

# Introduction to Tyndale University College

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a message from

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In the first few verses of Romans chapter twelve, the apostle Paul urges his readers not to be conformed to this world's ways of thinking, but to “be transformed by the renewing of your minds—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

If you have been gifted by God with intellectual ability, curiosity, imagination, and discipline, a university education may be part of His calling for you. And if that is so, you can do no better in obedience to that call than to explore and exercise these gifts in an educational setting where “the renewing of our minds” in obedience and gratitude to God is acknowledged to be our “spiritual act of worship”: both a joyful privilege and a sobering responsibility. For it is by renewing our minds in this way that we may avoid becoming conformed mindlessly to those ways of thinking which do not honour God. Instead, we seek to be transformed in our thinking, shaping an understanding of our world that flows from the conviction that *all* that exists—whether in biology or business, English literature, or classical philosophy—is part of the good creation that God made, and for which Christ died to reclaim and reconcile it to himself.

## **A Christian University College**

At Tyndale you will have the opportunity to study in a wide range of university disciplines, profiting from the works of scholars who may reach you by their written words in books, articles, and websites, or by their spoken words in lectures, presentations, seminars, and simple conversation over a cup of coffee. Their work is to help the rest of us to see more clearly and more deeply into the nature of things. We do not study only the works of Christian scholars, for no truth exists that is not from the Author of all truth, and many insights into the nature of reality come to us from scholars of different faith traditions. But here at Tyndale, a community of Christian scholars, we seek to teach and to learn from within a rooted biblical worldview, finding in the truth of God's word that framework of thought which gives definition and purpose to all other facets of truth.

## **General Description**

Tyndale University College is a division of Tyndale University College & Seminary, a trans-denominational, evangelical Christian community of scholars, teachers, and mentors that offers a range of undergraduate programs, as well as graduate-level education. Located in a multicultural urban context, and heir to more than a century's commitment to education, we seek to educate men and women to think Christianly and to love God and their neighbours wholeheartedly.

Developing from early Canadian roots in 1894, we are an innovative Christian university college; a Tyndale degree is foundational in itself and a firm preparation. The curriculum features a strong core of religious studies. The University College is authorized to grant degrees in accordance with legislation passed by the province of Ontario, and our graduates have gone on to further studies in other universities, law schools, and schools of education in this province and in many other parts of the world.

## **University College Mission Statement**

Tyndale University College & Seminary is "dedicated to the pursuit of truth, to excellence in teaching, learning, and research, for the enriching of mind, heart, and character, to serve the church and the world, for the glory of God." The mission of the University College is "to offer excellent university degrees in the arts, the sciences, and professional studies, and to promote the preservation, transmission and expansion of human knowledge within the context of a vibrant Christian community in which the integration of faith and learning is fostered by the exploration of various ideas, theories, and worldviews."

## **Academic Goals**

1. To provide university-level instruction in various academic disciplines in the humanities, religious studies, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and the fine arts, as well as in certain professional studies
2. To produce graduates who are well equipped to compete for admission to graduate and professional schools or to enter the workforce successfully

3. To produce graduates who will seek to serve God and their fellow human beings through their own vocations and in their lives generally
4. To provide an academic environment in which vigorous academic research and debate lead to the advancement of human knowledge and the development of greater insight by both students and faculty
5. To promote the integration of faith and learning so that the wide range of human knowledge and experience can be understood from within a Christian worldview

## **Philosophy of Education**

Tyndale University College is committed to providing an education that promotes the growth of the whole person, including the intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical dimensions of life. In providing a broad exposure to studies in biblical, theological, professional, and general education, we seek not only an academic pursuit of truth, but also the cultivation of Christian character, personal discipleship, and skills for service.

We affirm that the foundation for a true understanding of God, humanity, and all of creation is to be found in Holy Scripture. We are committed to promoting integrative thinking in which biblical and other academic disciplines are in dialogue. Believing that all truth is God's truth, we hold that honest inquiry and Christian faith commitment are fully compatible and therefore support the development and exercise of critical thinking.

Our University College community supports the education process by providing a context that encourages independent thinking, respect for divergent viewpoints, social responsibility, the development of leadership skills, growth through social and recreational activities, and the cultivation of spiritual life.

## **Divergent Viewpoints**

While emphasizing the primary truths shared by all evangelicals, we also recognize the right of congregations and denominations to develop and teach their own distinctives. We are committed to helping students relate positively to their heritage and work enthusiastically in the affiliations to which God calls them. Faculty members are also expected to be loyal to their churches, graciously maintaining the viewpoint of their own backgrounds.

We are pledged to demonstrate how Christians can deal with controversial issues through a fair consideration of the various options and due sensitivity to divergent understandings. Students should deal with one another in the same way, whether in the classroom, the cafeteria, the lounges, or in residence. No one has the right to compel others to share his or her point of view; all are encouraged to exercise responsible freedom to discuss such matters in keeping with God's word and the guidance of His Spirit.

## **Diversity of Students**

We celebrate our rich diversity. Our faculty and student body represent many different churches and ethnic groups. Some of our students have grown up in the faith, while others have come to faith more recently. Some have come directly from high school, while others are returning to formal education after an absence of some years. Some are seeking direction for their lives, while others clearly see where they are heading and know what educational experience will best prepare them to fulfill their goals. Some live in residence, while the majority live off-campus.

Tyndale seeks to be sensitive to the needs of those who remain fully employed while studying part-time in the evenings, on weekends, or during holidays. Tyndale is also aware of the needs of those who are in full-time ministry and are seeking to upgrade their academic understanding and personal skills.

## **Study Environment**

Tyndale's cultural diversity shapes a remarkable environment in which students may learn and grow in their understanding of themselves and one another. Because our goal is to educate and equip a new generation of Christian leaders, it is vitally important that students learn in a setting infused with a biblical vision of ethics and spirituality. Whether students anticipate further education in graduate school or seminary, or anticipate specialized professional training after university, all are challenged to think critically and to cultivate the inner life, to understand what it means to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love one's neighbour. Study is a foundation for life, for vocation, and for further education and life-long learning.

The University College experience helps students clarify their own beliefs and values, and prepares them for vocational options. It is a place to deepen one's understanding of Scripture and Christian doctrine essential for thoughtful Christian responses to contemporary intellectual and social issues. In short, students gain the intellectual and spiritual tools they need to make appropriate decisions as they seek to live out their discipleship in the world.

## **Education Outside the Classroom**

Beyond the classroom, a wide range of activities enhance the Tyndale educational experience. Through a variety of partnerships with churches, Christian agencies, and other organizations, we seek to build bridges between education and the rest of life. Intentional on-campus and off-campus learning experiences help to create a unified educational experience, so that learning becomes life-changing and not a mere academic exercise. With this in mind, the University College gives opportunity for students to participate in field education and community service as they proceed through their academic studies.

## Accreditations and Associations

1. Tyndale University College is a provincially recognized degree-granting institution within the province of Ontario. Tyndale grants Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degrees in the arts, business administration, and social sciences, under authority granted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.
2. Tyndale is also accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), 5890 South Semoran Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32826, U.S.A.
3. The University College is also a member of Christian Higher Education Canada, the Association for Christians in Student Development, the Christian Association of Canadians in Student Development, Christians in the Visual Arts, and the National Association of Christian College Admissions Personnel. It is an associate member of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.
4. Tyndale University College is recognized by the United States Veterans Administration as an eligible training centre under the veterans' benefit. It is also recognized by the United States Office of Education with regard to federally insured student loan plans for American students.
5. The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has deemed Tyndale's Bachelor of Education program one that meets or exceeds all requirements; we offer the BEd degree by permission of the Minister. Upon successful completion of the program, Tyndale graduates will be eligible to apply for an Ontario Teaching Certificate through the Ontario College of Teachers.
6. Tyndale has also developed working relations with other educational institutions. The University College has conjoint programs with Seneca College in Early Childhood Education and Social Service Work, and with Nipissing University in preparation for the BSc in Mathematics or Biology.
7. Tyndale is an associate member of the Jerusalem University College and offers the opportunity for students to supplement their studies with an enriching program of studies in Israel.