

How To Start A Campus Ministry

This resource was developed to assist a student in influencing other students to accomplish the purpose of Jesus on their campus.

They live all around you...carrying backpacks...looking unimpressive at first glance ...thousands of University and college students...over half from broken homes...skeptical about life...75% say truth is relative. Their attitude toward Christ, Christianity, or the Church generally is cold and apathetic.

“The university is the clear-cut fulcrum with which to move the world. More potently than by any other means, change the university and you will change the world.”

Dr. Charles Malik former Secretary-General of the United Nations

Why Reach University Students?

1. Students are the future leaders of tomorrow and will influence every field of study, profession, and level of society;
2. Students are looking for answers and are willing to consider the claims of Jesus Christ;
3. Students can make meaningful commitments and practice the Christian faith;
4. Students influence campuses, business, governments, and history. Remember Vietnam, Tiananmen Square, Eastern Europe...students were at the front of those revolutions;
5. Most international students will go home to influence their country with what they have learned here.
6. Students are mobile, young, energetic, and more able to invest their lives for the cause of Christ;
7. Students are the greatest source of laborers for impacting a campus, nation or continent with the message of Jesus;

Basic Facts

1. There are over to 1 million college students in Canada.
2. More 100,000 international students from nearly every country on earth study here.
3. There are more than 240 private and public 2 & 4 year institutions.

University Christian Ministries Vision & Values

Vision: *“Transforming the university, the marketplace and the world.”*

We believe that as students experience Christ’s transforming power on campuses, that the marketplace, and the world, can experience transformation.

Values: Worship, prayer, relationships, discipleship, & mission

We are a community of worship

Worshipping God is the highest call of Christians. We are Christ’s family, created by God. We love and serve God, share His greatness with the world, and thank Him for the love and kindness that He has shown us. We worship Him in our daily activities.

We are a community of prayer

We want to allow our hearts and lives to continually be examined by God as we pray from a posture of faith and humility for our needs and the needs of our campus community.

We are a community of relationships

“In the same way I loved you, you love one another” (John 13:34). Jesus’ love, modeled for us by His relationship with His disciples, is our motivation to pursue community with each other. No believer is ‘an island,’ but rather a member of the Body, united by the Holy Spirit. We love, pray for, support, and care for each other. This love is enabled by the Holy Spirit, and produces harmony in relationships.

Discipleship

We seek to help students build Christian maturity in their lives through Bible Study, prayer, service, developing spiritual gifts, and leadership opportunities. We believe that discipleship is best accomplished in the relational context of mentorship. We desire to instill a continuing legacy of developing leaders who are equipped for the work of Christ in the collegiate community, which will continue in the local church beyond graduation.

Mission

Have you ever observed something so spectacular, unusual, or unbelievable, that you began telling everyone you knew about it?

We embrace Christ’s mission to mobilize, equip, and send each student to fulfill their distinct calling from God to make an impact for a lifetime –whether in their own sphere of influence, the marketplace, or in the broader framework of the world.

How to get started on campus

1. **Pray.** History and the Bible show that prayer is more than preparation for the work...it is the foundation of all we are and do. How will God give us His burden, deepen our passion, and give us the courage to take a stand for Him on campus?
2. **Partnership:** We are here to serve you, have resources to invest in you, and want to partner with you in the work of the Kingdom. Contact our University Christian Ministries office at 604-533-2232.
3. **Find out what the college or university requires becoming a recognized student organization (RSO).** Go to the Student Activities Office and ask for materials concerning how to start a student organization. Once you complete the process and are recognized, you'll be able to use campus facilities and apply for student funding.
4. **Walk the campus and scope out the land.** Is your campus residential or commuter? Where do students come from? 2 or 4 year campus? Academic specialties? Graduate programs? International students? Where do students hang out? What are their concerns and issues? How many in dorms? Athletics?
5. **Put together a team and share your vision.** People get excited about someone with a vision and a plan. Jesus sent the disciples out 2x2. Pray for helpers and go find them. Tell 'em, ask 'em, and sign 'em up.
6. **Be visible and build relationships.**
After you get recognized as an RSO, put up posters, take out ads in the school paper, call local pastors for names of Christian students. Find students who are interested. Still praying? Encourage each person on your team to get to know 3-5 pre-Christian students and begin praying for them.
7. **Ask hundreds of students to fill out a 30 second meal line survey.** It's an easy way to find students who are interested in spiritual things (and don't forget to get the appropriate approvals). Ask students to help you (involvement breeds commitment).
8. **Involve everyone you can.** Ask your church and Christian friends to pray earnestly with you. Ask your team to work hard. Ask new contacts to help. Ask your church to come on campus and get interested in students. It can happen, can't it?
9. **Invite your students to an event in your area.** Getting around other students excited about Jesus is contagious. Have an organizational meeting. Go to

Missions Fest. Bring a car load of students to our annual provincial retreat and Student Leadership Training Summit.

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