



GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission

The mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through Biblical thought and life.

Institutional Purpose

(Expanded Mission Statement)

Free Will Baptist Bible College was founded in 1942 by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Its original purpose, as indicated in the Charter of Incorporation registered in 1945, was to be “devoted to the promotion and impartation of higher Biblical education,” for the purpose of “the equipment of Christian workers, teachers, ministers, and missionaries of both sexes for Christian service.” The mission statement above is intended to express the same fundamental concept.

As a Bible college, the institution emphasizes a distinctly Christian education with a strong core of Biblical and theological studies at the heart of all educational programs, a Christian worldview integrating the entire curriculum, Christian morals and ethics, and Christian leadership and service.

The College seeks Christian students who are serious about pursuing academic excellence and doing the will of God. It offers associate and baccalaureate degree programs with various majors, preparing men and women for church-related ministries and for other vocations appropriate for Christians who live to serve Christ. In both cases the College is fulfilling the traditional Protestant vision of the sacredness of divine vocation. The College intends that graduates of baccalaureate degree programs be prepared either for immediate employment or for graduate study in their respective fields.

The College serves the Free Will Baptist denomination in particular and the Christian Church in general. Consequently, the College is committed to upholding the cardinal doctrines of the traditional Christian faith and the distinctives of the sponsoring denomination. Its mission requires that it prepare leaders for the Church, both ministers and laity, who will actively serve the Church in accomplishing its greater mission.

All functions of the College relate directly to the objectives of the educational program conceived to carry out the mission. Thus the role of all divisions that are not directly educational is that of a means to an end—as in the following examples:

1. The Administrative division provides leadership that enables the educational program to be effective in fulfilling the College’s mission.
2. The Enrollment Services office strives to admit students whose interests are appropriate to the College’s mission and who are capable of benefiting from the College’s educational program.
3. The Student Services staff works to foster the overall development of students toward the maturity required for Christian life and service.
4. The Christian Service Department oversees required service learning opportunities that complement and strengthen classroom learning.

5. The Library provides access to information necessary to support the educational program.
6. Institutional Advancement informs the constituency about the College's educational program and seeks necessary financial resources.
7. Plant Operations maintains buildings, grounds, and technological resources that facilitate the educational program.

The following general objectives indicate the knowledge, attitudes, and abilities that the College regards as generally essential for effective Christian service. The College intends that these be developed in good measure in all graduates:

1. A broad comprehension of Biblical teaching.
2. Christian character and spiritual maturity, manifested in living according to Biblical principles and a meaningful devotional life.
3. A Christian worldview, manifested in an awareness of its implications for thought and life.
4. An informed mind, manifested in critical thinking and intellectual honesty.
5. A concern for global missions and evangelism, manifested in consistent giving, praying, and witnessing toward the accomplishment of the Great Commission.
6. A knowledgeable commitment to physical and emotional health.
7. A commitment to Christian leadership and service in career, church, family, and private life.
8. Social adjustment, manifested in healthy interpersonal relationships.
9. The knowledge and skills needed to function effectively in one's chosen vocation.
10. Compassion, manifested in an active desire to help the poor and hurting.
11. Communication skills, manifested in effective reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
12. Cultural refinement, manifested both in lifestyle and in appreciation for that which is noble and uplifting.

These objectives are detailed in each program of study.

Accreditation And Recognition

Free Will Baptist Bible College is both regionally and nationally accredited and is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) by virtue of either of these. It is approved by the Tennessee State Department of Education to offer degrees leading to teacher education licensure in grades PreK-12.

The College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 (Telephone number 404-679-4501), to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. This is the regional accrediting agency in the southeast.

Note: The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard.

Of longest standing, the College is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education, 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 130, Orlando, Florida 32822 (Telephone number 407-207-0808), approved by CHEA to accredit baccalaureate degree-granting Bible colleges in the United States and Canada.



The Association for Biblical Higher Education

Biblical · Transformational · Experiential · Missional

The College is approved:

- by the Tennessee State Department of Education for teacher education, and graduates of the teacher education programs and those with approved majors and degrees may be recommended for professional license to teach in the public schools of Tennessee.
- by the State of Tennessee for its students from Tennessee to participate in grants and loans provided by Tennessee.
- by the United States Department of Education for the training of veterans and their orphans, for foreign students and Civil Service employees, and for its students to participate in the various loan and grants programs sponsored or otherwise subsidized by the Federal Government.

Free Will Baptist Bible College also maintains membership in a number of organizations, including the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, the Tennessee College Association, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Council for Independent Colleges, and the Evangelical Training Association. (See page 174 for a more complete list.)

Denominational Affiliation

As implied in the statement of Institutional Purpose above, Free Will Baptist Bible College is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists and is governed by a board of trustees elected by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Doctrinally, Free Will Baptist Bible College subscribes to the beliefs and practices set forth in the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*.

History

The National Association of Free Will Baptists founded Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1942 as a two-year institution. Eight students comprised the original student body. The College added a third year of study in 1949 and a fourth year in 1950, and awarded its first bachelor's degrees to five seniors in 1951.

Today the College enrolls about 350 students annually from approximately 25 states and several foreign countries. Various majors and minors, in addition to the required Bible major, are available in Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Music Education degree programs. Two- and three-year associate degree programs are also offered. (See page 45 for a complete listing of all programs offered.)

Location

The College is located in a quiet, residential community in Nashville, Tennessee, the home of at least 17 colleges and universities. This concentration of educational institutions gives the city the well-earned title, “Athens of the South.” More than a dozen Free Will Baptist churches are in greater Nashville; many more are in the surrounding communities. Nashville offers excellent access to ground transportation and worldwide air travel via three interstates, rail traffic, and a modern international airport.

Nashville is a very cosmopolitan city with at least 20 major language groups represented in the Metropolitan area. This accounts for nearly 15 percent of the residents of the city being from non-English-speaking backgrounds. Training is available for learning some 141 languages through a local language institute. This offers a unique perspective from which our students can prepare themselves for diverse local church and foreign ministries.

Being a city of just over 600,00 with a shopping area serving over 1.5 million inhabitants, Nashville offers expansive shopping centers, fine arts and museum exhibits, a variety of sporting teams and events representing the NFL, NHL, and PGA/LPGA. Nashville has an abundance of good clean, family entertainment, including beautiful nature sites. Nashville was chosen to be the home of the College because its founders believed that this location was most central within the denomination.

Report To Students And Prospective Students

As required by the Student Right-To-Know Act, colleges must report graduation/completion rates to all enrolled and prospective students.

- The **current** graduation/program completion rate for the year 2009 - 2010 is 55.3%.
- The **current** retention rate between fall of 2009 and fall of 2010 from the freshman to sophomore years is 62.3%.

If you have any questions, feel free to speak to the Registrar.

Student Consumer Information

- According to the Campus Security Act, a Campus Security Report is available, by request from the Student Services Office, to prospective students and prospective employees.
- According to the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act, the most recent report is available, upon request, in the Student Financial Aid Office.

Students and parents should note that the requirements to return federal Title IV funds may result in a balance due the College subsequent to withdrawal.

