

# MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

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The Consortium of Christian Study Centers (CCSC) exists to catalyze and empower thoughtful Christian presence and practice at colleges and universities around the world, in service of the common good. Toward that end, we welcome applications from study centers that have achieved a measurable level of organizational maturity and stability.

The application process is not just evaluative but also developmental. CCSC staff, as well as staff from our member centers, will actively support interest groups of candidate centers to assist them in developing to the point of meeting the criteria required for membership. During this process, candidate centers are encouraged to apply for "Prospective Membership" status.

Before seeking full member status, prospective centers should conduct research (surveys, focus groups) to assess need, evaluate the landscape, and assess feasibility. They should also have operated for long enough to establish a sustainable funding model, secure independent nonprofit status, demonstrate a theological identity that grounds the work in historic creedal orthodoxy, and articulate a clear mission that aligns with the CCSC's commitment to thoughtful Christian engagement with the university. This threshold of maturity enables the CCSC to present a coherent witness to universities, churches, and the broader public, ensuring that study center membership reflects shared convictions and practices.

As you prepare to apply for full member status, those serving on the CCSC Membership Committee look forward to meeting with you to review your progress and help you with final preparation of the application.

When you have completed the following form, please email it to Elaine Rollogas, CCSC Operations Manager ([opsmanager@cscmovement.org](mailto:opsmanager@cscmovement.org)).

# PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

## **Mission Alignment**

- A clear understanding of the mission and purpose of the Christian Study Center Movement (See CCSC Supporting Documents)

## **Organizational Independence**

- IRS 501c3 status in process

## **Board Best Practices**

- An interest group or steering committee of at least five persons

## **Budget and Staff**

- Not required at this stage

## **Theological Identity**

- Affirm the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds
- Inter-confessional, willing to serve a broad Christian constituency within the larger Christian tradition
- Acknowledge the CCSC's Theological Identity Statement and Christian Life Standards

## **Other**

- Aspiration to establish a physical presence (rented or owned building or space) on or near campus
- Aspiration to establish institutional presence (i.e., multiple full-time employees and not just a personal discipleship ministry)

# PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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CONSORTIUM  
*of* CHRISTIAN  
STUDY CENTERS

Study Center name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address \_\_\_\_\_

Point of contact \_\_\_\_\_ Title/role \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other social media links

What is the primary university or college you seek to serve?

What is your mission statement as you currently understand it?

Are you pursuing IRS-approved 501(c)3 status?

Yes  No

Are you currently fiscally sponsored by a church or non-profit organization?

Yes  No

If so, provide its name.

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Do you affirm the historic, orthodox beliefs of the Christian faith as summarized by the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds?

Yes  No

Have you read and do you agree with the common vision and core commitments of a Christian Study Center as articulated in the document *The Common Vision and Core Commitments of a Christian Study Center*?

Yes  No

If not, how do you differ from them?

The CCSC is a network of study centers from a very broad spectrum of Christian theological traditions under the “mere Christianity” expressed in the two central creeds mentioned above.

Yes  No

*Do you intend to serve a broad constituency within the larger Christian tradition?*

The CCSC's *Theological Identity Statement* and *Christian Life Standards* govern CCSC board and staff. Member centers are encouraged, but not required, to affirm these statements, but all must acknowledge that they understand these documents pertain to the Consortium and therefore inform the broader context of the CSC movement.

Yes  No

*Have you read and do you understand these documents?*

Date of form submission

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## MISSION AND VISION

*It is vital for applicants for membership to have a solid grasp of the recent history of the Christian Study Center (CSC) movement and the current ideas and practices of member centers. Equally important, applicants must be able to articulate in some fashion how their center is in alignment with the collective of study centers. We know that this process of forming a new center's own identity takes time and that changes will take place as the center grows in its unique context. Early intentional reflection will pay dividends as the study center develops.*

*Among the aspects of a Christian Study Center that we consider essential to the work:*

- A focus on the “whole person” of participants of the study center’s ministry, integration of faith and learning, and Christian formation to include intellectual formation. Study centers are not generally focused on apologetics or worldview training as such, except as these aspects of discipleship are integrated into holistic formation.*
- A love for the university as a place for human flourishing as well as a context for Christian witness. Study centers seek to assist the university in fulfilling the historic collegiate mission of human formation. The posture of study centers toward the university is not in principle adversarial or oppositional.*
- A desire to advance the common good of the university and surrounding community, offering programs for people of a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including non-Christians. Drawing on theological resources such as common grace, Christian Study Centers work with the assumption that we have a lot to learn from non-Christian colleagues, faculty, and even students. This conviction warrants a posture of irenicism, intellectual humility, and respectful disagreement.*

As an elaboration of your mission statement, articulate your study center's purpose and vision as you currently understand it. What do you hope to accomplish through your ministry? Who are you seeking to serve, and what impact do you envision in the lives of students, faculty, and/or your broader university community? Do you aim to serve the "whole university"—undergrads, grad students, and faculty?

What work have you done to build support among existing or likely stakeholders? Provide a brief summary of the kinds of stakeholders you anticipate will help you in building your center (alumni, faculty, etc.). How many individuals are already supportive?



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STUDY CENTERS