

Application for Readmission



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Take the Next Step. **Change Your World.**

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Mission

Boldly informed and motivated by the Christian faith, Bethel University educates and energizes men and women for leadership, scholarship, and service.

Vision

Bethel is committed to being a world-class Christian university preparing women and men to serve in strategic capacities to renew minds, live out biblical truth, transform culture, and advance the gospel.

Values

We are **Christ-followers**—orthodox, conversionist, and evangelical; rooted in the authority of Scripture.

We are **character-builders**—concerned with personal and spiritual formation and therefore committed to the development of whole and holy persons.

We are **truth-seekers**—recognizing that all truth has its source in God as revealed in creation and Scripture, and personified in Christ.

We are **learners**—committed to academic excellence within a community characterized by teaching, scholarship, and service.

We are **reconcilers**—honoring the worth and dignity of people from all races and purposely seeking to create a community that reflects the diversity of the Body of Christ.

We are **salt and light**—relating to the world and society in culturally relevant ways while being informed by our pietistic denominational heritage and characterized by an irenic spirit.

We are **world-changers**—driven to prepare graduates who will shape and change the world through exemplary leadership in the church and throughout society.

Readmission Application

Instructions

A complete readmission application will include:

- A signed application.
- Official transcripts from all colleges you've attended since leaving Bethel.
- A reference is not required if you have been gone from Bethel for two semesters or less. If you have been gone for more than two semesters, you will need to obtain a reference in order to complete your file. Choose one of the reference forms to complete in the back of the application and follow the directions.

The Office of Admissions will review your application only after receiving approvals from the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Student Life, and the Business Office. If you anticipate any concerns from these three offices, please contact them individually about your readmission plans.

Applicant Data

(Please type or print.)

Name _____ ID# _____
Last First Middle

Home address _____
Street address City State Zip Country

Email address _____ Telephone (_____) _____

I am making application for (check one): Fall Interim Spring 20 _____

Date when last attended Bethel: _____

Intended major: _____

I plan to live in campus housing: Yes No

Reason for leaving Bethel: _____

Colleges attended since leaving Bethel:

_____	_____
Name of college	Dates attended
_____	_____
Name of college	Dates attended

Personal Information

(Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

Social Security number ____/____/____

Veteran: Yes No U.S. Citizen: Yes No

Gender Male Female (This information is optional—for record-keeping and student services purposes only.)

Date of birth ____/____/____

Please describe your activities during the time you have been gone from Bethel. _____

Please describe your relationship with Christ. _____

Your signature is required on following page.

Personal Statement

Read through the covenant on the following pages in its entirety.
Your signature is requested below, indicating you are willing to live in accordance
with these commitments while a student at Bethel.

I have read the following *A Covenant for Life Together at Bethel* and agree to accept the Bethel lifestyle as my own while enrolled at Bethel University.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return to: Office of Admissions • Bethel University • 3900 Bethel Drive • St. Paul, MN 55112-6999
651.638.6242 • 800.255.8706, ext. 6242 • fax: 651.635.1490 • email: BUadmissions-cas@bethel.edu

Becoming Whole and Holy Persons: A Covenant for Life Together at Bethel

Introduction

Bethel University is an educational community committed to integrating evangelical Christian faith with learning and life. As people created in the image of the covenant-making God, we covenant together to discover the mind of Christ and to become like Christ. We pursue this mission as people called by Jesus to live holy lives according to the values, expectations, and goals of the kingdom of God. A crucial part of our mission is to develop whole and holy persons who will go into the world to serve others.

To be whole and holy means to be dedicated to God with purity of thought and action. It means that we are to serve God using the gifts and abilities we have been given. Our community has a special calling to discover, teach, learn, and live what is true. We strive to understand the world in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. This gives us a distinctive worldview, educational mission, and calling.

Our calling includes a commitment to nurture one another. We strive to elevate kingdom values over personal agendas. We attempt to measure every decision and priority in terms of our loving submission to the lordship of Christ and our commitment to one another. Christ's power within us and a clear sense of our calling give us a joyful freedom to do God's will.

Jesus taught us that right motives and loving relationships are at the core of whole and holy living. His two greatest commands are to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves.¹ These commands connect serving God with serving others. In grace, Scripture also gives us specific rules to guide us in living. Jesus taught that keeping these rules is an expression of love for God.² The Bible condemns legalistic rule-keeping. It emphasizes loving relationships and pure motives in living out these rules.³

Community life at Bethel should be marked by mutual encouragement, sensitivity, and consideration for others.

Living a Biblical Lifestyle

The Bible frequently speaks about a holy lifestyle. Such passages are found throughout the Old and New Testaments.⁴ *The Bible describes character qualities and actions that should be present in the lives of believers.* These include prayer, kindness, humility, compassion, forgiveness, hospitality, personal integrity, generosity to the poor, care for the oppressed, study of God's Word, accountability to one another, sharing our faith with others, recognition of the rights of others, commitment to justice, regular gathering for worship, and living in harmony.

The Bible also identifies character qualities and actions that should not be present in the lives of believers. For example: destructive anger, malice, rage, sexual immorality, impurity, adultery, evil desires, greed, idolatry, slander, profanity, lying, homosexual behavior, drunkenness, thievery, and dishonesty.⁵

Special Expectations for the Bethel Community

Because of Bethel's commitment to Christ, our unique calling as an educational community, and our understanding of what it means to live in today's world, we want to state clearly some of Bethel's rules and expectations. These are based on:

- our understanding of the Bible and its authority for our faith and life;
- our desire to promote wellness and health in all areas: social, emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual;
- our theological and cultural heritage;
- our understanding of our mission and calling.

We recognize that not all devout Christians share these rules and expectations. However, certain issues are important for our educational mission and our life together at Bethel. They are designed to facilitate our growth, development, and learning as a community.

We view learning and the pursuit of truth as a special calling.

- We commit ourselves to integrity, excellence, consideration of different points of view, and collegiality in all of our academic work.
- We will not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.⁶

We believe that life is sacred and people have worth because they are created in God's image.⁷

- We will value human life in all its diversity and fullness, recognizing that women and men of all races, ages, and ability levels reflect the creative genius of our Maker.
- We view racism and sexism as sinful and reflective of some of the most harmful aspects of our culture. We will abstain from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, and disability. We will also abstain from gossip, deliberate divisiveness, and malicious humor.

We believe that our relationships should reflect our connection in the body of Christ.⁸

- We affirm mutual respect and promise keeping in relationships among students, colleagues, teachers and learners, spouses, and friends.
- We grieve the hurt and destructiveness of broken relationships, especially those involving divorce and abuse. We will strive to be a community where healing occurs.

We believe our minds and bodies should be used in God-honoring ways.⁹

- We will promote the health of our bodies, minds, and emotions.
- We will abstain from illicit or nonmedical use of drugs, narcotics, and other substances. We will also abstain from use or possession of alcoholic beverages and tobacco in any form.

We view sexuality as one of God's good gifts.¹⁰

- We believe that sexual intercourse and other forms of intensely interpersonal sexual activity are reserved for monogamous, heterosexual marriage. We recognize that sexual purity involves right motives as well as right behaviors.
- We prohibit the possession and use of pornographic material. In addition we condemn sexually exploitive or abusive behavior and sexual harassment in any form.

We value the wise stewardship of resources.¹¹

- We believe all human and natural resources are a trust from God. We value work; creative expression; and wise use of time, ability, and money. We believe in wise use of natural resources. We will use them to do God's work and to benefit God's creation.

- We prohibit gambling and vandalism. In addition, we reject materialism and harmful exploitation of natural resources.

We believe that maturity calls for us to exercise discretion in our behaviors.

- We believe that God is honored by careful thinking and joyful use of our creativity and imagination. While the media and the arts can be valuable forms of recreation, our commitment to learning calls us to think critically about them and to see them as empowering and liberating ways to understand truth and beauty.
- We believe that certain forms of leisure, entertainment, and recreation are not congruent with holy living. We will make choices that are consistent with our pursuit of holiness in activities such as theatre, dance, and music, or in the use of media and technology such as film, television, radio, and computers.

At times we will need to follow the biblical mandate to sacrifice our individual liberty for the good of the community.¹² When differences arise, we will choose the course that demands greater personal restraint and self-discipline. We will strive to resolve those differences in a gracious and just manner.

Conclusions about Community Life

Community life at Bethel should be marked by mutual encouragement, sensitivity, and consideration for others. This is

particularly important when dealing with our differences. One of the special values of this community is the opportunity to learn from one another, including those within other Christian faith

traditions. We celebrate our diversity as well as what we hold in common.

Living out the call to whole and holy living is challenging. No one does it perfectly. Community members who struggle to follow Bethel's lifestyle expectations and who would like help in living within them are encouraged to talk with appropriate Bethel personnel to seek help in changing.¹³

As a community we recognize that worship, fellowship, spiritual nurture, and Christian service are all essential to our growth in holiness. As members of the Bethel community we are expected to participate in these types of activities regularly. Chapel stands out among these opportunities because it is a unifying spiritual experience for our Christian community. All students, faculty members, and administrative leaders are expected to attend chapel regularly. Chapel is a learning experience that is enriched by the diversity of background and worship styles within the community.

As we join the Bethel community we accept these responsibilities and conditions of membership. We agree to live according to this document and other stated expectations as they are applied to us in the student and employee handbooks. If we find ourselves unable to honor these commitments, withdrawal may be in order. We recognize that we have an

obligation to hold each other accountable to biblical standards and to the commitments we have made. Appropriate action will be taken to teach, influence, discipline, or even dismiss those who disregard these community expectations. We will strive to have all disciplinary procedures characterized by Christian love and a redemptive spirit.

As we celebrate this covenant calling to whole and holy living, we encourage and challenge each other with these three verses.¹⁴

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Because of its crucial role in influencing the ethos of the school, this statement of expectations is subject to change only by action of the Board of Trustees. The board holds these standards to be binding for all who voluntarily choose to become a part of the Bethel community.

¹ Matthew 22:37–40
² John 14:15, 21
³ Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23–24
⁴ Examples of such passages are: Exodus 20; Proverbs 6:16–19; Matthew 5–7; Galatians 5:13–25; Ephesians 4:22–5:21; Colossians 3:1–17
⁵ Colossians 3:5–8; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10. Employees will not practice, advocate, or affirm these and other biblically proscribed behaviors.
⁶ Exodus 20:15; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 13:5–6; 1 Peter 1:22
⁷ Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 4:1–7, 15–16; James 2:1–13
⁸ Romans 12:3–21; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31; Ephesians 4
⁹ Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:14–15; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 4:8
¹⁰ Genesis 1:27–28, 2:24–25; Exodus 20:14; Song of Songs; Matthew 5:27–30; 1 Corinthians 6:15–20, 7:3–5
¹¹ Genesis 1:28–31
¹² Romans 14:1–23; 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23–24
¹³ See the *College of Arts & Sciences Student Handbook* for information on Bethel's Non-Disciplinary Policy. College students may find the staff in the Office of Student Life, the Office of Campus Ministries, and the Counseling Center to be particularly helpful. Seminary students may find help in the Office of Student Life. In addition, many faculty are willing and able to assist. Employees may find help from peers, the Office of Human Resources, and administrative staff.
¹⁴ Colossians 3:15–17

Pastor's Reference

This form is to be completed by your church pastor, youth pastor, or someone who knows your spiritual development. (This reference form should be completed by a nonrelative.)

Applicant Data (Applicant should complete this section and read the waiver notice. Please type or print.)

Applicant's name _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Home address _____
Street address City State Zip

Applicant's waiver of right of access to confidential statement: I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained on this reference form and agree that this statement shall remain confidential.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Request for Reference

The student named above, having applied for admission to Bethel University, is required to have this form on file before admission can be considered. **Your prompt attention will be appreciated.** If this form is not adequate for your remarks, please feel free to provide your appraisal in any form you choose. Completed reference may be mailed, faxed, or sent as an email attachment.

Confidentiality: Federal law gives students the option of waiving their right to see specific letters of reference. If the applicant has not signed the waiver statement above, we will assume that you are submitting information with full knowledge that it may be seen by the applicant if he or she is accepted and enrolls at Bethel University. If the above waiver is signed, your reference will remain confidential.

Name (please print) _____ Title _____

Name of church or organization _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____
Street address City State Zip

Signature _____ Date _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know the applicant? By name/sight Casually, few personal contacts
 Very well, numerous personal contacts

Please comment on the applicant's abilities, talents, leadership skills, personal traits, and achievements. _____

Please comment on the applicant's Christian commitment. _____

Please comment on the applicant's current attitudes regarding self, others, college, church, etc. _____

Please comment on the applicant's readiness for college. _____

(over, please)

What additional information can you provide about this applicant that may help us in making our decision? _____

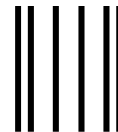
Please check all that apply:

- Send a packet of Bethel University information.
- I believe in Bethel's mission of Christian higher education. Please have a Bethel admissions representative contact me.
- I am a Bethel alum. Graduation year _____

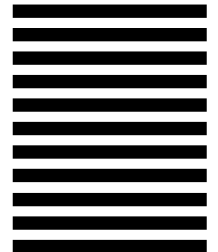
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Office of Admissions
Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive
St Paul MN 55112-9988



School Official's Reference

This form is to be completed by the dean of students, a professor, counselor, or coach from a college or university you have attended. (This reference form should be completed by a nonrelative.)

Applicant Data (Applicant should complete this section and read the waiver notice. Please type or print.)

Applicant's name _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Home address _____
Street address City State Zip

Applicant's waiver of right of access to confidential statement: I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained on this reference form and agree that this statement shall remain confidential.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Request for Reference

The student named above, having applied for admission to Bethel University, is required to have this form on file before admission can be considered. **Your prompt attention will be appreciated.** If this form is not adequate for your remarks, please feel free to provide your appraisal in any form you choose. Completed reference may be mailed, faxed, or sent as an email attachment.

Confidentiality: Federal law gives students the option of waiving their right to see specific letters of reference. If the applicant has not signed the waiver statement above, we will assume that you are submitting information with full knowledge that it may be seen by the applicant if he or she is accepted and enrolls at Bethel University. If the above waiver is signed, your reference will remain confidential.

Name (please print) _____ Title _____

Name of school _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____
Street address City State Zip

Signature _____ Date _____

How well do you know the applicant? By name/sight Casually, few personal contacts
 Very well, numerous personal contacts

Please comment on the applicant's academic readiness for college (including self-discipline, intellect, integrity, etc.). _____

Bethel desires to provide opportunities for students to contribute to our community in many ways.

Which one of the following terms best describes the applicant's involvement in your school?

- Initiator—creatively develops ideas and programs for the benefit of others
- Leader—accepts leadership responsibilities in school activities
- Participator—actively involved in school events, activities, or organizations
- Attender—little or no involvement

Please give examples of involvement (if any) in activities by the applicant at your institution or your specific area of the institution.

(over, please)

Has the applicant been dismissed or suspended by your institution? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

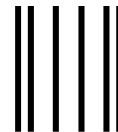
What special encouragement, guidance, or supervision would you suggest? _____

What additional information can you provide about this applicant that may help us in making our decision? _____

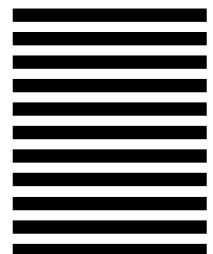
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St Paul MN 55112-9988



Alternate Reference

This form can be used in place of the School Official's Reference ONLY if the applicant has not attended college within the past year. (This reference form should be completed by a nonrelative.)

Applicant Data (Applicant should complete this section and read the waiver notice. Please type or print.)

Applicant's name _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Home address _____
Street address City State Zip

Applicant's waiver of right of access to confidential statement: I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained on this reference form and agree that this statement shall remain confidential.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Request for Reference

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Name (please print) _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____
Street address City State Zip

Relationship to Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

How well do you know the applicant? By name/sight Casually, few personal contacts
 Very well, numerous personal contacts

Please record your initial response when thinking of this individual. _____

Describe the applicant's current attitudes regarding self, others, college, church, etc. _____

Is the applicant likely to be successful at Bethel University? Why or why not? _____

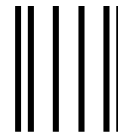
(over, please)

What additional information can you provide about this applicant that may help us in making our decision? _____

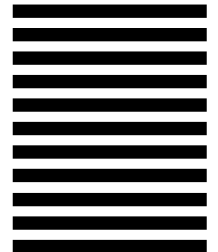
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