

Southern Wesleyan UNIVERSITY



Institutional Prospectus
2024



Southern Wesleyan University

Southern Wesleyan University is a Christ-centered, student-focused learning community devoted to transforming lives by challenging students to be dedicated scholars and servant-leaders who impact the world for Christ.

Southern Wesleyan University, as one of five colleges/universities operated by The Wesleyan Church, holds a high view of Scriptural authority, while affirming denominational distinctions such as racial and gender equality. The Wesleyan dynamic of holiness—personal piety and social justice expressed as love for God and others—is also foundational to the mission of the University.

ABOUT SWU



THE UNIVERSITY

- Private, nonprofit university
- **Founded:** 1906
- **Affiliation:** The Wesleyan Church
- **Location:** Central, South Carolina
- **Main Campus Size:** 350 acres



STATEMENT OF FAITH AND EMPLOYMENT

The mission of the university is to provide quality undergraduate and graduate programs in a distinctively Christian environment that fosters the integration of faith, learning, and living. Candidates for employment must fully support the doctrines, practices, and position papers of the Wesleyan Church and give evidence of successful professional experience, mature faith, and consistent Christian lifestyle.

It is the policy of Southern Wesleyan University to provide and maintain equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, disability, genetic information, veteran-status, age, or any other classification protected by state, federal, or local law, unless a bona fide occupational qualification applies.

The University reserves its right to operate as a church-related institution and to develop policies consistent with the religious tenets of its sponsoring denomination, The Wesleyan Church, and is permitted and reserves the right to prefer employees on the basis of religion (Title VII, Section 702-703, United States Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended).





FOUR OUTCOMES

SWU abides by the belief that every individual has a God-given purpose, brought to fruition by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and the challenge of scholarship. This belief is manifested in SWU's Four Outcomes:

- **Biblical Faithfulness** – Regardless of the blowing winds of society's cultural trends and secular philosophies, faithfulness to God's Word must be the foundation, the center, and the goal of all Christian higher education. At SWU this means both allegiance to God and submission to Scripture.
- **Academic Rigor** – We pursue wisdom that begins with the fear of the LORD (e.g., Prov. 9:1). We teach our students to think critically and also Christianly. Rigor means that regardless of ability, we come alongside students and challenge them to love God with all their mind.
- **Vocational Effectiveness** – We graduate students who succeed in the workplace and graduate school. We equip them in the classroom, through on- and off-campus experiences, mentoring, and internships. More than 90% of SWU graduates express satisfaction in their vocational and educational preparation over five, ten, and fifteen years.
- **Financial Sustainability** – Too many students face insurmountable college debt. A SWU education must be affordable for students and sustainable for our university in the long-term.

In summary, SWU is committed to graduating students who love Jesus, who think critically, who are employable, and who are not in overwhelming debt.



HISTORY

Southern Wesleyan University is a private Christian liberal arts institution of the Wesleyan Church, an evangelical denomination with roots in the American Holiness tradition. Early Wesleyans were abolitionists, and the denomination has a notable heritage of both social engagement and Gospel proclamation. Founded as Wesleyan Methodist Bible Institute, the school opened its doors on October 15, 1906 to an initial cluster of 29 students, ranging in age from first grade to college. The name of the school was changed when it was chartered as Wesleyan Methodist College in 1909. Within 10 years, the college had expanded from a single building on opening day to a fully functional campus. Under economic pressures in the Depression era, the college managed to retain the high school, but dropped the lower grades, and, except for the theological degree, scaled back post-secondary studies to junior college status. By 1959 the high school program was phased out, though, happily, the senior college status was restored. The revamped institution was renamed once again as Central Wesleyan

College, and it was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1973. 1986 was a landmark year with the launching of successful adult and graduate studies programs. Both traditional and non-traditional programs continued to expand dramatically over the next several years. Consequently, the institution moved from bearing a town-centric name to a region-centric name, thus becoming Southern Wesleyan University in 1994. Throughout its history, the university's Christian mission has been central. A clear symbol of this commitment is the presence of Freedom's Hill Church on the university campus. Freedom's Hill was the first Wesleyan meeting house built in the South (1847). As an antebellum abolitionist church, it is a designated stop on South Carolina's National Heritage Corridor. It remains a cherished place of prayer, worship, classes, and meetings for the university. It continues to signify the centrality of our Christian Faith at the university, as well as the continuing need to address society's brokenness with the Good News.



THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Wesleyan Church in the U.S. and Canada has [24 districts](#), and SWU is connected to the seven districts in the Southeastern United States. The Wesleyan Church has five schools of higher education (Southern Wesleyan University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Houghton College, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Kingswood University in New Brunswick, Canada), and one seminary (Wesley Seminary). SWU currently is receiving \$1.3 million annually in financial support from the denomination.

LOCATION

Central, South Carolina, is a town of 5,000 residents and situated in the northwest part of the state. It is one of the four communities that make up the Clemson Area, the others being Clemson—home to Clemson University—Pendleton, and Six Mile. The region sits along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and offers a wealth of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, including hiking and biking trails, waterfalls, and lakes. Residents also enjoy an exceptional quality of life and a vibrant arts and culture scene, complete with diverse dining options, visual and performing arts venues, and lively annual festivals.

Greenville, a vibrant and growing city of 75,000, is only 30 miles away, and other great cities of the Southeast including Atlanta, Asheville, and Charlotte, are close enough for day trips. Also worth visiting is South Carolina's beautiful coastline, which includes the historic city of Charleston, beautiful Hilton Head Island, and lively Myrtle Beach.

ACADEMICS



ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

- **50+** areas of study offered
- **5** graduate degree programs offered
- **2** doctoral degree programs offered
- **14:1** student to faculty ratio
- **45** full-time faculty
- **83%** of full-time faculty hold terminal degrees
- Various study abroad options available

PROGRAMS & FORMATS

Southern Wesleyan University seeks to meet the educational needs of diverse student populations through both traditional and innovative approaches. For those students who seek an excellent residential campus experience in the context of a strong Christian environment, the university provides on-campus programs at its facility in Central, South Carolina. There, the rich traditions of academia are coupled with residence hall communities, sports, chapel, and artistic performances.

SWU's On-Campus program offers a wide variety of undergraduate majors with degree programs in biochemistry, biology, business administration, chemistry, computer information systems, criminal justice studies, digital marketing, early childhood education, early childhood & family studies, elementary education, environmental studies, exercise science, forensic science, history & public policy, human services, mathematics, media communications, music, music education, physical education, pre-medicine and pre-dentistry, pre-nursing, pre-pharmacy, psychology, recreation & sports management, religion, social science, special education, and writing & digital studies.

Southern Wesleyan University also offers online graduate and postgraduate programs including the Master of Business Administration (MBA), the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP), the Master of Education in Classroom Leadership (MEDCL), the Master of Education in Administration and Supervision (MEDAS), the Master of Education in e-Learning and Instructional Design, the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Assessment (EdD), and the Doctor of Business Administration in Management and Instruction (DBA).

ACCREDITATION

Southern Wesleyan University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Associate of Arts

- General Studies (AA)

Bachelor of Arts

- Chemistry (BA)
- English (BA)
- History (BA)
- Media Communication (BA)
- Music (BA)
- Music Education (BA)
- Religion (FLEX)
- Religion, Christian Ministry Concentration (BA)
- Religion, Christian Worship Concentration (BA)
- Religion, Youth and Children Ministry Concentration (BA)

Bachelor of Music

- Church Music (BM)

Bachelor of Science

- Biology (BS)
- Business Administration (On-Campus) (BS)
- Business Administration (SWU Online) (BS)
- Chemistry (BS)
- Computer Information Systems (CIS) (BS)
- Criminal Justice Studies (BS)
- Early Childhood and Family Studies (BS)
- Early Childhood and Family Studies Management (BS)
- Early Childhood Education (BS)
- Elementary Education (BS)
- Environmental Studies (BS)
- Exercise Science (BS)
- Forensic Science (BS)
- Human Services (BS)
- Mathematics (BS)
- Physical Education (BS)
- Pre-Medicine and Pre-Dentistry (BS)
- Pre-Nursing
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Psychology (BS)
- Recreation and Sport Management (BS)
- Social Science (BS)
- Special Education (Multi-Categorical) (BS)

Minors

- Accounting Minor
- Administration in Athletics and Recreation Minor
- Athletic Coaching Minor

- Biology Minor
- Business Administration Minor
- Chemistry Minor
- Christian Ministry Minor
- Christian Studies Minor
- Christian Worship Minor
- Criminal Justice Minor
- Digital Writing and Publishing Minor
- Early Childhood and Family Studies Minor
- Economics Minor
- English Minor
- Environmental Studies Minor
- Exercise Science Minor
- Finance Minor
- Financial Planning Minor
- History Minor
- Human Services Minor
- Literature Minor
- Management Minor
- Math Minor
- Media Communication Minor
- Music Minor
- Psychology Minor
- Social Science Minor
- Youth and Children Ministry Minor

Other Programs

- Add-On Certification Program in Special Education
- Add-On Middle School Content Certificate Program for Elementary, Early Childhood & Special Education
- Core Curriculum

Masters Programs

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Education in Classroom Leadership (MEDCL)
- Master of Education in Administration and Supervision (MEDAS)
- Master of Education in e-Learning and Instructional Design (MEDID)
- Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP)

Doctoral Programs

- Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Assessment (EdD)
- Doctor of Business Administration in Management and Instruction (DBA)

A female soccer player is captured in a dynamic pose on a lush green field. She is wearing a white short-sleeved jersey with a blue 'S' logo and an Adidas logo, blue shorts, white socks with an Adidas logo, and white cleats. Her hair is pulled back in a ponytail. She is focused on a white soccer ball with blue and red patterns, which is on the ground near her right foot. The background is a soft-focus green field.

STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT PROFILE

- **1,175** total students enrolled
- **640** on-campus undergraduate students
- **256** online undergraduate students
- **279** online graduate students
- **67%** female / **33%** male
- **66%** resident students / **34%** commuter students (on-campus program only)
- **30** states and **4** countries represented in the student body
- **27%** of students from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and cultural populations
- **44%** Pell Grant recipients

Student Profile information is based on Fall 2022 enrollment.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

At Southern Wesleyan University, students have the chance to participate, organize, and even lead various campus clubs and organizations. Participation in co-curricular organizations at SWU is designed to complement academic studies and assist in preparing students for a life of active service to God and society.



FAITH & SERVICE

At the center of Southern Wesleyan University is an unwavering dedication to Jesus Christ and the relentless pursuit of His Kingdom and work in our communities, our world, and in ourselves.

At SWU, students have the opportunity to grow in their faith through great chapel speakers and worship, discipleship groups, ministry teams, local serving opportunities and global missions experiences. It's really all about helping students to find God's purpose for their life, preparing them for that purpose, and sending them out on their journey to impact the world.

ATHLETICS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Team name: **Warriors**
- **18** men's and women's collegiate sports
- Dual membership in NCAA Division II and NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association)
- **17** NCCAA national championships since 2007
- **15+** student clubs and organizations, including intramural sports, service clubs, academic clubs, and student government

Boasting 17 NCCAA National Championships since 2007, SWU's 18 NCCAA and NCAA Division II athletic teams offer incoming students the opportunity to participate in their favorite sport against other regional colleges and universities. If students have a God-given athletic ability, the University's caring and dedicated coaches will help them grow to become the athletes they were meant to be.



FINANCIAL AID

- All first-year students receive financial aid in some form
- **\$23,982** average on-campus undergraduate financial aid package for first-year students (includes all forms of aid)
- The average indebtedness of SWU graduates from the on-campus program is **\$23,200**.

Financial aid information is based on the 2021-2022 academic year.





Southern Wesleyan University

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