About Albright College

Albright College offers a rigorous liberal arts curriculum with an interdisciplinary focus. Albright’s hallmarks are connecting fields of learning, collaborative teaching and learning, and a flexible curriculum that allows students to create an individualized education. Fully half of Albright students have concentrations that combine two or three fields of learning. With a student/faculty ratio of 13:1, Albright College enrolls some 1,600 undergraduates in traditional programs, some 500 students in accelerated degree programs and 100 students in the master’s program in education.

- [The Mission of Albright College](#)
- [Our Vision](#)
- [Our Values](#)
- [Outcomes of Albright College](#)
- [The History of Albright College](#)

The Mission of Albright College

Our mission is to inspire and educate the scholar and leader in each student, building on a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences and a commitment to the best of human values, fostering a commitment to a lifetime of service and learning.

[ top of page ]

Our Vision

We aspire to be widely known and respected for preparing our graduates to be exceptionally successful in navigating an increasingly complex and uncertain world characterized by continuous and dramatic change. We wish, therefore, to attract students who have the capacity and the desire to be engaged members of a supportive and caring learning community that is rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, includes a selection of well-integrated, professional programs, and is characterized by a strong interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to learning. We seek to excel in offering an integrative learning experience that synthesizes theory with practice, promotes critical thinking and effective self-expression, and fosters in our students a commitment to a lifetime of service and learning. We challenge our students to cross boundaries and make connections among academic disciplines, campus experiences, and community. We aim to educate individuals of integrity who possess intellectual competencies and personal qualities that will enable them to take up positions of leadership and service whatever their chosen fields and thereby add to the richness, diversity and welfare of our global society.

[ top of page ]
Our Values

The values that guide the Albright College community shape both classroom practice and institutional culture. In daily decisions, attitudes, and relationships the entire community models the values, virtues, and skills that should be practiced by educated, discerning citizens of the world.

For generations, the words and symbols depicted on the official seal of the college have expressed and sustained those guiding values, including the values implicit in the current college mission statement. Imprinted on the seal are the words Veritas et Justitia, accompanied by the symbols of the lamp of knowledge, the open book (next to a stack of books) and the laurel wreath.

The open book affirms the value we place on academic freedom, in which all forms of truth may be pursued with rigor, candor, and openness, free from external restrictions but always subject to inspection, criticism, and modification according to the canons of research and reason. The open book, covering the lamp of knowledge, invites each of us to take up the book personally, light the lamp, and read for ourselves.

This lamp of knowledge, with its suggestion of enlightened guidance, thus affirms the value we place on wisdom and understanding as the basis for leadership in life, including leadership in personal, professional, religious and civic affairs. A stack of books rests next to the lamp of knowledge, symbolizing the value we place on the interrelationship and interdependency of all forms of knowledge and on the vital contribution that every person, of whatever background or tradition, can make to the learning enterprise.

The phrase "truth and justice" points not only to the value we place on each of these ideals, but also to their mutual connectedness. We affirm that the search for knowledge should not be separated from the search for wise and just solutions in human affairs and in the conservation of the natural world. The combined pursuit of truth and justice means we honor, nurture, and celebrate human diversity in all its forms and call into question whatever negates or endangers the dignity and worth of the human spirit.

The laurel wreath suggests the pride that we have in our tradition of liberal arts and sciences learning and in its enduring importance. It symbolizes our desire that the passion for knowledge, wisdom, skill, and virtue [arête] will serve as the basis for lifelong endeavors and achievements.

Finally, we emphasize that these values historically guided our founding in 1856 by the Evangelical Association (later, the Evangelical United Brethren Church) and continue to connect us today to the principles and ideals of higher education of the United Methodist Church.
Outcomes of Albright College

Employing an integrative approach to learning, Albright expects our students to achieve the following core outcomes:

- Ability to ask meaningful questions about complex issues and to develop reasoned solutions
- Capacity to think critically and with discernment
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Capacity and desire to serve community and contribute to the greater good

The History of Albright College

Albright College celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2006. The College dates its beginning to the founding of Union Seminary in 1856. The present Albright College was formed by a series of mergers with other institutions of higher learning founded in the 19th century by the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church. Union and Schuylkill Seminaries were not theological seminaries, but three-year collegiate institutes.

Albright Collegiate Institute was founded in 1895, and became Albright College in 1898. Union Seminary, founded in 1856 and rechartered as Central Pennsylvania College in 1887, merged with Albright College in 1902. Schuylkill Seminary, founded in 1881, became Schuylkill College in 1923 and merged with Albright College in 1928.

Jacob Albright, after whom the College is named, was a Pennsylvania German evangelical preacher and the founder of the Evangelical Association (later the Evangelical United Brethren Church). Born in 1759 as Johannes Jacob Albrecht, his family changed their name to Albright after his death in 1808.

Albright College is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The beliefs of the Evangelical Association and the Methodist Church were closely related. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church merged to become the United Methodist Church.