

At Crowley's Ridge College . . .

Our Biblical Roots are Strong

A BRIEF HISTORY:

Crowley's Ridge College (CRC), founded in 1964, is a private, four-year Christian, community-oriented college, located in Paragould, Arkansas. Its founder, Emmett Floyd Smith Jr., envisioned bringing quality, Christian education to Northeast Arkansas. That vision became visible in 1953 with the establishment of Crowley's Ridge Academy, a Christian secondary school that demonstrated strong regional support for faith-based education. Next was the establishment of Crowley's Ridge College, with Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus participating in the College's groundbreaking ceremony on January 29, 1964. CRC officially opened its doors on July 6, 1964. Both institutions began as an outreach of the churches of Christ.

Today, CRC remains strongly connected to the churches of Christ, with many of these congregations and their members generously supporting the College. CRC also serves students from other backgrounds and religions. The College is committed to providing academic excellence within a Christ-centered environment that encourages spiritual growth, leadership development, and service.

Emmett Smith came to Paragould with an ambition, and a dream - of a Christian school where the children from Christian homes could be given the desired quality of academic training, but at the feet of teachers who were themselves dedicated and devoted Christians, and who would instill the principles of Christian living in these young minds as they developed.

Crowley's Ridge College is the fruition of his greatest ambition.



CRC was the first institution of higher education in Paragould and remains the city's only residential college. The College's 166-acre campus on Crowley's Ridge features rolling hills of pine trees, a small central lake, and over 92,000 square feet of educational facilities.

CRC'S STRATEGIC PLAN:

Crowley's Ridge College moves forward through five-year strategic plans that unite its commitment to educational excellence with its foundation in Scripture. Following the completion of Thrive 2025, which guided enrollment growth, academic expansion, student success, and institutional strengthening, CRC is finalizing Mission True 2026–2030.

Building upon that progress, Mission True brings together the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders around five pillars: mission and Scripture, enrollment growth and student success, academic innovation and workforce preparation, financial strength and stewardship, and Kingdom impact and campus growth.

Anchored in Colossians 3:17, Mission True will guide CRC's priorities and decisions while keeping its Christ-centered mission at the heart of every initiative. As the College grows and strengthens its educational opportunities, its purpose remains clear: With God's blessings, we will remain Mission True in all that we do.

CRC'S ACCREDITATION, AFFILIATIONS, AND DEGREE PROGRAMS: Crowley's Ridge College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and is recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. Additionally, CRC is a member of Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities and competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

CRC offers the following Bachelor's and Associate degrees within four divisions in 2026-2027:

Associate Degrees

A.A. General Studies
A.S. General Studies
A.S. Business

Bachelor's Degrees

B.A. Biblical Studies
B.S. Business Administration
B.S.E. Elementary Education K-6
B.A. General Studies
B.S. Marketing
B.S.E. Physical Education K-12
B.A. Psychology
B.S. Sports Management

Articulation Agreements

B.S. Biology (FHU)
B.S. Chemistry (FHU)
B.A. Speech Language Pathology (HU)
B.S. Business Administration (BRTC)
B.S. Marketing (BRTC)
B.S. Education (BRTC)

Joint Programs

B.S. Nursing (FHU)
PharmD Pre-Pharmacy (HU)
M.A. Organizational Leadership (HU)

Minors

Biblical Studies
Business Administration
Christian Leadership & Management
Coaching
Elementary Education
Education Theory
Entrepreneurship
Health & Physical Education
History
Human Resources
New Testament Studies
Old Testament Studies
Psychology
Sports Management
Sport Performance

CRC'S CHURCH AFFILIATION AND BOARD:

Crowley's Ridge College is a sound, quality Christian college, founded as an outreach of the churches of Christ, and has remained true to the Biblical principles emphasized within God's inspired Word, while providing excellence in education with a Christian focus. The vast majority of all employees are members of a church of Christ, and absolutely all Bible teachers must be members of a church of Christ. We look first to fill all jobs from within the churches of Christ. Furthermore, we have chapel services every Monday through Thursday throughout the school year, and our worship is traditional, as you would expect within most churches of Christ.



Crowley's Ridge College is currently governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees comprised of Christian men and women, including five alumni. All are members of congregations identifying as churches of Christ, as stated in the Crowley's Ridge College Bylaws. Trustees represent diverse professional backgrounds and share a strong commitment to Christian higher education. Each board member also provides personal financial support to the College.

BUDGET:

CRC utilizes an annual zero-based budgeting process in which departmental budget managers collaborate with the Executive Committee (the President & Vice Presidents) to ensure responsible stewardship of resources. The Board of Trustees approved a 2026–2027 operating budget of $4,846,585. CRC's revenue is derived from three primary sources: 72.6% from student tuition and fees; 24.7% from annual gifts by alumni, churches, foundations, businesses, and friends of the College; and 2.7% from endowment and other income.

CRC'S MISSION IS OUR STUDENTS:

The mission of Crowley's Ridge College is to promote academic excellence and spiritual growth in every student. CRC maintains a nondiscriminatory admissions policy, which is explained in the next section. Our goal is to help every CRC student succeed in completing a Christ-centered college degree.



Since its founding in 1964, CRC has provided more than 7,000 students with a Christian college education. Originally established as a two-year junior college, CRC was granted accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2008 to award bachelor's degrees, expanding its academic reach and institutional impact.

Students from more than 30 states and 12 countries have attended Crowley's Ridge College. During the current academic year, 317 students are enrolled, representing 28 states, with 65.5% hailing from Arkansas. More than 95% of students receive financial aid; over 50% come from lower-income regions throughout and near the Delta area; more than 30% are first-generation college students; and 20% are from minority populations.

Students choose CRC for its Christ-centered mission, personal attention, vibrant campus life, and affordability. Tuition and fees are comparable to Arkansas public higher education institutions and significantly lower than most private colleges nationwide. With an 11:1 student-to-faculty ratio, CRC provides individualized instruction and mentoring. Student life includes a full-time campus ministry, mission trips, retreats, intramural sports, outdoor recreation, community service opportunities, and a variety of campus activities. CRC's NAIA sports program includes men's basketball, baseball, golf, cross country, and women's basketball, softball, volleyball, and cross country. Non-NAIA sports include disc golf, featuring an 18-hole course situated throughout CRC's picturesque campus of rolling hills.

BIBLICAL STANDARDS:

Crowley's Ridge College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, age, religion, veteran status, or any category prohibited by law in its education programs, activities, admissions, or employment, and is required by Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner. The College upholds these principles while maintaining exemptions where regulations conflict with its religious beliefs. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 to the College may be referred to the College's Title IX coordinator(s).



As a Christian institution of higher learning, Crowley's Ridge College is committed to biblical teachings, good moral character, and Christian principles in every aspect of campus life. The College expects students and employees to demonstrate honesty, integrity, kindness, respect for others, personal responsibility, self-control, and sexual purity.

CRC also affirms that sexual intimacy is a gift from God to be expressed only within the covenant of marriage, defined as a union between one man and one woman, as taught in Scripture (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Hebrews 13:4). Additionally, the College believes that homosexual relationships, homosexual marriage, homosexual sex, and homosexual displays of affection are contrary to God's will (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Because Crowley's Ridge College believes God created both man and woman, any gender limitations in any educational program or activity, such as housing, restrooms, and athletic participation, will be determined exclusively by biological sex at birth and not by one's self-perception.

CHURCH OF CHRIST COLLEGES CLOSING



The number of four-year, residential colleges connected to the Churches of Christ has steadily declined across the US over the last 50 years:

- 1975 (50 years ago) 22 Colleges Open
- 2005 (20 years ago) 16 Colleges Open
- 2015 (10 years ago) 14 Colleges Open
- 2026 (Today) 12 Colleges Remain. CRC is one of those.

WHY CRC MATTERS

Today, Crowley's Ridge College stands as 1 of only 12 remaining residential colleges of its kind in the nation. While other Church of Christ-connected colleges have been forced to close their doors, CRC's doors remain open, and remains steadfast in its mission and in keeping its strong Biblical roots:

- **Christ-Centered Education:** We provide a learning environment rooted in faith.
- **Leadership & Service:** We prepare students for a lifetime of faithful Christian living.
- **A Lasting Legacy:** Your support is key to ensuring CRC's mission continues for future generations and the future of the Lord's Church.

WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT:

The mission of Crowley's Ridge College is made possible by fervent prayer, our amazing faculty and administration, as well as the generosity of thousands of friends, alumni, and donors.

Please visit these pages on our website to learn more about a variety of Giving areas and how you can support CRC:
Mission Possible Capital Campaign: www.crc.edu/mission-possible.

Additionally, the following giving areas are available at: www.crc.edu/giving.

- Giving Opportunities
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Athletics
- Department of Arts and Sciences
- Division of Biblical Studies
- Division of Business and Technology
- Division of Teacher Education
- Scholarships
- Endowment
- Faculty and Staff
- Technology
- Buildings and Campus
- Cafeteria
- Bible Lectureship
- CRC Day
- The President's Circle
- Memorial or Honor
- Other



WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT CAMPUS OR SCHEDULE A VISIT IN YOUR AREA:

Thank you for your thoughtful review of this information. I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you at your convenience, either on CRC's campus or in your area. We invite you to experience our beautiful campus firsthand, including joining us for chapel at 11:00 a.m. and sharing a meal in our cafeteria. However, if better for you, I am happy to come to your area. I welcome and look forward to the opportunity to connect with you soon.

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