

Learning Goal, Philosophies, and Outcomes

Undergraduate Learning Goal

Graduates will be grounded in Scripture, growing in Christlikeness, practicing cultural discernment, and vocationally prepared for Christian service.

Students grounded in Scripture will know and value the content of the Bible as well as the principles of its study and application. Students will integrate this instruction to form the foundation of a comprehensive and cohesive worldview informing all aspects of life.

Students growing in Christlikeness will develop their personal faith and devotion. They will grow in their knowledge and appreciation of God and will see their lives in relation to his purposes. Furthermore, they will learn principles and strategies that will allow them to continue to grow throughout their lives.

Students practicing cultural discernment will appreciate, interact with, and analyze culture in its various manifestations. Students will be committed to and will love people within their context, regardless of their particular cultural setting.

Students vocationally prepared for Christian service will be prepared to enter the workplace. To this end, they will be trained in the foundational principles, the current issues, the effective strategies, and the skills for success in their calling/ ministries or professions.

Undergraduate Learning Philosophies and Outcomes

The curriculum of Ozark Christian College includes courses in three areas: General Education, Biblical Education, and Professional Education.

The GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) curriculum contributes to the learning goal by equipping students with the foundational skills, knowledge, and disposition necessary to be productive, well-informed, and ethical members of society. More specifically, our general education curriculum both (a) prepares students for the more specialized learning of our biblical and professional curriculum, and (b) provides the skills necessary to apply this learning to the settings and problems they will engage in the world we are sending them out to serve.

The BIBLICAL EDUCATION (BE) curriculum contributes to the learning goal by equipping students to know and affirm the content of the Bible and interpret it to discern the author's intended meaning. It will also contribute to the spiritual formation of students so that they can effectively serve in the church and the world. This biblical foundation will guide students in forming a Christian worldview and philosophy of ministry to be developed in the general and professional curricula.

The PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (PE) curriculum contributes to the learning goal by preparing students with practical instruction for effective ministry inside the church vocationally or in the larger marketplace. Through classroom instruction and field experience, as well as an emphasis on Christian service, students will be equipped with a framework that is designed to shape their motives, strategies, applications, and practices of various ministry skills.

The courses within the three areas of the curriculum work together so that upon completion of the course of study at Ozark Christian College, students will be able to...

1. Communicate Effectively

- 1.1. Communicate ideas effectively with clarity, focus, and appropriate style.
- 1.2. Present material that is well organized and accurate.
- 1.3. Craft communication for diverse contexts and audiences.
- 1.4. Demonstrate skills necessary to engage the culture in which Christian service takes place.
- 1.5. Contribute constructively with others to accomplish shared objectives.
- 1.6. Exhibit empathy, active listening, and compassionate care.

2. Think Critically

- 2.1. Articulate a Christian worldview.
- 2.2. Analyze different worldviews in light of the Christian worldview.
- 2.3. Employ principles for biblical interpretation.
- 2.4. Synthesize biblical content into a theological framework.
- 2.5. Access and evaluate relevant (quantitative or qualitative) data.

2.6. Develop logical and effective conclusions based on evaluation.

3. Integrate Knowledge

3.1. Integrate information from various disciplines into Christian service contexts.

3.2. Create a lifelong learning strategy that fosters continuous growth.

3.3. Articulate a Christian identity in light of the work and life of Jesus Christ.

3.4. Engage in spiritual practices.

3.5. Major Program Outcomes

Undergraduate Academic Programs and Outcomes

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Communication – This program is designed to prepare students to communicate biblical truth accurately and persuasively to a variety of audiences. Students enrolled in this major take all core biblical communication classes, appropriate ministry electives, preaching seminars, and an internship or field experience in the biblical communication area. Students experience the opportunity to preach in class several times as well as in a variety of ministry contexts.

Program Coordinator: Jason Poznich

Students completing the BA in Biblical Communication will be able to:

1. Define preaching in its theological, ecclesiastical, and cultural contexts.
2. Produce written sermons that demonstrate the student's ability to preach from, through, and like the Bible.
3. Preach from, through, and like the Bible in class and ministry contexts.
4. Articulate a philosophy of preaching that is informed by Scripture and sensitive to various ministry contexts.
5. Demonstrate competency in ministry leadership skills beyond the preaching task.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Justice – This program is designed to prepare students to engage in ministries involved in the fight against social injustices. Students in this program will receive a strong theological foundation that communicates the heart of God to redeem both the physical and spiritual lives of broken humanity. In addition, the program integrates a strong practical approach through direct interaction with local churches, para-church organizations, and cross-cultural contexts that implement justice ministries of a wide variety.

Program Coordinator: Wade Landers

Students completing the BA in Biblical Justice will be able to:

1. Articulate the theological foundation for biblical justice.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of justice issues and strategies for engaging in justice work.
3. Explain a clear and specific understanding of the dual nature of evangelism and meeting social needs in Biblical justice work.
4. Describe the major issues that confront those engaged in justice work and have developed a personal response to those issues.
5. Apply practical approaches to justice work from a field-based understanding of Biblical justice work
6. Employ a plan for engaging in justice work from a Biblical perspective by graduation.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies – This program equips students to serve in areas of preaching, teaching, and Bible translation. This includes courses in Greek and Hebrew, elective space for biblical exegesis courses, and several ministry courses. The degree prepares students to utilize the original languages of Scripture in service to the church.

Program Coordinator: Jon Kehrner

Students completing the BA in Biblical Studies will be able to:

1. Interpret biblical texts from their original languages of Hebrew and Greek.
2. Integrate historical, literary, and theological insights for biblical interpretation.
3. Summarize basic Christian doctrines and their rootedness in biblical texts.
4. Effectively communicate the meaning of Scripture in contemporary contexts.

Bachelor of Arts in Children's Ministry – This program equips students to design and lead educational programs for children (birth-age 13) and their families in church and parachurch ministries. Students will be trained in issues of faith development in children,

creating age-appropriate lesson materials, and equipping volunteers for service. Upon completion, students will possess the skills to develop and administer a children's ministry program and serve as a children's minister/director or other ministry roles.

Program Coordinator: Teresa Roberts

Students completing the BA in Children's Ministry will be able to:

1. Articulate a philosophy of children's discipleship that aligns with biblical principles and incorporates an understanding of childhood development.
2. Administrate a children's ministry program that is contextualized for a particular ministry setting.
3. Disciple children through communicating biblical truths in creative, effective, and age-appropriate ways.
4. Train volunteers to serve effectively in children's ministry settings.
5. Equip parents to disciple their children through teaching scripture and assessing their children's spiritual growth.
6. Serve as an effective ministry team member, demonstrating self-awareness of personal strengths and growth areas as a leader and team members.

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry – Rather than offering field specific preparation, this program takes a broader approach to ministry preparation. Vocationally, a graduate in this program may serve in various ministries within a church or parachurch organization. Christian Ministry would be an attractive option to a student who desires the flexibility of getting some training in multiple fields of ministry. A larger number of ministry elective hours are offered in this program for students to pursue different areas of interest.

Program Coordinator: Chad Ragsdale/Jessica Scheuermann (interim coordinators)

Students completing the BA in Christian Ministry will be able to:

1. Integrate a Christian service philosophy, biblical theology, cultural context, and call to ministry (vocation).
2. Demonstrate the ability to engage the culture in which Christian service takes place.
3. Execute the principles of biblical discipleship within their Christian service context.
4. Demonstrate professional competencies in Christian service contexts.

Bachelor of Arts in Counseling and Pastoral Care – This program is designed to give students a solid biblical base and the tools to do critical thinking in the area of counseling and pastoral care so that they can provide pastoral counseling in the church or pursue graduate work that will allow them to be a licensed professional in the various counseling fields. Students will receive training in crisis counseling, pastoral counseling, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, family relationships, and the opportunity to choose elective classes in their particular area of interest.

Program Coordinator: Laura Porter

Students completing the BA in Counseling and Pastoral Care will be able to:

1. Articulate essential vocabulary and knowledge of human development and psychology with an integrated perspective of psychological science and a Christian worldview.
2. Utilize knowledge of foundational theories, techniques and interventions of counseling.
3. Apply critical thinking skills to integrate Christian faith within the context of counseling practices.
4. Identify the unique needs of individuals within family, community, cultural and societal systems and their influence on optimal mental and emotional functioning.
5. Apply appropriate ethical practices and considerations to various counseling settings.
6. Demonstrate academic readiness to pursue a master's degree in counseling (with an aim of acquiring state licensure) or pastoral counseling if desired.

Bachelor of Arts in Creative Arts Ministry – This program is designed to prepare students in a variety of skills and principles related to creative arts ministry. In addition to developing a theology of technology and pastoral leadership skills, students will gain hands-on experience with audio, video, and lighting equipment. Project-based courses allow students to develop a portfolio of their work in audio recording, video production, and graphic arts. Graduates from this program will serve the church and parachurch organizations in the areas of worship production and creative arts.

Program Coordinator – Matt Stafford

Students completing the BA in Creative Arts Ministry will be able to:

1. Articulate a philosophy of ministry that integrates biblical, historical, and cultural dynamics of Christian worship with technology commonly utilized in the modern church.
2. Identify the major components of an audio, video, and lighting systems, troubleshoot problems, and operate systems effectively.
3. Recruit, disciple, and lead a creative arts team while serving alongside other ministry staff members.
4. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the principles and tools for creating content for print, website, audio, and visual media.

Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies – This program is designed for students who wish to develop their skills and deepen their passion for ministry that crosses cultural barriers. This preparation is accomplished with three avenues of engagement in mind: 1) resident service in a cultural setting other than the student's home culture (traditional missions); 2) stateside service in the home base of a mission organization; or 3) ministry that involves mobilizing both workers and senders in the local church. As a part of their program, students carry out a field internship in a cross-cultural setting under the supervision of an experienced cross-cultural worker.

Program Coordinator: Brice Wurdeman

Students completing the BA in Intercultural Studies will be able to:

1. Outline a biblical theology of mission through both the Old and the New Testaments.
2. Create a basic plan for a sound missions program in a local church context.
3. Present a well-structured partnership plan for material and spiritual support for effective intercultural ministry.
4. Articulate a clear and specific understanding of the place of Western missionaries in the contemporary global Christian community.
5. Demonstrate a field-based understanding of mission life and work.
6. Employ research skills in producing an ethnographic study for the purpose of assessing entry-level subcultural settings.

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership – This program equips students to engage in any level of leadership within an organization through an understanding of leadership principles and practices combined with practical experiences and learning opportunities. The program is integrated with churches and local businesses, and with leaders from various organizations engaging the students on a regular basis. This degree uniquely positions a student to engage in different levels of leadership, in the ministry context and in the business setting, from a servant-based, Christocentric approach to leading.

Program Coordinator: Jaron Scott

Students completing the BA in Organizational Leadership will be able to:

1. Articulate both biblical and philosophical concepts that underpin organizational leadership structures in churches and organizations.
2. Apply a theological foundation for organizational leadership in various contexts.
3. Describe major strategies and issues for engaging in effective organizational leadership.
4. Employ organizational leadership principles to manage conflict, navigate organizational changes, and build effective teams from a servant leadership approach.
5. Integrate standard business practices (financial, human resources, reporting procedures, data driven decision making, etc.) in a ministry context.
6. Demonstrate a field-based understanding of organizational leadership.
7. Lead a ministry utilizing their understanding of organizational leadership principles.

Bachelor of Arts in Student Ministry – This program is aimed at training and inspiring the next wave of youth ministers to effectively lead Christ-Centered Student Ministries, guiding teenagers to become lifelong disciples of Jesus. Courses in this program are very practical in nature using lectures, projects, guest teachers, current studies of youth culture, interviews with youth workers on the field, hands-on experience, internships under veteran youth ministry mentors, and one-on-one evaluation meetings each semester with the Student Ministry program coordinator.

Program Coordinator: Kevin Greer

Students completing the BA in Student Ministry will be able to:

1. Clearly state their purpose and goals for student ministry.
2. Create a small group ministry for the purpose of discipleship and accountability for teens (adolescents).
3. Purposefully recruit and lead a team of adult volunteers in ministry to teenagers.
4. Design, administrate, and lead a Christ-centered student ministry for a specific context.
5. Articulate issues of risk management in student ministry and create appropriate systems to manage potential issues.
6. Effectively communicate lessons and sermons in a student ministry context.
7. Identify the unique needs of adolescents and their family systems and be able to demonstrate spiritual and emotional pastoral care.

Bachelor of Arts in Music and Worship – The Bachelor of Arts in Music and Worship degree equips students to serve as worship arts pastors in churches and parachurch ministries. The degree focuses on preparing students to lead with musical excellence, theological depth, and effective interpersonal pastoral skills. With a solid foundation in music theory, students develop vocal, guitar, and piano skills. The program emphasizes the importance of planning and leading biblically rich and culturally sensitive worship services. Students are expected to put what they are learning into practice by participating in ministry opportunities both on and off campus.

Program Coordinator: Matt Stafford

Students completing the BA in Music and Worship will be able to:

1. Articulate the history and biblical theology of worship practices while adapting and applying them to current worship contexts.
2. Plan and lead cohesive worship services for various contexts.
3. Recruit, disciple, and lead a creative arts team while serving alongside other ministry staff members.
4. Create musical arrangements for worship and lead a team in rehearsal.
5. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the production equipment needed for modern worship.
6. Demonstrate vocal and instrumental proficiency for leading worship.

Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Interdisciplinary Studies – This degree combines an emphasis in biblical training at Ozark Christian College with professional courses in a specific discipline from an OCC approved partnering institution. The combination of these emphases results in an earned bachelor's degree at each institution. Many of the General Education courses are shared between these two degrees, allowing the student to complete both degrees in five years. These degrees prepare students to minister and serve as Christian leaders within the context of their chosen profession.

Program Coordinator: Katie Coen

Students completing the BA in Bible and Interdisciplinary Studies will:

1. Effectively integrate how theology impacts/intersects the student's specific area of discipline studied.
2. Articulate a philosophy of work that is integrated and consistent with a biblical worldview.

Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry (online program) – The Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry degree is designed for the working adult student for whom moving to campus would not be feasible. The curriculum has been selected to continue in the long-standing OCC tradition of teaching the Bible and ministry courses through an exegetical theological perspective. The degree is also designed to accept the greatest amount of transfer work possible in order to make finishing an undergraduate degree an attainable goal. All the while, accreditation standards for general and biblical education are maintained. Students graduating with the Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry will be prepared for careers in vocational church work and Christian non-profit organizations. The degree empowers students with substantial scriptural knowledge, opportunities for spiritual maturation, cultural evaluation skills, and the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills.

Director of Digital Learning: Jason Donato

Students completing the BA in Biblical Studies will:

1. Exegete a biblical text in conjunction with the original context of the document.
2. Interpret and appropriately apply biblical texts for a ministry context.
3. Explain theological categories and their relationship to biblical texts.

4. Articulate a philosophy of Christian service consistent with a biblical theology.

Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies – This program is designed to prepare students to complete their education at another institution. In addition to completing a number of hours in general education, students are trained in a biblical worldview and are given some foundational principles for Christian ministry. Graduates from this program will typically serve the church in a volunteer capacity.

Program Advisor: Jessica Scheuermann

Students completing the AABS will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical worldview in a variety of situations and settings.
2. Serve as a Christian leader.
3. Apply basic biblical interpretation principles.
4. Continue their education in a chosen field.

Updated October 2025