



Institutional Profile:

The mission of Bethel University, affiliated with the Missionary Church denomination, is to be a community of learners dedicated to building lives of commitment for leadership in the Church and the world. Bethel's liberating academic programs challenge the mind, enlarge the vision and equip the whole person for lifelong service.

Founded in 1947, Bethel is urban situated in the northern Indiana region, home to 275,000 residents, seven colleges (including the University of Notre Dame), the second largest shopping district in the state of Indiana, more than 16,000 businesses, 50 parks and beautiful riverwalk developments in South Bend and Mishawaka. Resort venues on Lake Michigan are just 45 minutes away. The Bethel community is comprised of about 1,225 traditional and adult/graduate students from 32 states, 41 countries/territories and every continent except the Poles, with about 145 full-time employees. Bethel also hosts more than 8,000 guests annually to arts productions, 25,000 annually in conference services and many thousands of community members in support of our athletic teams, who have won 51 national championships.

The university has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report on their annual Best Colleges list since 2005. For 2024, Bethel is also ranked on U.S. News & World Report's list among the Midwest's Best Regional Universities and distinguished in the top 10 for social mobility. Bethel has been named to Money Magazine's "Best Colleges for Your Money 2023" list and was recently ranked No. 1 in Indiana on the College Affordability Guide, which analyzed 10 million data points from 7,000+ colleges and universities across the USA to find which colleges are doing the most to make high-quality education affordable.

Bethel's 23,000 alumni occupy 49 states and 65 countries or territories and enjoy a medical school acceptance rate double the national average, 100% job placement rate in Nursing (whose program had a 100% pass rate for NCLEX, the nursing licensure exam for 2023), and 100% pass rate every year on the national performance standard for a unique academic major in American Sign Language.

Alumni professional achievements include the No. 1 rated School Superintendent in Indiana; the No. 1 rated School Principal in Indiana; the founder of Starfish Project, a social enterprise with a holistic care program that cares for women escaping human trafficking in Southeast Asia; a Top 1% pediatric surgeon in North America; the former Executive Director of the largest Youth for Christ district in the nation; the Chaplain of former President Barack Obama's childhood school; the lead in "South Pacific" off-Broadway in Chicago; a laboratory director in sustainable energy; the mayor of Colorado Springs; a U.S. Representative for Georgia's 9th Congressional District; MLB All-Star Team representatives (former Cleveland Indians pitcher Justin Masterson; MLB former San Diego Padres pitcher Eric Stults); a semi-finalist on "Glasat na Bulgaria" ("Bulgaria's The Voice"); a senior Midwest manager for Blue Cross / Blue Shield; and among others, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Midwest Region.

Faculty accomplishments from Bethel include a 2022 YWCA Woman of the Year; a fellowship funded by the Templeton Foundation at Notre Dame; a Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges award; publication in the International Journal of Science & Research Methodology, the Illinois Journal of Mathematics and Current magazine; writing several published books; and a Chief Editor of books in a series of Church choir anthems for Chinese churches.

New academic majors have been added recently, including Science Education – Physics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Christian Leadership, English as a New Language and Marketing. Academic majors experiencing increases in student enrollment include Art Education, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Christian Ministries and Elementary Education. The percentage of students of color has increased from 24% to 30% for the total student body in recent years.

In the past decade, donor gifts have allowed significant facility upgrades across campus. Academic upgrades include the Academic Support Services Center, School of Nursing Simulation Lab, the addition of a kindergarten lab classroom and the renewal of the largest lecture hall renamed for Paqui and Brian Kelly (former Notre Dame head football coach). Athletic upgrades include the building of the Lehman Family Training Center, the addition of intramural fields, the construction of a new softball stadium and a refreshed weight room. General campus upgrades include the construction of new entrances for the East side of campus and athletic park, a remodel of the art gallery, renovation of the Acorn Café, improved Wi-Fi network and phone systems, renovated computer science lab, classroom and lounge, and more.

Traditional college-age students rank mentoring as one of the most prominent traits of the Bethel environment. Through alumni surveys, we see very high faith-integration retention after their Bethel years (e.g. understanding biblical texts, feeling equipped for the essential questions of life, strong critical thinking skills, etc.). In addition to mentoring, Bethel integrates strong academics, spiritual formation and lifelong relationships into the student experience.

Bethel's work values include: Love God, Love People, Humble Excellence and Creative Grit.