The trend in higher education today is to eliminate Truth from teaching, holiness from living and grace from relationships. Although Belhaven University, the faculty, staff and board are committed to a very different standard.

“Our Standard is Christ” marks us as an institution because there is no other standard for us.

Belhaven University’s mission is academic preparation within a Christ-centered worldview that allows students to see and serve the world from a Godly perspective. We are called to equip a new generation of leaders who are effective in the marketplace, because they are grounded in biblical principles that will withstand the tests of life.

During the past two decades, every outside evaluation or accrediting team that has visited our campus has consistently noted as their primary finding the astonishing level at which the faculty and staff are mission driven. Of this commitment to mission, one study, “Best Christian Workplace,” even noted that, “based on our recollection, this is the highest score of any faculty group in our survey’s history.”

We are thankful for the call of God in the lives of every single faculty and staff member because a university’s mission is not revealed in a well-articulated statement, but in how that mission is lived out as faculty teach students, coaches respond under pressure and students are guided by staff. Just as a rope, with its joining of hundreds of strings, does together what one part cannot do alone, our mission cohesion allows God to use our individual gifts to multiply our effectiveness for His glory.

Our shared commitment to an educational process that is built on biblical truth is the foundation from which everything else is built at Belhaven University. This unwavering commitment to our clear mission is the cornerstone of our past success and our opportunities for future service.

MISSION STATEMENT: Belhaven University prepares students academically and spiritually to serve Christ Jesus in their careers, in human relationships and in the world of ideas.
For generations, the mystique of elite universities has convinced the public that the greater the number of applicants rejected the higher the academic quality of the school. Although Independent research has shown that such intense selectivity does not equate to higher incomes, commitment to service or quality of life among the graduates.

The broader academic community has begun to recognize the value of the “scholarship of teaching” and that serving every student at his or her point of need is the highest mark of quality. Belhaven has been on the forefront in making this a campus priority for a long time and our quality shines through.

How can we measure our academic quality?

- Nearly 100% of our pre-med graduates have been accepted into medical school.
- One review found that 80% of our graduates had a job or had been accepted to graduate school at the time they walked off the commencement platform.
- Acceptance to highly ranked graduate schools is common among our graduates.
- The teacher education program is rated among an elite group of programs in the South.
- Well over 90% of our graduates in the Arts are working professionally in the Arts.

Most importantly, we measure quality by our effectiveness in pushing, pulling, and stretching each of our students to become everything God intends for them to be. Whether a student is among the brightest ever to come to Belhaven, or the one who needs the most help to catch up, we believe God hand-picks every one of the students enrolled and charges us with the responsibility to help each one succeed.
Belhaven University is well regarded as a traditional four-year university, offering 30 academic majors and 11 undergraduate degrees to students. Additionally, as the University has grown and expanded, our graduate enrollment has more than doubled in just the past five years. We now offer eight master degrees, serving over 1,200 students.

Graduate education will be one of our major spheres of influence in the years ahead as graduate degrees are more consistently expected for career advancement.

This significant expansion into graduate education triggered our move from “College” to “University” in 2009. The name change did not alter who we are or shift our mission, focus or priorities. Rather the change of our name to University more accurately described who we had become and how others view us.

Belhaven is academically structured around five schools—Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Fine Arts, and Nursing—with graduate programs currently offered or planned for all primary areas of study.

1,200 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Master Degrees

Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Business Administration
Master of Education
Master of Fine Arts in Dance
Master of Health Administration
Master of Science in Leadership
Master of Sports Administration
Master of Public Administration

Graduate School
Arts at the Highest Level

Universities on the whole are reaccredited every ten years, but earning national accreditation for an individual academic program is a much higher standard. It is especially demanding to reach that level of quality in undergraduate Arts-related degrees.

Belhaven University is one of only 33 institutions nationally accredited in the four primary areas of the Arts—Visual Art, Music, Theatre and Dance. We are competing at the highest level in the Arts with some of the largest schools in the nation such as Florida State University, The Ohio State University, The University of Alabama and Brigham Young University.

Among the 33 institutions that have achieved this level of quality, Belhaven is one of only a handful of small residential campuses to work at this high level in the Arts and offers one of the most affordable Arts programs among the 33 schools. Belhaven is also the only member of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities to carry such a distinction.

Along with our degrees in the four primary Arts we also excel in other Arts related degrees that do not have national accrediting boards—Arts Administration, Creative Writing and Graphic Design.

God has led Belhaven to develop a culture that makes this a remarkable place for creativity.
The eight branch campuses of Belhaven University serve over 2,000 adult and graduate students. We were the first college in Mississippi to serve the unique needs of adult learners, followed by a bold step to expand to Memphis. Now, more than a quarter-century later, we have been used of God to transform thousands of lives all across the Southeast.

Our branch campus mission, administration and policies are consistent with the residential campus in Jackson, but the curriculum and academic delivery is uniquely designed to meet the learning style of working adults and graduate students. Strategically located in quality facilities in each city, our classrooms host students for evening classes and our local staff is deeply engaged in service to each of the communities we serve.

We are champions for these students who have made the commitment to complete a degree later in life. They carry the demands of earning their degree along with juggling the challenges of work, family and finances. They need and deserve the high level of quality support we provide in Christian love.

We are the only Christian university in America with a geographic reach of this significance, serving six major population centers totaling over 16 million people.

Jackson, Mississippi  Chattanooga, Tennessee
Houston, Texas        Dalton, Georgia
Memphis, Tennessee    Atlanta, Georgia
Southaven, Mississippi Orlando, Florida
One of the most unsettling trends in higher education today is the number of schools seeking online students primarily as a revenue source to be tapped, rather than lives to be cherished. Because our standard is Christ, Belhaven embraces online education as a remarkable opportunity to bring Christ-centered education to a population of students who could never enroll in our residential academic programs.

When it is mission driven, online education does not allow technology to substitute for thoughtfulness or chat boards to replace faculty care. We want to do this right, and while the winning structure takes time to establish, we are far ahead of most Christian universities in developing a quality online educational experience for students. Belhaven Online has been highly ranked as a national leader by U.S. News and World Report.

Many students needing the flexibility offered through online learning are seeking a Christ-centered education. Although we enroll students from across the United States, most online students will select a school that provides a physical campus within 100 miles of their home. Because of this desire to enroll in a local university, Belhaven University is uniquely positioned to serve students that are within easy reach of our branch campuses in Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida.

Our online campus opened in 2006 with just five students and has quickly grown to enroll more than 800 students. Online education will be a major sphere of service in Belhaven’s future.
Nearly 400 student-athletes wear a Blazers uniform. Comprising of 15 intercollegiate teams, they compete in over 300 contests annually.

Belhaven athletics is committed to giving our students the best possible athletics experience. We help our student-athletes compete for championships in an athletic environment that enables them to mature academically, spiritually, emotionally and relationally as men and women created to honor and enjoy Christ.

Now, after six decades affiliated with the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Belhaven University is moving to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III and will compete in the American Southwest Conference. Division III includes 450 colleges and universities, with many outstanding traditions of athletic and academic quality.

For Belhaven this new athletics affiliation correctly blends our commitment to quality academics with tough athletic competition against some of the best-known colleges and universities in America.

**MEN’S TEAMS**
- Football
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Track and Field
- Tennis
- Golf

**WOMEN’S TEAMS**
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Softball
- Track and Field
- Tennis
Giving matters.

A gift to the University triggers transformation. Whether the gift is $40 toward the scholarship of a needy student, or $4 million to build a new building, every gift to Belhaven University is used to strengthen God-honoring education.

In the fall of 2015 we will open a new facility that will change everything and it was possible only because of the generosity of a gift.

For the past several years, increasing enrollment has created a desperate need for additional campus living space for students. Our housing has been pushed to its absolute capacity and we have been praying and planning for resources to allow more students to live on campus and gain from the full experience of Belhaven University life.

We dared to dream of building top-quality apartments that would offer a varied living experience from the type of residence hall rooms now available. On faith, we drew plans for an apartment building that would house 132 students, which would increase our total residential living space to nearly 700 students. But the $8 million cost for this project kept this dream out of reach—until a gift changed everything.

Mrs. Robbie Hughes, a wonderful friend of Belhaven, was prayerfully guided by the Lord to join with us in this vision for new student housing and made an overwhelming gift of $4 million for the project in honor of the Korean War service of her husband Dudley.

Mrs. Hughes wants all of the glory and thankfulness to go to God. We praise Him for His leading in making this gift possible, but the Lord often does His work through Godly people. Mrs. Robbie Hughes is a woman of vision, stewardship and passion who makes a difference for Kingdom work.

While the magnitude of gift from Mr. and Mrs. Hughes will put the University on a new trajectory for the future, a gift of any size for a scholarship does exactly the same thing in the life of the student who receives it.

Each gift to the University changes everything for the student it reaches.

- A $40 gift puts an expensive textbook in the hands of a student who is working 20 hours a week to afford tuition.
- A $1,000 gift helps provide an academic scholarship, bringing hope to a family who is enrolling the first person in their household to attend college.
- A $5,000 gift provides a piece of teaching science equipment that assures students are ready be effective on their first day of work after graduation.

Every gift matters, because giving changes everything.
Within the Academy in general, superior science education is often considered the benchmark of overall campus strength. Against this measure, Belhaven University stands confident in demonstrating a true standard of academic excellence.

We are committed to teaching sciences with a foundation in biblical truth. All Belhaven science faculty are research-active and maintain close contact with a network of local, regional and national entities that give our students a unique opportunity to pursue independent study in a variety of ways. We especially take great pride in our highly successful pre-medical and pre-health professional programs. The medical community of Mississippi has overwhelmingly welcomed our new School of Nursing, which opened in the fall of 2014.

Within our broad curriculum, students majoring in biology, mathematics, or chemistry and physics, also have the choice of concentrating in more advanced areas including biochemistry, chemical physics, ecology and field sciences or pre-engineering, as well as the applied sciences of sports medicine and exercise science.

With the rebuilding of Fitzhugh Hall for science and the renovation of Irby Hall for Nursing, our high quality facilities ensure that students are using the latest technological and laboratory methods to prepare them for increasingly technical careers in science related fields.

For Belhaven students not majoring in science, our general education course series “Science and Culture” engages students in science issues related to complex multi-disciplinary problems. Thus, in addition to preparing the critical thinking and problem solving skills of our students, we are also engaging them in the constructive and destructive attributes and effects of science and technology in an increasingly global society.
Belhaven University is not a “church related university” but a “university of the Church.” Our role is to fulfill the Great Commission, to “go and make disciples of all nations.” “Internationalization” is not a higher education trend to us, but it is central to the way Belhaven views the world and serves in the name of Christ.

We help students see, think and act internationally through components of our curriculum, cross educational and ministry cultural experiences, missions clubs and missions focused chapels, partnerships with major international ministries such as Operation Mobilization, the Lausanne Movement, Far East Broadcasting and a purposeful commitment to recruit Belhaven students from a wide variety of nations.

Today, the distance between cultures has been bridged and compressed by mainstream and social media. Students have instant access to news, entertainment, culture and ideas from every corner of the world. We do indeed live in a global village and our American students cannot be successful in the world unless they are trained to think and respond globally. In the past this was accomplished with “semester abroad programs” but only 1% of students can now afford this opportunity. Today, we must bring the world to the students.

Our new Dr. Billy Kim International Center will link our students with the world educationally and will attract international student to Belhaven—in turn, bringing the world to us. These students from other nations desire to study in the United States and we believe Belhaven University is uniquely prepared to meet their academic and spiritual needs.
Belhaven University’s academic quality and success are acknowledged by many top organizations in the country including:

- U.S. News & World Report Best Online Education Programs Ranked 32nd in the Nation
- America’s 100 Best College Buys
- The Chronicle of Higher Education Great College to Work For
- America’s Best Christian Colleges
- U.S. News & World Report Top Regional University in the South
- Colleges of Distinction Award
- John Templeton Foundation Colleges that Build Moral Character
- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities Racial Harmony Award
- U.S. News & World Report 12th for Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans
- U.S. Department of Defense Military Friendly School
- Best Christian Workplace Colleges & Universities
From Harvard and Yale a century ago to a host of modern examples, schools have slowly diluted their Christian worldview in order to counter attacks to their biblical message. Alternatively, a handful of fundamentalist schools have simply created their own waters that are cut off from the rest of the environment, so that their self-made lake can be kept artificially clean.

At Belhaven University, God has allowed us to serve the world—but not to be of the world: to understand the reach of culture—without running from it. We have done so only because we have been careful stewards of teaching an unchanging biblical worldview.

We have a diverse student body from a variety of Church backgrounds and some with no spiritual foundation at all. Our greatest strength as a University is found in majoring in the majors of faith:

- The uniqueness of Christ as the only way to the Father
- The justification by faith alone
- The authority and inerrancy of Scripture
- The transforming power of the Holy Spirit
- The reality of eternal life to come.

Like the pillars beside our fountain that symbolize Belhaven University, these timeless pillars of faith are the unmovable center of our campus.

Coupled with this, we also are committed to a culture of grace that respects varying priorities within the array of evangelical thought and worship expression—and welcome the breadth of God’s people.

Like the fountain next to our pillars, we have a spirit of grace that allows the water to move freely—within pre-set limits—so that students can discover the fullness of the Christian life, ask the hard questions of faith and learn to appreciate those who come out of different traditions of the evangelical Church.

In what matters most in faith, we don’t budge—in the diversity of expression we are accepting. Most Christian schools cannot do this and Belhaven’s unique outlook is a mission to be cherished. This is a mission that allows us to cherish every student.

Because of this stewardship of an unchanging biblical worldview and our balance to include the breadth of God’s people, Belhaven University is a treasure among Christian higher education.

- We teach our students that God’s Truth is absolute.
- We help them understand that the beliefs by which they live matter.
- We enable students to see God’s sovereignty in every arena of life.
- We ground every aspect of our curriculum and campus activity in biblical principles.

We are not a nominal Christian university with a wholesome campus lifestyle, whose only integration of faith in the classroom or on the athletic field is to have a short prayer at the beginning of each session, and then teach from the mainstream of secular thought. Instead, everything we do has a depth of biblical understanding and activity that prepares our students to withstand the tests of life.

At Belhaven University there is no calling more important, no asset more cherished and no responsibility more revered than our mission to teach an unwavering Christ-centered biblical worldview.