

**GLOBAL AFFILIATE FOR
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (GACS)
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**

Motto: Raising Christian Educational Standard

Mail: membership@gacsnet.com **Web:** www.gacsnet.com

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

Global Affiliate for Christian Schools (GACS) International Network henceforth referred to as Global Affiliate for Christian Schools (GACS) is a forum of Christian scholars aiming at becoming the leading voice of Christian education organization in the world. GACS institutions are accredited Christian schools, colleges, seminaries, institutes and universities whose missions are Christ-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith. The GACS's mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth

ABOUT THE GACS

The Global Affiliate for Christian Schools (GACS) is an network of nonprofit Christian organizations most especially those in education and research sector to collaborate together towards unification of Christian schools curriculum. Global Affiliate for Christian Schools (GACS) bridges the gap between the schools and potential students by offering programs help Christian schools become internationally standardized and compete with their secular counterparts. Our mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE GACS

- Participation in a network of like-minded, mission-driven, academically excellent Global Affiliate for Christian Schools around the world.
- Access to GACS-sponsored professional development conferences for a wide variety of peer groups, as well as specialized development institutes for new faculty members, emerging campus leaders, and new campus presidents.
- Participation in a national association of institutions with similar missions advocating for rights, recognition, and funding in the federal legislative arena.
- Institution-specific analysis alongside research data from GACS peers in a number of important areas in higher education, including tuition, compensation, student satisfaction, and retention. (Only the data of member schools is included in the surveys and reports.)
- Copies of the GACS's biannual flagship magazine, *advance*, which includes features, research and analysis, essays, and book reviews, all of which promote the work of Christian education, as well as educate and equip campus leaders in their work.

- Participation by faculty, administrators, and staff in online community groups with their peers from other GACS campuses in order to exchange questions, ideas, and advice, as well as receive electronic communications and newsletters from the GACS.
- Ability to post job openings to the online GACS Career Center.
- Listing on the GACS's website, www.GACS.org, with a link to the institution's website.
- Permission to display GACS name and logo on institution's website.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES AND CRITERIA

The Network offers three types of membership: governing members, associate members, and collaborative partners. If an institution meets all of the requirements below it will be designated as a Governing member.

Associate members are institutions that meet core standards 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 below. Collaborative partners meet core standards 1-4 below.

Collaborative partners include schools, bible colleges, seminaries and Christian universities who find common cause with the GACS and likewise seek the freedom to educate within their religious convictions. International affiliates fulfill a separate set of criteria designed specifically for international institutions. This category provides more flexible requirements for institutions outside of Africa seeking membership in the GACS inclusive of all institutional types. By providing the information requested in the following document, the GACS will be able to ascertain which membership category best suits your institution.

Based on the following core membership standards and understandings, the GACS President and Board of Regents will advise renewing and applying schools and institutions on their category of relationship within the GACS.

1. **Christian Mission:** All GACS members have a board-approved and public institutional mission statement that is Christ-centered and aligns with the following three commitments:
 - a. **Biblical Truth:** A demonstrated commitment to integrating the Holy Scriptures—divinely inspired, true, and authoritative—throughout the institution, including teaching and researching in all academic disciplines.

- b. Christian Formation: A demonstrated commitment to fostering Christian virtues grounded in the Scriptures and nurtured through the institution's curricular and co-curricular programs.
 - c. Gospel Witness: A demonstrated commitment to advance God's redemptive purposes in the world by graduating students who live and share the Gospel in word and deed.
2. **Institutional Type and Accreditation:** GACS members offer comprehensive undergraduate curricula rooted in the arts and sciences and may also offer graduate programs and degrees. Both national and international members must be recognized by the equivalent accreditation body in their respective countries.
 3. **Cooperation and Participation:** Global Affiliate of Christian Schools advances the cause of Christian education through participation in the programs of the GACS and payment of the annual dues. Member campuses are urged to demonstrate continuing support for the GACS through annual registration for GACS professional development and/or student programs. In addition, GACS institutions recognize that fellow schools are seeking to pursue faithfully their institutional missions in their particular contexts, and therefore they demonstrate respect and support for each other.
 4. **Institutional Integrity:** All GACS members demonstrate responsible financial operations, have institutional practices that reflect high ethical standards, and operate all financial and fundraising activities consistent with the standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.
 5. **Employment Policies:** GACS voting members have a continuing institutional policy and practice, effective throughout membership, to hire as full-time faculty members and administrators only persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ.
 6. **Christian Distinctions and Advocacy:** The GACS has a robust, necessary, and increasingly important advocacy role within the public square. Historic Christian beliefs and practices often intersect with current governmental interests and regulation. These Christian beliefs and practices guide the GACS advocacy positions—as decided by the Board of Directors—to be in the best interest of advancing Christian education in the public square. These advocacy positions change over time, but they currently include positions such as:

- a. We hold the Christian belief that the Earth and the entire universe are God's good creation. We advocate for the sustainability and preservation of the Earth.
- b. We hold the Christian belief that human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God to flourish in community, and, as to intimate sexual relations, they are intended for persons in a marriage between one man and one woman. We advocate for the right of Christian institutions to maintain practices that align with this sexual ethic.
- c. We hold the Christian belief that all human beings, without exception, are invested with inherent worth and dignity. We advocate for the wellbeing of the underserved and marginalized, for the protection of people of all faiths from religious persecution, and for the preservation and advancement of religious freedoms.
- d. We hold the Christian belief that the Gospel calls us toward reconciliation with one another. We advocate for humble and courageous action that honors the unity of the human race, values ethnic and cultural diversity, and addresses the injustices of racism.

GACS Governing and Associate members voluntarily agree to align as institutions with these advocacy positions. In addition, the Forum's own services, advocacy, employment practices, and student programs will be consistent with these alignments and Christian beliefs and principles. Detailed information about GACS programs and services is available on our website at www.gacsnet.org. Additional information follows about the application process, criteria, and the required information for our Board to review in making its decision.

PROCEDURE FOR INITIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND REVIEW

1. Complete this application form and send it to the President of the GACS with the requested documents and a check for the nonrefundable application fee of \$100. Applications can be mailed or emailed. If accepted, this fee will be applied to your institution's first-year dues.
2. Once the application is reviewed by the GACS Executive Cabinet, the application documents will be presented for review by the GACS's Board Development and Membership Committee. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Regents as to which category of

membership the institution fits within, and the Membership Committee of the Board will make the final membership decision.

3. A member's dues for the first year are payable upon receipt of notice of acceptance. New members pay prorated dues. Upon receipt of a new member's payment of dues, the institution becomes an active member and has all membership rights. GACS staff adds the institution to GACS publications, websites, e-lists, mailing lists, etc. as quickly as possible.

DUES

Dues are set by the Board of Regents. The schedule is based on the GACS's fiscal year calendar of September 1 through August 31. First year membership dues will be prorated based on the date of acceptance. Governing member dues are calculated based on the schools or institutions full-time equivalent (FTE) fall enrollment number. Associate members and collaborative partners pay 75% of the equivalent membership dues. International Affiliate are based on a predetermined standard rate.

REAFFIRMATION PROCESS

Concurrent with the annual payment of dues, the president of each institution is asked to reaffirm the institution's compliance with membership requirements. Each year, the GACS will include a questionnaire along with the dues invoice for each institution to allow the GACS to reassess annually whether each institution is in the correct membership category. Additionally, on the rare occasion when there are sufficient questions raised by staff or other member institutions, a more formal reaffirmation or additional documentation may be requested.

CHANGE OF STATUS OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

If an institution fails to comply with the criteria consistent with its membership status, the Board may change the institution's status or terminate its membership. Alternatively, if an institution fails to meet some criteria but indicates its intent to work toward full compliance again, it may be put "on notice" for a specific period of time, in order to demonstrate full compliance. An institution that voluntarily withdraws from membership is expected to pay the prorated dues invoiced from the beginning of the GACS's fiscal year to the date of receipt by the GACS of the institution's written request to withdraw.

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN YOUR APPLICATION

The following information will allow the GACS Board of Regents to determine the membership category for which your institution best qualifies. The factors considered for membership and required enclosures are described below. If you are applying for International Affiliate status please complete section VII, IX and X.

I. CHRISTIAN MISSION AND INTEGRATION

In accordance with Core Standard no. 1 above, the GACS's mission statement indicates a collective sense of the mission of all of our institutions by stating that our "institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth."

Please enclose:

1. Your mission statement.
2. Your purpose statement, statement of faith, or other appropriate documents.
3. Your faith and learning integration statement.

II. ACCREDITATION

Does your institution have accreditation, exclusive of candidacy status or current sanctions, from an authorized accrediting body (or international equivalent)? Yes No

1. If yes, please list the name of the accrediting body:
2. If yes, please enclose documentation from your authorized accrediting agency.

III. INSTITUTIONAL TYPE AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

A. General Education (For all undergraduate programs): To be a member campus, at least 25% of all credits required for baccalaureate degrees must be in general education and come from areas 1 through 4 in item B below, including at least 6 required credits in Biblical studies, Christian worldview, or Christian ethics (at least three of which must be in Biblical studies).

1. What percentage of total credits required for graduation do you currently require in your general education core from areas 1-4 in item B below? %

2. How many credits are required in Biblical studies, Christian worldview, or Christian ethics?

The GACS reviews majors offered as one important dimension of being a campus that is comprehensive in its offerings and rooted in the arts and sciences. A member campus must offer at least 15 majors, with at least two in each of the first three categories listed below and at least eight total majors in those three categories. Education majors may only be counted in required documents enclosed and not more than three education majors may be counted to meet the required minimum of 15 majors. Only majors that have been offered for at least one completed semester and have a minimum of five current students declared within them may be included below. Please number the eligible majors offered within each category here:

1. Christian studies (e.g. Biblical studies, Christian worldview, Christian ethics, Christian leadership, Christian philosophy, Christian ministry):
2. Ministry IT/Digital Skills (e.g. Computer Science, Computer/Laptop Engineering, Programming, Mobile Apps Development, Digital Marketing, Web Designs and Analytics)
3. Christian Professional courses (include professional studies majors in this category, such as Christian education, Christian philosophy, etc)

C. Required Enclosures

1. Copy of your catalog (or link to electronic version), primary student recruiting brochures (or link to electronic recruiting materials), and link to any electronic marketing videos or materials.
2. Copy of general education requirements for undergraduate students.
3. List of all undergraduate majors offered at your institution.
4. Total number of students in last academic semester, by degree level, indicating those in adult degree completion programs; identify the majors listed in the application and show the number of current students with declared majors for each major listed.

IV. AFFIRMATION OF COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION In accordance with Core Standard no. 3 above, are your institution and your leadership committed to cooperating with and supporting fellow member schools?

V. EMPLOYMENT POLICY Does your institution currently have a policy to hire as full-time faculty members and administrators (non-hourly staff) only

persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ? Yes No 1. If so, please enclose documentation of such policy.

VI. ALIGNMENT WITH THE GACS'S CHRISTIAN DISTINCTION AND ADVOCACY In accordance with Core Standard no. 6 above, does your institution understand and align with the GACS's Christian distinctive and advocacy positions? Yes No

VII. FINANCIAL STANDARDS AND INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY The GACS requires members in all categories to affirm the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability standards in fundraising and financial operations listed

1. Please enclose a signed affirmation of the Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship found.
2. Please enclose a copy of your institution's most recent audited financial statement.

VIII. DECISION TO APPLY Please attach a brief description of why your institution would like to join the GACS.

IX. INSTITUTIONAL REFERENCES Each applicant must submit endorsement from two GACS member presidents. Please list here whom you have asked to submit a letter of endorsement on your institution's behalf: 1. Name Institution 2. Name Institution (Letters of endorsement should be sent to the president of the GACS within 14 days from the date of submission of your application.)

X. APPLICATION PAYMENT The fee for application is \$100. If accepted by the GACS, the fee will be applied to your institution's first year dues. Please enclose payment for application fee.

Biblical Truth

Each GACS institution is committed to integrating the Holy Scriptures—divinely inspired, true, and authoritative—throughout all aspects of the institution, including teaching and research. Our professors pursue academic excellence because they are committed to God as the author of truth, and they know that truth has implications for every academic discipline.

Christian Formation

Each GACS institution is committed to fostering Christian virtues rooted in the Scriptures and nurtured through the institution's curricular and co-curricular programs. Our purpose is to form students of moral commitment who live out

Christian virtues such as love, courage, and humility in every aspect of their lives.

Gospel Witness

Each GACS institution is actively committed to advancing God's redemptive purposes in the world by graduating students who live and share the Gospel in word and deed. Our graduates are hopeful realists who recognize the brokenness of the world but believe that God has called them to work for its healing – as doctors, teachers, marketers, engineers, parents, soccer coaches, and in a host of other ways.

Registration Categories

1. Elementary Stage – Primary and Secondary Schools
2. Advanced Stage – Bible Colleges, Institutes, Seminaries
3. Professional Stage – Christian Universities, Professional Bodies

Certification Categories

1. **Membership:** This is a medium to be identified with GACS
2. **Affiliation:** This is a medium to be identified with and be attached with GACS. GACS takes responsibility over such organization through scrutinized monitoring of the organization's activities.
3. **Accreditation:** This is a medium to be identified, attached and endorsed by GACS. GACS takes full responsibility of participating in almost all activities that involve such organization most especially in the area of curriculum and award of certificates to successful candidates.
4. **Partnership:** This is a medium to be identified, attached, endorsed and joined with GACS. GACS takes full responsibility of gains and losses incurred by such organization.

For further enquiries, please contact

Email: membership@gacsnet.com

Website: www.gacsnet.com