

Department of Chinese Literature and Applied Studies

Originally established as the Department of Literature in the year 2000 (the founding year of the university), the department initially admitted master's students. In its second academic year, it began accepting doctoral students, and by its third year (2002), it introduced a bachelor's program for undergraduate students. In the 2010 academic year, during the first-cycle departmental evaluation conducted by the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council, the department reevaluated the mission of literary education and its future direction. In response to the increasing emphasis on the practical application of Chinese literature in the job market, the department officially changed its name to the "Department of Chinese Literature and Applied Studies" in 2012, incorporating applied courses to align with professional trends.

As a key academic unit in eastern Taiwan dedicated to Chinese studies, teaching, and service, the department nurtures talent in linguistic practice, literary creation, and cultural innovation. It is a department within the private education system that continues to strive for excellence. However, with rapid societal changes and evolving industry demands, the department has also recognized the impact of environmental shifts on its development and talent cultivation. By studying industry trends and societal expectations, these insights serve as valuable references for revising departmental development plans, educational objectives, and core competencies. The department continuously shapes its evolution through the following sources of information:

1. Actively establishing the network and interpersonal interaction information related to faculty, staff, and students within the department.
2. Utilizing research projects to drive teaching improvements.
3. Encouraging faculty and students to engage in external affairs.
4. Gathering feedbacks from students, alumni, and external committee members through departmental meetings.

Given the rapid socio-cultural transformations in Taiwan, the department must adjust its teaching and learning approaches to ensure that students maintain strong employability and a broad

perspective, staying aligned with contemporary trends and societal dynamics. The department has implemented various strategies to help students enter the job market and adapt to industry developments, as outlined below:

- 1. Teaching Improvements:** The department shares the latest industry trends and knowledge with students, encouraging them to take advantage of university resources such as pursuing minors, double degrees, certifications, internships, community service, international exchange programs, academic collaborations, online learning, and scholarships. Students are also encouraged to actively provide feedback through the teaching evaluation system, helping faculty refine teaching objectives, methodologies, and curriculum planning. Additionally, graduate follow-up surveys (conducted one, three, and five years post-graduation) serve as valuable references for refining the department's academic, research, service, and student support initiatives.
- 2. Industry-Academia Collaboration:** Although the department retains the essence of a traditional Chinese literature program, it also emphasizes modern applications. Efforts include inviting industry experts for lectures, organizing industry site visits, facilitating hands-on literary projects, and establishing internship programs. The course "Editorial and Interview Practices" invites distinguished figures from the cultural, corporate, and creative industries—such as media professionals, writers, and cultural innovators—to give talks, broadening students' perspectives. Field visits to institutions like United Literature, Chung Hwa Colour Printing, Kishu An Forest of Literature, and Wenxun Magazine provide students with firsthand exposure to the cultural and creative industries.
- 3. Student Career Development:** In response to the growing cultural and creative industries, as well as the rise of cultural marketing, graduates of the department have expanded beyond traditional career paths such as teaching, public administration, and publishing. Recent graduate employment trends indicate an increasing presence in multinational logistics, arts and cultural marketing, multimedia, creative writing, digital operations, exhibition planning, and web editing—key sectors in the modern cultural industry. To support students in diverse career pursuits, the department regularly organizes career development seminars. Several faculty members, including Professors Xiao Lihua, Lin Mingchang, Zhang Weiyi, Jian Wenzhi, Lin Yiheng, Xu Shenghe, Yang Zhiping, Tian Yunliang, Kang Yinzhen, and Chen Jijing, have expertise in digital humanities, publishing, career counseling, and cultural innovation, guiding students in gaining hands-on experience across undergraduate, master's, and doctoral

programs, thereby enriching their professional competencies.

Department of History

The graduate program in history at Fo Guang University was established in August 2002. In the 2004 academic year, the undergraduate program was launched. History serves as the foundation for national formation, cultural heritage, and collective memory of ethnicity and locality. In today's emphasis on sensory economy, history can also be the source for creating cultural and economic value through various activities. Despite its importance, it has not been fully appreciated or understood by society. In the face of globalization, the European Union's eight core competencies for the future of youth emphasize "cultural expression ability," which is crucial and should be based on historical studies. With a picturesque learning environment situated in the mountains, teachers and students share a close, collaborative relationship. The department upholds the traditional scholarly spirit of imparting knowledge from teacher to student. In addition to classroom teaching, there is a weekly study group for reading historical classics, a tradition that has been maintained for nearly ten years and recently supported by the Ministry of Education's classic reading program. Furthermore, the department's annual thesis presentations for graduate students are open to history students from universities nationwide, promoting academic exchange. This event, called the "Spring Dance and Worship Ceremony," strengthens the scholarly atmosphere within the department.

Human beings are historical animals. We think because our thoughts are shaped in the context of time. Only through history can we understand our position, the meaning of our existence, and where we are headed. However, the long-standing perception in society that history and humanities are not valuable for learning neglects or fails to recognize that culture and history are the core qualities of every field. Even cutting-edge technological products should consider different cultural contexts in their design to add real value.

Classics hold timeless significance, offering ongoing relevance for dialogue. The department's professional program is based on the study of historical classics, guiding students into the realm of historical sentiment and beauty. Core courses focus on historical writing, reading, and appreciation, supplemented by practical training in historical narration, museum studies, local history writing, and cultural tourism. The goal is to cultivate students' writing skills and research methods. In addition, cultural assets, which hold rich developmental value, can be explored through film, theater, music,

and other historical and cultural perspectives, providing students with vibrant, youthful experiences and stimulating their spirits. Furthermore, the current generation lives in an age of images. Educating students to view images as historical data, and to think critically about visual cultural phenomena, is an essential part of the department's curriculum and its objectives.

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

The department was established in August 2007, admitting its first cohort of undergraduate students, followed by the launch of the graduate program the following year. The department's teaching aims to help students integrate their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English, while also developing foundational skills in a second foreign language (French, Japanese, Korean). Through a flexible and diverse curriculum, students gain an understanding of foreign cultures. The department responds to the needs of globalization, the development of international business, and the demands of contemporary society, helping students improve their foreign language communication skills and cultural literacy. By learning about cultural differences, students expand their international perspectives, enhance cross-cultural communication skills, and engage in practical application, promoting positive exchanges in the global workplace and across cultures.

The department aims to cultivate students' foreign language and cultural literacy for the workplace. It combines language and culture learning in a cohesive curriculum, strengthening students' foreign language foundation and communication abilities. At the same time, the department focuses on training students to examine and reflect on the relationship between culture and society. This enables students to use foreign languages to engage in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural communication, expressing their personal viewpoints and ideas about different cultures, and integrating local cultural industries with a global perspective.

Educational Objectives:

Educate professionals in foreign languages and literature.

Broaden the perspective of foreign literature and culture to enhance humanistic literacy.

Graduate Programs in the College of Humanities

Chinese Literature and Applied Studies Group

The Master's Program in Chinese Literature focuses on the comprehensive study of human literary phenomena, exploring writers, works, literary theories, and history. The research includes classical literature, modern and contemporary literature (including Taiwanese, Chinese, and Hong Kong literature), various types of literature, Yilan literature, and Buddhist literature. The program specializes in interpreting issues related to classical Chinese literature, cross-disciplinary interpretation of modern Chinese literature, and applying Chinese cultural texts, covering the three main areas of literature, culture, and texts. In response to the diverse transformation of social environments and the development of Taiwanese literature programs, the department has strengthened its distinctive characteristics, setting educational goals to cultivate practical literary professionals, cultural discourse experts, and innovative thinkers. The goal is to help students break free from traditional limits, expand their learning areas, and meet the needs of society, especially in cultural analysis, storytelling marketing, textual proficiency, and cultural creative development. This is aimed at practical applications across various societal fields. The curriculum is designed to strengthen cross-disciplinary abilities, giving graduates a broad and flexible career development path, empowering them to actively participate in society.

History Studies Group

This group aims to cultivate students with a leading perspective in historical research and specialized study. The academic atmosphere is thriving, focusing on innovative historical topics such as gender history, cartographic history, Chinese folk religion, messianic groups, art history, and the study of historical texts. The group organizes international academic conferences, courses, and collaborates with the global Sinology community. Students will gain exposure to diverse fields, broadening their learning vision and enhancing their life perspectives while improving their capacity to improve society and the nation.

Foreign Languages and Literature Group

The focus of this group's academic field is literary research and the cultivation of English language teaching professionals. The curriculum is designed to nurture students who can pursue careers in literary and cultural studies or language teaching. It equips students with professional skills in

literature and cultural text reading and interpretation, research, academic writing, and English language teaching and research.

Religious Studies Group

The Department of Religious Studies is a result of the integration of the Buddhist Studies Department, the Department of Life and Religion Studies (Life and Religious Studies merged), the Department of Happy Life Culture Studies, and future integration with the Department of Happy Life Industry. Established in the 2014 academic year, it is the most recent yet longest-standing research department, now part of the College of Humanities. Its mission is to cultivate professionals in diverse religious studies, combining religious education with humanistic literacy, and applying religious culture to practical careers. This group focuses on developing students' research and practical skills in various religious fields, life education, and multicultural counseling. The department also emphasizes research on local temples, a significant feature of its recent focus.

Department of Cultural Heritage and Creative Studies

Keeping pace with global trends, the curriculum emphasizes the development of diverse skills, focusing not only on theoretical courses but also on practical training in areas such as popular culture, cultural creative design, multimedia digital design, and cultural industry management. Internship opportunities are arranged every summer to enhance students' hands-on skills and help establish connections with industry professionals, thereby facilitating future employment or further studies.

The department offers both undergraduate and graduate programs, providing a seamless educational pathway. Students with outstanding academic performance may begin selecting graduate courses during their senior year of undergraduate study, enabling early entry into advanced academic programs.

The department's development direction is guided by the latest cultural-economic trends, domestic and international cultural policies, and labor market needs. It encompasses two primary areas:

1. **Tangible Cultural Heritage and Creative Applications:** Focused on archaeological cultural assets, with training in creative applications for museum and local heritage site management,

exhibition planning, and design.

2. **Intangible Cultural Heritage and Creative Applications:** Emphasizing everyday cultural assets such as food, clothing, shelter, travel, education, and recreation, with creative application training in areas such as wellness, tourism, gastronomy, environmental planning, fashion craftsmanship, and community development.

In alignment with the university's policy, the department has adopted a curriculum structure under a program-based framework, which not only continues the original vision of the department but also centers on the "learning effectiveness" as the core value. The department's curriculum is structured around this concept, incorporating the latest trends and the learning characteristics of undergraduate students, offering core courses as well as specialized tracks in cultural creativity and cultural tourism.

Through the core curriculum, we provide students with a theoretical foundation in cultural and heritage studies, while in the specialized tracks of cultural creativity and cultural tourism, we offer a broad range of interdisciplinary applications and internship courses. Though each track has its specific professional focus, they are interconnected by the central theme of "culture and cultural heritage," ensuring students acquire diverse competencies grounded in solid foundational skills.

Cultural heritage, cultural creativity, and cultural tourism are globally recognized and rapidly growing industries with immense prospects. These fields require multi-faceted skills and broad perspectives, and our curriculum emphasizes a balance of theory and practice. Through this comprehensive approach, we aim to cultivate well-rounded cultural heritage and creative professionals who will excel both in employment and industry recognition.

Career prospects for graduates include:

1. **Public Sector Employees:** Working in various cultural and social educational institutions or departments.
2. **Teaching Staff:** In cultural and educational programs.
3. **Museum or Cultural Venue Managers and Curators:** Responsible for museum operations, management, and exhibition planning.
4. **Archaeological Site Researchers and Conservators:** Specializing in excavation, specimen sorting, and analytical research.

5. **Cultural Industry Professionals:** Engaged in cultural creativity, tourism, high-end dining, cultural media, and exhibition industries.
6. **Community Development Professionals:** Working within communities to plan and develop local industries, enhancing the aesthetic quality of community life.
7. **Further Education:** Supporting students in pursuing advanced degrees in fields such as anthropology, museum studies, and cultural heritage management.

In an era where multi-dimensional skills are increasingly emphasized, the program-based structure provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary learning. Starting in the 2012 academic year, the university will fully implement the "Program-Based Curriculum" policy.

Bachelor's Degree Program in Architectural and Environmental Design

Architecture is the human-created built environment in response to natural surroundings. The concept of architecture has evolved from simply providing shelter to emphasizing three key principles: utility, durability, and artistry. In contemporary times, architecture places greater focus on public service, cultural significance, and social impact. Today, architects are more concerned with creating sustainable environments, considering building materials, construction methods, environmental creation, and even regional revitalization. This reimagines the harmonious relationship between architecture and its regional context.

This program is the only one in the Yilan, Hualien, and Taitung counties focused on cultivating professionals in architectural design. In alignment with global trends in sustainable architecture, the curriculum strikes a balance between architectural design expertise and light construction practices, preparing students to possess cross-disciplinary design capabilities in sustainable environmental planning, regional space revitalization, heritage preservation, and interior space design.

The program is based in Yilan County, an area rich in excellent architectural and environmental design professionals. There are also numerous high-quality architectural spaces available for field-based learning, and the local government upholds principles of environmental sustainability and cultural heritage, while community groups actively participate in creating local spaces. These resources offer students ample opportunities for collaboration and practical application. The

program also enhances students' practical abilities and career readiness through visits to excellent architectural works, industry expert collaborations, on-site practice, research project-based learning, career seminars, and summer internships.

The program aims to develop professionals with in-depth understanding of local spatial environments, keen insights into contemporary social needs, global sustainable environmental strategies, and cross-disciplinary integration capabilities. Upon graduation, students can pursue careers as:

- **Architects:** Qualified by passing the national professional architectural examination.
- **Public Servants:** Eligible for the national civil service examination in the architectural engineering category.
- **Interior Designers:** Certified as interior design technicians for buildings and interior renovation management.
- **Architectural Environmental Space Designers:** As architects, heritage restoration designers, interior designers, landscape architects, community planners, or exhibition planners.
- **Construction Supervisors and Site Managers:** In construction sites or real estate development companies.

The program offers two specialized tracks, in addition to the academic subjects and credits required for the national architectural examination qualifications, which focus on contemporary architectural concerns such as sustainable environments, regional space revitalization, heritage preservation, and interior space design.

1. **Core Architectural and Environmental Design Track:** Centralized around the "Architectural Design" course, complemented by courses on architectural cultural context and lightweight materials construction, to cultivate students' integrated skills in architectural design and light construction practices.
2. **Regional Environment Construction and Revitalization Track:** Focused on courses related to regional space revitalization, heritage preservation, and sustainable environmental planning, aimed at developing students' professional capabilities to address regional architectural environments with sustainable design solutions.

Department of Product and Media Design

The department is established with the purpose of adhering to the philosophy of "using humanistic spirit as the foundation, implementing the concept of 'three lives' education—life, living, and career—to cultivate socially responsible talents with character, quality, and taste." The goals of the College of Creativity and Technology focus on "cultivating professional talents in cultural creativity and technological communication," "developing talents to promote the creative industry," "nurturing professionals who adhere to ethical standards and are socially responsible," and "fostering creative thinking and design development talents."

I. Department Teaching Development Philosophy

This department has developed four key educational goals in alignment with the university's and college's educational objectives: 1. Cultivate students with professional capabilities in product and media design; 2. Nurture students with cultural and creative industry design skills; 3. Foster students with professional ethics and social awareness; 4. Implement aesthetics into the 'three lives' education. The department collaborates with both domestic and international industries to train professional talents with expertise, global perspectives, and social responsibility. These educational objectives are intricately linked with the university and college's educational aims.

II. Teaching Features

The department aims to integrate technology with humanities and social arts education. The teaching focuses on a foundation of humanities and design, with computer science and technology as the medium, and aesthetics and business as guiding principles. The curriculum integrates three major areas: creative design, computer technology, and aesthetic marketing. Building on the foundational education in humanities and social arts from Fo Guang University, the department provides training in creative product design, multimedia computer animation, and related applications integrating products and media. The goal is to lead students to become professionals in product and media design, equipped with both humanistic literacy and technological expertise. The department's teaching features are as follows:

Balance between practical and theoretical learning: Verifying theories through practice and hands-on design experience.

Cross-disciplinary learning environment: Integrating educational resources from various departments such as art, communication, management, learning, and digital technology.

Mentorship-style group teaching: Core professional courses adopt "co-teaching" and "individual guidance" methods.

Industry-academia collaboration in design: Promoting industry collaboration in design projects to help students develop professional abilities applicable in real-world settings.

Global thinking with local design: Caring for local cultural products while designing with an international perspective.

Graduate Institute of Creative Technology

The university's educational philosophy is centered on fostering a strong foundation in the humanities, aiming to enhance students' intrinsic qualities through humanistic education. This approach helps students understand the value, meaning, and responsibilities of human existence. To meet the demands of Taiwan's diverse society, students are expected to not only develop a solid foundation in the humanities but also acquire essential technological knowledge and skills to keep pace with Taiwan's rapidly evolving social landscape.

Unlike traditional academic divisions, the College of Creative Technology was established with the core mission of integrating technology with humanities and social sciences. It is a unique feature of the university, designed to bridge the gap between humanities and technology through carefully planned programs and departmental development.

Cultural Assets and Reinvention Studies Group

1. This group focuses on cultural heritage, emphasizing both tangible and intangible cultural assets, and uses the cultural creative industry as a practical development field for the creative application of cultural assets, allowing for diverse career paths in the future.
2. The faculty in this group is comprehensive, with diverse and complementary professional fields, facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching, research, and industry partnerships, which benefits students' interdisciplinary learning and cultivates practical skills

for integration across fields.

3. Based in the Yilan area, this group maintains close interactions with local government, industry, and academia, which not only benefits students' practical learning but also fulfills the university's social responsibilities.

The research fields and characteristics of this group include:

1. Cultural Heritage Studies: Including fundamental research on tangible and intangible cultural assets, as well as studies on preservation, regeneration, or management.
2. Museum Studies: Including research on museum collections, research, exhibitions, education, marketing, and derivative products related to museums.
3. Cultural Creativity Research: Including studies on various aspects of the cultural creative industry or technical reports and creative papers on products and activities designed with cultural creative concepts.

Product and Media Design Group

1. Focuses on "Cultural Creative Industry Design," "Forward-looking Creative Design," and "Interactive Media Design" as development themes.
2. Develops high-quality creative products through lifestyle research, welfare care concepts, and the introduction of sustainable living concepts.
3. Based on the foundation of visual design and production courses that integrate design aesthetics, this program combines Taiwan's current advantages in information technology, known as "soft power." It integrates media interfaces with interactive software and hardware, developing a comprehensive concept and approach to interactive design.

The design development direction and points are: A. Strengthening interdisciplinary resource integration by combining creative design, technology, marketing management, and design aesthetics, while leveraging design and innovative technologies to enhance the added value of products. B. Exploring local cultural creative brands and Buddhist stories to develop cultural creative products, strengthening design skills and brand imagery.

In addition to required and elective courses, students during study years are expected to present papers at design-related conferences or publish in international design-related journals. Students in

the design creation track must have their individual works shortlisted in international design competitions or publicly exhibited during their studies.

Communication Studies Group

Our department leverages the trends in technology and new media to cultivate communication professionals. In an increasingly globalized society, we aim to enhance the competitiveness of media content production and creative marketing to meet the demands of the digital media industry.

In recent years, our master's program has focused on combining theory and practice, strengthening academic research capabilities, and aiming to cultivate professionals with comprehensive communication skills. The curriculum is divided into two major tracks: "Media Communication" and "Communication Industry and Applications." The former emphasizes the deepening of professional knowledge, while the latter focuses on the management, operations, and marketing across various industries. In recent years, both academically and in practical experience, researchers have been able to achieve significant growth.

Applied Informatic Studies Group

To cultivate the talent needed for an information-driven society, our department's curriculum not only emphasizes skill certification courses but also balances theory and practice. We guide students in creating multimedia materials that align with learning theories and develop content that enhances motivation and learning efficiency.

Additionally, in response to the development of smart mobile devices and 3C technologies, we offer courses in related fields. Research areas include software engineering, networking technologies, cultural tourism, e-commerce, information security, robotics, smart systems, animation, and gaming. These courses cover areas such as information technology, digital games, and multimedia design, laying a strong foundation for students pursuing careers in digital design or information technology applications.

With the advent of 4G and 5G technologies in mobile phones, information applications have become a key factor in enhancing competitiveness. Choosing our department is a step toward preparing for the future job market. We offer specialized tracks in Information Systems and Management, Network and Multimedia, and Learning and Digital Technology, all of which are in high demand in today's job market. In our teaching, we not only focus on building professional knowledge in information technology but also place great importance on character education and teamwork skills. Our

curriculum integrates natural and social sciences to achieve innovative applications. Students excel in creativity, particularly in the field of mobile innovation applications, and have received high recognition from the industry.

The four departments within the college collaborate closely with each other and maintain strong interdisciplinary ties with other university departments. By integrating resources for teaching and academic research, the college cultivates students with both technological expertise and a strong humanistic foundation. This holistic approach enhances students' intellectual development and provides them with a competitive advantage over their peers at other institutions.

In response to the urgent need for content design professionals in Taiwan's high-tech industries, another key development goal of the college is leveraging information technology to create diverse digital content and design user-friendly multimedia experiences. Given the rapid advancements in knowledge and technology, lifelong learning has become a critical factor in strengthening both corporate and national competitiveness. The education system must adapt by utilizing digital technology to provide personalized and effective teaching. Therefore, only by equipping students with deep humanistic knowledge, rich creativity, and rigorous logical thinking can they effectively meet these challenges and achieve these goals.

Department of Buddhist Studies

This department was established in 2006 with approval from the Ministry of Education, and it is the first Buddhist Studies department in Taiwan's comprehensive universities. In 2007, the department began admitting undergraduate and master's students, enrolling both Taiwanese and international students, including laypeople and monks. Students study in an international environment, broadening their horizons and cultivating a global perspective. The master's program is taught entirely in English, setting a precedent.

In 2012, the department established a master's program in Chinese and a Ph.D. program, the first of its kind in the country. With a focus on both academic and life education, the department aims to cultivate individuals who are well-versed in both ethics and knowledge, as well as research and teaching professionals. The goal is to establish the most complete Buddhist education system and promote Chinese Buddhism and modern humanistic spirit internationally. The department works in

conjunction with the university's Buddhist Research Center to become a hub for Chinese Buddhist studies.

Multifaceted Buddhist Studies Education The department's curriculum explores Buddhism from various perspectives, including literature, philosophy, history, sociology, cultural applications, and psychology. It offers comprehensive academic foundations and professional knowledge to develop students' critical thinking and practical skills.

Professional Language Training

- **Classical Languages:** In-depth mastery of Buddhist scriptures in Classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Tibetan, etc.
- **Modern Languages:** Special training in Buddhist English and Japanese to assist students in participating in international academic exchanges.

International Learning Environment The department has students from over 15 countries and regions, creating a multicultural learning atmosphere. It provides rich overseas learning opportunities, expanding students' global perspective and cross-cultural skills.

"Yunshui Academy" Co-learning Experience Students will immerse themselves in a shared living, dining, and learning environment, cultivating personalities characterized by kindness, teamwork, and a responsible attitude toward life.

Cross-disciplinary Learning Support Unlike traditional Buddhist colleges, students have access to resources from a comprehensive university. They can take courses from other departments, minor in other fields, or even double major.

Educational Goals:

1. To cultivate Buddhist professionals with both ethical and academic foundations.
2. To develop students with teaching and research potential.
3. To nurture Buddhist professionals with innovative thinking and cross-disciplinary abilities.
4. To train individuals with a passion for religious education and mind-body healing service.

Graduate Institute of Religious Studies

In a rapidly changing and complex world, religion has become a crucial force for social cohesion and support, especially in Taiwan's immigrant society. However, religion is a double-edged sword, necessitating academic research to provide critical insights. The institute upholds the principles of religious studies while addressing contemporary social and cultural issues, offering the public a space for advanced learning.

The institute was founded with the mission of cultivating professionals in diverse religious studies, specialists in religious education and humanities, and experts in applying religious culture in practical fields. The educational goals are to enhance students' research capabilities across various religious domains, equip them with the ability to implement life education through religious studies, apply religious expertise in multicultural counseling, and conduct interdisciplinary religious research while accommodating different career paths and research interests.

Educational Objectives:

Cultivating talents with integrated knowledge of religious theory and practice.

Training professionals in religious research and service.

Developing experts in the application of religion and culture.

Master's Program in Buddhist Studies (Hong Kong)

1. Program Mission

The Master's Program in Buddhist Studies (Hong Kong) is jointly established by Fo Guang University and Hong Kong Fo Guang Vihara. It adheres to the academic research traditions of Fo Guang University's Department of Buddhist Studies while integrating Hong Kong's Buddhist educational resources. The program aims to cultivate high-level Buddhist professionals with expertise in Buddhist studies, religious practice, and practical life applications. This program not only covers classical Buddhist theories and religious practice but also incorporates interdisciplinary knowledge such as Buddhist counseling, Buddhist art, and Buddhist literature to meet contemporary societal needs.

2. Program Features

The curriculum is structured around three core dimensions: academic theory, religious practice, and practical application:

Academic Theory: Covers Buddhist history, Buddhist scriptures, Buddhist philosophy, and sectarian thought, providing a solid academic foundation.

Religious Practice: Offers meditation, Buddhist chanting, and Samatha-Vipassana courses provided by the Hong Kong Buddhist Academy to strengthen students' religious practice skills.

Practical Application: Includes courses such as Buddhist counseling, Zen culture, Buddhist art, and mindfulness therapy, helping students integrate Buddhist wisdom into modern life and professional fields.

3. Learning Environment & Resources

International Learning Opportunities: Students can participate in various Buddhist conferences and exchange activities through Fo Guang Shan's global resources.

Hands-on Experience: Practical courses at Hong Kong Fo Guang Vihara allow students to deeply engage in meditation, Buddhist arts, and volunteer services.

Global Perspective: Fo Guang University hosts the annual "Fo Guang Shan University Presidents' Forum," fostering global academic exchanges and providing students with opportunities to interact with international scholars, expanding their academic and professional development.

This master's program is dedicated to cultivating high-level professionals with profound Buddhist knowledge, interdisciplinary expertise, and practical skills, ensuring that Buddhist wisdom continues to have a meaningful impact in contemporary society.

General Education Committee

The general education at the university has been implemented since its founding in 2000. Before the 2011 academic year, the general education program was managed under the Academic Affairs Office, with a General Education Center providing necessary administrative support. From the 2012

academic year onward, to strengthen the promotion of general education, the university officially established the General Education Committee as a key teaching unit responsible for planning and implementing general education courses and activities. The General Education Center, previously part of the Academic Affairs Office, was moved under the General Education Committee, which also established the Language Education Center in 2015. In 2018, a Go Game Development Center was established, and in 2021, a Sports Center was set up to promote a variety of physical activities, such as basketball, Go, water sports, and table tennis.

The General Education Committee is composed of the Vice President (who serves as the chair), the Executive Director (appointed by the President from full-time faculty), deans, department chairs, the heads of the General Education Center, Language Education Center, and Sports Center.

The General Education Committee operates with a well-structured administrative mechanism, including meetings, curriculum committees, various center meetings, and faculty evaluation committees. The goal of general education is to develop students holistically, balancing professional education with general knowledge. By integrating the efforts of various university departments, such as the Academic Affairs Office, Student Affairs Office, and colleges, the committee helps fulfill the ideal of a comprehensive education. Under the dual-track system of college education and academy education, teachers serve not only as instructors but also as mentors. General education bridges these two roles, highlighting its importance within the university. The university leads the development of the humanities and social sciences in Yilan, nurturing many key professionals and elites in society. To promote balanced development in both college education and academy education, the general education curriculum evolves with societal changes while continuing to strengthen language abilities, liberal arts education, and modern academy practices. Through relevant systems, students are encouraged to integrate their departmental expertise with general education, turning it into nourishment that fulfills the university's goal of cultivating well-rounded professionals with both "virtue, quality, and taste."