



CANYON CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

# CANYON CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

With guidance from the Canyon Center for Character Education (CCCE), Grand Canyon University's programs can prepare students to be transformative leaders, global contributors and reflective individuals who have the opportunity to be well-equipped to affect positive change in their communities through virtuous action in pursuit of the common good.

We believe that for character and virtue formation to have the greatest influence, GCU students will need to first focus on their personal character development (Learning). Candidates will then know how to cultivate a clear ethos and focus on character in communities and organizations by empowering free and virtuous action and promoting human flourishing (Leading). Once a shared community vision is established, candidates can then serve all in ways that support the development, assessment and improvement of practices surrounding character and virtue development (Serving).

Reference and inspiration have been taken from the following documents to develop these competencies: GCU Mission, GCU Statement on the Integration of Faith, Learning and Work, College of Education (COE) Conceptual Framework and COE Professional Dispositions of Learners.

## 1. INDIVIDUAL (LEARNING)

Individuals reflect upon their personal character development and professional practices as they apply practical wisdom in the pursuit of human flourishing.

- **1.1:** Demonstrate self-awareness and professional improvement by reflecting on personal growth and character development.
- **1.2:** Promote diversity and inclusion by challenging personal assumptions and advocating for the representation of all.
- **1.3:** Apply ethical decision making focused on benefitting all through the use of practical wisdom and research-based best practices.

## 2. COMMUNITY (LEADING)

Individuals demonstrate servant leadership by cultivating a shared purpose and promoting human flourishing within the community.

- **2.1:** Promote character education with key stakeholders to foster and support human flourishing within the community/organization.
- **2.2:** Evaluate community/organizational needs and identify opportunities for implementing character education initiatives.
- **2.3:** Foster a positive environment by promoting equity, inspiring a supportive culture and building positive relationships among all.
- **2.4:** Utilize leadership strategies that cultivate a shared vision and purpose and inspire and empower others to work toward the common good of the community/organization.

## 3. CONNECTIONS (SERVING)

Individuals encourage and support all through the promotion of character and virtue formation and the cultivation of positive environments to foster global contributors.

- **3.1:** Advocate for and model virtuous actions that demonstrate respect for the diversity of all in the pursuit of the common good.
- **3.2:** Empower individuals to become positive global contributors who use an asset-based approach to encourage the character development of all.
- **3.3:** Create professional development opportunities to enhance, assess and refine common practices that align with character education and the promotion of human flourishing.