



ARIZONA CHRISTIAN

EST. **UNIVERSITY** 1960

Chief Financial
Officer





About Arizona Christian University

Arizona Christian University (ACU) is an accredited, private, nonprofit Christian university in Glendale, Arizona, offering a wide range of academic programs that prepare students for successful careers while remaining deeply committed to its vision of transforming culture with biblical truth. Founded in 1960 as Southwestern Conservative Baptist Bible College and renamed Arizona Christian University in 2011, ACU expanded its academic mission while preserving its strong evangelical identity. Today, ACU serves a vibrant student body representing 38 states and 24 countries and remains steadfast in its commitment to equip followers of Jesus Christ with a sound biblical foundation for their chosen vocations and spheres of influence. With 10 straight years of record enrollment, ACU was identified by the Chronicle of Higher Education 2025 data edition as the 5th-fastest growing baccalaureate institution in America during the past decade.

ACU is openly and boldly conservative, both culturally and theologically. The university stands unapologetically for the sanctity of life, the centrality of the family, economic freedom, and limited government, affirming that every person is created in the image of God and that strong families are essential for human flourishing.

Home to the Cultural Research Center (CRC) led by Dr. George Barna, ACU serves as a national hub for data-driven insight at the intersection of faith, politics, and culture. The CRC's research equips the body of Christ with cutting-edge information and a courageous commitment to engage and shape culture from a biblical worldview.

At the heart of the ACU experience is an emphasis on intentional discipleship. Through its distinctive Discipleship Program and Core Curriculum, rooted in the great texts of Western Civilization, ACU integrates faith and learning inside and outside the classroom. The university fosters a Christ-centered community that develops leaders marked by character, conviction, and excellence, ready to influence culture for the glory of God.

Mission

Arizona Christian University provides a biblically-integrated, liberal arts education equipping graduates to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of life, as leaders of influence and excellence.

Vision

Arizona Christian University exists to educate and equip followers of Christ to transform culture with the truth.



Academics

Students actively engage in biblically-integrated academics and gain a liberal arts foundation with critical thinking skills that last a lifetime. Spiritual development is also integrated within the University experience, where all four-year campus students receive a minor in Biblical Studies, attend chapel twice a week, and complete spiritual formation and service hours each semester.

The university offers [undergraduate](#) programs across a range of disciplines including business, communication, education, political science, biblical studies, behavioral studies, and science. While rooted in biblical and theological training, ACU has expanded to provide liberal arts and professional degrees within a biblical worldview. Class sizes are relatively small, and faculty aim to integrate faith and learning across disciplines.

ACU offers 20 programs with 44 areas of study. In 2017, ACU added online degree programs to extend its mission to a wider audience, and today the university also offers graduate programs in Education, Human Development and Family Studies, and Business, Leadership, and Management.



Student Life

ACU is one of the few remaining “covenantal” Christian universities; every student at ACU must have a profession of faith in Jesus Christ in order to be admitted. Student Life at ACU is centered on building a strong community, growing in faith, and offering students opportunities to connect through ministry, athletics, and campus activities. From twice-weekly chapel services, small groups and mentoring to Firestorm Athletics, to clubs, academic societies and leadership programs, ACU student life blends everything with a strong emphasis on Christian discipleship and preparing students to engage culture with biblical truth. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Ranked

#1

University in Arizona
by College Consensus



29

Countries and

38

States
represented

Ranked a

“Best College”

by U.S. News & World
Report

18

Academic
programs with

41

areas of study

The Opportunity

Arizona Christian University seeks a Chief Financial Officer to serve as a senior leader and strategic partner to the President and Board of Trustees. This executive will provide financial leadership at a time of significant growth and momentum for the university, ensuring long-term financial health while advancing its mission to transform culture with truth. ACU is looking for leaders who are not only aligned with its biblical mission and vision and conservative core commitments, but are motivated by those convictions to help build a conservative Christian university in sharp contrast to the progressive institutions that dominate higher education.

Key Responsibilities

Financial Strategy and Planning

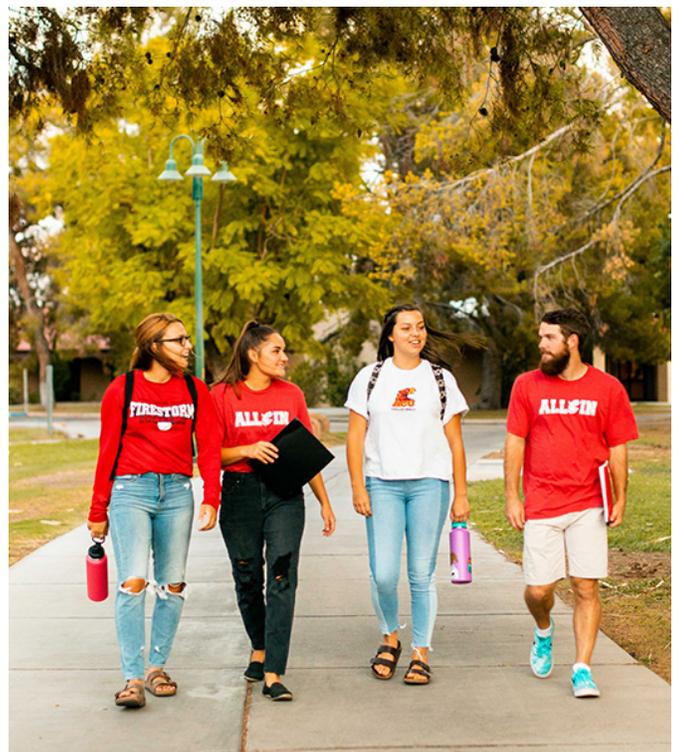
- Partner with the President and senior leadership to develop and implement financial strategies aligned with the university's mission and long-term goals.
- Provide strategic counsel on the financial outlook of the university, including forecasting and modeling.
- Oversee development and execution of annual operating and capital budgets in collaboration with campus leaders.
- Establish financial planning processes and systems that ensure accountability, transparency, and data driven decision making.

Financial Management and Reporting

- Serve as chief steward of the university's financial resources and assets.
- Oversee all areas of finance, including accounting, budget, investments, treasury functions, student accounts, accounts payable, and payroll.
- Ensure timely and accurate financial reporting for the President, senior leadership, the Board of Trustees, and external stakeholders.
- Maintain and monitor financial controls, internal audits, and compliance with regulatory and accreditation requirements.
- Evaluate financial performance across departments and recommend corrective action when needed.

Risk Management and Compliance

- Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and accounting standards.
- Monitor risk exposure and develop policies that protect the university's financial stability.
- Evaluate and improve the institution's composite financial index score.
- Anticipate and manage long-term financial obligations, including debt, lease agreements, and capital projects.



Collaboration and Education

- Work collaboratively with all departments and units to build a culture of financial stewardship across campus.
- Communicate clearly with faculty, staff, and administrators about budgets and financial matters.
- Equip campus leaders with tools and training to understand financial concepts and manage resources effectively.
- Serve as a relational and approachable leader who builds trust and fosters shared responsibility.

Leadership and Mission Alignment

- Demonstrate a personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ and affirm the statement of faith of Arizona Christian University.
- Align financial decision-making with the university's covenantal values of faith, influence, relationship, and excellence.
- Provide candid advice and speak with integrity in guiding institutional leaders and the Board.
- Build and lead a high-performing finance team marked by collaboration, accountability, and service to the campus community.



Qualifications

- Master's degree in finance, accounting, business administration, or a related field is required.
- Minimum of ten years of progressive leadership experience in higher education finance or an equivalent setting.
- Demonstrated expertise in financial strategy, forecasting, modeling, and long-range planning.
- Comprehensive knowledge of higher education finance, including fund accounting, tuition revenue modeling, and composite financial index scoring.
- Proven record of developing and managing budgets, overseeing audits, ensuring compliance, and safeguarding institutional assets.
- Strong understanding of capital planning, debt management, and cost structure analysis.
- Experience building and leading high-performing teams in a collaborative environment.
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to explain complex financial concepts to a wide range of stakeholders.
- Capacity to serve as a trusted advisor to senior leadership and the Board, offering strategic counsel with integrity and candor.
- Demonstrated ability to work across the university community to build a culture of shared stewardship and financial accountability.
- Deep personal commitment to the mission of Arizona Christian University and alignment with its statement of faith.

Applications & Nominations

Applications and nominations will be received until the position of Chief Financial Officer is filled. To apply, please submit a resume to Gerri Williams at gwilliams@carterbaldwin.com. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and questions concerning this search may be directed to:



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