



# AMBROSE UNIVERSITY

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA



## PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

### OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

*Presented by The Dingman Company*

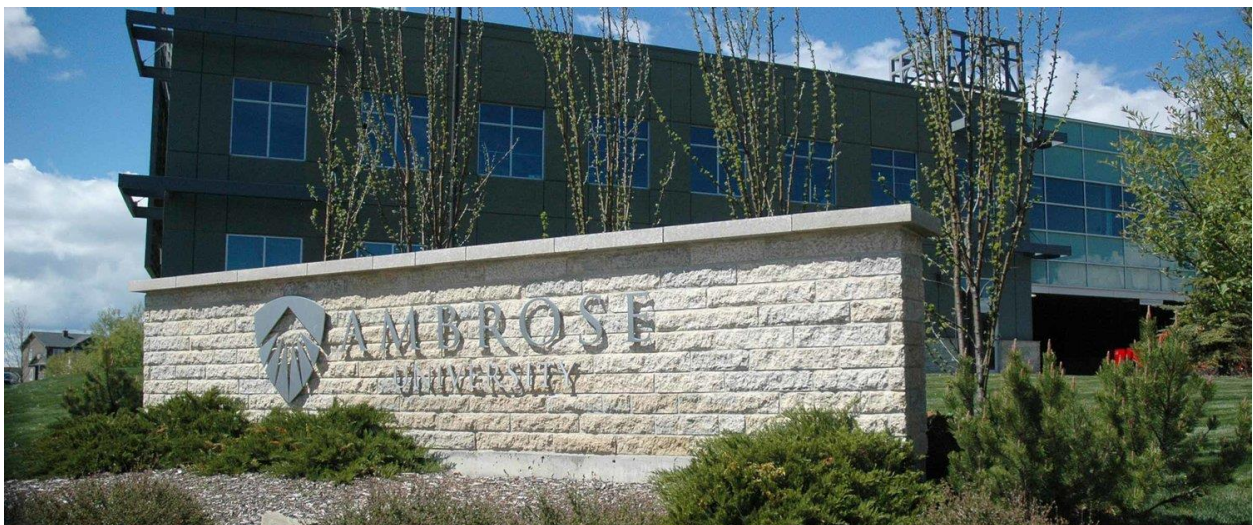
August 2023

## OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Due to the impending retirement of Dr. Gordon T. Smith, Ambrose University is seeking its next President.

Ambrose University prepares men and women for wise, joyful, and redemptive engagement in the church, society, and the created order through excellent Christian post-secondary education. At Ambrose, students can study the arts, sciences, and theology alongside professional disciplines such as education, business, and Christian ministry.

While historically having been two Bible colleges, Ambrose is now focused on being a Christian liberal arts university. This organizational Structure has numerous advantages that with the right leadership, could foster substantial growth.



Here are a few of the many attractive qualities of Ambrose University:

- A good market opportunity as the only Protestant Christian liberal arts university in southern Alberta
- An attractive newer campus with room for growth
- Strong ties to two denominations
- An excellent faculty



## OUR COMMUNITY



Ambrose is the official post-secondary institution of two Christian denominations: The [Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada](#) and the [Church of the Nazarene Canada](#). However, students of any faith background are welcome, and the students and faculty come from roughly 50 denominations.

This is faith-inspired higher education: a supportive yet challenging learning environment in which students can pursue their academic interests and prepare for their careers while also exploring and deepening their faith.

By integrating faith and advanced learning, an outstanding university education is provided that's rooted in Christian intellectual, theological, spiritual, and missional traditions. Students' personal and spiritual formation is encouraged, and there is space for students and faculty to explore and express their faith through everything they learn and teach.





## OUR HISTORY

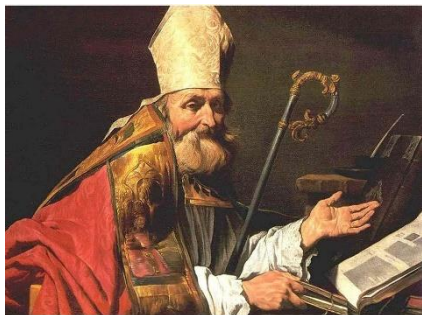
The Calgary Bible Institute was established on January 3, 1921, in the basement of the Calgary First Church of the Nazarene. In 1940, it changed its name to Canadian Nazarene College until its accreditation as a university college in 1999, when it became Nazarene University College.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance's Canadian Bible Institute was founded in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1941 and became the Canadian Bible College in 1957.

Nazarene University College entered a joint venture with Canadian Bible College in 2002 to fill the need for a Christian-based alternative to public universities. Canadian Bible College received provincial accreditation under the name Alliance University College in 2004. In May 2007, Alliance University College and Nazarene University College became a single entity, Ambrose University College. Ambrose University College moved to a 40-acre campus in southwest Calgary with capacity to accommodate 1,000 students in its growing program offerings in 2008. In 2014, the Province of Alberta granted Ambrose University College the status of a university, allowing it to be renamed Ambrose University.

Dr. Gordon T. Smith became the president of Ambrose in 2012.

## OUR NAME



The name Ambrose was selected in 2006 through a process that involved alumni, students, faculty, and staff. Our namesake is Ambrose of Milan, a 4th century Christian who was called from a successful career in public office to become head of the Christian church in Milan, Italy. Ambrose of Milan left his mark as a hymn writer, preacher, pastor, and educator and stands as one of the great Christians of his generation: a servant leader in both the church and society. He was an individual who embodies the values of our institution.

## CALGARY, ALBERTA

For a great visual guide to Calgary, check out this website, [Life in Calgary](#)

The physical setting of Calgary distinguishes it from other cities of the Prairie Provinces. It is situated on the western edge of the prairies, in the foothills of the spectacular Canadian Rockies (about 60 miles or 100 km to the west), and the surrounding valleys and uplands are a distinct change from the flat prairie landscapes typical of the region. A relatively young Canadian city, it is the administrative and financial headquarters of the country's petroleum industry. Calgary also celebrates its history as a cattle ranching capital, an image enhanced by the city's hosting of the annual Calgary Stampede, a 10-day rodeo-centered event. Calgary is one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, and, over the past few years, has consistently ranked among the top 5 most livable cities in the world by *The Economist*. The population has now grown to 1.64 million. It is one of the most diverse in Canada, with approximately 40% of its general population identifying as visible minorities.



As the corporate center of the petroleum industry, Calgary attracts many related services, including banking, finance, insurance, and transportation, as well as petroleum supply. It also has rapidly growing creative and technology sectors, with the highest concentration of high-tech workers among Canadian cities. Cultural institutions include opera and ballet companies, a symphony orchestra, and several theatre companies. Besides Ambrose University, Calgary is the home of the University of Calgary, SAIT Polytechnic Mount Royal University, St Mary's University and Bow Valley College.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Ambrose acknowledges that we live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

## ACADEMICS

- Arts & Science, Business and Education bachelors' degrees are approved by the [Province of Alberta](#).
- The School of Ministry degrees and diplomas are accredited by the [Association for Biblical Higher Education](#) (ABHE).
- The Ambrose Seminary masters' degrees are accredited by the [Association of Theological Schools](#).

### THE ACADEMY

Current degree programs offered are in the Arts, Biology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Education and Ministry. Half of the undergrads are in Arts & Sciences, 20% in Education and 13% in Business. The most recent degree/certificate additions were a BA-Psychology in 2019 and a Certificate in Christian Discipleship in 2023.



The Faculty of Arts & Science and the Schools of Business and Education are comprised of 26 full-time professors and 5 lecturers. The Faculty of Theology has 12 full-time faculty and 2 lecturers.

### ENROLMENT



Currently there are 813 students of which 598 are undergraduates and 215 are in the seminary. In-residence there are 107 students and 706 commute.

The Master of Leadership in Ministry is offered online, and other programs are planned to be online in the future.

Ambrose student population is inclusive and diverse with the undergraduate student body made up of 66% Caucasian, 12% Asian/Pacific Island, 7% Black and, 15% Other. Seminary/Graduate student body is 46% Asian/Pacific Islands, 38% Caucasian and 16% Other.

### TUITION AND FEES

The current annual estimated cost at Ambrose for a full-time undergraduate student living on campus is CAD26,000. That includes tuition and living expenses. For the seminary, the total is CAD27,500.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the president is responsible for leading the University and functions as the chief spokesperson and figurehead. Therefore, it is expected that the president will both embody and articulate Ambrose's core values, mission, identity, and vision. This includes:

### **Strategic Acumen**

- Identifying and articulating the mission of Ambrose and making strategic decisions that keep the University on mission.
- Developing and implementing a long-term strategic plan that supports the mission.

### **Team Building**

- Attracting and retaining a high quality and character leadership team to achieve the University's mission.
- Supporting the leadership team, faculty, and staff in maintaining and growing a world class Christian Liberal Arts University.

### **Financial Responsibility**

- Managing the overall operations of the University in a fiscally transparent and responsible manner.
- Monitoring the financial performance of the University and taking appropriate actions to ensure that the University maintains a financially viable fiscal plan.

### **Donor Development**

- Building authentic and trusting relationships with stakeholders that result in consistent funding for the mission of Ambrose.
- Communicating with integrity the present and future needs of the University.

### **Enrollment**

- Maintaining vibrant recruitment and retention strategies to attract and support qualified students.
- Achieving enrollment levels that adequately support the mission and purposes of the University.

### **Christian & Evangelical Intellectual Tradition**

- Ensuring long-term alignment with Ambrose's Statement of Faith for both board and faculty.
- Communicating the Statement of Faith with clarity for faculty and prospective students.

### **Faculty Unity**

- Constructing a shared understanding of the identity of Ambrose endorsed and supported by all faculty.
- Supporting and collaborating with faculty to build excellence in teaching, inquiry, and service.
- Supporting the Provost in promoting faculty unity.

### **Student Vitality**

- Fostering an environment of student life that promotes spiritual wholeness, wellness, and growth.

### **Academic Credibility**

- Recruiting and retaining a godly and gifted faculty who can teach in a variety of contexts and models, research, and write for the academy.

### **Campus Community**

- Celebrating the diversity of God's creation, the Church, the Great Commission, and the biblical vision of personal and corporate holiness.
- Providing a variety of chapel, community life and worship experiences that develop in students a greater love for God and others.
- Fosters a culture that attracts, retains, and ensures the success of students and that students' experience is positive.

### **Essential Attributes/Qualifications**

- Excellent EQ (Emotional Intelligence) and interpersonal skills
- Ability to develop strong relationships with all stakeholders (including with governing bodies and to advocate for Ambrose with the Government of Alberta)
- Demonstrated confessional commitment to the Christian faith, particularly as espoused by the founding denominations,
- Grasps deeply, embodies authentically, affirms and able to articulate skillfully Ambrose's core values
- Capacity to engage collaboratively with a broad diversity of viewpoints
- Demonstrably committed to a biblically informed and grounded worldview
- Create a culture of openness and trust that engenders the respect of the faculty
- Intellectual heft, personal bearing that engenders faculty peer respect
- Degree in Christian ministry leadership, biblical/theological studies, education, business, or another field relevant to Ambrose
- Mission-congruent philosophy of education, including distance education
- Mission-congruent philosophy of personal, spiritual, and vocational development of students
- Evidence of authentic spiritual and emotional health
- Member in good standing of a local church

### **Highly Desirable Attributes/Qualifications Sought**

- Successful previous executive-level (i.e., C-suite) higher education experience
- Enrollment management/growth acumen
- Non-profit financial, business-model, and fiduciary acumen and track record
- Ministry-congruent fund-raising philosophy and successful non-profit/ministry resource mobilization experience
- Ties to Ambrose's constituency (i.e., alumni, faculty/staff, trustees, donors, partner churches, missions, ministry organizations)
- Deep Biblical/theological understanding
- Deep grasp of contemporary cultural/spiritual issues and is able to navigate in a secular and pluralist context
- Persuasive communicator
- Can anticipate 10+ year tenure
- A strong track record of scholarly publication

## **OUR VALUES & POLICIES**

For more information on Ambrose's values, policies and statement of Faith, please visit [Mission & Values Ambrose University](#).



## THE SEARCH AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Dingman Company, Inc., an executive search firm, has a successful track record of similar searches. (See: [dingman.com](http://dingman.com).) This opportunity will be shared with people who might be or who might know potential candidates. The search firm will establish a list of interested and qualified persons, request submission of a thorough resume and subsequent questionnaire response in a designated format, and conduct follow-up telephone calls and a Zoom interview with the candidate.

In collaboration with the Search Committee, the list of candidates will be narrowed to approximately four individuals who will then be interviewed comprehensively by the committee. Finalist interviews are projected to take place in Calgary, Alberta in November 2023.

Ambrose University and The Dingman Company are committed to a process that represents equal opportunity employment. However, for searches on behalf of religious organizations such as this, candidates will be evaluated based on the organization's theological beliefs and religious practices.

We fully respect the need for confidentiality of information supplied by interested parties and assure them that their backgrounds and interests will not be discussed with anyone, including Ambrose University, without their prior consent, nor will reference contacts be made until mutual interest has been established. The consultant and the search committee will be cautious and sensitive as needed to preserve each candidate's anonymity.

For further information on this position, to apply, or to suggest a name please contact:

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