



The integration of knowledge and dialogue between reason and faith inspired by *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

The UC as a substantive and original contribution to the country

The UC open to welcome everyone

The deepening of the UC imprint

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

REVIEWING AND CREATING DOCUMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF EX CORDE ECCLESIAE

OBJECTIVE / 1
Catholic identity:
objectives and actions

- / Reviewing and adjusting the Declaration of Principles of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in light of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.
- / Creating an introductory document to our university that emphasizes that our training goes beyond just the professional field, ensuring that the language used is up-to-date and accessible to all.
- / Providing both documents to academics, students, and administrative and professional staff, especially to those who are entering the university for the first time.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Inspired by the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

Born from the heart of the Church, the Universidad Católica is an academic community that seeks, in a profound sense, the truth in all areas of knowledge. Through its teaching, research, and outreach activities, the university makes a significant contribution to society based on its own identity. Its condition as a Catholic university is manifested and expressed in the nature and modality in which it approaches knowledge and its contribution to the country, inspired by the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* Apostolic Constitution.¹

According to this Apostolic Constitution, the believer can know that truth has its source in God, but he can never renounce the communitarian work of seeking it. “Our age, in fact, is in urgent need of that form of disinterested service which is to proclaim the meaning of truth, a fundamental value without which freedom, justice and the dignity of man disappear. In response to a kind of universal humanism, the Universidad Católica dedicates itself entirely to the search for all aspects of truth in its essential relationship with the supreme Truth, which is God”². This implies a deepening of the integration of knowledge through dialogue and

“A Catholic university is able to empathize with social challenges and with the people who need it most.”.

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interdisciplinarity, where philosophy and theology play a key role. Both disciplines, fundamental in every good university and particularly important in a Catholic institution, on the one hand, allow us to transcend the partiality of each science and, on the other, to shed light on the Revelation of Jesus Christ, manifested in Scripture and Tradition, together with the Magisterium of the Church and the People of God as a whole.

The UC as a substantive and original contribution to the country

Since its foundation in 1888, the Universidad Católica has been committed to its identity with the truth and the light of faith, always promoting freedom of teaching and guaranteeing freedom of

1. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* Apostolic Constitution of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II on Catholic Universities (1990).

2. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* No. 4.



MOVING TOWARDS A GREATER INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND STRENGTHENING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN REASON AND FAITH

OBJECTIVE / 2 Catholic identity: objectives and actions

- / Consolidating an interdisciplinary Institute for Sustainable Development with explicit reference to *Laudato si'*.
- / Developing an academic line that addresses the Social Doctrine of the Church, either independently or as part of an Institute of Applied Ethics.
- / Creating new interdisciplinary courses on sustainability and integral ecology and on the Social Doctrine of the Church as a contribution to general training.

conscience. Thanks to its distinctive educational project, our university has trained professionals, artists, scientists and humanists of excellence and has contributed to the development of all areas of knowledge. In addition, the university has sought to contribute through the comprehensive training of people, based on Christian principles and with the vision provided by the different areas of knowledge.

The Universidad Católica works with the conviction that the dignity of the person in the image and likeness of God, the promotion of the family, the search for justice in all areas and the recognition of the importance of nature make up an authentic “human ecology”³ that promotes the common good, social peace and, ultimately, the salvation of people. As a challenge, the relationship of the person with nature, society, culture, and transcendence demands a renewed integral service to the country.

Pope Francis calls us to become aware that we are all in the same boat, in the same university, in the same country, in the same humanity and that no one can be saved alone, inviting us to “a new dream of fraternity and social friendship that is not just words”⁴. In the UC we feel called in a special way to face a fraternal dialogue in view of the yearning for the common good that motivates us. Thus, we cannot be afraid to show who we are, since it is from our identity that we seek to build a more human and fraternal society.

3. Encyclical Letter of H.H. Francis on the *Laudato si'* care for the common home (2015), No. 155.
4. Encyclical Letter of H.H. Francis on the *Fratelli Tutti* fraternity and social friendship (2020), n.6.

“The dialogue of faith and reason must enlighten our institution in the sense of breadth, welcome, and identity, incorporating both aspects as two wings of the best understanding of knowledge”.

University Superior Council Day

The integration of knowledge and the dialogue between reason and faith

The creation and transfer of knowledge is currently affected by the fragmentation of increasingly specialized disciplines and by the loss of the sense of truth, which is greater today by the misuse of social networks. The Universidad Católica, because of its adherence to the truth that is the person of Jesus Christ, and because of its vocation to universality as a Catholic university, is called to contribute decisively to the task of deepening a renewed integration of knowledge. This requires more collaborative work among the different disciplines and academic units, since the complex nature of truth requires work among all.

The integration of knowledge is confirmed and strengthened through dialogue between reason and faith, in the confidence that there can be no contradiction between them, because “profane realities and those of faith have their origin in the same God”⁵, although they manifest themselves in different ways. To this interdisciplinary dialogue is added the invitation to encourage a culture of encounter based on diverse knowledge and among people who think differently, but who converge on the different paths that lead to recognizing, valuing, and respecting the sense of human transcendence and the essential dignity of every person.

From these actions an authentic sense of identity emerges, since it is the sphere of identification around experiences and values that constitute the ethos, the common dwelling place, the physical and spiritual space that is shared with others. It is important, in turn, in the context of a profound change of era, that the Catholic identity of the university is also nourished by a theological reflection which is rooted in and in dialogue with the present history. A permanent challenge for the university is to create these spaces and the conditions to cultivate these dialogues and encounters.

5. Pastoral Constitution of the Second Vatican Council *Gaudium et spes* (1963), No. 36.





The UC open to welcome everyone

The Universidad Católica is a human community that provides a fraternal welcome for all who work and study in it, whether they are believers or non-believers. As part of its identity, the university welcomes people who, while not professing the Catholic faith, help in the search for truth. According to its Declaration of Principles, the Universidad Católica de Chile recognizes as its own the mission of “proclaiming the Gospel to all people and in all environments”⁶.

“The UC, as a Catholic university, must be welcoming to all people”.

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ENHANCING THE WORK OF CAMPUS MINISTRY AND ITS SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

- / Deepening pastoral lines of welcome and accompaniment, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable people of our community and members of other religious groups.
- / Offering support to the campus ministry of the diocese and of the country with concrete projects.
- / Collaborating reflectively and proactively in response to the needs of the Church (for example, in pastoral, ethical and anthropological formation, as well as in the promotion and recognition of the culture and the cultural and artistic heritage of the Church).

OBJECTIVE / 3
Catholic identity:
objectives and actions

REINFORCING THE UC IMPRINT IN THE UNIVERSITY

OBJECTIVE / 4
Catholic identity:
objectives and actions

- / Deepening the knowledge of the meaning of a Catholic university in the entire UC community.
- / Forming a commission to analyze the presence of the UC imprint, especially in the academic field and linked to the General Education Plan.
- / Developing seminars for professors that allow them to understand the meaning of the presence of theology in the university.

“We must work for our society from the identity of the UC”.

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The deepening of the UC imprint

Through its imprint, the university seeks to provide the members of its community with a hallmark that reflects the characteristics of its identity. Although this has been present in the institutional ideology for many years, in order to reinforce it, it is necessary to work on it, make it explicit, evaluate the current state of its implementation, and project it into the future.

From this statement, it is evident that the university is an institution open to welcome all persons who respect our Catholic identity. From its university character, the Universidad Católica collaborates institutionally in society with a Christian presence in the world through the cultivation of pluralism and the valuing of the other in its own bosom.

The training of students is one of the fundamental missions of the university, which recognizes in general education a favorable space to advance in its achievement. In this effort, academics are very relevant and, therefore, the search for authentic teachers is essential. The criteria for the selection and promotion of professors, in addition to demanding high academic standards, must consider this dimension.

Our university “derives its source of unity from its common consecration to the search for, discovery, and communication of truth, as well as from a shared vision of the dignity and transcendence of the human being. To this end, it takes special account of the example of the person and message of Christ which serves as inspiration for its witnessing mission in the world”⁷. The catholicity of the Church is an expression of the universality of salvation in Christ and, therefore, the Universidad Católica, as a portion of the Church, must witness to it and realize it in its own work.

The imprint of the university, having permanent values that transcend in time, understands the era in which it lives and radiates towards it. Our challenge is that this imprint includes a critical spirit and the ability to dialogue with openness and foundation from the perspective of our faith, so that the members of our community and our graduates transfer these characteristics to the professional or scientific environment where they develop their careers.

6. Declaration of Principles of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (1979), No. 1.1.

7. The Catholic Identity of the UC, 25 years after the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* Apostolic Constitution (2017), page 10.