

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."

Department of Information Applications

Department Overview

The department is dedicated to cultivating entry-level talent in information systems and AI applications, digital game development, animation and visual effects, virtual production, and interactive technologies. Our curriculum is closely aligned with national industry policies and job market demands, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for emerging technological fields.

Alignment with National Key Industry Policies

The Taiwanese government is actively promoting high-tech industries, digital transformation, and innovative technology applications, identifying IT, artificial intelligence (AI), digital games, visual effects, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) as priority development sectors. The department's educational goals strongly align with these initiatives, focusing not only on technical proficiency but also on fostering innovative thinking and practical skills. By training industry-ready professionals, we enhance graduates' market competitiveness and ensure they can seamlessly integrate into the workforce.

Integration with Yilan Science Park Development

Located in Yilan County, the department benefits from its proximity to Yilan Science Park, a hub for communications technology, software development, and digital creative industries. We maintain close collaborations with local enterprises, offering students internship opportunities and career pathways to gain hands-on industry experience during their studies. Additionally, our strategic location near Taiwan's northern and eastern high-tech industry hubs fosters strong partnerships with businesses and research institutions, further

boosting students' employment prospects.

Outstanding Employment and Graduate School Outcomes

As the first IT-related department established in Yilan, our graduates have pursued careers in private enterprises, government agencies, and academic institutions, achieving excellent employment rates. Our master's program boasts a 100% employment rate, while undergraduate students frequently secure IT-related jobs or pursue further studies. Several graduates have entered Ph.D. programs, with one alumna already earning a doctorate and serving as an assistant professor.

Student Characteristics & Core Competencies

Graduates of our department are known for their humble, diligent, and pragmatic approach, a reflection of our emphasis on core competency development.

- Technical expertise is built through fundamental and specialized coursework.
- Innovative thinking is fostered through rigorous learning and diverse life experiences.
- Teamwork skills are cultivated through hands-on training in both professional and general education courses.

Our comprehensive curriculum ensures that students acquire industry-relevant skills, positioning them as key contributors to the IT and digital creative industries.

Educational Objectives

1. Cultivate a proactive service attitude
2. Train professionals in information applications

3. Emphasize both humanities and technological literacy
4. Develop innovative learning capabilities

The Department of Information Applications at Fo Guang University integrates IT with humanities and social sciences, emphasizing both theoretical and practical knowledge. We focus on social changes and the impact of technology on society, leveraging the university's rich humanities and social science resources to develop highly skilled IT professionals with technological expertise, cultural literacy, and social awareness. Our mission includes advancing automation in humanities technology and addressing information society issues, fulfilling the needs of both the nation and society.

Key Development Areas

1. Fundamental research in information technology
2. Interdisciplinary integration and development of IT-related fields
3. Bridging theory and practice through applied research
4. Industry-government-academia collaboration to support regional development

Department of Communication

As the internet bridges the distance between individuals, the world is undergoing a profound transformation. In response to the evolving era of new technologies and media, the Department of Communications at Fo Guang University has long been preparing to cultivate students for the "future." Our goal is to equip graduates with the adaptability and lifelong learning abilities necessary to thrive in society, enabling them to continuously advance and refine their skills.

Our department comprises three specialized tracks: Digital Media, Advertising & Public Relations, and Popular Music Communication, corresponding to the Digital Media & Advertising Program and the Popular Music Communication & Public Relations Marketing Program. To nurture interdisciplinary competencies, we embrace a flexible, diverse, and student-centered learning approach within the university-wide modular curriculum framework. In addition to acquiring professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes within their respective tracks, students can also engage in cross-disciplinary learning, broadening and deepening their expertise in communication studies. This comprehensive training significantly enhances their competitiveness in the job market.

A Step-by-Step Approach to Building Competitive Advantage

In an era of increasing competition, education must evolve. We recognize that acquiring knowledge alone is no longer the primary goal of teaching. Instead, our focus is on developing students' abilities in application, analysis, evaluation, and creation. From freshman to senior year, we systematically and methodically build high-level competencies, allowing students to construct a holistic understanding of communication through learning and self-discovery.

Our curriculum emphasizes both theory and practice, professionalism and character development, striving for excellence while maintaining a pragmatic approach. To ensure our students are well-prepared for the industry, we have

developed a comprehensive learning pathway:

- Freshman & Sophomore Years: Establish a strong foundation in professional knowledge and skills.
- Junior Year: Strengthen practical skills through hands-on training, supported by media internships within the department and industry placements.
- Senior Year: Showcase capstone projects and performances, demonstrating their learning outcomes through our structured learning platform, ensuring a seamless transition from graduation to employment.

Global Perspective & International Opportunities

As information and communication technologies flatten the world and globalization intensifies, exploring and experiencing the broader world has become an essential part of future-oriented education. Many of our outstanding students, recommended by faculty, have excelled in selection processes and secured exchange opportunities in South Korea, the United States, Mainland China, and other locations. Others have been chosen for internships in Southeast Asian countries or served as international volunteers. These experiences have expanded their global perspectives, enriched their university lives, and enhanced their career competitiveness.

Integrated "Five-Year Bachelor's & Master's Program"

To further support students in their academic and career pursuits, we have designed a five-year integrated bachelor's and master's program. This program allows eligible students to start taking graduate-level courses during their senior year, encouraging them to continue their master's studies within the department with financial aid and scholarships. This pathway is efficient, cost-effective, and highly competitive, offering exceptional value for students looking to enhance their qualifications.

As a bachelor's degree has become the standard in higher education, pursuing a master's degree adds significant value to one's career. Our graduate program provides a convenient and comprehensive pathway for both recent graduates

and working professionals seeking further education. To shorten the time required for degree completion, we also welcome professionals to enroll in our Master's Credit Program, allowing them to take preparatory courses before formally entering the graduate program. This phased yet seamless approach enables individuals to achieve their master's degree dreams while continuously enhancing their professional advantages and career prospects.

Educational Goals

In alignment with the university's mission and objectives, the Department of Communications aims to cultivate professionals in journalism, advertising, broadcasting, television, and digital media. We strive to develop top-tier communication leaders and professionals who can create content for both print and electronic media while embracing global perspectives and local cultural awareness.

1. Cultivating professionals in communication creativity and technological applications.
2. Developing talent for media and communication marketing industries.
3. Nurturing professionals who uphold ethical standards and social responsibility in communication.
4. Training creative thinkers and media integration specialists.

Department of Sociology and Social Work

Establishing a sociology department in the Lanyang region is a deeply meaningful endeavor. This area is known for its rich cultural heritage and strong community spirit. Throughout our department's development, we have been grateful for the contributions of numerous local organizations and social elites. Their dedication has enriched our program with local awareness, heartfelt connections, intellectual discourse, and the transmission of invaluable experience.

Guided by the university's humanistic values, our department focuses on

sociological research that fosters reflections on life's values. In addition to aligning with the university's overall development strategy, we have also developed a distinct identity that sets us apart from other sociology programs. Furthermore, our commitment to supporting disadvantaged groups, social work, and welfare services is a key aspect of our mission. As the Lanyang region lacks social welfare-related programs at the higher education level, training professionals in this field has been a significant challenge.

To address local needs and the growing demand for interdisciplinary education, we have integrated social work into our program. With the university's curriculum reform, we have invited experts and scholars in social work to teach. Students who complete 15 social work courses (45 credits) and 400 hours of social work internships are eligible to take the national examination for the Social Work Professional License, effectively preparing them for their future careers.

Educational Goals

Cultivating individuals capable of analyzing social phenomena using sociological perspectives and methodologies.

Developing professionals with a deep passion and commitment to the Lanyang community.

Training students with specialized skills in helping professions.

Department of Public Affairs

Public affairs is an essential field that influences both government and nonprofit sectors. Professionals in public affairs planning and management play a crucial role in driving social reform. To excel in this field, individuals must possess a strong academic foundation, high ethical standards, broad perspectives, and a commitment to public service. Public affairs managers must not only understand governmental operations but also apply corporate management strategies and technological advancements to effectively integrate social and

economic resources for the public good. This discipline encompasses a wide range of fields, including management, law, politics, sociology, psychology, and economics. Given the increasing complexity of public affairs and the rapid pace of global change, professionals must possess interdisciplinary integration skills, adaptability, and a global outlook.

With the growing economic cooperation between Taiwan and Mainland China, political tensions have given way to closer economic ties. However, China's unique political, social systems, and cultural traits differ significantly from Taiwan's. Similarly, Southeast Asian economies have been rapidly developing, yet Taiwan's understanding of these regions remains limited. Therefore, our program emphasizes cross-strait and international studies, equipping students with the knowledge to navigate global affairs while maintaining a strong foothold in Taiwan.

Academic & Career Development

The Department of Public Affairs at Fo Guang University offers a well-structured curriculum and has established a Public Opinion Research Center and a Center for International & Cross-Strait Affairs to train specialized professionals. Beyond classroom learning, we encourage students to participate in industry collaborations, international exchange programs, overseas internships, and experiential learning opportunities to enhance practical experience and industry knowledge.

Our curriculum also includes career-oriented training, offering guidance for public service examinations, tour guide certification, and related employment pathways. Students interested in government careers can take civil service exams to secure positions in various government agencies. Outside of public service, our graduates also have diverse career options in nonprofit organizations, international affairs, and private-sector public relations roles.

Department of Management

The Department of Business Administration at Fo Guang University fosters a learning atmosphere that emphasizes learning by doing and doing while learning. With a flexible and passionate service-oriented approach to departmental operations, we integrate rigorous academic research, practical skills, and extensive educational experience through a faculty team composed of both full-time and adjunct professors. The department currently offers two specialized tracks: the Business Management Track and the Marketing & Leisure Management Track, both designed to embody the essence of modern management.

Under this structured curriculum, students will graduate with at least one major, one minor, and two areas of specialization. They will also gain hands-on experience through research projects and internships, with each specialization supplemented by at least two professional certifications. Through diverse learning methods—including lectures, discussions, hands-on participation, and active listening and communication—students will build a strong foundation in the latest management knowledge and skills. This approach equips them with a competitive advantage for future career success, offering a well-rounded education that encompasses character, quality, and taste, as well as a fulfilling experience in life, livelihood, and career development.

Practical & Industry-Oriented Business Education

Business education emphasizes application-oriented learning, and the talent cultivated in this field is not confined to specific industries. Students equipped with management knowledge can apply their expertise across various sectors. However, during the learning process, if students can engage with real-world industry cases, they will be able to ground abstract management theories in

practical scenarios, significantly enhancing their learning outcomes.

Given that tourism and service industries are key economic drivers in Yilan County, our department leverages local resources to enrich students' education through case discussions, industry visits, and internships. This hands-on approach ensures students gain valuable insights and practical experience that align with industry needs.

Key Competencies

1. Professional Knowledge

A solid foundation in professional knowledge is a prerequisite for becoming a leader. Management professionals must possess both industry knowledge and management expertise:

- **Industry Knowledge:** Covers products, manufacturing, markets, and other essential aspects related to a given industry. A deep understanding of these elements helps managers analyze challenges and predict future trends.
- **Management Knowledge:** Involves planning, organizing, executing, and controlling—the core functions of management. These skills empower leaders to effectively coordinate and optimize organizational operations.

Our undergraduate program provides students with a structured analytical framework for industry knowledge, ensuring they can adapt quickly and apply their expertise in any industry they enter. Meanwhile, the curriculum fosters a comprehensive understanding of management functions, preparing students to meet the expectations of supervisors, complete assigned tasks efficiently, and pave the way for future leadership roles.

2. Practical Application Skills

Management education emphasizes real-world application. Theoretical knowledge alone is insufficient to develop practical skills. Our department focuses on enhancing students' ability to apply knowledge in real-world settings,

ensuring they become valuable assets in any organization.

In addition to meeting university-wide requirements for information processing skills, our program trains students to apply management expertise in problem-solving, rational decision-making, and effective leadership.

Since undergraduates typically lack work experience, our curriculum incorporates case studies, research projects, and practical assignments to help students apply management tools and methodologies in solving real-world problems. Through exposure to practical challenges, students develop strong execution skills, preparing them for the demands of the job market.

3. Interpersonal & Communication Skills

Interpersonal communication is a critical competency for leadership. Successful managers achieve organizational goals through leadership, motivation, and communication. Therefore, we emphasize the development of effective communication and active listening skills, enabling students to collaborate effectively at all levels of management, foster teamwork, and accomplish organizational objectives.

Our department offers structured English language courses and training programs to prepare students for globalization, expanding their career opportunities worldwide. English proficiency is a key competency for our students. Additionally, the curriculum places strong emphasis on public speaking, presentation skills, and teamwork-oriented communication, all of which are crucial for enhancing future employability.

4. Attitude & Ethical Values

As a university founded by the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order, Fo Guang University upholds high expectations for students in terms of ethics, character, and work attitude. The university's motto, "Righteousness, Integrity, Truth, and Compassion", reflects our commitment to instilling strong values in our students:

- Truth (道): Pursuing truth and acquiring knowledge.

- Integrity (義): Transforming knowledge into valuable insights, fostering independent thinking and sound judgment.
- Righteousness (正): Knowing what is right (doing the right things) and understanding the right way to do things (doing things right).
- Compassion (慈): Cultivating gratitude, generosity, and social responsibility.

These values form the ethical foundation we expect from our students, as they align with the qualities sought after by employers.

Our department prioritizes moral development, emphasizing responsible learning attitudes and ethical awareness. Management courses integrate corporate responsibility and business ethics, ensuring that students develop a strong ethical mindset before entering the workforce.

Career-Oriented Program Design

The Department of Business Administration offers specialized programs focusing on business management and healthcare industry management, divided into two tracks:

1. Business Management Track:
 - Covers marketing strategy, business operations, and quality control—essential skills for service industry professionals.
 - Prepares students for careers in service industries, corporate human resources, and operations management.
2. Marketing & Leisure Management Track:
 - Trains students in AI-driven consumer behavior analysis, allowing them to precisely plan products and execute content marketing strategies.
 - Provides in-depth knowledge of cross-border e-commerce

operations.

- Offers hands-on experience in leisure industry management, incorporating VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) technologies to create immersive recreational experiences, thereby enhancing employability.

Commitment to Excellence in Business Education

In response to economic trends and societal changes, our department is dedicated to cultivating management professionals specialized in service industries. Considering the economic landscape of Yilan County, we have defined our mission as:

“To develop professionals with both cultural literacy and expertise in business management, marketing, and entrepreneurship, catering to the needs of the global service industry.”

To achieve this, we integrate academic rigor and industry engagement, ensuring students gain comprehensive management knowledge and practical experience. Our initiatives include:

- Classroom Expectations: Reinforcing professionalism and discipline.
- Guest Lectures: Inviting industry experts to provide real-world insights.
- Certification Training: Offering guidance for business management certification exams.
- Case Studies & Discussions: Encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Team-Based Learning: Fostering collaboration and leadership skills.
- Public Speaking Training: Requiring students to present and articulate ideas effectively.
- Industry Visits: Providing first-hand exposure to business operations.
- Competitions & Activities: Motivating students to apply knowledge in

real-world scenarios.

Additionally, students must meet English and IT proficiency requirements, ensuring their global competitiveness. Our academic mentorship program further supports students in both professional development and personal growth, strengthening their readiness for the job market.

By integrating cutting-edge management education with real-world applications, our department aims to produce highly skilled, ethical, and innovative leaders capable of thriving in the modern business landscape.

Department of Applied Economics

Economics: The Mother of Business and the Queen of Social Sciences

Economics serves as the fundamental discipline for nurturing talent required by various public and private institutions as well as research organizations. Our department adopts a "one department, three divisions" modular curriculum, emphasizing "academic freedom, flexible learning, interdisciplinary integration, and practical orientation." Additionally, we offer both a Master's program and an Executive Master's program, providing students with seamless pathways for further education and career advancement. Our strong research capabilities and extensive professional network ensure that graduates are well-equipped for a broad and promising career.

Fo Guang University follows the mission of its founder, Venerable Master Hsing Yun, and the Million-Member Education Initiative, which is dedicated to talent cultivation through education. During their four years of study, students enjoy tuition rates equivalent to those of national universities and have access to a wide range of scholarships and work-study opportunities. Furthermore, the university's global network—including the five institutions under Fo Guang Shan (Fo Guang University, Nanhua University, University of the West in the U.S., Nan Tien Institute in Australia, and Guang Ming College in the Philippines),

overseas Buddhist centers, and international partner schools—provides students with a fast track to internationalization.

Moreover, our graduates consistently outperform the national average of both public and private universities in terms of employment rates and average salaries. Choosing Fo Guang University ensures a competitive advantage at the start of your career and sets you on a path to success after graduation.

Educational Goals

Cultivate mid-to-senior-level decision-makers with core competencies in economics.

Develop professionals with economic thinking for mid-to-senior-level financial planning and practical applications.

Train professionals with insight into economic operations for mid-to-senior-level international business practices.

Bachelor's Degree Program in Sports and Health Promotion Management

Established in August 2023, this program integrates expertise in both "sports" and "health promotion." With Taiwan's aging population, global advancements in preventive and rehabilitative medicine, and the increasing emphasis on healthy lifestyles, the concept of health promotion is gaining importance. People are prioritizing the maintenance and improvement of their physical and mental well-being, aiming to extend their healthy lifespan. This trend accelerates the development of the global health promotion industry.

Our program is committed to training elite athletes while also providing technical training in sports and theoretical and practical knowledge in health promotion. We aim to equip students not only with advanced sports skills but also with expertise in the "sports industry" and "health promotion industry," thereby enhancing their employability.

Educational Objectives

Cultivate professional management talents with core competencies in both sports and health promotion.

Develop professionals with theoretical knowledge and practical application skills in sports and health promotion.

Foster innovative and interdisciplinary talents in sports and health promotion.

Core Competencies

Professional knowledge and literacy in sports and health promotion.

Awareness of theoretical and practical applications in sports and health promotion.

Interdisciplinary integration and innovative knowledge in sports and health promotion.

Future Career Paths

(1) Employment

Students will be guided to obtain certifications from the Sports Administration, such as "Full-time Sports Coach" and professional licenses in "health promotion-related industries." Career opportunities include:

Sports management professionals

Professional sports operations personnel

Sports marketing and planning specialists

Fitness instructors

Full-time coaches at all educational levels

Sports therapy and rehabilitation specialists

Physical fitness instructors

Active aging health promotion coaches

Health activity planners

Sports conditioning experts

Health and wellness industry professionals

Private sector sports organization managers

(2) Further Education

Graduates may pursue advanced studies in related fields, including:

Sports Coaching

Sports Management

Competitive Sports

Recreational Sports

Health Business Management

Public Health

Business Administration

Other relevant domestic and international graduate programs

Department of Health and Creative Vegetarian Industry

To meet the growing demand for professionals in the vegetarian food industry, our university established Taiwan's first academic department dedicated to cultivating specialized and managerial talents in this field. Approved by the Ministry of Education in 2012, the department officially began enrolling four-year undergraduate students in 2013. Moving forward, we aim to establish the Health and Creative Vegetarian Research and Promotion Center to advance research in vegetarian food production and marketing, culinary arts, food service, and business management. Through technology transfer and innovation, we strive to enhance Taiwan's vegetarian industry in terms of technology, service, and business standards, positioning ourselves as the nation's leader in vegetarian research and promotion.

Our faculty members hold degrees from renowned universities both domestically and internationally, or possess extensive industry experience. They are characterized by their global perspective, professionalism, independent academic research abilities, and strong emphasis on business ethics. The department is committed to nurturing 21st-century professionals who meet industry and societal needs in vegetarian food expertise and business management.

Since its establishment in 2013, the department has had a short yet impactful history. In the early stages, our priority has been to lay a strong foundation and focus on teaching excellence. Therefore, our initial faculty recruitment emphasized practical industry experience. By 2016, on the eve of our first department evaluation, we had already developed a solid academic framework. Currently, the department has eight full-time faculty members specializing in health-based vegetarian planning, creative vegetarian cuisine, Eastern and Western vegetarian culinary arts, food service, restaurant management, and interpersonal communication and coordination.

Future Development Goals

In the short term, we will enhance students' professional competencies, practical skills, and global competitiveness by encouraging professional certification, participating in international competitions, and expanding student exchange programs and internship opportunities both domestically and overseas.

In the medium term, we aim to increase student enrollment by recruiting international students and establishing specialized programs for students from China.

In the long term, we plan to implement group-based admissions for high school graduates specializing in three different categories, cultivating talents in vegetarian food production, marketing, and business management. Additionally,

we plan to establish a master's program and the Health and Creative Vegetarian Research and Promotion Center to conduct research, product development, technology transfer, and marketing promotion. Through education, research, industry collaboration, and service, our ultimate goal is to promote healthy vegetarianism, environmental sustainability, and a love for the Earth.

Strategic Development and Industry Leadership

The Health and Creative Vegetarian Research and Promotion Center will focus on vegetarian food production and marketing, culinary innovation, food service, and business management technology. By leading research and technology advancements, we aspire to become the premier institution for vegetarian research and promotion in Taiwan.

Since its inception, the department has adopted a refined teaching approach that emphasizes culinary techniques, food service management, academic research, and industry collaboration. Taking into account both internal resources and external industry needs, the department is developing in four key directions:

Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in Vegetarian Food

A Balanced Curriculum of Theoretical and Practical Courses to Enhance Employability

Localization and Globalization of Vegetarian Cuisine

Education in Healthy and Sustainable Green Dining

Moving forward, we plan to expand enrollment, establish a graduate institute, and increase resources for faculty and facilities through international recruitment, specialized admissions, and master's programs. These efforts will enhance our teaching, research, and industry service capabilities, ultimately

contributing to the growth and development of the vegetarian food industry.

Department of LOHAS Industries

Guided by the principles of humanistic and college education, our university upholds the motto "Righteousness, Justice, Compassion, and Kindness," emphasizing life education and moral character development. We are dedicated to cultivating individuals who are both self-reliant and committed to benefiting others. Situated in Yilan, an area blessed with scenic mountains, rivers, and natural hot springs, our institution has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and curriculum related to holistic well-being and industry trends since its founding, laying a solid foundation for the establishment of the Department of Future Studies and LOHAS Industries.

Since the university's founding in 2000, we have established graduate programs in Life Studies, Religious Studies, and Future Studies. The Department of Religious Studies and the Department of Future Studies began offering undergraduate programs in the 2002 academic year. With the increasing global awareness of holistic well-being and environmental sustainability, the market for these fields has been rapidly expanding. Taiwan has also followed this trend, leading to a growing demand for professionals in related industries. To address this need, between the 2009 and 2012 academic years, we gradually integrated the Life Studies program, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Department of Future Studies. In 2012, we officially established the Department of Future Studies and LOHAS Industries, making it the first and only academic department in Taiwan specializing in "LOHAS" (Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability). Our goal is to cultivate forward-thinking individuals dedicated to sustainable and healthy living, capable of creating value in their industries while demonstrating a strong commitment to societal well-being.

In 2013, the university founded the College of LOHAS Industries, and our department transitioned from the College of Social Sciences and Management to the newly established college. At its inception, our department offered a bachelor's degree program as well as three master's programs in Future Studies, Life Studies, and Religious Studies. In the 2015 academic year, the Master's Program in Religious Studies was restructured into an independent program under the College of Humanities. In 2016, the Future Studies and Life Studies Master's Programs were merged into one program with two divisions: Population Development and Future Studies and Integrated Health and Life Studies. In 2019, a new Hospitality and Tourism Industry Management division was added. From the 2020 academic year onward, all three master's programs were managed by the college, and our department now exclusively offers a bachelor's degree program while continuing to support both undergraduate and graduate courses within the college.

As of the 2020 academic year, our department has 10 full-time faculty members, including 3 professors, 3 associate professors, and 4 assistant professors, specializing in areas such as health promotion, complementary therapy, wellness and eldercare, tourism and leisure, environmental ecology, trend analysis, and industry management.

Educational Goals

Cultivate practitioners of healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Develop interdisciplinary professionals in future trends and industry management.

Nurture advocates for social well-being and environmental sustainability.

The department's founding philosophy, "Anticipating the Future, Sharing LOHAS," reflects our emphasis on translating ideas into practice, integrating multiple disciplines, and engaging in social concerns. Our unique approach

combines theoretical and practical learning, interdisciplinary studies, and social engagement, distinguishing us from other academic programs. By leveraging global industry trends, Yilan's unique geographical advantages, and the university's strong commitment to social responsibility, we aim to contribute to the development of a harmonious and sustainable LOHAS society.

Professional Development and Specialization

The department's Core Curriculum is designed to nurture professionals who embody the LOHAS spirit and sustainable development in the workplace. Our Specialized Curriculum focuses on training individuals who actively practice healthy and sustainable lifestyles. We offer two specialized elective tracks:

Sustainability and Innovation Track

Integrated Health Track

Key Features of Our Curriculum

Holistic mind-body-spirit well-being and environmental sustainability in LOHAS practice.

A forward-looking perspective in Future Studies.

Interdisciplinary learning and research.

Social engagement and industry-academic collaboration.

By choosing the Department of LOHAS Industries, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to lead a healthier, more sustainable, and more socially responsible future.

The concept of the LOHAS (Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability) industry encompasses five major sectors: Personal Development, Alternative Healthcare, Healthy Lifestyle, Sustainable Economy, and Ecological Lifestyle. At its core, LOHAS promotes a sustainable and healthy way of life, an idea that aligns closely with Eastern life philosophy and has contributed to the development of the LOHAS industry in Eastern societies.

LOHAS represents a lifestyle centered on health and sustainability.

LOHAS Studies encompass the academic principles, practical applications, and societal development of holistic well-being and sustainability.

LOHAS Industry refers to the social network formed by applying LOHAS principles to various sectors.

The goal of implementing a sustainable and healthy lifestyle is achieved through cultivating professionals with LOHAS values, academic knowledge, and practical skills in social services and industry innovation. Fo Guang University's College of LOHAS Industries is the world's first academic institution to fully integrate LOHAS concepts into industry-focused education.

Established in August 2013, the college consists of two departments:

Department of Health and Creative Vegetarian Industry (originally "Vegetarian Industry," renamed in August 2019) – Taiwan's first academic program dedicated to training professionals in the vegetarian food industry, blending health concepts, practical skills, and academic knowledge to promote sustainable and wellness-driven vegetarian dining.

Department of Future and LOHAS Industries – Focused on cultivating students with forward-thinking mindsets and innovative planning abilities, aiming to

develop modern professionals skilled in technology integration, future studies, and LOHAS expertise.

Mission & Educational Objectives

The College of LOHAS Industries is committed to cultivating industry professionals who integrate LOHAS philosophy with academic and practical expertise.

Core Competency Goals

1. Recognition and Application of LOHAS Values
 - Train social service professionals who embrace and promote LOHAS values, guiding individuals toward sustainable lifestyles.
 - Help businesses integrate LOHAS values into customer lifestyles and business strategies, creating positive environmental and social impacts.
2. Fundamental Knowledge of the LOHAS Industry
 - Develop expertise in LOHAS-related advocacy and industry practices.
 - Enable businesses to understand how their products and services influence customers' lives and innovate in ways that support sustainable living.
3. Service Capability in the LOHAS Industry
 - Equip students with practical skills in event planning and advocacy, enhancing business and consumer awareness of LOHAS principles.
4. LOHAS Industry Management and Operations
 - Teach foundational business management skills while emphasizing strategic planning and sustainable actions that link LOHAS principles to consumer lifestyles.

5. Innovation in the LOHAS Industry

- Inspire creativity in event planning and product development, designing sustainable consumer solutions aligned with LOHAS values.

Hong Kong LOHAS Industry Graduate Program

Program Overview

LOHAS stands for Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability. Fo Guang University's Hong Kong-based LOHAS Industry Graduate Program is Hong Kong's first master's program dedicated to LOHAS studies.

Mission and Focus Areas

The program follows the curriculum of Fo Guang University's LOHAS Graduate School in Taiwan, aiming to cultivate professionals with LOHAS expertise and practical industry knowledge. The curriculum is structured into three major tracks:

1. Sustainable Development & Future Studies – Focuses on trend research in the LOHAS industry.
2. Integrated Health & Life Sciences – Emphasizes holistic health solutions and wellness program design and evaluation.
3. Healthy Vegetarian Food & Hospitality Management – Specializes in healthy food innovation and restaurant management.

By integrating market trends and academic resources, the program ensures systematic education, interdisciplinary learning, and professional specialization.

Program Highlights

- ✓ Healthy Vegetarian Culinary Design

- Focuses on health and wellness-based food innovation to strengthen students' industry expertise.

✓ Mind-Body-Spirit Wellness Care

- Covers holistic health research, training students in wellness techniques and elder care management.

✓ Environmental Sustainability

- Offers theoretical and practical insights into sustainability, helping students understand the development and impact of the LOHAS industry.

This program bridges academic research with industry practice, nurturing professionals who can lead sustainable and health-oriented industries worldwide.

Department of Psychology

The reasons why psychology is being valued these days include at least two. First, following the rapid development of physical sciences and biotechnology, more and more scholars have turned their focus to the ultimate mystery of the universe “the human mind.” So far, humanity has already developed advanced technology, magnificent art, profound religious thought, and complex political and economic systems with its unique intellectual abilities. However, how human intelligence has grown to this level remains a great mystery to these days. Such a secret like this would naturally attract many curious minds eager to explore it.

Second, to address societal issues, we need a solid understanding of human psychology and behavior. Issues such as crime and morality, war and peace, suicide, family and marriage, and education, and so on. In today's era of advanced technology, humanity enjoys unprecedented material prosperity but simultaneously faces many unprecedented challenges and dilemmas. The true enhancement of quality of life clearly depends on further psychological research, which is a responsibility that universities must shoulder.

The eternal goal of academic research is to expand human intellect and pursue truth, while its practical significance lies in solving human survival problems and improving overall well-being. From these perspectives, psychological research serves at least four key purposes:

1. Satisfying humanity's eternal curiosity about its own intellect.
2. Helping humanity find its place in the universe and time, and thus gain

answers to the meaning of life.

3. Addressing societal problems and enhancing social life.
4. Bridging the gap between technology and humanity, making the humanization of technology possible.

Exploring the Mysteries of the Human Mind Through Science

The Department of Psychology at Fo Guang University has an outstanding faculty and fosters a warm and harmonious teacher-student interaction. It is one of the few psychology departments in Taiwan that includes both Clinical and Counseling Psychology divisions at the graduate level. Renowned for its rigorous academic approach and well-equipped research facilities, the undergraduate program offers a core curriculum in psychology alongside elective tracks in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, Social and Educational Counseling Psychology, and more. This curriculum ensures a solid theoretical foundation while emphasizing the integration of theory and practice.

The master's program offers specializations in General Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and Counseling Psychology, with a strong emphasis on research methodology training. It fosters the development of talented professionals with high potential, serving as a cradle for future professional psychologists.

A Commitment to Quality Education

Fo Guang University was founded with the spirit of "Humanistic Buddhism" and is dedicated to imparting practical knowledge and cultivating capable individuals for society. In line with this mission, the psychology department offers authentic psychology education—from theoretical foundations to real-world applications—ensuring students acquire both the necessary knowledge and the ability to navigate life.

Life offers only a few opportunities like this: world-class faculty, state-of-the-art

laboratories, a strong academic ethos, close teacher-student relationships, comprehensive curricula, rigorous teaching, freedom of thought, and spontaneous inspiration. Learning opportunities abound both inside and outside the classroom. Furthermore, we value not only academic excellence but also a vibrant and enjoyable approach to life. Over the years, our students have excelled in extracurricular activities, clubs, and athletic competitions, demonstrating remarkable achievements.

Talent Development

A department committed to talent development must establish a well-structured and progressive curriculum. The undergraduate program at Fo Guang University is designed with a "curricularization" structure, systematically organizing related courses into coherent professional clusters. This approach provides students with a clear academic direction, allowing them to select courses more systematically and learn more effectively.

Educational Goals

1. Providing a comprehensive foundation in psychology, educating individuals with a psychological perspective and contributing to the "socialization of psychological knowledge."
2. Training students with rigorous research methodology to foster independent thinking and develop psychology professionals with strong potential.
3. To offer a well-rounded general education, nurturing individuals with broad knowledge and an insightful worldview.