



“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ”
Colossians 1:28 (NIV)

As a leading Christian institution, Azusa Pacific University claims scholarship as core to its mission and one of its four Cornerstones. The process of engaging students in studies requires an immersion of both faculty and students in a vital institutional culture that values, supports, and fosters the ongoing processes of scholarship and teaching in an environment of academic freedom. With students as our first priority, we seek the development of the highest quality academic programs that honor God. The university envisions the growth of this cornerstone of scholarship through four main avenues over the course of the next decade: transformational scholarship, faith integration, God-honoring diversity, and intentional internationalization.

Transformational scholarship is the application of scholarship to the social issues and needs of the world, rooted in, and critically informed by faith. Further, it is research that serves to bring about change in the character of individuals and how they relate to and engage the world around them. In order to achieve transformational scholarship, all forms of scholarship (including discovery, integration, and teaching) are supported and encouraged; rigorous academic inquiry and learning remain a component of all courses of study. The scholarly process at Azusa Pacific University serves as an ongoing endeavor of both faculty and students that has a direct and lasting impact on learning. The multi-faceted products of those scholarly activities demonstrate excellence, reflecting the strengths of each discipline as well as the individual gifts and strengths of our faculty and students. Our academic programs include those delivered by innovative, state-of-the-art methods such as distributed learning.

Deepening our culture of **faith integration** in the academic realm calls for an application of faith to our work based on unity in essentials, diversity, freedom in non-essentials, and in all things charity. Excellence in theologically informed reflection is paramount to an integration of faith within the context of academic disciplines, professional programs, and lived practice, in order to advance the understanding of Christian higher education and to develop moral leaders who will impact the world. Faculty development opportunities aid the integration of the Christian faith into every Azusa Pacific University course, and the institution is infused with scholarship that integrates the faith and calling of our faculty, staff, administration, and students.

Azusa Pacific University scholars view creation as a reflection of **God-honoring diversity**, and draw upon the full spectrum of human knowledge and methods of inquiry developed across centuries. As an academic community, we examine our life together and determine the attributes, assumptions, and practices that promote or inhibit a full reflection of truth and life. God-honoring diversity serves not only as a value of our Wesleyan heritage, but also exists as a kingdom principle which includes an embrace of the broader community and the application of scholarship to service the woundedness of the world. Our policies and curriculum evidence this principle as does faculty recruitment, hiring, and development programs. Hallmarks of this commitment to a diverse community include sustained scholarly dialogue around difficult issues marked by respect, openness, civility, and active listening. Faculty members stand equipped to engage diverse learners and utilize pedagogical practices that support diversity.

Intentional internationalization emphasizes the pursuit of intercultural and ethnic understanding, both at home and abroad. This desire for global engagement calls for an active exploration of events, institutions, peoples, problems, and issues within and beyond our nation’s borders in order to promote the peace, joy, and love of God and to help form culturally competent faculty and students. Together, the diversity and internationalization initiatives refer to deliberate, systematic, and related efforts to integrate an intercultural and international dimension into teaching, research, and service functions of the university. For example, every academic program will include an opportunity for a cross-cultural educational experience so that all graduates may demonstrate intercultural competence as defined by their discipline.

Azusa Pacific University’s ambitious academic vision focuses efforts on these four interrelated initiatives. Transformational scholarship, faith integration, God-honoring diversity, and intentional internationalization remain essential components of this Christian institution as we pursue our mission of developing disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world.