCU understands that many of the situations we qualify as plagiarism are acceptable or encouraged practices in many workplaces, the academic environment requires that original work be performed, and the spiritual growth in the mission of GCU requires that this work be personal. For these reasons, all plagiarism and related activities are prohibited.

One particular concern is that requiring original and personal work may be seen as a waste of time. However, part of the requirements of every class at GCU are the hours spent in class and outside of class to learn the material and to do the work to synthesize and produce analysis of the material. If a student’s schedule is too crunched to have time for this work, then the correct response is to discuss the situation with the professors and/or advisors, not to take shortcuts.

If a student is turning toward academic dishonesty as a result of being lost in the class or the program, they should seek other GCU resources: like their professor, the librarian, and their advisor.

Faculty's Role in Forwarding Academic Integrity

GCU's staff, instructors, and faculty must also uphold the values of academic integrity and help prevent plagiarism and unoriginal work by:

- Knowing and following the Academic Policies found in the Faculty Handbook and Policies Handbook.
- Understanding how AI checkers, plagiarism checkers and other detection tools work in the flow of course assignment grading.
- Following clear course design guidelines and clearly define course assignments so students know if/when collaboration is allowed, which textbooks or tools are allowed for tests (open book or not), and define the rubrics for grading.

The use of boilerplate, governmentally sourced, or other typical language in documents and policies is allowed as long as all such texts are properly sourced/cited and permission has been granted where needed. Generative AI may also be suitable for certain policy formation tasks, but would be inappropriate for letters of recommendation and student/staff evaluations. All such use should be disclosed upon submission to the document approval board, supervisor, or manager. Use of generative AI tools is not allowed for staff/academic research or for the written work used in the pursuit of, or continuation of professional development.

* The inspiration and high-level outline were based in part on TurnItIn's Academic Integrity policies and the policies of Family of Faith University and Global Awakening Theological Seminary.

Other Policies

How do I contact the school or a faculty member?

Students can call the college at 925 846-6464, or email the main office at info@globalcu.edu for any general administrative inquiries.

All faculty members can be contacted through their course information on Populi.

Class Protocol

Can I come in late?

Yes, students are permitted to enter the classroom after the start of class, but be mindful that the class is already in session, and students best honor the instructor and fellow students by coming early and being seated prior to the class starting.

What if I have to miss a class session?

Students can go on to Populi and download the video lesson of what they have missed (if that class is recorded). Assignments that were due that night can be turned in at the next class session. A late or absence penalty on that class's session may apply if the absence was not excused.

Can I bring a guest?

Yes, you are welcome to bring a guest on occasion without asking permission. Young children under the age of ten should be left at home; older children are welcome to visit with their parents when necessary. GCU does not offer childcare.

How is the final exam administered?

All finals are taken online on Populi rather than in class.

Is there a dress code? There is no formal dress code; most students enjoy dressing casually. Please dress in a way that is conducive to your learning experience and the experience of others. It is preferred that a student's clothing not be a distraction in the classroom.

Can I eat my dinner during a live class?

We prefer that students do not eat their dinner during class. The aroma is often a distraction to other students, and each hosting church has stipulations against food and drink in the classrooms. Bottled water, however, is permissible. Heavy cologne or perfume is discouraged as the smell is often not appreciated by other students.

How do I ask a question during a live class lecture?

Since some sessions are video recorded it is important that students first raise their hand and wait until the microphone is given to them. All questions and answers are recorded for the benefit of our distance students. When speaking into the microphone, please speak clearly and loud enough for all in the room to hear. Your question or comment is of great importance to the success of each class session!

We ask our students not to monopolize the conversation.

What if I have to withdraw from the class I signed up for?

The full withdrawal process is outlined in the College Catalog. Please review it there.

How do I add a class?

Students must respect the "Deadline to Enroll" in classes each term. Registration is expected before the quarter begins to ensure a spot in the class. Distance classes can be enrolled in more quickly, usually starting each month.

What if I do not agree with the teacher?

Disagreement is natural and to be expected in the learning process. We only ask that you remain gracious and respectful in your moment of disagreement. We can agree to disagree. Contentiousness or the desire to dominate the conversation is not welcome at GCU!

GCU students are expected and required to be courteous at all times and respectful to one another, the instructor, and the educational process of the class. Total agreement with all statements is not expected; thoughtful questions are welcomed. Individuals who create

disruptions or are often contentious may be asked to restrain themselves or may not be allowed to continue their enrollment.

Safety and Emergency Procedure

A floor plan of each classroom with exits and evacuation routes will be posted by the entrance. Students are encouraged to leave class with one another to ensure their safe arrival to each vehicle. Students should be aware of alternate exit routes in the event of an emergency.

Students are encouraged to accompany one another to their vehicles after class is dismissed.

Interaction with the Instructor

A key part of the successful participation and completion of a distance education course is the requirement for the student to have regular and substantive interaction with the instructor. Similarly required, is the instructor's ability to have ongoing dialogue to provide for assessment of the student's progress and quality of work. This level of substantive dialogue requires frequent interaction. Therefore, using the Populi LMS, the instructor, and the student will engage not less than weekly. The content of this interaction will either provide further clarification of the material presented, an inquiry regarding the student's response to the material or a reply to the student's questions. These engagements shall be scheduled and repeated so that the student has a 'presence in the classroom' similar to that of regularly enrolled students. If any engagement is made by phone, the instructor shall summarize the content and duration of the call and such notes shall be included in the LMS.

How do I turn in my coursework?

All coursework is to be submitted through Populi.

How do I, as a distance student, take the final exam?

Yes, all final exams are taken online through Populi.

Student Life at GCU

Unlike many traditional colleges, Global Christian University does not have a variety of programs and services often associated with a college.

- There is not a student government or opportunities for ministry and social outreach/services by students.
- There are no student clubs and organizations.
- There are no housing and residential life programs or statements regarding the use of automobiles.
- GCU does not offer or provide health services or student insurance.
- GCU does not offer a list of cultural, educational or religious opportunities other than the courses listed in the catalog.
- GCU does not offer learning assistance for those with reading, writing, or academic performance limitations.

Learning Resources – Libraries

Virtual Resource Center

GCU doesn't have a physical library. However, we do have a collection of online and electronic resources that will continue to grow. These resources can be anything from journals and articles to Bible study tools, to writing and research help. Since GCU students cannot physically "go" to the library, we have created a virtual space for students to visit that will help meet their information needs. Hence the name, Virtual Resource Center. This online space can be found on the [GCU website](#).

Accordance Bible Software

In lieu of subscriptions to online databases of knowledge, it is important for students to purchase robust Bible study software, such as Accordance or Logos, which will provide the student with an extensive library and dynamic search and study tools. With this in mind, the purchase of either Accordance or Logos is in fact required of those wishing to graduate with a degree from GCU and is highly encouraged for audit and non-degree students.

Student Resources Blog

In addition to purchased Bible study software, the GCU Student Resources Blog has been created as a space to assist with writing and research, computer literacy, and information literacy, and offers lists of free online resources students may peruse and reference at their own discretion. The blog can be accessed via the Virtual Resource Center homepage, along with some helpful instructional videos.

The GCU Librarian

The librarian will provide tools and advice for becoming information literate and will help students look critically at the quality and trustworthiness of the information they have gathered, which is a crucial step in the creation of college-level papers and presentations.

The Graduate Library Services

Master's students have full access to an online library solution for research and the GCU librarian. Students will pay a quarterly fee for this library access. The online library has a rich set of online resources. We highly encourage all students to use both the county and city library services as well. These collections provide a diverse set of research materials.

Student Right-To-Know (FERPA DISCLOSURES)

Global Christian University complies in all respects with the FERPA requirements regarding student records.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the college receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the college decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the college will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Directors; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Global Christian University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605.

GCU reserves the right to refuse students to inspect the following records:

- Their parents' financial statements.
- Records connected with an application to attend GCU or a component of GCU if that application was denied.
- Those records are excluded from the FERPA definition of education records.

Student Intellectual Property (IP)

Ownership of IP created by GCU students can be a complex issue. However, the Board does not claim an ownership interest in “student-created works” (nor does any State or Federal law result in ownership of such works to the university, as is the case with employee-created scholarly works). Dissertations and theses are considered “Student-created works”. However, the following types of IP are not considered “student-created works”:

- Works created by a student within the course and scope of employment as an employee of the university;
- Works created with significant use of Board or university resources; and,
- Works created by the student under a sponsored project if the agreement that governs the project provides either party to the agreement (the university or sponsor) IP ownership rights.
- Students and faculty are strongly encouraged to contact the GCU President for a formal ownership determination in any case where ownership of student-created IP is an issue

In light of the above, “student-created works” created during class sessions may be used by GCU to promote, highlight, or be shown as examples of classroom activities without compensation to the student provided the work is not sold or included in a sold aggregated work.

Specifically signed IP agreements between a student and an officer of the college will supersede the above.

Complaints & Grievances

What if I have a complaint against a faculty member or the college?

Should a student have a complaint against a faculty member, a member of the administration, or any aspect of the college, below is GCU's grievance policy:

The Board of Trustees has established a Grievance Committee to ensure that all students and employees of the college receive fair and equitable treatment. A student or employee who wishes to file a grievance should first contact the administrative officer to whom he/she is responsible and attempt to resolve the dispute. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be made, the employee may appeal to the Administrative Committee. If no satisfactory resolution is made at this level, the specific grievances shall be recorded in writing. The President of the college shall present them in written form to the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee may decide to hold a hearing to investigate the grievances submitted, or it may decide to settle them without a hearing. The decision of the Grievance Committee is final.

How do I file a complaint with TRACS?

Should one feel complaints or grievances are not addressed or resolved satisfactorily by the College, complaints can also be filed with the accrediting agency with which GCU is affiliated, the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). See below for contact information and website links for instructions on filing complaints. In addition, questions about accreditation and complaints in regard to accreditation policies and standards can be addressed by TRACS.

Transnational Association of Christian Schools and Colleges (TRACS)

15935 Forest Road,

Forest, VA 24551

<https://tracs.org>

(434) 525-9539

info@tracs.org

How do I file a complaint with the Texas State Agency?

For unresolved complaints concerning a condition or incident involving the University, contact the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) at 512-427-6101 or fill out the online forms. The rules governing student complaints is located in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code, Sections 1.110 - 1.120. THECB retains oversight of unresolved complaints from students enrolled under the auspices of SARA. THECB's student complaint process may be found here.

<https://www.highered.texas.gov/student-complaints/>

Complainants shall submit student complaint forms through the online process provided on the agency's website, by electronic mail (email) to StudentComplaints@theccb.state.tx.us, or by hard copy sent to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, College Readiness and Success Division, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711-2788. All submitted complaints must include a student complaint form and a signed Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Consent and Release form, which is at the bottom of the student complaint form. Submitted complaints regarding students with disabilities shall also include a signed Authorization to Disclose Medical Record Information form, which is at the bottom of the student complaint form. (See the Student Handbook for a longer explanation and provisions.)

Nondiscrimination Policies

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Greg Holsclaw, President
greg@globalcu.edu 925 846-6464
1799 Winchester Blvd
Campbell, CA 95008

Dr. Dan Griffiths, Head of Department, Graduate Program
dan36fam@gmail.com or 408 315-3464
3696 Rosemar Ave., San Jose, CA 95127

Nondiscrimination Grievance Procedure

This procedure is applicable to complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, and retaliation on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age. Any student, prospective student, or employee who feels that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age should contact in writing:

Greg Holsclaw, President
greg@globalcu.edu 925 846-6464
1799 Winchester Blvd
Campbell, CA 95008

In the event that the President is involved in the accusation of harassment or discrimination, the complaint should contact:

Dr. Dan Griffith, Head of Department, Graduate Program

dan36fam@gmail.com or 408 315-3464
3696 Rosemar Ave., San Jose, CA 95127

The complaint should describe the date and time, persons involved, place, and circumstances surrounding the incident. The complaint should be signed by the complainant. All complaints received will be promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigated and decided within sixty (60) days. The complainant's identity will be kept confidential. The complainant will be kept informed in writing at each stage of the process. That is, 1) Acknowledgement of the receipt of the complaint; 2) Report of findings of the investigation. If discrimination has occurred, appropriate corrective and remedial actions will be taken. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, they may appeal to the Global Christian University Board of Trustees. An appeal should be made in writing to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Richard Lietz, 1799 Winchester Blvd, Campbell, CA 95008.

The complainant will be kept informed in writing at each stage of the appeal process. That is, 1) Acknowledgment of receipt of the appeal; 2) Report of findings of the investigation and any corrective or remedial actions taken by the Board of Trustees.

Individuals who are not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint at the College may file complaints of discrimination with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302; Telephone: (816) 268-0550; Facsimile: (816) 823-1404; or Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov.

Under no circumstances will there be any retaliation by any GCU employee against the complainant or persons who participate in related proceedings.

Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedures

Global Christian University is committed to maintaining a safe and professional educational environment in which students and faculty are not subjected to sexual harassment. The college does not tolerate actions and/or words that are regarded as sexual harassment or sexual violence against any student or college employee.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It can be verbal, visual, physical, or communicated in writing or electronically. Although sexual harassment may violate state or federal law, Northern Calif. Bible College may consider conduct to be sexual harassment even though it may not rise to the level of illegal sex discrimination.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances
- Requests for dates or sexual favors
- Unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature
- Sexual violence (such as rape or assault)
- Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature, such as suggestive comments and sexually explicit jokes that are considered offensive by the other individual

- Sexually degrading language used to insult another person
- Remarks of a sexual nature are used to describe a person's body or clothing.

This includes comments about an individual's body or appearance that go beyond a mere compliment, including off-color jokes that are clearly unwanted and considered offensive by the other individual.

- Fostering a work or academic environment that is intimidating, hostile, or offensive because of unwanted sexually-oriented conversation, suggestions, requests, demands, or physical contact considered offensive by the other individual.
- Fostering a work or academic environment that is intimidating, hostile, or offensive because of unwanted sexually oriented conversation, suggestions, requests, demands, physical contact, or attention.
- Public display of sexually oriented pictures, drawings, or calendars
- Offensive physical contact such as unwelcome touching, pinching, or brushing against the body of another person.
- Actions or words that indicate that benefits will be gained or lost based on one's response to sexual advances.
- Disseminating false information about a person's sexual conduct
- Making false accusations against another person regarding sexual harassment

Sexual harassment may be committed by one student against another student, by a faculty member or other employee against a student, or by a student against a faculty member or other employee. Because members of the faculty and administration of the college hold positions that involve the legitimate exercise of power and authority over others, they should exercise care in the use of that power and authority. It is the responsibility of members of the faculty and administration to ensure that their conduct and words cannot reasonably be perceived as sexually coercive, abusive, or exploitative.

Criminal Complaint Procedure

Sexual harassment may constitute a violation of the laws of the state of California, and the complainant must decide whether or not to file a criminal complaint. Any student, prospective student, or employee who wishes to file a criminal complaint alleging sexual harassment or violence should call 911 or contact the Police Department of Campbell, California, at 408-866-2121.

Institutional Complaint Procedures

Any student, prospective student, or employee may file a complaint of sexual harassment with the college. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the sexual harassment policy of Global Christian University:

Greg Holsclaw, President
greg@globalcu.edu 925 846-6464

1799 Winchester Blvd
Campbell, CA 95008

Dr. Dan Griffiths, Head of Department, Graduate Program
dan36fam@gmail.com or 408 315-3464
3696 Rosemar Ave., San Jose, CA 95127

Should an individual student, prospective student or employee have a complaint against GCU as an institution, that person will be directed to the TRACS website (www.tracs.org) and given the opportunity to review for themselves the Complaint Information Sheet – Against Institution, the Complaint Policy and Procedures and finally the TRACS Complaint Form – Against Institution.

Policy on Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse on Campus and in the Workplace

Global Christian University seeks to assure the health and well-being of all students and employees and to maintain an environment that supports and encourages the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. Those goals are damaged by illegal drug and alcohol use. Therefore, to further these goals it has been, and shall continue to be, the policy of Global Christian University to prohibit the illegal use, possession, sale, delivery, and/or manufacture of controlled substances.

The college's policies and programs are intended to emphasize:

1. The incompatibility of the use or sale of illegal drugs and alcohol with the goals of the college;
2. The legal consequences of involvement with illegal drugs and alcohol;
3. The medical implications of the use of illegal drugs and alcohol; and,
4. The ways in which illegal drugs and alcohol jeopardize an individual's present accomplishments and future opportunities with the college.

Students, faculty members, administrators, and other employees are responsible as citizens for knowing about and complying with the provisions of California law that makes it a crime to possess, sell, deliver, or manufacture drugs designated collectively as "controlled substances." Any member of the college community who violates that law is subject both to prosecution and punishment by the civil authorities and to disciplinary proceedings against the student or employee when the alleged conduct is deemed to affect the interest of the college.

Penalties will be imposed by Global Christian University in accordance with procedural safeguards applicable to disciplinary action against students (see Student Handbook, Alcohol and Drug Use, and employees (see Faculty and Staff Handbook).

This summary of the college policy on the prevention of alcohol and drug use on campus and in the workplace is based on the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D)

and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (P.L. 101-226). This policy is expressed in its entirety in the Student Handbook and Faculty and Staff Handbook.

The college follows the FERPA provision 99.31 which states disclosure to parents of students under 21 if the institution determines that the student has committed a violation of its drug or alcohol rules or policies.