

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Southwest Baptist University is an institution of higher education offering courses that lead to both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students may choose from 46 programs of study as they pursue a liberal arts based, career-oriented education. The University is comprised of six colleges: College of Business and Computer Science, College of Science and Mathematics, the College of Education and Social Science, The Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry, the Geneva Casebolt College of Music, Arts and Letters, and the St. John's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Areas of certification and professional areas of study are also offered.

Mission of the University

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees, May 1997)

Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

Vision Statement

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees, October 2003)

Southwest Baptist University fulfills its mission with specific care to guard its Christian distinctives and Baptist heritage as it demonstrates continuous improvement; enlarges its ministry thorough consistent growth in student enrollment, retention, and ethnic and racial diversity, markets the institution and its mission regionally and nationally; fosters an environment of open communication and service to others; and cares for employees through competitive compensation and benefits packages.

Core Values

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees, October 2003)

In fulfilling the University's mission and vision through its strategic planning process, Southwest Baptist University is committed to the following core values:

Christian Distinctiveness

Southwest Baptist University is **Christ-centered**. From its inception, the University has been a distinctively Christian and Baptist institution in terms of worldview and ideological commitments. A Christian worldview which is grounded in the Old and New Testaments contains these beliefs:

- God is creator and sustainer of the universe and the ultimate source of all truth, beauty and moral value wherever they are found.
- Humanity chose to rebel against God and lives in a fallen state which he or she is incapable of righting.
- God sent His Son, Jesus the Christ, to pay the penalty for the sin of mankind. He died on the cross and was resurrected on the third day. All who repent of their sin and put their trust in Jesus are delivered from the eternal consequences of sin.
- God both judges and redeems humanity, thereby inviting men and women to define their relationship with Him, with fellow human beings across the globe and with history.
- All people are to be treated with respect and dignity since they have been created in the image of God and have innate worth.
- Human beings have sufficient capacity and freedom of will to develop their intellectual, physical, social, psychological and spiritual well-being.
- Christians are to be change agents in society, sharing the Christian message and lifestyle; Christians are responsible for their relationship with God, with fellow human beings and with their environment.
- Christians must exercise responsible citizenship.

Baptist Heritage

Southwest Baptist University has a long history of association with Baptist work, both in Missouri and throughout the world. The academic foundations of the University are built upon **historical Baptist traditions**. The implications of this tradition for Baptist higher education are:

- The acknowledgment of God as the ultimate source of all knowledge and truth.
- The commitment to scholarly endeavor under God.
- The desire for open inquiry and responsible scholarship, and the freedom to promote the results of this scholarship.
- The freedom of others to hold and to promote differing scholarly views consistent with a Christian worldview.
- The acknowledgment of an ongoing relationship with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Compassion and Care for SBU Family

Southwest Baptist University is a *caring community*. Scripture teaches that all people, regardless of their socioeconomic, physical, mental or spiritual condition, are individuals of worth in the eyes of God. It exhorts Christians to look out for the welfare of other people, to be good stewards of the possessions God has given and to be honest with one another. The University values all members of the University family and seeks to demonstrate the highest standard of respect for people exemplifying a Christian commitment to living with one another.

Academic Excellence

Southwest Baptist University is an *academic community*. Southwest Baptist University pursues excellence in teaching, scholarship and service by encouraging each member of the University community to live a Christ-centered life:

- Treating each person as an individual valued by Christ;
- Integrating liberal arts, research and professional studies;
- Preparing students through appropriate educational and ministry opportunities to meet the challenges of a global society; and
- Integrating Christian faith and biblical values within each academic discipline in accordance with the University's Baptist heritage.

The University recognizes that academic excellence can be achieved only through continuous evaluation and assessment of curriculum, teaching and student learning.

Social and Spiritual Development

Southwest Baptist University encourages the social and spiritual development of the University family, preparing *servant-leaders* for the *global society*. The University recognizes a responsibility to assist all members of the University family to grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. The University responds to that responsibility by offering opportunities for education, ministry, encouragement and worship. As a distinctively Christian and Baptist institution, Southwest Baptist University believes it should demonstrate how the life-values commanded in Scripture can be integrated with academic instruction. These values include sensitivity to the needs of the larger community; a commitment to justice, mercy and personal integrity; a desire for moral growth; and a sense of mutual accountability. The moral values of the University are guided by an understanding of Scripture and a commitment to its authority regarding all areas of Christian faith, learning and living. An important aspect of social development and servant leadership is a commitment to service. Service and engagement at SBU promote learning beyond the classroom and encourage faculty, staff, and students to exemplify a caring academic community. Service and engagement activities can be defined as those that share the love of Christ, contribute to the public and university good, promote community and civic involvement, enrich scholarship and research, or improve the quality of life for others.

Personal Wellness

The University recognizes its responsibility to assist all members of the University family to establish and maintain *personal wellness*. Scripture clearly teaches the importance of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, and the University values personal wellness as a necessary component of servant-leadership. The University responds to its responsibility by offering opportunities for education and activities conducive to personal wellness.

History of the University

The University first opened its doors in 1878 in Lebanon, MO, as Southwest Baptist College. In 1879 the college was chartered by the state of Missouri and moved to Bolivar. Early writings recount a legacy of sacrificial giving and extraordinary efforts by Baptists in southwest Missouri to establish and maintain the college. The founders, James R. Maupin and Abner S. Ingman, faced many difficulties as they rode horseback seeking funds, students, and an ideal college site.

The college faced many hardships in its early years and actually closed from 1908 to 1913 to regain financial solvency and to recover from a devastating fire that destroyed the college's only building. The efforts and prayers of area supporters and Missouri Baptists brought results, and the college reopened in 1913 as a two-year junior college.

The University has maintained its strong Baptist heritage through its affiliation with the Missouri Baptist Convention, which provides some financial support for the University and elects the 25-member Board of Trustees which governs the institution. The Missouri Baptist Convention approved plans in 1964 for the college to become a senior liberal arts college. The first baccalaureate degrees were awarded in 1967. Bolivar citizens donated a 102-acre farm on the southern edge of the city that allowed the college to expand physically beyond the small 10-acre campus located near downtown as part of its growing academic expansion.

Another milestone occurred in 1981 when the college name was changed to Southwest Baptist University. In 1995 the University entered a joint nursing education agreement with St. John's Regional Medical Center in Springfield, MO, to form St. John's School of Nursing of Southwest Baptist University and in 2003 this program was elevated to College status.

Today, SBU is a thriving higher education institution with more than 3,600 undergraduate and graduate students. The 158-acre main campus is located in the southern portion of Bolivar, a community of about 10,000 residents that serves as the county seat of Polk County. There are 38 buildings on the main campus. The University also operates branch campuses in Mountain View, Salem, and Springfield, MO.

The Southwest Commitment Statement of Doctrine

(Formulated by a committee appointed by the President in 1979)

For more than a century Southwest Baptist University has been a community of trustees, faculty, staff, and students united in an experience of learning and living. At this time we affirm our heritage and commit ourselves anew to Christian higher education.

Undergirding the following commitments is our belief that there is only one God, who is creator and redeemer, and that the world is sustained and ruled by Him. We believe that God, the source of all truth, has given us His inspired word, the Bible, as the perfect treasure of divine instruction, the sole authority for our faith and practice. We believe that the revelation of God through the life and teachings of Christ challenges us to become Christlike in all our endeavors.

1. We pledge a continuing commitment to a LIBERAL ARTS program from a Christian perspective, believing that each student needs a broad base of knowledge upon which to build larger concepts, including a Christian value system.
2. We pledge to communicate appreciation for our CULTURAL HERITAGE, providing experiences that develop aesthetic sensitivities and skills.
3. We pledge to continue PROFESSIONAL AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS, including those for both church-related and secular vocations.
4. We pledge ourselves to ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE as a goal. We believe that we have the responsibility for developing scholarly competence and participating in professional activities.
5. We pledge to WORSHIP GOD as an expression of personal reverence and public witness to the world because we believe that both private and corporate worship are essential experiences for maturing Christians.
6. We pledge to encourage SPIRITUAL GROWTH through personal Bible study and through local church and college ministries.
7. We pledge to SHARE OUR FAITH. We believe that each Christian during and after college years is charged with making disciples.
8. We pledge to support MISSION OUTREACH in the local churches and throughout the world.
9. We pledge to practice and teach STEWARDSHIP of time, talent and material resources.
10. We pledge to promote the development of INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY to equip one for making academic, social, financial and spiritual decisions.
11. We pledge to be a CARING PEOPLE, a community in which students form lasting friendships and learn principles upon which to build Christian homes, because we believe in the dignity and worth of the individual.
12. We pledge to emphasize PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING. We regard a balanced diet, exercise, personal cleanliness, recreation, and rest to be important to physical and emotional health.
13. We pledge to train our students in COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP.
14. We pledge through PRAYER to seek God's guidance and strength to fulfill these commitments.

Because we are not only a Christian university, but also a Baptist university, we pledge to continue our support of the Southern Baptist Convention and Missouri Baptist Convention programs and Baptist principles.

Principles and Expectations

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees, February 1994)

As a distinctively Christian and Baptist institution, Southwest Baptist University believes it should demonstrate how the life-values commanded in Scripture can be integrated with academic instruction. These values include a sensitivity to the needs of the larger community; a commitment to justice, mercy, and personal integrity; a desire for moral growth; and a sense of mutual accountability. The moral values of the University are expressed as ethical standards and are guided by an understanding of Scripture and a commitment to its authority regarding all areas of Christian faith, learning, and living.

Because of the prevailing moral confusion in our society, the University must speak clearly about Christian ethical standards. Five statements of ethical standards have been adopted by the Board of Trustees for the University family, which is composed of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. These standards concern Academic Integrity, Christian Lifestyle, Sexual Conduct, Marriage and Family Responsibility, and Respect for People and Property.

These statements of ethical standards guide the University in its obligations to students and others in the University family who are involved in an honest pursuit of the truth by requiring integrity in academic pursuits, by encouraging a Christian approach to sexuality, by supporting a stable family life, and by modeling responsible Christian interpersonal relationships. The University is committed to providing education and counsel to those of its community; to extending Christian love to those involved in strife, marital discord, or the struggle for proper sexual expression; and to demonstrating the acceptance of the forgiveness for human failure, which is available through Jesus Christ.

Statement on Academic Integrity

PRINCIPLE: Truthfulness, diligence and commitment are part of the very nature of God. God's plan for believers is that their nature will become like His. Because of this, our lives should demonstrate these qualities. Scripture commends personal integrity and condemns that which undermines it.

EXPECTATION: Academic integrity is based on truthfulness and is the responsibility both of faculty and students. Faculty members are responsible for maintaining integrity in their academic pursuits. Faculty members also have the responsibility for setting and clarifying academic requirements for the work of students. Academic integrity is a personal responsibility of students to represent as their own work in reports, papers, or examinations only what they are entitled to present honestly. Academic integrity also includes the collective responsibility of faculty members and students to ensure that all uphold the spirit and letter of this principle. Conduct which violates academic integrity includes cheating in any form on examinations and presentations of the ideas or writings of others without proper credit.

Statement on Christian Lifestyle

PRINCIPLE: Scripture teaches that believers are set apart to God's purpose through sanctification, but will sin. Scripture also demands that believers demonstrate a lifestyle that is distinctively different from that of non-believers.

EXPECTATION: A Christian lifestyle is expected of all members of the University family. It consists of demonstrating those attitudes produced by the gift of the Spirit, practicing truthfulness in all relationships or activities, and exhibiting our dedication to Christ through our commitment to excellence in daily work or academic activities. A Christian lifestyle avoids such specific sins as greed; jealousy; pride; lust; bitterness; uncontrolled anger; prejudice based on race, sex, or socioeconomic status; use of alcohol as an intoxicant; substance abuse; stealing; profanity; dishonesty; occult practices; illegal activities; use of pornography; and sexual sins, such as pre-marital sex, adultery, and homosexual behavior.

Statement on Sexual Standards

PRINCIPLE: Scripture teaches that heterosexual union is the only acceptable expression of sexuality and must be reserved for marriage and insists on sexual abstinence for those who are unmarried.

EXPECTATION: All members of the University family should abstain from unbiblical sexual practices and from behavior which may lead to a violation of God's standards on sexual activities.

Statement on Marriage and Family

PRINCIPLE: God's ideal for marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. Scripture views marriage as a witness to the permanent relationship between Christ and His Church and the family as God's first institution.

EXPECTATION: The University has a concern over the increasing pressure being placed by external and internal forces on the institution of marriage. It recognizes the struggle of those within the University family who strive to keep their marriages stable under these pressures. Nevertheless, members of the University community should not enter into divorce except under the most severe circumstances and then only after pursuing all possible options, including counseling, and after considering the impact of divorce on their families, their personal lives, and their professional responsibilities at SBU.

Statement on Respect for People and Property

PRINCIPLE: Scripture teaches that all people, regardless of their socioeconomic, physical, mental or spiritual condition, are individuals of worth in the eyes of God. Scripture also teaches that ownership of property is to be respected. It exhorts Christians to look out for the welfare of other people, to be good stewards of the possessions God has given, and to be honest with one another.

EXPECTATION: The University expects behavior from all members of the University family that demonstrates the highest standard of respect for people and property and that exemplifies the Christian commitment to loving one another. Certain behaviors are not acceptable according to this ethical standard. These include sexual harassment, disrupting the rights of others to pursue appropriate University activities, depriving individuals of the use of their property or depriving the University of the use of its property.

Campus Buildings and Facilities

- Art and Doris Allen Walk of Life**, named in honor of Art Allen, trustee, and his wife Doris, major contributors to its construction, was completed in the fall of 2000. It provides a beautiful landscaped walkway from the Awad Memorial Garden to Ingman Avenue. It also offers a fitting memorial to SBU students who have died since 1994.
- M. Michael Awad Memorial Garden**, named in honor of M. Michael Awad, who served SBU as Provost from 1993 until his death on March 11, 1999, was completed in the fall of 2000. It consists of a fountain and several planters and provides a beautiful setting on the west side of the Sells Administrative Center.
- John A. Bryant Tennis Center**, named in honor of John A. Bryant, longtime SBU tennis coach, was completed in the fall of 2000. It provides the SBU tennis teams, faculty, staff and students as well as the Bolivar community six excellent, lighted, tennis courts.
- The **Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum** is an open-air plaza adjacent to Goodson Student Union, Mellers Dining Commons and Mabee Chapel on the Shoffner Campus.
- Geneva Casebolt Music Center** houses the Department of Music. The center contains studios, practice rooms, classrooms and the 300-seat **Jane A. Meyer Recital Hall**.
- The **John D. Clement Memorial Amphitheater and Prayer Garden** was completed in 1988. The amphitheater accommodates 250 to 300 people for outdoor concerts and dramas. The small garden area is for private meditation.
- Colvin Center for Instructional Technology and Extended Learning**, located on the second floor of the Jester Learning and Performance Center, includes the main offices for the information and technology services area as well as distance learning classrooms and faculty technology support areas. The center was named in honor of Marie Colvin, a longtime supporter of the University.
- The SBU baseball team has one of the finest home fields in the area, as the result of a gift from James W. Dodson. **Dodson Field**, situated on the south side of the Shoffner Campus, has a grass infield, spacious dugouts and major league dimensions. Adjacent to Dodson Field is the **Virginia R. Heer Facility**, which provides rest rooms, concessions and dressing rooms for the baseball, softball, soccer and intramural participants.
- The **Felix Goodson Student Union** houses the bookstore, CatSnack Café, student lounge, and game room, as well as the 250-seat **Grant Davis Theater** and **White Chapel**, which is the conference room for the University Ministries and Missions Center and is used for a variety of meetings including Bible studies and Mission team training events. Offices for Student Life, Residence Life, Missions and ministry programs, Student Government Association, student publications, intramurals, Habitat for Humanity, and Welcome Week are an integral part of this building.
- The **Wayne and Betty Gott Educational Center** was renovated and reopened in 1998. It includes state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching laboratories for the Departments of Education and Behavioral Sciences. The center is named in honor of longtime University donors Wayne and Betty Gott of Salem, MO.
- Hammons Center for Facilities Excellence**, named in honor of Dwain and Donna Hammons, business leaders from Stockton, MO and major contributors to its construction, was completed in the spring of 2000. It houses the SBU Physical Plant staff and equipment and the Safety and Security staff.
- The **Jester Learning and Performance Center**, named in honor of Bill and Nancy Jester, business leaders from Springfield, MO and major contributors to its construction, was completed in 2001. It houses the Colvin Center for Instructional Technology and Extended Learning, the Department of Art, the Bob R. Derryberry School of Communication Arts, the Department of Language and Literature, the 299-seat **Davis-Newport Theater**, and the **Driskill Art Gallery**. The east half of the facility houses the **Harriett K. Hutchens Library**, the ground floor of which was completed in 1996. The late Mrs. Hutchens was a Springfield, MO businesswoman, a community leader, and an active member of the South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield.
- The **Keathley Lifewalk** is a 15-foot wide walkway that connects Mabee Chapel, the Randolph Meditation Chapel and the Jim Mellers Center.
- Killian Health Center**, named in honor of Bob Killian, trustee, and his wife Betty, major contributors toward its construction, was completed in the fall of 2000. The building in which it is located served as the president's home at one time. The center provides ample room for the University nurse to minister to the health needs of the University family.
- Mabee Chapel** was completed in the spring of 1979 and completely renovated in 2011. It is located on the north side of the Burnidge Memorial Forum. The chapel seats 1,300 people in Pike Auditorium, which has a complete professional stage for dramatic and musical productions. The chapel houses the offices for the University Success Center and the Office of Career Planning and Placement.
- McClelland Dining Facility**, named in honor of Dr. and Mrs. R.S. McClelland, includes an 84-seat executive dining area and a large 200-seat dining room. Both campus and community events are held in this facility.
- Jim Mellers Center** was completed in 1984 and named in honor of Jim Mellers of Springfield, MO. The building houses The Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry.
- Marietta Mellers Dining Commons**, dedicated in 1977, adjoins the Felix Goodson Student Union. The dining commons was designed to serve up to 1,200 students, with seating capacity for 600. The **Parents Association Room** provides facilities for small dining and meeting functions.
- The **Jane and Ken Meyer Wellness and Sports Center** houses the state-of-the-art **Intramural and Wellness Center** and the University's **Sports Arena**. The intramural and wellness center houses intramural basketball courts, racquetball courts, a rock climbing wall, weight rooms, an aerobics room, an indoor walking/jogging track, health and physical education

classrooms, faculty and athletic offices, and the recently renovated natatorium, an Olympic-size swimming pool originally built in 1985. The sports arena features seating for 2,800, the Athletic Training Room, the Citizens Memorial Hospital Sports Medicine Clinic, and the **John Q. Hammons Court**, named in honor of Springfield, MO businessman John Q. Hammons.

Plaster Athletic Center, named in honor of Robert W. Plaster, a Lebanon, MO, businessman and major contributor toward its construction, was completed in 2001. The facility houses locker rooms, a squad meeting room for the football program, and offices for the athletic administration and football coaching staff. The weight room for the university athletic programs is located here.

Plaster Stadium, named in honor of Robert W. Plaster, a Lebanon, MO, businessman, was completed in 1985. The stadium is the home of the University's football program and the site of other major outdoor functions.

The **Randolph Meditation Chapel**, built in 1988, will seat 50 to 75 people. It is open 24 hours a day for individual meditation and serves as a center for small group activities.

Residence facilities for women are **Beasley Hall**, **Leslie Hall**, **Memorial Hall**, and **Woody Hall**. Residence facilities for men are **Gott Hall**, **Landen Hall**, **Maupin Hall**, **Meyer Hall**, and **Plaster Lodge**, named in honor of Robert W. Plaster. **Nichols Commons** connects Woody and Gott Halls. Campus apartment-style facilities are **Casebolt Apartments** and the **Craig House**, for upper-class women; and **Roseman Apartments** which provide apartment living for upper-class men.

Sells Administrative Center, completed in 1989, is named in honor of Dr. James L. Sells, former Chancellor of Southwest Baptist University, who served the University from 1966 to 1992.

Stewart Track, named in honor of former athletic director Orlin B. Stewart, who taught and coached at Southwest Baptist for 38 years, was completed in 1988. The eight-lane, 400-meter track is constructed of polyurethane and used for both intercollegiate track meets and student and community personal fitness.

The **Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center** was completed in 1981 and was named in honor of former Missouri Congressman Gene Taylor. This facility houses a Free Enterprise Center, the College of Business and Computer Science, the Department of History and Political Science, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, several faculty offices, computer labs, several classrooms and **Woody Auditorium**, which contains computer hookups at student desks.

The **Wheeler Science Center** is named in honor of Clarence and Edna Wheeler and houses classrooms, laboratories and offices for mathematics, science programs and the Department of Physical Therapy.