



What is a Christian business school? What differentiates a Christian business school from a traditional one? These are questions we will attempt to answer.

International American University (IAU) Business School and Graduate School of Business have an open forum philosophy where all views are valued, respected and heard. IAU is blessed with a very diverse student and faculty body who represent a variety of cultures, languages, and faiths. Our schools are guided and challenged by the moral imperatives of the Christian faith that are based on Scripture and the Gospels and are enlivened by our faculty and students who come from many different faith traditions. We integrate the social teachings of Christianity with a sensible, practical approach to business. At IAU, you will be prepared to pursue more than just a career, but a calling to create a positive change in the world through business.

As a Christian-based institution, we believe that the business field is not just a career choice guided by self-interest, but rather a venue in which our students can develop and realize an element of their true potential. We want our students to develop a social consciousness that is ethics-driven based on Christian principles. We have a mission-driven purpose and encourage students along a spiritual and moral path that promotes decision-making from a moral perspective and Christian worldview.

As a Christian business school, IAU is charged with being an influential force promoting ethical conduct within the business community, both as a leader and advocate. We consider this charge as a challenge in developing and promoting new and innovative ways to broaden Christian influence in business and deepen the understanding of how biblical principles apply to the current business environment. We feel our teaching methods must constantly adapt to changing conditions and demands, including new ways to communicate with students and business leaders, as well as a desire to contribute to the body of business research. We do this by hiring top-notch faculty with both academic credentials and real-world experience, having a wide range of courses and academic programs, redesigning curricula, upgrading academic facilities, and having state-of-the-art communication networks accompanied by evolving campus amenities.

Our goal is not only to develop future leaders but good global citizens. We understand that business leaders need to understand the interdependence of nations, the health of society, and the preservation of Mother Earth are important to the future prosperity of business enterprises and leadership. As the dominant institution on the planet, business holds the key to the transformation of our global society away from intractable problems and toward a world that values and respects all of its citizens. We want our students to understand that the shape of the future is our choice, and that business can be a major contributor to a future that is economically, socially, and ecologically viable for all its citizens. We also must be held accountable to future generations and how our actions impact the environment.

At IAU we challenge our students and faculty to ask more of business. As a Christian-based institution, “to ask more of business” is not just a catchphrase or slogan, but an encapsulation of all our aspirations of what a business could and should be—serving the greater good. As IAU expands our legacy, we will continue to offer innovative programs, conduct cutting-edge research, and broaden our local, national, and international reach and reputation.

IAU continues to stand strong on biblical principles and values by providing degree-oriented educational opportunities to young, working adults while meeting the challenges and needs of the business community through adherence to our mission. In this way the university continues to distinguish itself from traditional, secular business education.

So how does IAU distinguish itself as a Christian business school? IAU is Christian-centered, in that we are dedicated to bringing a Christian worldview to business and society through teacher instruction and engagement, faith-integrated curriculum, scholarly dialogue, and service to our community.

IAU has a flexible and engaging curriculum that implements best practices and is under constant review with feedback from students, faculty, and community leaders. Our goal is to provide our students with the academic tools and techniques that will assist them in becoming successful and participating citizens of the world. We stress innovation and influence that is achievable through an environment of inquiry, collaboration, experimentation, and an outward focus to connect new ideas with business education.

At IAU we use a collaborative curriculum development model that recognizes three elements in the curriculum design process: (1) Adherence to the university mission, vision, and purpose, (2) the labor market and community leaders, and (3) student interest. Curriculum must first be consistent with the university's mission; secondly, it must also provide education in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed by the marketplace; and third, it must provide education from both a content and delivery perspective that provides the most effective learning environment and attracts and keeps student interest. IAU not only uses faculty as subject matter experts, but they also bring in the perspective of community business leaders. We also place close attention to student feedback on their experiences in the courses. IAU is moving forward as we see the future of business education as being real time, customized, interactive, electronic assisted, and digital in nature.

At IAU, we constantly seek qualified faculty through their mission fit, academic credentials, work experience, and passion for teaching. Our faculty have the credentials of academia as well as real-work experience in business. The result for students is a highly-regarded business education mentored by scholars immersed in the world of business. A defining point is that a Christian business education integrates faith into all elements of the disciplines and is founded on biblical principles and perspectives.

Our graduates are potential leaders in the business world and we feel that this is their chance not only to develop themselves, but also be faithful employers and citizens. We want them to be driven not by profit along at the expense of people, but to be concerned with:

- God's influence
- Social nature of property
- Virtue of justice
- Dignity of work
- The common Good
- Protection of the rights of all peoples
- Be advocates of servant leadership
- Have a social and spiritual understanding of the human person.

IAU seeks to be a leader in Christian business education through influence and innovation. These objectives are achievable through a culture of inquiry, collaboration, experimentation, and engagement in research and inquiry and communicate results to a wide audience in the business community.

Our founding principles follow *veritas* (truth), *caritas* (caring), *fidem* (faith), and *ratio* (ethics).

Veritas

The pursuit of Truth is an important concept in our teaching philosophy. Truth involves participating in the ongoing awareness of God's presence throughout the changes of time and history. Seeking Truth enhances and expands the horizons of our faculty and students. In an era of "false news" and specious science, it is important that students and faculty become champions of Truth. When we investigate knowledge with the truth of the Gospels, it provides the rationale for a Christian business education. IAU promotes unfettered inquiry necessary for the pursuit of Truth.

Our challenge is to present students, faculty, and staff a Christian worldview, and in that end, encourage pluralism as it brings a wealth of different ideas, cultures, and epistemologies. We strive to avoid conformity in thinking but foster the creation of new knowledge where all opinions are respected, heard, and debated. We celebrate pluralism and differences which enables all members of our academic community to grow and understand the complex nature of the communities of the world.

Unitas

IAU has a wealth of students from many nations and each is a product of his/her community and culture. We, at IAU, strive to build a university community that allows the flourishing of all peoples and all creation. We celebrate the unity in our business school between creation and creation existing in each person.

Our goal is to build a united community in our business schools. Together, we champion the unfortunate and counter the challenges and destructive forces in our economic, political, and social environments. Business leaders must recognize that every person has inherent value and dignity, independent of his/her race, gender, age, ethnicity, or economic status. People should never be treated as merely a means to an economic end. We do this with a commitment to peace and justice through our curriculum and teachings as well as our student services activities. We are committed to the well-being of our friends, colleagues, teachers, and the less fortunate.

As a Christian business school, IAU welcomes students, faculty, and staff from all walks of life, some who may be experiencing Christianity for the first time. We purposely integrate faith, learning, work, and service in an effort to honor God in all that we do, and to encourage others to join us in these endeavors.

Caritas

Love is essential to the life of a community and it must inform the very life that a Christian business school espouses. At IAU, we feel that each person has the dignity that is inviolate in the name of

the collective good. We value the talents and abilities of our students to be reflective about personal dignity and competent in integrating the ethical dimensions of life in all sectors of their life and studies. We foster a Christian vision and worldview of leadership that encompasses all peoples and segments of the universal community and empower those segments to be contributors to the life of the university and the local community.

Our caritas focuses on the teaching of Jesus Christ in work and deed, and in sharing the love of Christ generously to all who participate in the life of IAU. Care requires selflessness, sacrificial service to the community, and an ever-increasing love of the Lord and our neighbors. We are convinced that right practice in following Christ involves living a faith that is active and transforming.

Fidem

As IAU integrates faith (fidem) across all of our efforts Our mission is to educate students from a Christian perspective and to prepare them for business careers that honor God while serving others. Faculty and staff are committed to honoring Christian beliefs, values, and practices in accordance with our mission and vision, while students receive a business education from the heritage and context of our Christian worldview. We integrate our Christian worldview across our programs and curricula. From first course to final degree, IAU has a goal that graduates will be able to express aspects of a Christian business education which affect human values and dignity, ethical decision-making, and academic discovery and discipline. We do this together to join knowledge of God and the universe in order to develop a true understanding of our world and ourselves, as well as contribute to the advancement of our society.

Faith plays an important role at IAU and it is another element that differentiates us from secular business schools. We differ not in curriculum but in faith. We feel that God is not only interested in our work, but our work as a Christian. IAU is a place where insights from many faith traditions are garnered, and Christ's traditions from the Gospels are part of the conversation. At IAU, we not only value individualism but pluralism as well where all values are nurtured and respected, while concurrently placing a strong emphasis on Christian ethics to shape our values, beliefs, and practices. We focus on the example of Christ, with reliance on Scripture, in dealing with ethical situations and decision-making. The goal is to identify ethical and moral issues in a situation and rationalize available options according to Christian ethical principles.

IAU, as a Christian business school, welcomes students, faculty and staff from all walks of life, some who may be experiencing Christianity for the first time. It is a place where ideas can be freely expressed, exchanged, and debated. One of the goals of a Christian business school is to integrate faith, learning, work, and service in an effort to honor God is all that we do, and encourage others to join in these efforts. In our role as a Christian business school, we have the obligation and privilege of teaching and advocating for a virtuous and wise stewardship in all aspects of the global business environment. In this role, we seek to equip our students intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually to become agents of change in the business world in whatever place the Lord has put them. We encourage our graduates to:

- Manage successfully a firm's resources, operations, and finances
- Contribute actively to the local community
- Protect our valuable natural resources

- Act in an ethical manner

Ratio (Ethics)

We feel that ethics training and faith integration start with students understanding themselves. We have a strong general education program in our undergraduate program for those not acquainted with Christianity to discover its wonders. We want our business students to exercise their natural, acquired, and spiritual learning to serve the greater good. We feel that is important for students to learn how to develop relationships within the worldwide community. We want them to learn that the constraints that use to chafe and bind us are not opportunities to display obedience and temperance but to display faith, charity, and understanding. We do this through innovation, risk-taking, and having an entrepreneurial spirit. We have found that good intentions without good behavior are useless.

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We have a strong general education program in our undergraduate programs for students to explore and discover. We want our business students to exercise their natural, acquired, and spiritual learning to serve the greater good and community. One of the ways we do this is by the inclusion on our curricula of business ethics and ethical situations. We feel that exposure to these facets helps to create a more complete and moral person.

Goal

Our goal is not only to develop future leaders but good global citizens. Engaged in commerce, business leaders understand the interdependence of nations, and the health of society and the preservation of Earth are important to the future prosperity of the business enterprise. Business fosters economic and cultural interdependence and has helped to create the awareness of one humanity, one planet, and sharing a common fate. As the dominant institution on the planet, business holds the key to the transformation of our global society, away from intractable problems, and toward a world that works for everyone. The shape of the future is our choice, and that business, if it adopts a new tradition of responsibility for the whole, can be the major contributor to a future that is economically, socially, and ecologically viable for all.

Business leaders have a unique capacity to engage with the world and to shape the future by taking on the responsibility of the whole, to address not only areas of trade and commerce, but of humanity and all creation. Business ethics, when it is taught as part of a traditional curriculum, can certainly help raise awareness, and give guidance for how to make decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas. The loss of reputation due to unethical practices has cost (and can cost) stakeholders millions of dollars, and as the recollection of notorious unethical behavior of Enron, Countrywide, WorldCom, and recently Volkswagen and Harvey Weinstein.

In conclusion, IAU is a Christ-centered academic community committed to transforming the global marketplace through life shaping preparation, helping students to ask essential questions, explore their call to business, and prepare for a fully integrated life of service.