



WHAT TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY IS ALL ABOUT

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The Trinity Western Community

Trinity Western is much more than an institution with classrooms, books, and exams; we are a passionate, disciple-making academic community. We have a purpose.

Our faculty and staff are committed to helping students to make a positive contribution to their world and to serve God and others over the course of their life. At TWU, staff and faculty take an interest in helping students develop their full potential, and the University provides many opportunities where students can hone their gifts and skills as they prepare to make a difference.

Accepting the Invitation

Because TWU is a learning community with a unique, exciting mission, it is important for students to consider what it means to be a member of our community. First, students come into the TWU community by invitation. They are invited to embrace the waiting opportunity to be part of a community with an exciting history and share—with fellow students, professors, and staff—our mission to have a positive impact on society. We count it a privilege to be members together in this enterprise.

Becoming a co-owner in any community brings with it certain expectations, responsibilities, and subsequent accountability. Accepting an invitation to become a member of the Trinity Western community entails agreeing to live in accordance with the “Responsibilities of Membership.” These seek to foster a positive educational environment that reflects the values cherished by our community.

Students are called to maintain TWU’s positive environment by being accountable to the community and its members for their own actions. The actions of each member have a direct effect on the other co-owners of the community. Students are encouraged to take initiative to see where they can contribute to campus life and have a positive influence on others.

Rewards of Community

As students become active, responsible members in the TWU community, they find that the campus offers many privileges for them to enjoy. Through classes, community life, and living in residence, students have the unique opportunity to develop meaningful friendships with people from Canada and around the world. Through quality friendships, students come to better understand themselves and others, explore what is important to them, and discover what they have to offer.

Partnering in Service

As students become involved in student leadership and other campus life activities, they discover opportunities to partner with others to serve the campus and the surrounding communities. In doing so, they earn the respect and trust of people and gain the right to have an even greater influence in their community and its development.

As students become shareholders in this community, engage others in active friendship, and work together to serve others, they will find that TWU is a learning community second to none.

Trinity Western’s Basis and Purpose

Trinity Western is a unique Canadian university. It cultivates total student development through increased knowledge and discernment, sharpened critical thinking, communication and leadership skills, and deepened commitment to Jesus Christ and a Christian way of life. The focus of all learning is to enable members of the Trinity Western community to glorify God and serve people wherever God places them in society.

Trinity Western’s education provides a God-honouring perspective as well as academic excellence. It helps students analyze and apply a Christian worldview, developing thoroughly Christian minds in the process. At the same time, other employers and universities respect the high academic quality of our programs. Both of these components are essential if our graduates are to become leaders who have a positive impact in society.

Trinity Western challenges its students to serve in a Christ-like manner where people live and work: homes, churches, schools, communities, the arts, sciences, human services, education at all levels, health care, recreation, and business. By recognizing their responsibilities and their vocations as a ministry, students can bring a refreshing quality to work, encouraging others, through their leadership and modeling, to consider the person and the message of Jesus Christ. During its history, Trinity Western has been a unique and attractive educational alternative. Its graduates have had a steadily growing and significant effect on our world.

Trinity Western University, as an arm of the Church, is first and foremost an academic community of people passionately committed to Jesus Christ and to God’s purposes. Three biblical themes relate directly to its educational programs. In the Creation Mandate God gives His human family the directive to develop the potential of the various aspects of life. In the Great Commandment God enjoins His people to love and serve Him and their neighbours. In the Great Commission Christ gives God’s people the responsibility to function as ambassadors of God’s salvation to make disciples who also know God’s will for their lives. Trinity Western’s programs are based on these three mandates so that all members of its community may be and become knowledgeable, perceptive, principled, just, disciplined, and compassionate disciples of Jesus Christ who will penetrate every walk of life in Canada and around the world.

To accomplish its mission, Trinity Western bases its programs and how they are implemented on six core values:

- **Obedying the authority of Scripture:** All teaching, learning, thinking, and scholarship take place under the direction of the Bible, the wholly authoritative and truthful Word of God. Scripture is the ultimate standard of truth and the lens by which we evaluate our lives and the world. Both individually and corporately, Trinity Western wholeheartedly embraces all that the Bible teaches in regard to faith, ethical commitments, and way of life.
- **Striving for excellence in university education:** Trinity Western promotes not only academic and intellectual excellence, but integrates these

with high standards of personal, moral, and spiritual integrity. We believe that God is pleased and honoured when His followers stretch their intellectual capacities and broaden the bounds of their understanding—and do so within a context of excellence in whole-person development.

- **Pursuing faith-based and faith-affirming learning:** Trinity Western's starting point for learning is that God calls humans to be stewards of His creation, doers of good toward all people, and agents of His reconciliation. To nurture such growth, Trinity Western encourages students to consider carefully the basic worldview tenets of a biblical Christian faith. At the same time, we have a high regard for honest investigation and expose students to a fair and balanced representation of a wide diversity of viewpoints.
- **Having a transformational impact on culture:** God calls His followers to influence both individuals and the culture in which they live. Our greatest hope is that the TWU community influences people to forsake an unbelieving way of life and embrace the Christian faith. Furthermore, Trinity Western's programs encourage thought, word, and deed that affect the dynamics and institutions of our society on the basis of biblical principles such as justice and mercy.
- **Servant leadership as a way of life:** Trinity Western strives to teach and to embody the pattern of servant leadership exemplified by Jesus Christ. Professors, administrators, staff, and students all have important roles in supporting and encouraging others in their tasks. We want to motivate and mobilize each other to think and act with creativity, integrity, and skill for the benefit of all concerned.
- **Discipling through community:** At Trinity Western, students, staff, faculty, and administrators are all invited and encouraged to deepen their understanding of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to practice such discipleship, and to sustain and help others to be and become disciples. They respond to God's calling with wisdom and knowledge, with discernment and creativity, with playfulness and perseverance, and, above all, with love and compassion. They promote biblical *shalom*, the biblical peace and justice that heals brokenness and restores relationships (Luke 1:51-53). They endeavour to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:8).

At Trinity Western, students, faculty, and staff are on a journey that takes seriously God's injunction to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. We believe it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose as we hold out the word of life in and through all our campus activities (Philippians 2:12-15).

In this way a Trinity Western education can be the capstone to a Christian upbringing or an excellent means for new Christians to further their total growth. However, the University also welcomes and provides effective educational programs for others who are eager to learn, have an open mind, and are willing, for the duration of their stay at Trinity Western, to live within the guidelines of its responsibilities of membership.

History of TWU

Trinity Western University began as the dream of a number of Canadian evangelical leaders who deeply felt that all people deserve, and many prefer, the option of university training in a Christian context. It seemed an impossible endeavour to launch a Christian liberal arts college in Western Canada, but in 1962 the College opened with 17 students. Dr. Calvin B. Hanson was the founding president and served until 1974. Today the dream has become a reality—the hopes and prayers of hundreds of men and women who have supported and shaped the institution through the years have been realized many times over.

The University operated for its first decade as Trinity Junior College, with a two-year university transfer program. In 1972 the name was formally changed to Trinity Western College through a revision to the governing legislation. The Trinity Western College Act was further amended in 1977 to allow for a four-year university program. Finally, in 1979, the Act was again amended to allow the new university to grant baccalaureate degrees. The first students to receive such degrees graduated in April, 1980.

In 1984, Trinity Western was recognized by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the congress of Canada's internationally-recognized degree-granting universities, when it was admitted to full membership. In October, 1985, the Province of British Columbia authorized the change of name to Trinity Western University.

Since 1962, Trinity Western has continued to build a reputation for quality university education. Programs have been continuously improved and developed in accord with Trinity Western's conception of Christian university education and in consultation with representatives of B.C.'s other universities.

Governance

Trinity Western University maintains strong ties for governance as well as faith and lifestyle commitments with its founding denomination, the Evangelical Free Church, and other denominations with which it has formal partnerships. In addition, warm, functional relationships exist with a number of other denominations sharing similar evangelical convictions. The University's Board of Governors is composed of 21 members selected for Christian commitment, geographic representation, and specific expertise in the areas of finance, student life, development, and university education. Because of the members' varied backgrounds, the Board is able to operate effectively and efficiently through a committee system, giving oversight to all areas of Trinity Western University's operation. The University is supported, in part, by individuals and churches within the broad partnership of denominations but serves the needs of the whole evangelical community, regardless of denomination.

Accreditation

Trinity Western University is chartered by the government of the Province of British Columbia to grant degrees. Graduates are accepted at virtually all colleges, universities, and professional schools around the world. TWU is a full member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the national congress of degree-granting institutions.

Faculty

Trinity Western faculty members are selected on the basis of academic preparation, teaching ability, and commitment to the Christian faith. They have graduate degrees from numerous institutions, with most full-time professors holding earned doctorates. As a community of scholars, researchers, teachers, and Christian leaders, they bring to Trinity Western unique talents and gifts which help to form and guide students toward achievement of their fullest potential. In support of this, faculty are encouraged in professional development and in integration of biblical truth in their studies and research, especially as such studies address matters of Christian concern.

Staff

Staff serving in all capacities also seek to model the mission statement and serve the students in a myriad of ways. They come from various fields of business, government, and Christian service, contributing their own unique talents, thereby enabling Trinity Western to operate as an efficient, caring community.

Leadership

University education can play a significant role in the development of leaders. Studies in the arts and sciences cultivate such key ingredients of effective leadership as knowledge that can earn respect, balanced judgment, breadth of perspective, precise and creative thinking, and communication skills. Because of its Christian philosophy, Trinity Western also seeks to develop in its students an ever-deepening appreciation for God's creation; mental, spiritual, and emotional capacity for effective living; and an attitude of service. In this endeavour, Trinity Western seeks to follow in the tradition of other Christian universities with long and respected records of rich, beneficial contributions to society.

Whole-Person Approach

Just as Christianity addresses the whole person—body, mind, and spirit—so a Christian university education must speak to the whole person—developing students intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually within all these dimensions of life. Trinity Western terms this approach “total personal development.” Together, the dual emphases of Christian integration in the classroom and total personal development provide an excellent atmosphere for nurturing qualities of Christian character, of a biblical attitude of service, of uplifting and encouraging others, of using one's abilities to further God's plan and purposes for humankind, and of thinking creatively and biblically about the world.

Statement of Faith

As a Christian university, Trinity Western University openly espouses a unifying philosophical framework to which all faculty and staff are committed without reservation. The University identifies with and is committed to historic orthodox Christianity as expressed by the official Statement of Faith. We believe:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and women, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and during this age to convict men and women; regenerate the believing sinner; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That humankind was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.
7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
8. That the true Church is composed of all persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head.
9. That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. In the personal, premillennial, and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this Blessed Hope has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.