

Introduction to InterVarsity

Who is InterVarsity?

What We're All About

For over 75 years, the college campus has been InterVarsity's chosen mission field. We long for Jesus to transform as many students, faculty, and campuses as possible.

InterVarsity's Purpose

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InterVarsity exists to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Lord and Savior: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purposes in the world.

We are a non-denominational movement that unites around the major truths of Christian doctrine.

Five essential attributes define our ministry:

1. **Biblical** – We are founded on the centrality of Scripture for all of life. God's Word is the authoritative source of spiritual truth and riches which we help students and faculty know with greater and greater depth.
2. **Collegiate** – Our sole ministry focus is the college campus. God has called us to be a redeeming influence on its people, ideas, and structures.
3. **Holistic** – The gospel of Jesus is for the whole person. It impacts every part of our lives and every part of our world.
4. **Missional** – Rooted in God's free gift of salvation, we partner with him to build his kingdom through Spirit-led lives of outreach and obedience.
5. **Diverse** – God's kingdom includes space for every culture and ethnicity, in all of who he made them to be. We intend for our chapters, ministry priorities, and leadership structures to reflect this truth.

InterVarsity's History

InterVarsity began as a student movement among British university students in 1877 (hence our name, 'inter,' meaning 'between,' and 'varsity,' the British term for college level students). It eventually came to Canada and by 1941, came to the U.S. with the first official chapter at the University of Michigan.

Our work has grown to reach more corners of campus, including graduate students, faculty, nursing students, international students, and more. Through the Urbana Student Missions Conference, we call each student generation to consider their lives as part of God's global mission. And through InterVarsity Press, we produce thoughtful Christian books that serve the academy and strengthen the church.

As a member of [the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students](#), we are one part of a network of student movements at work on campuses in 160+ countries all across the world.

Campus Ministry Today

This Strategic Moment

God often uses young people, like college and university students, to begin world-changing movements. Many students, faculty, administrators, and staff face tremendous challenges during their seasons in college that can open opportunities for the gospel. And college is a place where students make choices

that lay the foundation for their next 40 years and faculty profoundly shape the ideas and industries that will impact our society for generations.

A Holy Discontent

Right now, there are over 20 million students and faculty on over 5,000 campuses in the U.S. But only half of those schools have an active Christian ministry on campus. This reality breaks our hearts, and we believe it breaks God's heart as well. As we look to the future, we've sensed the Lord calling us into something new on campus. By the year 2030, we want to plant ministry on all 2,500 campuses with 1,000+ students enrolled.

What is the 2030 Calling?

2030 CALLING

Longing for revival, we catalyze movements that call every corner of every campus to follow Jesus.

- **"Longing for revival...":** We are hoping and praying for a new breakthrough on campus. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are pushing towards a future where God's kingdom reigns in the lives of more students and faculty, and redeems more of its culture and structures, than before.
- **"We catalyze movements...":** We're inviting partners alongside us in ministry and equipping them to pray for or plant ministry at unreached schools. We want to share our best tools and insights with others, sparking growth of God's kingdom among students and faculty.
- **"Call every corner of every campus...":** Jesus told his disciples to "go into all the world" and preach the gospel. So we, in turn, aren't satisfied with just reaching one part of campus. We want to go to all of campus, to all its corners, and share the gospel in ways that resonate with them.

What Does Campus Ministry Look Like?

Campus ministry looks different on different campuses, on different corners of campus, and in different seasons. There's no one right program for campus ministry.

Our hope in campus ministry is best expressed in Ephesians 1:18. We long for the hope of Christ in all its beauty to be lived out in a credible way for students and faculty to see, for the riches of this hope to transform immeasurably more students and faculty as it becomes their everyday experience, and for people of profound faith making a profound impact on campus and beyond.

Remember, success isn't measured by numbers or what you do, it's measured by faithfulness. Ultimately, our faithfulness is in God and having a heart to follow Jesus.

Campus Ministry and You

There's a place for everyone in campus ministry – for every age, every ethnicity, and every faith background. Don't disqualify yourself or others preemptively. In humility, we want to partner with anyone and everyone we can to expand God's kingdom on campus.

Related Resources

- [InterVarsity – About Us](#)
- [InterVarsity – What We Believe](#)
- [Ministry Library](#)

Recommended Courses

- [Depending on the Spirit](#)
- [Ministering with Gen Z](#)

Visit the *Ministry Playbook* to learn more about leading, planting, and building Kingdom movements on college campuses: <https://www.theministryplaybook.com/>