The Ottawa University Mission Statement  
Revised October 22, 2016

Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.

The Ottawa University Vision Statement  
“Vision 2020”  
Revised October 27, 2012

By 2020, Ottawa University will be positioned as a rapidly expanding institution known for its innovative educational models, exceptional value, and special ability to prepare diverse student populations for lives of enlightened faith, exemplary service, inspired leadership and personal significance.

The Ottawa University Statement of Educational Purposes  
Approved June 8, 2002

Since its inception in 1865, Ottawa University has sought to live out its mission in direct ways. It began with the collaboration between two American Baptist missionaries, Jotham and Eleanor Meeker, and the Ottawa Indians of Kansas to promote education and peace in a changing world. Out of this relationship, Ottawa University was born. Ever mindful of its original commitments, Ottawa University is now a comprehensive, not-for-profit, educational institution, which serves students of traditional age and adult learners worldwide. Grounded by its mission, Ottawa University carries out its educational purposes through its liberal arts and professional studies programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Ottawa University guides learners to integrate faith, learning, and life, to gain the abilities they need to succeed and prosper, and to do so with an increased sense of the knowledge, compassion, respect, and service our world requires.
Ottawa University intends that

- a general education program of liberal arts studies enables its faculty and students to investigate the World broadly and freely in order that its students develop and express their life philosophies and Values with awareness of and concern for others;
- study in undergraduate, graduate and other professional development programs enable students to gain the specific expertise they need to enter professions they can contribute to; and
- programs, teaching and learning continuously improve through assessment and sensitive responses to community needs.

Ottawa University’s educational purposes require it to provide at all its locations

- diverse faculty who support the mission, purposes and general welfare of the University;
- caring faculty who are dedicated to teaching undergraduates in both discipline and liberal arts courses and who are sensitive to a heterogeneous body of students as persons seeking to grow spiritually, morally, and civically as well as intellectually;
- faculty who bring the same sensitivities and dedication to educating graduate and postgraduate students;
- multiple approaches to teaching which assure comprehensive and varied responses to students’ learning patterns;
- appropriate academic support, environment and technology to enhance teaching, learning, research, and communication;
- sensitivity to different ethnicities and political configurations of the global community; and
- commitment to social responsibility which asserts that the University’s education is of the heart and hand as well as the intellect.

The Ottawa University Code of Conduct and Ethics
Approved February 2008

All members of the Ottawa University community are responsible for sustaining the highest ethical standards of the University, and of the broader communities in which it functions. The University values honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility and strives to integrate these values into its teaching, research and business practices.

It is the intent of the Code of Conduct and Ethics to protect academic freedom, a collegial atmosphere, teaching and scholarship; to advance the mission of the University; and to help preserve the highest standard of business dealings.
The Ottawa University Diversity Statement
Approved February 20, 2010

POSITION ON DIVERSITY

DEFINITION

Diversity is defined as that incredible and beautiful variety of personal identities, experiences, values and world views that result from differences of origin, culture and circumstance. Ottawa University defines and appreciates diversity in all of its forms including age, ability or disability, ethnicity, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and family and marital status.

THE OTTAWA UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Ottawa University celebrates and prizes the diversity of its students, faculty staff and Board of Trustees. In keeping with its Mission Statement, the University is called to actively foster an environment of awareness, appreciation, and intentional inclusivity. We hold this as essential in an institution which declares that it will conduct its affairs in a caring, Christ-centered community of grace. We believe we must embrace diversity because to do so is just, powerful, personally enriching and intelligent and because we believe Christ has called us to do so through His teachings and His example.

LIVING, LEARNING AND LEADING
THROUGH OUR DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In committing to and honoring our Diversity Statement, members of our community will:

LIVE DIVERSITY BY:

Encouraging and empowering all to build an especially open and welcoming community.

Valuing and respecting ourselves and all others.

Developing a passion for diversity by deepening our cultural awareness and extending our inter-cultural experiences beyond mere study.

Creating a culture on all of our campuses in which all persons are seen as unique and all individuals know they are prized and valued.

Behaving as open and inclusive people through our actions and voice in all settings in which we conduct our lives, including:

*Classrooms
*Residence halls
*Other university buildings and public spaces
*Athletic endeavors
*Student, faculty, staff and board organizations.
*Social engagements
*The general workplace
*Our places of worship
*In the surrounding communities in which we live and work
*With our families, friends and associates.

**LEARN DIVERSITY BY:**

Fostering personal growth by actively exploring and better understanding the origins of our assumptions, judgments, and points of view and constantly challenging ourselves to refrain from prejudice or unexamined points of view.

Promoting and nurturing a learning environment in which students, faculty and staff are encouraged to understand the challenges, accomplishments, heritage and perspectives of all peoples in order to gain a fuller and more mature understanding who we are as well as others. Teaching ourselves and others to engage in constructive dialogue as a way to reach out to those who may think or act differently than we do.

**LEAD IN PROMOTING AND DEFENDING DIVERSITY BY:**

Questioning the status quo, seeking to understand competing perspectives, and encouraging one another to move from our comfort zones to experience and celebrate the richness of a diverse society.

Sponsoring initiatives to continuously stretch the university community to expand its view of diversity and to reach out to other communities to advance a greater understanding and respect for diversity.

Using the diverse talents, skills and perspectives of each member of our community in powerful ways to reach our educational and organizational objectives.