FOR PARENTS ONLY: DOES GOD CARE ABOUT COLLEGE?

He has a plan for all of us

By Frank Ramos

The saxophone’s crying wakes me. It’s incondolable, and its melancholy is contagious. It induces me to hold vigil for painful memories I buried long ago. I don’t know the piece my 13 year old son is playing in his room, but I do know it’s causing a lump in my throat. And I know God’s given him the gift of music. He plays other instruments and wants to learn to play several more. Even though he is in middle school, he already talks about attending college and majoring in music. One day, he will have to choose which college to attend. But I wonder if the choice is his to make.

We have several friends with children older than ours who are going through the laborious process of applying to colleges. They criss-cross the country visiting colleges, attend college tours, join summer programs, fill out endless applications, and do everything they can to secure admissions for their sons and daughters at the most prestigious of schools. Today, the college admission process can become a full-time job, and strategies abound on how students can nudge their way past their peers to secure a coveted admission slot. But what if all this effort was misplaced? What if the choice wasn’t ours to make? What if God cared what college our kids attend? And what if the criteria we were relying upon was not God’s criterion?

Choosing a college is not much different than choosing an occupation, a church, or even a spouse. It’s a significant decision that will change one’s life. Based on the efforts most parents invest in this decision, they would agree with this assessment. So if the decision is so profound, one would think God would want some input. In fact, He probably has a college in mind for our kids (just as He has a job or a spouse in mind for them as they grow older). If we believe God is in control, and that He knew us before we were yet born, then He has a plan for us, and that plan includes whether to attend college, and if so, where. Of course we can ignore that plan, and God being God can as a GPS, recalibrate, and help us make the best of a wrong decision. But wouldn’t it be better to make the right decision than repair a wrong one?

Some of you may not be convinced that God has picked out a college for your kids. Maybe He wants your son to attend a local state university rather than a private out-of-state one. Perhaps He prefers your daughter to attend a small Christian college rather than one of the most prestigious of schools. Today, the question is not who attends college? A yes or no answer is easy. The real question is, which college is best to attend? To what college should we commit our children? When we look to a college, it’s important to weigh all the factors a student should consider. Some of these factors may include academic rigor, campus culture, extracurricular activities, and most importantly, alignment with Christian values.

Choosing A Christian or secular college

By Terry Morrow

Research shows that students gain as much from their interactions outside the classroom as they do from their interactions inside the classroom. As a result, the decision whether to attend a Christian or secular college is an important one. While there exists a continuum on which both Christian or secular college falls upon, below are some basic differences in their perspectives and approaches.

Christian universities

The purpose of Christian education is to equip students to serve God and spread the Gospel. For the most part, students have grown up in a Christian home and are committed to living out Christian values and deepening their understanding of their Christian faith. Faculty have likely chosen to teach at a Christian institution because they have a strong belief in their Christian faith and are committed to connecting their academic subject material to their Christian faith.

The mission of the university is to prepare students to serve God through their profession, church, and family in professional ways that is valuable to society as a whole while maintaining their faith.

Secular universities

The purpose of education is to prepare students for a humanistic society that tolerates all lifestyles and perspectives. Fellow students come from a variety of religious backgrounds and faiths. Some are agnostic or atheist. They may hold a variety of different worldviews.

Professors are committed to teaching their subject matter and are less inclined to share their religious views in class but necessarily policial views as it has been evident in viral videos of some professors attacking Christian or conservative students. All faculty have the academic freedom to be able to select the academic texts and material they believe is most valuable, which may or may not include Christian perspectives and values.

The mission of the institution is to prepare students to contribute to society as professionals and citizens. In researching the differences between Christian and secular college experiences, I decided to ask two recent graduates to share their perspective. Noemi Bermudez graduated last year from a secular university, and Brice Williams graduated last year from a Christian university.

Community of believers

When asked why he chose a Christian university, Williams replied, “As an older undergraduate student (freshman at 22), I realized that every institution has a worldview, a set of principled truths they believe about God, humanity, and the world in which they live. While having a healthy understanding of differing points of view, it was important for me as a young Christian to immerse myself in a community of other followers of Christ.” Williams met his wife Lenna in college, and they have worked in ministry together.

Different perspectives

When I asked Bermudez why she chose a secular university, she said, “I did not even consider attending a Christian university — at the time, there was a separation in my mind between academics and spiritual life. I was raised in a Christian family, and I was a leader in First Priority during high school. During my junior year in high school, I decided that I was going to be a biology major in college to pursue a career in medicine. I had heard that statistically many Biology majors become atheists, and I was worried by church leaders. I completely rejected the possibility of me denying Christ in college because of a biology education, and I joined, and See FACTORS page 17
Prepping for Success: Your First Semester of College

Are you ready for college life? From social events to studying to planning for your future, there’s a lot to consider your first year! We outline a few tips for success:

Set Academic Goals: Go into your first semester with a plan for studying and set GPA expectations. After you enroll in classes, reach out to some of your professors to introduce yourself and ask for preparation advice or summer reading lists.

Research Clubs and Activities: Incorporate your interests or hobbies into your college experience. From club sports to worship services, Grand Canyon University (GCU) offers many opportunities for our students to get involved!

Examine Your Budget: Have you applied for all of the scholarships available to you? How can you prepare for your freshman year budget? Along with taking care of items like financial aid, it’s important to plan for part-time jobs too. GCU has a range of student worker opportunities on campus, including positions within our enterprises—from GCBC coffee company to our student ad agency.

GCU, while reserving its lawful rights in light of its Christian mission, is committed to maintaining an academic environment that is free from unlawful discrimination. Further detail on GCU’s Non-Discrimination policies can be found at gcu.edu/titleIX. The information printed in this material is accurate as of January 2019. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit gcu.edu.

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Briar Cliff University

Popularity means nothing
You’ve probably heard this one before, but it honestly cannot be stressed enough. It doesn’t matter who you were in high school since you basically get to reinvent yourself at college. The way to be “popular” in college is by getting super involved in anything you can.

You can’t stick to your diet of McDonalds every night at 9 p.m.
The “Freshman 15” is very real. Your body, for some sciencey reason, changes after high school. Take the stairs, go to the on-campus gym, choose salad over fries. Do the little things to make sure you’re healthy and active so it follows you even after college.

Being involved can make (or break) your experience
Join Student Government, go to your floor events, be a part of that Tuesday night prayer group. You’ll meet tons of people who will share the same interests as you. Do everything you can, but make sure you’re not overwhelming yourself.

Don’t be stuck in high school
College is the #1 time to grow as an individual and find out who you are and what you stand for. You meet people of all backgrounds from everywhere around the world, and it’s really cool. You should still stay in touch with your high school friends, but make sure you’re also branching out.

Do what you want
The best thing about college is no one really cares what you do. If you want to stay in on a Friday night, do it. If you don’t want to be in the major you thought, change it. If you want ice cream for breakfast, go for it. Be respectful to yourself and others, but do what makes you happiest.

Get to know your professors
Getting to know the people who will be grading your papers and judging your presentations is such a good idea. If something pops up, they’re more apt to understand someone who has been to their office hours rather than someone who’s name is just on the roster. Plus, this gives you nice references after college.

At Briar Cliff, it’s easy to do all these things
Schedule a visit to Briar Cliff’s campus, and you will see a campus committed to your success. Why? Because at Briar Cliff, you matter.

Start your Briar Cliff journey. Call (800) 662-3303 or visit briarcliff.edu/imatter
Concordia University

Concordia University, Nebraska is a place where you can find your calling and be equipped to answer it. The foundation of our Christ-centered, Lutheran university is evident in the community who gathers to worship together, the classmates who genuinely support each other in successes and challenges and the professor who cares about every aspect of your wellbeing.

Concordia continues to emphasize the Christ-centered message of the Gospel in the higher education delivered to students, including four foundational promises of a Lutheran education—community, inquiry, purpose and wisdom.

The variety of programs and quality of the academics allow you to explore your passions and choose a course of study that you are confident about pursuing. Professors integrate Christ, service to others and practical skill-building opportunities within academic content and provide experiential opportunities for you to put the culture and knowledge gained in the classroom into practice in the real world.

At Concordia, you'll be surrounded by students, professors and a community who will help you discover who you are, and what you want to be. Here, you can make a bigger impact than you ever imagined, in a place where you can be yourself, share your opinions and find your way with the loving support of a community.

That's what makes Concordia feel like home.

Calvary University

Calvary University distinguishes itself in Christian higher education by its four commitments: 1) Standing firm on a Biblical foundation, 2) High quality at low cost, 3) Excellence in education, and 4) A place for growth.

Committed to the Word of God, you can expect every class and every professor to teach from the biblical worldview.

Offering over 60+ programs ranging from dual enrollment to PhD, Calvary is prepared to train you for both career and ministry. Here you have the flexibility to take classes on campus and online so you can continue to work and serve wherever you are.

All of Calvary’s programs are regionally and nationally accredited through the Higher Learning Commission and the Association for Biblical Higher Education providing recognized education.

Ranked #26 out of 150 top, on-campus, Christian schools by College Atlas in 2018, Calvary is committed to excellence.

Holding true to its purpose to prepare Christians to live and serve the Church and the world according to the Biblical worldview, Calvary University remains faithful to is longstanding, 86-year mission.

Check us out for yourself at www.calvary.edu.
Dordt College

**Be Challenged**
Do you want to be challenged in your faith? At Dordt College, you can expect to be challenged and be changed. You will study every subject through the lens of God’s Word. The way we integrate faith and learning will equip you to think critically and judge wisely for the rest of your life—no matter what your profession.

**Student Engagement**
Dordt is ranked number 1 in the nation in student engagement for three years in a row by The Wall Street Journal.

Why?
Our faculty actively engage and invest in students’ success, and students recommend Dordt to their friends and family.

**The Numbers**
Here are some quick facts:
1. Dordt has more than 40 programs of study, including agriculture, education, business, nursing, and engineering.
2. We’re known for having engaging faculty, thanks in part to our 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio.
3. Dordt has a 99.7 percent career outcomes rate. That means that 99.7 percent of our class of 2017 graduates either had a job lined up after graduation, or were attending graduate school.
4. More than 30 percent of our students are from over 500 miles away, and our campus community is second to none.

Family and Human Services, Business, Nursing, Early Childhood Education, Biology, Construction Management, Photography, and Psychology.

John Brown University

**JBU at a Glance**

*Interdenominational.* JBU has never been affiliated with any denomination but has always sought to put Christ Over All. We respect each other’s different worship styles and learn from each other’s different views, but our mission to be Christ-centered and God-honoring has remained rock solid.

**39 Majors.** JBU offers 39 different academic majors, including Engineering, Graphic Design,

**The great outdoors.** If you are into rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, (we have a brand new trail on campus), camping, hiking or other outdoor activities, then this corner of the Ozarks is a great place to be.

**An economic powerhouse.** Northwest Arkansas is home to Fortune 1 company Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt. Over 1500 suppliers, from Disney to Procter and Gamble, also have operations in Northwest Arkansas. Our students have great opportunities here.

**Affordable!** Yes! Last year over $14 million in scholarships and grants was awarded to our students. Our graduation rate is high, our average load debt is low, and 96% of our recent graduates were working or pursuing their next degree within 6 months of graduation (based on a 90% survey return rate, 2014)!
One of the toughest questions people face is, “What should I do with my life?” The answer to that is more than just where you go to school and what your career might be. And this can be hard to figure out.

Our desire at Heartland Christian College is to help you develop a firm foundation in character and relationship with God as He leads you in that discovery.

Setting aside a concentrated time to deepen your personal relationship with Jesus and to study His Word is the best way to do that. As a two-year Bible College accredited through the Association of Biblical Higher Education, HCC offers an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies with a concentration in Worship, Education, Missions, or general studies.

Two short years spent at HCC focusing on God and allowing yourself to be challenged and encouraged through the personal discipleship available will be time well invested. He has a plan for you, and we want to help you prepare for it.

Located in the beautiful countryside of northeast Missouri, HCC offers an opportunity to focus on God and become the person He created you to be, so you can do what He has called you to do. And, with our affordable tuition and part-time work possibilities, HCC just makes sense.

Southwest Baptist University

Southwest Baptist University is a leader among private universities in the Midwest in integrating Christ-centered academic pursuits with comprehensive professional programs at an affordable price. Faculty and staff create a caring, academic community to prepare students as servant leaders in a global society.

SBU’s southwest Missouri campus in Bolivar, Mo., is home to about 1,400 undergraduate students with a student-teacher ratio of 1:21 — and faculty who care about their students. SBU students have achieved success in regional, state, and national academic competitions, and graduates are serving in all levels of government and have had successful careers with major corporations.

Additionally, SBU has been named one of America’s 100 Best College Buys since 1996 and America’s Best Christian Colleges since 1997.

While providing a quality education in the classroom is the University’s top priority, SBU expands education beyond academics, with more than 45 student organizations that span a broad range of interests and passions.

SBU also provides opportunities for spiritual growth. The University’s Center for Global Connections encourages students to strengthen their faith through chapel services, small groups, mission team participation and community service. More than 300 students participate annually in mission projects around the world. Many SBU graduates have been chosen to pastor churches, lead worship and serve as missionaries.

For more information, visit www.SBUniv.edu.
Oral Roberts University

Oral Roberts University is a world-renowned, interdenominational Christian university that builds Spirit empowered leaders through its unique Whole Person approach to education, developing students spiritually, academically and physically. Learn more at oru.edu/rfi.

Located in the beautiful and fun-filled city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, ORU’s magnificent 263-acre campus is a “home away from home” for its community of students from every U.S. state and 100+ different nations.

ORU’s qualified, Christ-centered professors develop one-on-one mentoring relationships with students, and with ORU’s network of institutional and relational support, every student can smoothly transition to college life.

ORU’s unique Whole Person Education is accessible for students of all walks of life—from the high school senior to the adult who’s ready to advance their career. Undergraduate students can pursue 130+ majors and minors that span every interest, and graduate students can pursue a master’s or doctoral degree in Business, Education or Theology & Ministry. Flexible online and modular programs are offered to work around your schedule. High school student can earn college credit through ORU’s Advantage Program, an affordable 100% online dual-enrollment program with courses developed, facilitated and taught by experienced ORU professors. Learn more at advantage.oru.edu.

In addition, ORU is committed to awarding up to $25,000,000 in scholarships and grants this next academic year through its premier Quest Whole Person Scholarship Program and countless other opportunities! Learn more at finaid.oru.edu.

At ORU, students experience life changing classes, NCAA Division I athletics, 25+ clubs, leadership development opportunities, global missions, internships and more! Visit oru.edu/rfi for more information.
William Woods University

William Woods University is a coeducational, independent, professions-oriented, liberal arts-based institution. Headquartered on 225 scenic acres on the main campus in historical Fulton, Missouri, just 20 minutes from Columbia or Jefferson City, Missouri.

U.S. News and World Report ranked William Woods as one of the top 75 regional universities in the Midwest in 2017. It was the highest ranking the school has ever achieved.

The school was founded in 1870 as a school for Civil War orphans, but expanded and grew through the years into the university it is today offering programs up through and including the doctorate.

Unique undergraduate programs of study include a four-year American Sign Language program (one of approximately 30 in North America), an internationally recognized Equestrian Studies program, and a Criminal Justice program. Both the business programs and education programs attract a broad range of students and offer a unique MBA or MED in 5 which allows a student to complete a Master’s degree in just one additional year of study. In addition, we offer a four-year Exercise Science degree with concentrations in Human Performance, Sports Management, Physical Education, and Sports Med/Athletic Training, leading to a Master’s in Athletic Training. In October 2017, the University also announced the intention to begin a nursing degree program, beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year. William Woods provides students with an automatic scholarship of $5,000 per year for being involved on campus, a 14:1 student faculty ratio, and a wide range of clubs, organizations, plus, a study abroad program. Find more information at: www.williamwoods.edu
Graceland University

Founded in 1895, Graceland University grounds itself in liberal arts and is dedicated to providing the progressive academic needs of 21st century students. Graceland educates students for advanced study, productive careers and rich lives.

The university values learning, wholeness and community, and encourages students to develop those values for the enrichment of lives and betterment of the world.

Those values are aligned with the enduring principles of the sponsoring church, Community of Christ.

Graceland offers a liberal arts education with degrees available in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Its highly qualified faculty excel in teaching and engage in scholarly, creative and professional activities. Students can enjoy a traditional residential undergraduate experience at Graceland’s Lamoni, Iowa, campus, and non-traditional and transfer students can complete undergraduate degrees and pursue advanced degrees at the Independence, Missouri, campus.

The Lamoni campus offers degrees in a wide variety of areas, including business, health, education, arts and many more. The Independence campus houses programs in nursing, education, business, criminal justice and seminary, and is where Graceland’s online programs are managed.

Through these programs, students can complete a nursing, education, business administration or criminal justice degree, or pursue a master’s degree in nursing, education or religion.

Graceland’s distance-learning opportunities are designed for maximum flexibility and convenience.

Tabor College

When choosing a college it comes down to what you get while you’re there, and what happens after you graduate. Both of those things are important to look at, and here at Tabor College, they come together to give us an unbeatable value.

As a student at Tabor College you’ll find value in a personal education, passionate faculty, committed students, and an engaged community built around our shared faith in Christ. Your years here are going to be fun, productive, and transformative.

Our graduates have less debt than the national average. Many of our majors, have a 98-100% job placement rate after graduation.

Tabor College is located in Hillsboro, KS. Offering 29 majors, 17 athletic teams, 19 student organizations, as well as the performing arts, you are bound to find your place here at Tabor College. We invite you to come experience Tabor for yourself through one of our many visit options. Begin exploring Tabor at tabor.edu.

Tabor College Admissions
Preparing people for a life of learning, work and service for Christ and His kingdom.
Email: admissions@tabor.edu
Phone: 620-947-3121
O B U prepares you to Find Your Place in the world. O B U’s well-rounded curriculum helps students learn from a Christian perspective, developing strong communication skills, global awareness and critical thinking as well as a distinctly Christian worldview.

At O B U, faculty members are more than professors. They are visionaries helping students imagine who and what they might become. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1, all classes are taught by world-class professors, making a lifelong impact in the level of knowledge gained during college.

For 27 consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked O B U as one of the top 10 best regional colleges in the western United States. The Wall Street Journal recently ranked O B U second in the nation for student engagement, out of all colleges and universities.

On O B U’s campus, known as Bison Hill, you will not be alone as you Find Your Place. Students deepen their faith through chapel services, Bible studies, mission trips and more. Students participate in a wide range of activities, including intramural and club sports, concerts, student talent shows, Student Government Association and social clubs. O B U also competes nationally in 21 NCAA Division II varsity sports.

You are unique, and God is calling you to a unique future. Join us on Bison Hill and Find Your Place at O B U.

Evangel University

Defining moments are made at Evangel. Affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Evangel is a comprehensive university with a seminary. Students have the opportunity to earn degrees from the bachelor’s to the doctoral level in one convenient location. Through theology, business, science, music, education, the arts, and many other programs, Evangel prepares you for a life of impact.

Among Christian universities nationwide, Evangel stands out as an extraordinarily competitive option for students seeking quality, value, and affordability. EU awards more than $40 million in financial aid annually, with 100% of incoming students receiving EU scholarships. Furthermore, our faculty are equipped with pristine facilities and the latest resources to ensure you are prepared to fulfill your vocational calling.

As an Evangel student, you’ll experience a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. The culture helps strengthen our students, faculty and staff, and solidifies Evangel as a premier Christian university full of people who strive for education rooted in a biblical worldview.

Added to all this are Evangel’s outstanding athletics. We offer 16 men’s and women’s sports, including soccer, and compete in the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

Located in Springfield, Missouri, Evangel combines the accessibility of a larger city with the natural beauty of the Ozarks. In fact, Springfield has been named one of the nation’s “100 Best Communities for Young People.” Your defining moment starts now. Visit evangel.edu or call 800.EVANGEL.

Oklahoma Baptist University

OBU prepares you to Find Your Place in the world. OBU’s well-rounded curriculum helps students learn from a Christian perspective, developing strong communication skills, global awareness and critical thinking as well as a distinctly Christian worldview.

At OBU, faculty members are more than professors. They are visionaries helping students imagine who and what they might become. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1, all classes are taught by world-class professors, making a lifelong impact in the level of knowledge gained during college.

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You are unique, and God is calling you to a unique future. Join us on Bison Hill and Find Your Place at OBU.
Kansas Christian College

Kansas Christian College is a Christ-centered and student-driven school located at 74th St. and Metcalf Ave. in Overland Park, Kansas - a thriving Kansas City suburb filled with businesses and charming residential communities.

Our campus offers several student lounges, dorm rooms, apartments, superb dining, and recreational space. Our location offers easy access to off-campus activities as well - within the immediate area, students can find restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, pharmacies, parks, and a variety of job opportunities. Kansas Christian provides degree programs: Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, Teacher Education, Worship Leadership, Performance Music, Business Leadership, and General Studies.

Our area is known for sports and the outdoors - and Kansas Christian delivers exciting sports programs with men's basketball and soccer teams, and women's basketball, soccer and volleyball programs. Kansas Christian provides a creative outlet for students interested in theatre and music with our drama team and praise band. We strive to provide a place where students can find their place, with Christ at the center of all we do.

Kansas Christian staff and faculty connect with students in meaningful ways - allowing students to develop spiritually, academically, and socially. Our low faculty to student ratio provides opportunities for more engaged and beneficial learning, and most importantly, a campus atmosphere full of fellowship. Whether you know your calling or are still finding your purpose; you plan on living on-campus, commuting or taking classes online, there’s a place for you at Kansas Christian College.

Visit KCC today - you belong here!

www.kansaschristian.edu 913-722-0272
Are you ready to impact the world for Christ? We hope so because that is what Emmaus Bible College is all about! We exist to prepare you for both your career and your life as a Christian. All of our students study the Bible as part of their core curriculum and then also study majors like computer programming, counseling, applied math, business, counseling, healthcare, teaching, ministry and theology.

At Emmaus our faculty challenge our students to think for themselves and to stand up for what they believe. All of our classes are infused with Biblical content and are taught by faculty who are excellent teachers, academic scholars and Christian role models who truly care about you. They will invest in your life—teaching you, challenging you, mentoring you, and inspiring you to live the life God has planned for you.

Emmaus is a tight-knit community where you will develop life-long friendships. With your classmates you will have the opportunity to experience a vibrant life outside of the classroom. You will grow spiritually through chapels, small groups, and the servant-leader training program. You will have opportunities for fun through frequent campus-wide events, intra-mural sports, and inter-collegiate sports.

Check us out at www.emmaus.edu. Schedule a visit at www.emmaus.edu/visit.
Southern Nazarene University

Southern Nazarene University’s mission is to make Christlike disciples through higher education in a Christ-centered community. Our aim as an institution is to refine character, create culture, and serve Christ.

Founded in 1899, SNU is a private, Christian, liberal arts university. Located just west of Oklahoma City, SNU is committed to training “Live Last” servant-leaders to impact our world. “Live Last” is based on Mark 9:35, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Offering rigorous academic programs in over 50 different areas of study, SNU’s more than 32,000 graduates have become outstanding leaders in their industries throughout the United States and the world.

With a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1, students receive hands-on learning from excellent faculty who care not only about academic success, but also about pouring into their students’ lives.

Through our Center for Global Engagement, students have opportunities to broaden their global perspective by studying abroad and serving on missions teams around the world.

NCAA Division II athletics, intramural sports, clubs, chapel services, and student-led social activities all contribute to the vibrant community atmosphere.

SNU offers generous academic scholarships to reward talent and discipline, making a private, Christian education accessible. 95% of our students receive financial assistance.

Check us out: www.snu.edu

Spurgeon College

When considering college options, Spurgeon College student, Alvin Fleurant, asked the question, “How do I pursue God’s glory with my life?” This is the exact question that the Fusion program at Spurgeon College is designed to answer. Fusion candidates are enrolled in the BA Intercultural Studies program at Spurgeon College and placed into mission teams for the first year of their degree.

These teams walk through rigorous training designed to prepare them for the realities of life on the mission field. After two semesters of training and classes, Fusion teams serve over the summer in places where the gospel of Jesus is not known. Through the Fusion process, God changes the life of each candidate. Fleurant is a great example: “As a new believer, it was clear to me that I was to pursue God’s glory with my life. But I did not know how. Fusion taught me that pursuing God’s glory meant growing in knowledge of Him, holiness, fellowship with His people, and pursuit of the lost. All those things were given root in my life through Fusion.” Currently, Alvin is finishing his degree at Spurgeon College and intends to work with Muslim people groups after graduation.
Josiah Murphy got a close look at Union University when his sister Beth was a student, so he was well aware of the benefits Union offered.

“What I noticed about Union was the people,” Josiah said.

Beth Murphy graduated from Union in 2014 with a nursing degree. Josiah saw Union’s Christian community in action during Beth’s junior year, when she battled a lengthy sickness.

Her professors helped her complete assignments. One professor even told her she would come and dictate a test if it meant Beth could stay at Union.

“The school worked really closely with my family and helped keep watch over her — even allowed my family to come and stay on campus for free while she was in the hospital,” Josiah said. “It’s like a family here.”

Josiah experienced the same type of family atmosphere, especially when his brother Ted, a Union senior, joined him on campus.

“The types of students this place attracts are the type of people who are fun to hang out with, but they also hold you accountable and are not afraid to ask you hard questions or tell you hard things to hear,” he said. “It’s definitely been a challenging and growing experience.”

Learn More
uu.edu
800-33-UNION

Find the mission behind the major.

Josiah Murphy
Union Class of 2019
Heritage Christian Academy graduate
Doverland Park, Kansas

United in Spirit
Grounded in Truth

In a friendly, close-knit learning community, our students are challenged to grow intellectually and integrate their faith in every program of study. Our alumni excel in top graduate schools and in careers around the world.

Missouri Baptist University

What do you want to do—teach at-risk youth? Or run an online newspaper? Practice ministry and medicine? Run a socially-responsible start-up? Or bring clean water to forgotten villages?

It’s time to find your light.

With more than 40 accredited degree programs, Missouri Baptist University prepares graduates to excel in hundreds of exciting fields, with a progressive education that’s grounded in knowledge and guided by faith. At MBU, you’ll integrate innovative academic exploration with spiritual discovery, preparing you for a life of service and success. And you’ll do it all from a progressive, Christ-centered campus located in thriving West St. Louis County, which means you’ll experience life in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the Midwest while living in one of the most exclusive areas of metropolitan St. Louis.

Missouri Baptist University is a unique Christian environment. From the classrooms to the residence halls, we are committed to assessing every aspect of life according to the love of God in Christ.

From the beginning, we’ll challenge you to dig deep and discover your God-given passions. Become a leader prepared for a life of service and success. You will find your light at a college as unique as your dreams. It’s time to Shine On.

Missouri Baptist University

Students can pursue studies on our vibrant St. Louis main campus, with one of the largest campus coffeehouses in the state, state-of-the-art housing facilities and an extensive Sports and Recreation Complex.

Union University

Josiah Murphy graduated from Union in 2014 with a nursing degree. Josiah saw Union’s Christian community in action during Beth’s junior year, when she battled a lengthy sickness.

Her professors helped her complete assignments. One professor even told her she would come and dictate a test if it meant Beth could stay at Union.

“The school worked really closely with my family and helped keep watch over her — even allowed my family to come and stay on campus for free while she was in the hospital,” Josiah said. “It’s like a family here.”

Josiah experienced the same type of family atmosphere, especially when his brother Ted, a Union senior, joined him on campus.

“The types of students this place attracts are the type of people who are fun to hang out with, but they also hold you accountable and are not afraid to ask you hard questions or tell you hard things to hear,” he said. “It’s definitely been a challenging and growing experience.”

Learn More
uu.edu
800-33-UNION

Find the mission behind the major.

Josiah Murphy
Union Class of 2019
Heritage Christian Academy graduate
Doverland Park, Kansas

United in Spirit
Grounded in Truth

In a friendly, close-knit learning community, our students are challenged to grow intellectually and integrate their faith in every program of study. Our alumni excel in top graduate schools and in careers around the world.

Missouri Baptist University

What do you want to do—teach at-risk youth? Or run an online newspaper? Practice ministry and medicine? Run a socially-responsible start-up? Or bring clean water to forgotten villages?

It’s time to find your light.

With more than 40 accredited degree programs, Missouri Baptist University prepares graduates to excel in hundreds of exciting fields, with a progressive education that’s grounded in knowledge and guided by faith. At MBU, you’ll integrate innovative academic exploration with spiritual discovery, preparing you for a life of service and success. And you’ll do it all from a progressive, Christ-centered campus located in thriving West St. Louis County, which means you’ll experience life in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the Midwest while living in one of the most exclusive areas of metropolitan St. Louis.

Missouri Baptist University is a unique Christian environment. From the classrooms to the residence halls, we are committed to assessing every aspect of life according to the love of God in Christ.

From the beginning, we’ll challenge you to dig deep and discover your God-given passions. Become a leader prepared for a life of service and success. You will find your light at a college as unique as your dreams. It’s time to Shine On.
Central Methodist University

Central Methodist University has provided high-quality education to Missouri and beyond since 1854. The university welcomes students of all backgrounds of faith, and has plenty of on-campus options for those who wish to express or celebrate their beliefs.

Central’s historic main campus in Fayette, Mo., a half-hour drive from Columbia, is known for exceptional programs in fine and performing arts, health professions, science, and teacher education. The university also offers a growing number of online classes and programs, and several master’s degree options.

Linn Memorial Church, near the heart of CMU’s main campus, is frequented by students for a variety of events. Led by students, Chapel is held every Tuesday and is open to all. It is a celebration of faith with uplifting messages and live music by CMU’s Worship Band, made up entirely of students, that often draws large crowds.

For students of the Methodist faith, CMU offers an extraordinary scholarship opportunity – a 50 percent tuition discount, the United Methodist Half-Tuition Scholarship. To qualify, students must be an active United Methodist Church member, have a 2.5 cumulative GPA, and maintain a 2.0 while a CMU student.

Central has a wide variety of undergraduate programs, including a Religion and Church Leadership major. This major prepares students for a variety of leadership roles in the church. Between biblical studies, a variety of electives in religion, and classes from other disciplines, students receive a well-rounded experience that prepares them for success.

Ensuring students have the highest level of technology at their fingertips, “Digital U” gives each undergraduate student at CMU’s main campus their own iPad, loaded with apps and features to enhance their academic experience. Besides allowing instant access to fellow students, clubs, athletics, fine arts, and campus activities, Digital U provides faster, smarter, and more collaborative learning. It creates an option of using money-saving e-textbooks as well.

Central just completed a multi-million dollar renovation of Stedm an Hall of Science, which houses top-of-the-line laboratories and classrooms, modernized equipment, and comfortable study and lounge areas. One example of the “technology at students’ fingertips” featured there is an Anatomage Table – one of the most advanced pieces of visualization technology in medical science.

The Thogmorton Center for Allied Health is another impressive facility on campus. Housing nursing, physical therapy assistant, and occupational therapist assistant programs, it features top-quality classrooms and laboratories, including an advanced simulation lab designed for real-life interactions and hands-on experiences.

Wartburg College

A liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. The college is characterized by vigorous academic expectations and community engagement within an environment of strong personal support. Vocation lives at the heart of a Wartburg education, and our students are uniquely equipped to explore how their passions intersect with the needs of the community and world.

The college offers more than 50 majors, including religion and philosophy, engineering science, public health, actuarial science, business administration, and music therapy, all rooted in a liberal arts tradition. In 2018, the college partnered with Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, to offer an integrated BA/MDiv degree program designed to reduce the time and cost to become a Lutheran (ELCA) pastor.

The college is home to students from 34 U.S. states and 53 countries representing more than 20 Christian denominations and several world religions. Wartburg encourages and values respectful conversations with people of diverse backgrounds and with differing spiritual perspectives.

Students have the opportunity to perform in music ensembles, compete on Division III athletic teams, and lead in student organizations. Each year, during the college’s breaks, students lead service trips that not only help the communities and people they visit but inspire students to transform their thinking and create a lifelong commitment to service and the public good.

Learn more at www.wartburg.edu.
At Colorado Christian University you’ll find nationally ranked academics, NCAA Division-II athletics, a dedication to spiritual formation, and intentional community living - all at the base of the Rocky Mountains!

CCU is a four-year, fully accredited, liberal arts university that will challenge you to think critically and creatively, lead with high ethical and professional standards, and embody the character and compassion of Jesus Christ - forming you into someone prepared to impact the world. At CCU, our faith in Jesus Christ is the very core of who we are. We are a body of believers committed to helping students grow deeper in their faith through the integration of faith and learning and through intentional spiritual formation. We are known for our authentic Christian community of believers - faculty, staff and students alike - who invest deeply and intentionally into each other’s lives. CCU students dig deeper into their faith and they have fun doing it - through daily interactions, small groups, discipleship, sincere fellowship, and enduring traditions.

All of our on-campus housing is apartment-style and we combine exceptional living with one of the lowest Resident Assistant-to-student ratios in the country, creating our one-of-a-kind community.

Want to learn more? Visit www.ccu.edu today.
Will this college have other students who share my core beliefs?

Students in my classes very frequently exclaim that attending classes with other believers is far more helpful in their learning and growth. They often say, “It’s like a breath of fresh air. We weren’t allowed to have a different opinion, especially a biblical opinion, in our last college. Yet, they said they were inclusive.”

Are there out of classroom opportunities to apply my learning and growing faith?

A Christian college will help direct the application of learning outside the classroom. Sometimes, special assignments and activities can make a valuable impact both locally and internationally.

Am I going to live in a sheltered, spiritual bubble?

This is a serious consideration that can be very controversial in your family, church and your own heart.

Some students need a very protected strict environment to experience the maximum amount of growth for their life and goals. These colleges often have a very narrow, strict doctrinal stand and are quite “exclusional.” Are you the kind of person that needs this? Other students need a more “inclusive” environment that accepts
You want to make a difference in the world? We want to help. Our world is saturated with the physical and spiritual needs of mankind. Everywhere you look you see people that are hurting, hungry, needy, poor, lonely, and without hope yearning for something or someone to help. Our world is looking for people that want to make a difference in the lives of others and we want to equip you to make that difference.

Baptist Bible College has been a powerhouse of ministry training since 1950. Our alumni serve all over the world feeding people, helping people, and guiding people to the only one who can make a true difference in their life, Jesus. We will educate you, train you, equip you, and connect you to global partners to help you fulfill your mission.

We offer degrees in Ministry and Professional fields including undergraduate degrees in Business, Education, Pastoral, Missions, Missions with Nursing (Associates In Nursing), Cross Cultural Studies, Worship, and Biblical Counseling. Our Theological Seminary includes Master’s degrees in Church Ministries, Biblical Counseling, and Divinity.

Take the next step and learn how BBC can help you make a difference in the world.

Contact us at gobbc.edu. Follow us on social media @bbcandts

Are you ready to make a difference? We want to help...
William Penn University

William Penn University is a special place where you can find your passion in life, discover your true calling, and grow into a successful leader. William Penn provides the opportunity for an educational experience with a focus on leadership, technology, and the Quaker principles of simplicity, peace-making, integrity, community, and equality. With campuses in Oskaloosa and Johnston, Iowa, our mission isn’t simply a set of goals we hope to achieve. It’s who we are at our very core. It’s the belief that every individual has value and deserves access to a quality education. That’s our differences that really do make us stronger.

At WPU you will be surrounded by students that don’t walk like you, talk like you or act like you and that is all encompassing of what your Penn Experience will entail. Over 1,300 students from 46 states and 26 different countries call William Penn University.

Penn is a top contender in NAIA DI athletics and proud member of the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

Student organizations such as Student Government, Teams Christ, Education Club, Penn Zone, and Residence Hall Association are just a handful of the more than 35 clubs and organizations at Penn.

Create your own Penn Experience today, visit www.wmpenn.edu to learn more!

Learn more today!
www.wmpenn.edu | 800.779.7366
William Penn University
201 Trueblood Avenue | Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

MidAmerica Nazarene University

AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY. MidAmerica Nazarene University is a Christian university in Kansas City. At MNU you’ll find 40+ majors and minors that offer outstanding academic quality. You will be challenged by highly-qualified, respected faculty in a Christian community that cares about you and is focused on serving others. As an MNU graduate, you will be prepared for the workplace or graduate school—socially, spiritually and intellectually.

HIGHEST RANKING PRIVATE SCHOOL. MNU is ranked highest among all Kansas private universities on the 2018-2019 Best Colleges list by Money Magazine because of the amazing value offered. With a lower average student loan amount than either The University of Kansas or Kansas State University, MNU takes pride in making education financially accessible. First-time students who are accepted to the university enjoy an academic scholarship of $6,000-$14,000, renewable for four years. Students may also be eligible for athletic, need-based, honors, diversity, ministry-related and other scholarships. MNU is pleased to provide Pioneer Pledge, a loan reimbursement program, for every graduating first-time student.

TAKE CLASSES AT MNU WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL. You can earn high school and college credit through MNU’s Concurrent Enrollment program. Classes meet on campus, and you will experience being a Pioneer and part of the close-knit community. You will meet incredible professors and take classes taught from a Christian perspective. We want YOU to be a Pioneer!

To apply, or for more info, visit MNU.edu.

Earn high school and college credit through MNU’s Concurrent Enrollment program. Courses are taught from a Christian perspective and experienced faculty get to know you!

Credits are transferrable.
Legends. Throughout history humanity has been inspired by the tales of celebrated and famous individuals. Names like King Arthur, Helen of Troy, Robin Hood, Annie Oakley, Sherlock Holmes, and Queen Guinevere represent fabled accounts of legendary lives lived to the greater glory.

These stories inspire, warn, and motivate us as we, too, seek to live our own lives of substance and meaning.

But why look to fairytales and myths when the most legendary life was far from fictional. It is through the example of Jesus Christ that modern day men and women can achieve legendary status by modeling lives after Him.

That is why Central Christian College of Kansas is dedicated to providing a Christ-Centered Education for Character. Through the steadfast work of our residential and virtual staff, Central Christian strives to help students attain the high calling God has placed upon their individual lives.

It is our firm belief that legends live among us – very real stories waiting to unfold and be told.

As such, we are prepared to help you discover the legend that is you and the impact God desires to have in and through you.

Come, discover your tale. Your legend begins here.

Go to explore.centralchristian.edu

The Kansas City region’s DAILY Christian news, faith and lifestyles website

- Complete Calendar of Events
- Local, National and World News
- Culture Watch

- The Persecuted Church
- Opinion / Health
- And so much more!

metrovoicenews.com
AVILA UNIVERSITY  
11901 Wornall Road  
Kansas City, MO 64145  
816-501-2400  
E-MAIL: admission@avila.edu  
WEBSITE: www.avila.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Tekeyah Lawson  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1400  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Catholic  
ESTABLISHED: 1916  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Avila University has 40 traditional undergraduate programs and 7 graduate programs within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, the College of Science and Health and the College of Professional Schools. Our most popular programs are Nursing, Radiology, Education, Psychology, and Pre-Health. For a full list of majors and minors go to the following website: www.avila.edu/academics/schools-colleges.  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Avila University offers students an affordable, interpersonal, hands-on, private school education that prepares them for a career after graduation. We recently set our tuition price back by 33% and created the Avila Promise. The Avila Promise provides a clearer, more affordable path to your future. Full-time, first-year, traditional resident students enrolling in the Fall of 2019 will benefit from these four promises: 1) Competitive tuition rate – $20,500 – which includes books and campus fees, and protects you from unexpected tuition hikes. 2) 4-Year, on-time graduation guarantee – when you do your part, we’ll do ours and you’ll graduate on-time. 3) Guaranteed internship or research experience – every student, in every major, will have the opportunity for these valuable experiences. 4) Travel award of up to $1,000 – we’ll not only show you the world, we’ll help you pay for it.  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Radiology, Kinesiology(4+bachelors to masters program), Special Education, Art Therapy, Sports Communication, App and Gaming Development, and partnerships with graduate schools for pre-health professions majors such as pre-dental.  
TUITION: $20,500/year for 2019-2020  
FINANCIAL AID: Pell Grants, Institutional Aid, and Loans; Financial Aid Director: Brian Rains 417-268-6045 brains@gobbc.edu  
BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY  
3303 Rebecca St.  
Sioux City, IA 51104  
800-662-3303  
E-MAIL: admissions@briarcliff.edu  
WEBSITE: www.briarcliff.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Abby Cortez I abigail.cortez@briarcliff.edu (712) 279-5532  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,229  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Catholic  
ESTABLISHED: 1930  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Over 40 academic majors including programs of study in business, health science, social work, education, humanities and more.  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Home of the Chargers, Briar Cliff University is a small community rich in big outcomes. With a small 14:1 student to faculty ratio, unforgettable immersion experiences abound, 18 athletic teams and more than 30 student clubs and organizations, The Cliff offers students an affordable education — 98% of first time, full time freshmen receive financial aid — and extraordinary opportunities that ensure success after graduation.  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Briar Cliff offers the area’s only programs in international business and entrepreneurship and small business management. For education majors, the University’s Professional Development School provides future teachers with classroom experience prior to student teaching. Briar Cliff’s social work program was one of the first accredited programs in Iowa and is nationally recognized. Students in the University’s health science programs receive 800 hours of clinical practice preparing future health care providers for success in hospitals, community health agencies and other health care settings.  
TUITION: $41,744 (total direct costs for 2019-2020 academic year)  
FINANCIAL AID: $26,776 average financial package  
CALVARY UNIVERSITY  
15800 Calvary Road  
Kansas City, MO 64147  
816-322-3960  
E-MAIL: admissions@calvary.edu  
WEBSITE: calvary.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Tim Willis  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 400  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Non-denum.  
ESTABLISHED: 1932  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission & Association for Biblical Higher Education  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: 60+Degree programs including Business, Bible, Biblical Counseling, Preaching Ministry, Worship Arts, and more.  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Doctor of Philosophy in Bible and Theology  
TUITION: $16,000/year, ~$375/credit hour  
FINANCIAL AID: Federal and Institutional aid  
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF KANSAS  
1200 S. Main St.  
McPherson, KS 67460  
620-241-0723 ext. 388  
E-MAIL: admissions@centralchristian.edu  
WEBSITE: www.centralchristian.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Lizzie Caron  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 350 on-campus  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Free Methodist  
ESTABLISHED: 1884  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Associates and Bachelors degrees in more than 40 different programs including Aviation, Business, Communications, Education, English, Fine Arts, Liberal Studies, Ministry & Theology, Psychology, Science & Math, Social Sciences, Sports, Science & Health  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Christian atmosphere, small-class sizes, personal education, outreach and missions minded, Biblical worldview in every class, spiritually-emphasized campus life, competitive sports, Contemporary Music program, Worship Arts programs, beautiful campus & facilities in safe and quiet community, and leadership development opportunities.  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Risk Management and Insurance: This is a very unique program. We partner with Farmer’s Alliance to provide a degree in insurance. Few schools in Kansas have a degree in insurance, and it provides many job opportunities upon graduation.  
TUITION: $34,960  
FINANCIAL AID: 98% of students receive scholarships. The average scholarship per student is $15,396, that’s an average total of $61,584 over four years!  
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE  
911 E Urandale Dr.  
Moberly, MO 65270  
888-263-3900  
E-MAIL: admissions@cccb.edu  
WEBSITE: www.cccb.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Rocky Christensen  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 230-250  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Christian  
Church/Church of Christ  
ESTABLISHED: 1957  
ACCREDITATION: Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Biblical Research, Christian Counseling, Christian Education, Christian Ministries, Cross-Cultural Ministry, Preaching Ministry, Worship Arts, Youth & Family Ministry. We also have available partnership programs thru Hope Inter’l University  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Community, Caring Faculty, conservative scholarship, affordability  
TUITION: Full tuition scholarship  
FINANCIAL AID: Yes  
CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
411 Central Methodist Square  
Fayette, MO 65248  
660-248-6251  
E-MAIL: ahassiai@centralmethodist.edu  
WEBSITE: www.centralmethodist.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Ashley Hassiai  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1148  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Methodist  
ESTABLISHED: 1853  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: 44  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Biology, Marine Biology, Nursing, Music, Education  
TUITION: $23,850  
FINANCIAL AID: for 100 percent of our students  
COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
6767 W Alameda Ave  
Lakewood, CO 80226  
303-963-3000  
WEBSITE: www.ccu.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: cusadmissions@ccu.edu  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,393  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Intdenominational  
ESTABLISHED: 1914  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission (HLC)  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Accounting, Biblical Studies, Biology, Business Administration, Communication (General), Communication (Strategic), Computer Information Systems, Education (Elementary), Education (Secondary), Education (Special), English, Global Studies, Health Sciences, History, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Liberal Arts, Management, Music (Composition, Production, or Performance Emphases), Music (Education), Music (Worship Arts), Nursing (Pre-Nursing to BSN), Outdoor Leadership, Politics, Pre-Medical Profession, Psychology, Science (General), Social Science, Teaching and Learning, Theology, Youth Ministry; Notable Minors: CPA Licensure, Creative Writing, Digital Media, Intercultural Ministry, International Business, Theatre, Young Life Leadership, etc.; Dual Degree Programs Available in Biblical Studies, Theology, and Psychology  
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: We are a university that seeks to provide Christ-centered higher education transforming students to impact the world with grace and truth. We are an academically committed Christian believers rooted in a profound respect for higher learning framed within the Christian worldview.  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Strong programs are in Business, Education (Secondary), and Theology. New programs added in Engineering, Nursing, and Strategic Communications  
TUITION: Tuition (12-18 credits) – $31,366; Student Body Fees - $500; Room and Board – $11,846; Estimated Total - $43,712
FINANCIAL AID: Substantial scholarships available for academic achievement; Additional scholarships available for Music, Theatre, Debate, Athletics, etc.; Colorado Christian University also partners with dozens of high schools and a few select organizations to provide financial opportunities for prospective students associated with these organizations to pursue their education at CCU.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA
800 N Columbia
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-7233
E-MAIL: admissions@cune.edu
WEBSITE: www.cune.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Zach Gunzelman
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,200
Undergraduate students
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
ESTABLISHED: 1955
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Concordia offers professional and liberal arts programs in an excellent academic and Christ-centered community that equips men and women for lives of learning, service and leadership in the church and world.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Global missions and study abroad opportunities along with five foreign languages offered – Hebrew, Greek, Mandarin, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Specialized church work and art programs such as Art Therapy. Concordia offers the only music therapy program in the state of Nebraska. In Fall of 2019 Concordia will launch its newest program, Agricultural Science

TUITION: $32,890
FINANCIAL AID: 100% of Concordia’s incoming undergraduate students receive financial aid. Both need and non-need-based financial aid options are available to families to help manage their financial obligations. Non-need-based opportunities include academic merit scholarships and talent scholarships for music, theatre, forensics, art and athletics. The average student receives nearly $23,000 in scholarships and grants each year.

DORDT UNIVERSITY
498 4th Ave NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-722-9083
E-MAIL: admissions@dordt.edu
WEBSITE: https://www.dordt.edu

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Nathan Spaans
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: More than 1,500 students from more than 30 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 26 other countries.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Christian Reformed
ESTABLISHED: 1955
ACCREDITATION: HLC

MAJORS AND DEGREES: Dordt offers more than 40 bachelor’s degrees, 2 year degrees, an honors program, and several off-campus study opportunities. For a full list go to: www.dordt.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: The WSJ ranked Dordt No. 1 in the nation for student engagement three years in a row. Student engagement is a measure of how informed, inspired, and challenged our students are. 99.7% of students are employed or in grad school within six months of graduation.

TUITION: $31,210
FINANCIAL AID: Average net out-of-pocket per year: $14,960. 98% of students receive financial aid.

EMMAUS BIBLE COLLEGE
2570 Asbury Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-888-8000
E-MAIL: admissions@emmaus.edu
WEBSITE: www.emmaus.edu

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Laurel Rasmussen, Director of Enrollment, lrasmussen@emmaus.edu

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 260
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Non-Denominational
ESTABLISHED: 1941
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission & Association of Biblical Higher Education, Approved by the State of Iowa Department of Education for teacher licensure, Approved by the Veterans Administration for education training, Member of the Evangelical Training Association (ETA) and authorized to award the ETA Teaching Diploma, Member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACS) and teacher education graduates qualify for ACSI teacher certification.


STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Affordable, high retention, graduation and placement rates, integration of faith in learning, small class sizes, faculty mentoring, leadership opportunities.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Archaeology minor with participation in Archaeology did in Israel, Pre-Professional Health Science, Cross-cultural experiences

TUITION: 2018-19: $18,400
FINANCIAL AID: Academic Scholarships, need-based grants, church matching scholarships, participates in Federal and State Student Aid Programs

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY
1111 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802
417-865-2815
E-MAIL: admissions@evangel.edu
WEBSITE: www.evangel.edu

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: MaKenna Jordan
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: About 2,100 including traditional undergraduate students and non-traditional, graduate and online students

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: National school of the General Council of the Assemblies of God
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission & Other Accreditations

MAJORS AND DEGREES: Behavioral and Social Sciences, Business, Communication, Education, Secondary Education, Humanities, Kinesiology, Music, Natural and Applied Sciences, Pre-Professional Programs, Theology and Global Church Ministries, Arts

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Offering more than 70 academic programs, Evangel University is on the cutting edge of today’s professional fields and vocational ministry training. Its commitment to the integration of faith, learning, and life attracts students from a wide variety of Christian backgrounds. Evangel’s students have a strong commitment to academics and an even stronger desire to combine their Christian faith with every aspect of their lives. When Evangel University opened its doors, it distinguished itself as the first Pentecostal liberal arts college chartered in America.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Church Partnerships: Leadership, Leadership and Social Enterprise; College of Arts and Sciences, College of Adult and Graduate Studies, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

TUITION: Tuition for 12-18 Credit Hours: $11,073
FINANCIAL AID: Phone: (417) 865-2815, ext. 7300

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY
1401 W. Truman Road
Independence, MO 64050
1-800-833-0524
E-MAIL: distancelearning@graceland.edu
WEBSITE: www.graceland.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Barbie Bell and Morgan Catanzaro

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2,000
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Community of Christ
ESTABLISHED: 1895
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission, Nursing - CCNE
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Traditional programs; BA in Elementary Education and BSN (pre-licensure).

Online programs: BA in Business, BA in Criminal Justice,BSN (post-licensure), Combined BSN and MSN: Family Nurse Practitioner or Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, MSN: FNP or AGACNP, Post-Graduate MSN Certification: FNP, AGACNP, or Nurse Educator, and Doctor of Nursing Practice

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Located just outside Kansas City, Traditional and online options available, Nursing Simulation and Skills Lab on-site

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: N/A

TUITION: Various based on program. Please see our website for details. www.graceland.edu

FINANCIAL AID:Yes

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY
3300 W. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85017
1-855-GCU-LOPE
E-MAIL: Marketing@gcu.edu
WEBSITE: GCU.edu

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: Over 90,000
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Christian
ESTABLISHED: 1949
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission, Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs; Arizona State Board of Education, Arizona Department of Education, Commission on

Accreditation of Athletic Training Education MAJORS AND DEGREES: Over 200 academic programs

TUITION: Annual Tuition: $16,500
FINANCIAL AID: Average campus student in 2017-18 only paid $8,700 annually due to generous scholarship opportunities

HANNIBAL-LAGRANGE UNIVERSITY
2800 Palmyra Rd.
Hannibal, Missouri 63401
573-629-3264
E-MAIL: Scott.Douglas@hlg.edu
WEBSITE: hlg.edu

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Scott Douglas
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,000
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Southern Baptist Convention
ESTABLISHED: 1858
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission

MAJORS AND DEGREES: 34 majors including: art, biology, business studies, computer information systems, Christian theater, criminal justice, education (many levels), English, exercise science, history, math, communication studies, music, nursing, psychology, public relations, social work, sociology, sports and rec management, theatre

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: high job-placement rate, internships available, small class sizes, distinctly Christian environment, hands-on programs

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Partnership with Passages Israel for heavily-discounted Holy Land tours, honors program, tutoring, career services, new student orientation

TUITION: $22,250
FINANCIAL AID: 93% receive financial aid, FAFSA; academic, athletic, performance-based, and endowed scholarships available

HEART OF AMERICA BIBLE COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
7600 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64138
816-356-6380
E-MAIL: info@heartofamericabibleministries.com
WEBSITE: www.heartofamericabibleministries.com
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 100+
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Non-denominational

ESTABLISHED: 1983
ACCREDITATION: The International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries

MAJORS AND DEGREES: Pastoral Theology; Scriptural Psychology; Church Administration; Christian Education

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Residential, Online, Correspondence. Non-traditional SPECIAL PROGRAMS: associate; Bachelor; Master and Doctoral Degree Programs in all our Major courses of study.

TUITION: Resident Students $50.00 per Credit Hour; Correspondent $56.00 per Credit Hour. Course material averages $60.00 per course.

FINANCIAL AID: must apply

HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
500 New Creation Rd.
Newark, MO 63458
573-294-4800
E-MAIL: admissions@heartlandcollege.edu
WEBSITE: www.heartlandcollege.edu

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Judi Barton

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Faith-based, Christ-centered, small classes, distinctly Christian environment, hands-on programs

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Partnership with Passages Israel for heavily-discounted Holy Land tours, honors program, tutoring, career services, new student orientation

TUITION: $22,250
FINANCIAL AID: 93% receive financial aid, FAFSA; academic, athletic, performance-based, and endowed scholarships available

HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 28  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Non-denominational  
ESTABLISHED: 1992  
ACCREDITATION: Accredited through the Association of Biblical Higher Education  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Associates in Biblical Studies  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: We are an affordable, Christ-centered, discipleship based school with a low student-teacher ratio. We believe the Word of God is Truth, and knowing the Truth and applying it provides the foundation that HCC students need to be prepared for each new step in life. Our mission is to equip and prepare students to be servants of Jesus Christ, lifelong learners and effective workers in local churches and communities around the world.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Missions, Worship Arts, Christian Education  

FINANCIAL AID: If you can't afford it, contact us to see what we can do for you, at www.jbu.edu/Financial_Aid  

1-877-JBU-INFO

JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY  
2000 West University St.  
Siloua Springs, AR 72761  
1-877-JBU-INFO  
E-MAIL: jbuinfo@jbu.edu  
WEBSITE: www.jbu.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Connor Young  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,350  
Undergraduate  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Inter-denominational  
ESTABLISHED: 1919  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP); Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET; American Council for Construction Education (ACCE); Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACSBP)  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: 39 majors and over 40 minors  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: JBU is Arkansas' top ranked regional university according to U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges ranking 2017. JBU's largest programs include Engineering, Nursing, Graphic Design, Family and Human Services, and Elementary Education.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Engineering, nursing, construction management, graphic design, digital cinema, honors program  
TUITION: $12,500 per semester, $25,000 per year (2017-18)  
FINANCIAL AID: Last year JBU awarded over $14 million in scholarships and grants to assist 90% of our full-time students. Before you say you can't afford it, contact us to see what we can do for you, at www.jbu.edu/Financial_Aid or 1-877-JBU-INFO.

KANSAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
7401 Metcalf Ave.  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-722-0272  
E-MAIL: dave.pedotto@kansascatholician.edu  
WEBSITE: www.kansascatholician.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Dave Pedotto  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 130  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Church of God Holiness  
ESTABLISHED: 1938  

ACCREDITATION: Association for Biblical Higher Education  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Biblical Studies, Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, Missions, Ministry Leadership, Teacher Education, Worship Leadership, Performance Music, Business Leadership, General Studies  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Small campus and classes! Benefits include more opportunity for one-on-one contact and collaboration with professors, careful evaluation of work, a strong sense of community, teaching professors as opposed to teaching assistants and a chance for advisors to know students well.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Soccer, Women’s Volleyball, Drama and Music opportunities developing.  
TUITION: On-Campus Tuition: $299.00 per credit hour; Online Tuition: $275.00 per credit hour  
FINANCIAL AID: Approved by the U.S. Department of Education to distribute Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans.

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
100 E. Clifton Ave  
Salina, KS 67401  
785.833.4305  
E-MAIL: admissions@kwu.edu  
WEBSITE: www.kwu.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Claire Massey  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 742  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: The United Methodist Church  
ESTABLISHED: 1886  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: 46 Majors, Degrees: BA, BS, and M.B.A.  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: At Kansas Wesleyan University, students learn in a small, vibrant, and caring environment that nurtures academic, spiritual, moral and social growth. Students can pursue their academic AND personal interests. It's called the Power of AND, and it accentuates the importance of learning outside the classroom. Leadership, character development, relationship management, and communication are just a few life skills that are learned on the performance stages and on the fields of competition.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Teacher Education, Nursing, Biomedical Chemistry, Business Management, Honors Program, Wesleyan Journey  
TUITION: $29,500  
FINANCIAL AID: 99 % of our students receive financial aid.

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY  
209 South Kingshighway  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
636-949-4949  
E-MAIL: admissions@lindenwood.edu  
WEBSITE: www.lindenwood.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Hunter Davis  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 5,000  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Judeo-Christian  
ESTABLISHED: 1827  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Over 90  

Undergraduate degree programs in areas such as Business, Education, Fine Arts, and more!  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Lindenwood University has an incredibly tight knit student body that rallies together for sporting events, performances, and many other activities! There are many opportunities and services available to you for academic growth that will empower you to have real experiences that will prepare you to have real success in your future.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Rated 2nd in the state of Missouri for Business Program, Pre Professional programs such as Nursing, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and more.  

ROTC, Study Abroad, 52 different sports offered on campus, and many others!  
TUITION: $16,500 (2017-2018 school year)  
FINANCIAL AID: All students accepted into Lindenwood will receive an academic scholarship that can be stacked with other institution aid as well as scholarships from other sources (websites, high schools, etc.)

MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
1415 Anderson  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
785-539-3571  
E-MAIL: admitt@mckks.edu  
WEBSITE: www.mckks.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Jenny Herrera  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 225  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Non-denominational  
ESTABLISHED: 1927  
ACCREDITATION: Association for Biblical Higher Education; Higher Learning Commission  
MAJORS AND DEGREES: B.S./B.A Bible and Leadership; B.S.B.A. Christian Ministry emphasis options include Bible/Theology, Chaplaincy, Children’s Ministry, Counseling, Family Ministry, Intercultural Ministry, Pastoral Ministry, Residency, Social Justice, Spiritual Formation, Worship Ministry and Youth Ministry; Dual Degree Option with a B.S.B.A. of your choice from Kansas State University!  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: The mission of Manhattan Christian College is to educate, equip, and enrich Christian leaders! By coming to MCC, students will be trained up to make a difference for Jesus Christ wherever God leads them in their future. The family atmosphere of MCC is second to none. Our community on campus, commitment to the gospel, and relationship with Kansas State University provide for a college experience unlike any other. Students can receive a bachelor’s degree from both MCC and Kansas State University, enjoying a private Bible College experience, while experiencing the benefits of a Division 1 university right across the street. Schedule a campus visit online at mckks.edu or shoot us an email at admitt@mckks.edu. We’d love to help you pursue God’s dreams for your life!  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Dual Degree Option with Kansas State University  
TUITION: For the 2017-2018 school year:  
- Tuition: $15,000, Room & board & misc. fees - $8,500; Average student paid $8000 after Federal/State Financial Aid.  

FINANCIAL AID: 99% of our students receive a scholarship or some type of gift/aid. Significant Academic Scholarships and Federal/State Financial Aid available.

MAIDMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY  
2030 E. College Way  
Olath, KS 66062  
913-971-3330  
E-MAIL: admissions@mnmu.edu  
WEBSITE: www.mnmu.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Sydney Tenney, Senior Admissions Counselor  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,880  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Church of the Nazarene  
ESTABLISHED: 1966  
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Well-known and prestigious School of Nursing & Health Sciences and School of Education, servant leadership mindset, strong sense of community, “Go Global” international and domestic mission trip initiatives and annual “Passion to Serve” projects; graduate degree programs in Nursing, Business, Education, and Counseling.  

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Pre-Professional Programs including Chiropractic, Dentistry, Engineering, Law, Medical Technology, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy; Honors Program; Diversity Awareness; Theatrical Productions; General Studies Major; Army and Air Force ROTC Programs; Study Abroad Programs including MNU Europe.  
TUITION: $30,736  

MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
1 College Park Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
314-434-1115  
E-MAIL: ben.carril@mobap.edu  
WEBSITE: www.mobap.edu  
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Ben Carril  
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,236 (Main Campus Undergraduate)  
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Baptist  
ESTABLISHED: 1964  
ACCREDITATION: Yes (email/call for specific information)  

STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Student to Faculty Ratio: 20:1; Community-based cam-
purs; genuinely caring professors and staff; leadership opportunities for students; athletic programs (28 athletic teams); SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Bachelor of science in Nursing; TUITION: $5,600 (including Room/board and fees) FINANCIAL AID: Yes (academics, athletics (NAIA), church affiliated opportunities, A+ program, christian high school)

NORTHEASTERN COLLEGE
101 7th Street SW
Orange City, Iowa 51041
800-747-4757
E-MAIL: admissions@ncwlowa.edu
WEBSITE: www.ncwlowa.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Natalie Wheeler
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,307
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Reformed Church in America
ESTABLISHED: 1882
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission MAJORS AND DEGREES: 40+ Majors, 16 Pre-professional programs, 7 Career concentrations; Degrees awarded: B.A., B.S., B.A.T., M.Ed.
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: A Christian academic community engaging students in courageous and faithful learning and living that empowers them to follow Christ and pursue God's redeeming work in the world. 96% of NWC graduates are employed or enrolled in grad school within six months of graduation. SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Top 10: Business, Elementary Education, Kinesiology, Biology, Nursing, Psychology, Sociology/Criminal Justice, Mathematics, Spanish/Translation and Interpretation, English.
TUITION: $30,900 (2018-2019 year)
FINANCIAL AID: The average aid per student is $27,930 with 100% of full-time students receiving aid.

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
500 West University St.
Shawnee, OK 74804
405-880-5000
E-MAIL: admissions@okbu.edu
WEBSITE: www.okbu.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Kaleb Mears
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2,073
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Baptist
ESTABLISHED: 1910
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission MAJORS AND DEGREES: 88 Majors for students to choose from
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Cultivating an enriching liberal arts education to empower students to engage a diverse world and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ. SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Cancer research program; In depth Biblical languages program; High fedelity simulation lab for nursing students.
TUITION: $37,354 entire cost (excluding books); $26,584 flat tuition rate FINANCIAL AID: Every admitted freshman gets between $5,000-$12,000 depending on ACT/SAT and GPA scores. Additional aid will be awarded through OBU based on need.

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
One University Ave
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
815-939-5203
E-MAIL: admissions@olivet.edu
WEBSITE: www.olivet.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Jordan Gertsenberger
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 4,900+ (2,900 undergraduate) students
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Church of the Nazarene
ESTABLISHED: 1907
ACCREDITATION: The Higher Learning Commission MAJORS AND DEGREES: Associate, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree programs. Approximately 120 areas of study organized into seven Schools and one College. Students are offered the opportunity to study in locations such as China, Costa Rica, England, Egypt, Romania, Russia, Uganda, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles.
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Rated “Best Value” by US News & World Report. 94% career outcome rate. Worldwide network of more than 40,000 living alumni. Twenty intercollegiate athletic teams for men and women plus an active intramural program. Students participate in more than 90 clubs and organizations representing diverse interests, including publications, ROTC, radio broadcasting, music and theatrical performance, and spiritual life organizations.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: ROTC
TUITION: $37,070 (2019-2020)
FINANCIAL AID: 99% of students receive financial aid for academics, athletics, music, art, foundation, & need-based. Over $110.8 million awarded in scholarships and grants to students.

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
7777 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74171
918.495.6518 or 800.678.8876
E-MAIL: admissions@oru.edu
WEBSITE: oru.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Alison Vujnovic
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 4,000
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Interdenominational
ESTABLISHED: 1963
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission (HLC) MAJORS AND DEGREES: ORU offers 130+ undergraduate majors and minors spread across six unique colleges and covering every academic interest. Students pursue degrees from ORU’s College of Arts & Cultural Studies, College of Business, College of Education, College of Nursing, College of Science & Engineering and College of Theology & Ministry. ORU also offers 12 Masters degrees.
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Oral Roberts University is a world-renowned Christian university committed to building Spirit-empowered leaders who will impact every area of society, from businesses, hospitals, schools, churches, athletics, media, the arts, government and more! Graduates launch from ORU prepared to succeed because of ORU’s unique Whole Person Education, which transforms students spiritually, academically and physically! SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Quest Whole Person Scholarship Program awards up to $20,000/year. Advantage Program a 100% online dual-enrollment program for high school students. TUITION: Academic Year undergraduate tuition, $25,800; room and board varies based on tiered plans offered. FINANCIAL AID: ORU is committed to awarding up to $25,000,000 in scholarships and grants this academic year through Quest Whole RCABN Scholarships up to $20,000/year; Academic Scholarships $5,000-$13,000/year; Fellows Honors Program Scholarships up to $20,000/year; NCAA Division I Athletic Scholarships; Legacy Scholarships $3,000/year; Talent Scholarships; and more.

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
1111 N Main
Joplin, MO 64801
417-626-1234
E-MAIL: admissions@occ.edu
WEBSITE: occ.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Jesse Furst
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 500-600
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Independent Christian Church
ESTABLISHED: 1942
ACCREDITATION: Council for Accreditation of Christian Higher Education, Regional Candidacy Status with Higher Learning Commission MAJORS AND DEGREES: Residential and online undergraduate. Five bachelor’s degrees, three associate’s degrees, 14 major and dual degree program with a local university.
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Biblical foundation, close-knit community, and global service opportunities.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Single-focused Bible college; dual degree program with a local university administration.
TUITION: $19,130/year (includes room/board/fees)
FINANCIAL AID: Merit and need-based scholarships available; 95% of students receive scholarships and financial aid; donors offset students’ cost by 20% each year.

PILLSBURY SCARBOROUGH BIBLE COLLEGE & SEMINARY
PO Box 818
Bridgeport, MO 63044
888-270-5392
E-MAIL: info@pillsburycs.org
WEBSITE: www.pillsburyscarborough.org
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Contact the office
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 150 (includes international students)
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: non-denom.
ESTABLISHED: 1991
ACCREDITATION: Granted in 2003 by Accrediting Commission International MAJORS AND DEGREES: Pastoral Ministry Degrees in Biblical Studies (Ministry, Theology, & Divinity) and Biblical Counseling. Christian Counseling Degrees
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Distance learning-study at your own pace
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Bivocational programs available to qualifying ministers
TUITION: Starting at $4,500. Monthly payments of $150.
FINANCIAL AID: Scholarships available.

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
6729 NW 39th Expressway
Bethany, OK 73008
405-491-6324
E-MAIL: admissions@snu.edu
WEBSITE: www.snu.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Director of Recruitment
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2,000
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Church of the Nazarene
ESTABLISHED: 1899
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Our top five programs are Nursing, Business Administration, Biology-Chemistry, Pre-Physical Therapy, Elementary Education, Sport Management & Administration.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Business Administration (BBA), Business Administration Healthcare (BBA-HC), Counseling Psychology (MSCP), Educational Leadership (MAEL), Management (MSM), Marital & Family Therapy (MFT), Special Education (MAASE), Sport Management & Administration (NASMA), Doctor of Education (Ed.D)
TUITION: $24,570; R&B $8,668; Full Price (excluding books): $34,084
FINANCIAL AID: http://snu.edu/financial-aid; Trustee’s: $13,000/yr, President’s: $11,000/yr, Dean’s: $9,000/yr, Achievement: $6,000/yr.

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
1600 University Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613
417-582-5689
E-MAIL: admissions@SBUniv.edu
WEBSITE: www.SBUniv.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Reece Tabor
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 3,356 Total (1,400 undergraduate on main Bolivar Campus)
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Southern Baptist
ESTABLISHED: 1878
ACCREDITATION: Higher Learning Commission
MAJORS AND DEGREES: More than 80 areas of study, including associates, bachelors, masters, Specialist and doctoral degrees. See complete list at www.SBUniv.edu/academics
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Small class sizes: 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio; Christ-centered, caring academic community; one of America’s Best Colleges & Universities; one of America’s Best Christian Colleges SPECIAL PROGRAMS: University Success Center to help freshmen with college transition; Dutle Honors Program to challenge, enrich and support exceptional students; winnigest speech and debate program in the nation; 12 national championships; award-winning theatre program with regional acclaim; premier academic programs include biology (and pre-med), business administration,
Christian ministry, computer science, cybersecu- rity, education, intercultural studies (mis- sions), music, physical therapy and social work.

FINANCIAL AID: $23.5 million awarded annu- ally in scholarships and grants; 98% of our students receive financial aid, with a $26,000 average financial aid package per student. Academic scholarships, $8,500-$14,500; Art, Music, Theatre, or Speech and Debate Performance scholarships, $500+; Athletic scholarships, $500+; Church-related scholar- ships: up to $2,000. Federal and state grants, loans and work study available.

SPURGEON COLLEGE AT MIDWESTERN SEMINARY
5001 N. Oak Traficway
Kansas City, MO 64118
816-414-3733
E-MAIL: admissions@mbts.edu
WEBSITE: spurgeoncollege.com
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Hayden Summerhill: hsummerhill@mbts.edu
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 500 College/600 Seminary
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Southern Baptist Convention
E-MAIL: admissions@tabor.edu
WEBSITE: tabor.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Kelly Dugger
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 550
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Mennonite Brethren
ESTABLISHED: 1908
ACCREDITATION: Yes
MAJORS AND DEGREES: At Tabor College, we have 28 bachelor’s level programs—repre- senting a host of concentrations and emphases—one associate of arts program and one graduate program. * Denotes a con- centration within a major; – Denotes Licensure: Art & Design, Majors, Graphic Design, Studio Art, Minors, Graphic Design, Painting, Athletic Training, Major, Athletic, Training, Bible, Religion & Philosophy, Majors, Biblical and Religious Studies, Christian Ministry, *Christian leadership concentration, *Youth ministry concentration, *Mission con- centration, Minors, Christian Leadership, Mission, Philosophy, Youth Ministry, Business, Graduate
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: The core val- ues that influence the mission and vision of Tabor College include a commitment to being Christ-centered in all aspects of life, a passion for learning, the promotion of service to oth- ers, and meaningful involvement in college and community activities.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Presidential Leadership Program, Honors Program, Department Scholarships, International Study Abroad options.
TUITION: $27,100
FINANCIAL AID: Tabor College offers student aid to nearly 100 percent of the student body. Academic, Performance and Department Scholarships available for qualifying students.

UNION UNIVERSITY
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305
1.800.33.UNION
E-MAIL: admissions@uu.edu
WEBSITE: www.uu.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Robbie Graves, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions.
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 3,247
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Southern Baptist
ESTABLISHED: 1823
ACCREDITATION: Commission on Colleges of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information, visit www.uu.edu/about
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Over 100 pro- grams of study are available. For a complete list visit www.uu.edu/academics/programsofstudy
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Union University is committed to integrating top-tier academics and Christian faith. Faculty mem- bers are authors, scholars, and national speakers who invest in students through classroom teaching and mentoring. The stu- dent to faculty ratio is 10:1. Union graduates have been accepted to some of the world’s top graduate schools. Others advance to posi- tions of leadership in ministry, missions, and professional careers. Each residential student at Union has a private bedroom and access to in-suite kitchen and laundry.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: State-of-the-art labs and simulation environments; undergraduate research emphasis; Global Opportunities trips; study abroad; national honored community service.
TUITION: $32,650
FINANCIAL AID: 100% of freshmen receive financial aid.

WARTBURG COLLEGE
100 Wartburg Blvd.
Waverly, Iowa 50677
319-352-8455
E-MAIL: admissions@wartburg.edu or f.penatechavez@wartburg.edu
WEBSITE: www.wartburg.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Fernando Penate Chavez
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1498
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Lutheran (ELCA)
ESTABLISHED: 1852
ACCREDITATION: (HLC) Higher Learning Commission
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Wartburg offers more than 50 majors (top five include busi- ness administration, biology, elementary educa- tion, music education, and communication and) and seven degrees: BA, BS, BM, BME, BAA, BAS, and MA-MT. Learn more at http://catalog.wartburg.edu.
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Small class sizes; classes are taught by professors, most of whom have a terminal degree in their field; 98% graduate placement rate; more than 15 music ensembles — which includes the inter- nationally recognized Wartburg Choir, Castle Singers chamber ensemble, and Wind Ensemble; 22 NCAA athletic teams that are consistently ranked among the top overall Division III programs; nationally recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for fostering experiential learning and community engagement.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Masters in Music Therapy, cooperative programs for dual degrees in Ordained Ministry, BAMDIV, Nursing,BABSN; Engineering, BS/MS; Law, BAJD; and Museum Studies BAMA.
TUITION: $41,830
FINANCIAL AID: Wartburg believes that stu- dents should be able to select a school for academic rather than financial reasons. The college admits students on academic and per- sonal promise, not the ability to pay. More than 90% of our students receive institutional financial aid. Learn more at www.wartburg.edu/financial-aid.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
501 Westminster Ave.
Fulton, MO 65251
573-592-5257
E-MAIL: ADMISSIONS@WESTMINSTER-MO.EDU
WEBSITE: WWW.WESTMINSTER-MO.EDU
WEBSITE: www.wartburg.edu
E-MAIL: admissions@wartburg.edu or f.penatechavez@wartburg.edu
WEBSITE: www.wartburg.edu
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS: 950
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Society of Friends (Quaker)
ESTABLISHED: 1873
ACCREDITATION: HLC
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Bachelor of Arts/Science: Business, Biology, Exercise Science, Computer Science, Digital Communications, Engineering, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Human Services, Industrial Technology, Creative Arts, Music
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: Small liberal arts institution with a focus on leadership.
TUITION: $26,100
FINANCIAL AID: Generous scholarships available. Member of NAIA athletics.

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY
201 Trueblood Ave
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
641-673-1012
E-MAIL: admissions@wmpenn.edu
WEBSITE: www.wmpenn.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Madison Steinke
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 950
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Society of Friends (Quaker)
ESTABLISHED: 1873
ACCREDITATION: HLC
MAJORS AND DEGREES: Bachelor of Arts/Science: Business, Biology, Exercise Science, Computer Science, Digital Communications, Engineering, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Human Services, Industrial Technology, Creative Arts, Music
WEBSITE: www.wartburg.edu
FINANCIAL AID: 100% of freshmen receive financial aid.

WILLIAM WOODS UNIVERSITY
One University Avenue
Fulton, MO 65251
573-826-1847
E-MAIL: spencer.burck@williamwoods.edu
WEBSITE: www.williamwoods.edu
ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Spencer Burck
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2,200
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Christian Church - Disciples of Christ
ESTABLISHED: 1870
ACCREDITATION: HLC, ASBSP
MAJORS AND DEGREES: 60+ majors and minors with Graduate and Doctorate level offered, as well as online options
STRENGTHS OF COLLEGE: 13:1 student/faculty ratio, average class size: 14, student-centered, professionals-oriented, hands on learning, internships required
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Equestrian - 4 year degree program, American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting - 4 year degree program, Show-Me GOLD program - provides students with professional development to become a commissioned officer in the Missouri Army National Guard, Cybersecurity, Dead Human Services, LEAD - A unique program that rewards students for getting involved
TUITION: $23,950
FINANCIAL AID: Offered to 100% of stu- dents, $5,000 LEAD Award, athletic, merit, academic and honor based scholarships avail- able.
eventually served as president of one of the Christian organizations on campus.”

Bermudez later noted that “she has a personal relationship with God and didn’t fear the influence from atheist professors. “I actually had a desire to learn from professors with different views because I wanted to understand the other side,” she said. “I wanted to be challenged.”

Relating to peers

Williams and Bermudez both shared the impact of their faculty and peers on their experience. Regarding her interactions with peers, Bermudez said, “I have had many conversations about faith with students who have different beliefs. Often, their minds became opened to learning about Christianity, and I learned about their beliefs. Attending a secular university has helped me learn how to communicate with people with different beliefs.” She concluded by saying, “My desire to spread the gospel has escalated because I have witnessed how knowledge, money, and worldly pleasures do not satisfy. I have gained a desire to learn more about scripture, theology, and apologetics, so that I can respond adequately to inquiries about my faith.”

Faculty influence

Williams noted the impact of his faculty on his development. He said, “Some of the best relationships I’ve cultivated from my time in college were oddly with faculty. My faculty advisor was so close to my wife and I that we asked him to officiate our wedding. Knowing that my college years were formative, I look back and am thankful for the quality of time spent with older believers I admire.”

Avoid pitfalls

While both of these students have benefitted greatly from their experiences, there are always potential pitfalls for any student. Those attending Christian schools sometimes report limited course offerings while many students at secular universities (and, to a lesser degree, Christian universities) fall away from their faith while in college. Research shows that approximately 70% of students move away from their faith during their college years. At the same time, the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) found that 4 out of 5 students report that religion or spirituality is an important part of their lives. Colleges and universities must consider how they are meeting the religious and spiritual needs of their students, and students need to request intentional services, conversations and resources for developing and exploring their religious and spiritual interests and identities.

Currently, both Noemi and Brice are pursuing graduate degrees in Christian studies. Brice Williams is in the Ockenga Fellows Program at Gordon Cornwell Theological Seminary, Noemi Bermudez is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Christian Studies at Duke University and expects to begin medical school. Both students grew in their faith during college because they were purposeful. Whether you chose a Christian university or a secular university, I encourage you to prayerfully and intentionally pursue opportunities and relationships that cultivate, challenge, and strengthen your relationship with God and serve him.

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college

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abandon their Christian walk?

As we evaluate all the reasons to choose or not choose a given school, we realize that many factors are outside our control, many influences remain unseen, and there are so many moving parts just outside our peripheral vision, that to leave this decision to anyone other than God is folly. If the goal is to choose what God had already chosen, we must first evaluate what gifts He has bestowed on our children. My older son has a plethora of musical gifts. He can pick a talent he has already chosen, we must first on our children. My older son has a talent that is not man-made; it’s God-given.

And when God gives us a talent, He wants us to develop it and use it for His glory. Just as with the Parable of the Talents where the servants who were found faithful doubled their talents, God wants our kids to develop their talents and use them to advance His kingdom.

As parents, we need to help our children identify their talents, nurture those talents and pray with them, seeking God’s direction on how to use those talents. By seeking out God’s will in their lives each and every day through prayer, eventually you should discover what vocation God has in mind for them. Sometimes God will reveal that to you when they’re young. Sometimes, it takes much longer. Be patient, keep praying and keep developing your children’s talents.

A point will come, and you may already be there, when it is time to choose a college. Do your due diligence. Visit schools. Peruse websites. Read the college standings. Discuss it with friends. But don’t stop there. These efforts will help you make the decision the world wants you to make. Take it a step further, and pray each step along the way, to seek out the decision God wants your child to make. Pray that God reveals to you what college your child should attend. Ask your church, friends and family to pray for your child. You want God’s hand directing your decision, and you want to concentrate your efforts to discover God’s will in your child’s life. The days of the burning bushes and the sky opening with angels appearing are behind us. But God still speaks to us. We just need to learn to listen. The school that rejected your son, the one he really wanted to attend, may have been God closing a door to an opportunity that would have caused him to stumble. The scholar-

ships your daughter missed out on may be God’s way of saying to look elsewhere. God knows how strong His will is, and sometimes He has to say no for us, because we don’t have the discernment to do it ourselves.

Accept when God closes doors. Be sensitive when He presents opportunities.

Accept when God closes doors. Be sensitive when He presents opportunities. Don’t limit yourself to the world’s options. Conversely, don’t presume God wants your child to pursue a degree in Biblical studies simply because they are a Christian. Don’t speculate, prejudge or guess about God’s will. And through it all, know that God wants you to seek out His will not only to ensure you follow His plan for your life, but in doing so, to grow closer to Him. You cannot earnestly seek out God’s will without also experiencing His love.

And when God reveals Himself to your family and opens your eyes and your heart as to what school He wants your children to attend and what vocation He wants them to pursue, remember the folks He chose. He chose fishermen and shepherds, tent makers and tax collectors—ordinary men who did extraordinary things through Him. He sought those who sought out His heart and His will, who lived by faith and who trusted His Word.

Likewise, God has already chosen for your kids their future, and it may not be the one you or the world envisions for them, but it is the one that will bring them the greatest joy and satisfaction, the most love and contentment. And if you accept that God’s plan for your kids is better than any plan you can devise, you and your kids will stop asking to be admitted to their favorite school and will start asking for wisdom to choose the school He’s already picked for them.

If you approach the college admission process in this manner, you realize you’re not asking God to bless your choice, but you’re asking Him to reveal to you the choice He already made.

factors

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students from many different cultures, denominations and even religious backgrounds. A biblical basis is taught and strongly supported, but students are encouraged to explore their own denomination’s doctrine alongside other Christian doctrinal beliefs. Intellectual, emotional and spiritual development is encouraged.

Finally, other students take the route of attending a Christian college for the first one or two years and complete the rest of their degree at a larger public institution. This gives them the advantages of preparing a strong Christian life foundation and learning to stand in the face of broad secular reasoning and philosophies often contrary to biblical faith.

During the four years of college you will be making strategic decisions concerning your future. In this transition period, you are learning to make decisions on your own and you need the best environment to help you do that.

Which is best for you? Which is God’s plan for you? Never fear making an honest mistake if you are honestly and continually seeking God’s plan for your life. He will help you get back on track every time. He is far bigger than our mistakes and is always a very present help. Always! (Psalm 46:1)

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choosing

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