

Policy Number	127.003
Policy Title	KEPHA ADMISSION POLICY
Responsible Officer	Dean of Kepha Institute
Responsible Office	Kepha Admissions Office
Summary	The following policy outlines student's requirements for admission to programs in CIU's Kepha Institute.
Definitions	Official Transcripts – A comprehensive record of academic progress, including transfer courses, credit earned by exam, and all earned degrees. College transcripts must list the following: Dates the student attended the institution, titles of courses and examinations completed, grades received, credit, hours or units earned, any degree or diploma received. Transcripts must be received directly from the institution in a sealed envelope or in an electronic format by the prior school sending the transcript through an approved third-party vendor. Unaccredited Institutions - US institutions which are not accredited by an agency officially recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or non-US institutions not acknowledged by WES as accredited (typically based on the institution's recognition by the home country's ministry of education). Exceptions noted in policy. Benke Certificate of Graduation – Diploma or Graduation Certificate of a 4- or 5-year undergraduate course. Zhuanke Certificate of Graduation – Diploma of a 2- or 3-year junior college course. https://www.chsi.com.cn/en/news/201312/20131202/663878204.html
Approving Body	Academic Council; Administrative Council
Initial Approval Date	June 2022
Latest Approval	127.000 06.06.2022 (Aca C); 06.13.2022 (Admin C) 127.001 07.17.2023 (Aca C); 09.27.2023 (Admin C) 127.002 01.17.2025 (Aca C); 01.15.2025 (Admin C) 127.003 09.19.2025 (Aca C); 09.10.2025 (Admin C)
Re-evaluation Date	Fall 2028
Departmental Impact	All CIU

Failure to follow the following policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

Policy Statement

Consistent with its mission and objectives, CIU seeks to admit students with strong Christian character, intellectual ability and a desire to be trained in their desired field with a Biblical worldview to become leaders who impact the nations with the message of Christ. Admission is based on the completion of all general requirements which include evidence of Christian conversion and development of Christian character, agreement with CIU's doctrinal standard, evidence of adequate academic preparation for college-level study (demonstrated by possessing a an earned bachelor's or master's degree and any master's level credit earned) as well as evidence of English proficiency.

Admission decisions are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, or disability. CIU reserves the right to deny or revoke the admission of any applicant whose behavior or lifestyle is inconsistent with biblical principles or with the lifestyle standards of the CIU community.

Rationale

This policy provides clear and consistent directions, guidelines, responsibility and accountabilities to the admissions department of Columbia International University. Consistent application of this policy will ensure student success, provision of a quality learning environment and community as well as fair treatment of all students, furthering the mission of the university.

Policy Procedures

Applicants applying for admission as a full or part-time degree seeking or non-degree seeking must provide the following to the Kepha Admissions Office:

- Online application submitted through Populi
- Affirmation to be a Christian and agree with CIU's Doctrinal Standard.
- Proof of minimum highest earned degree equivalent of a U.S. earned bachelor's degree*

For schools attended outside the United States, an Official International Credential Advancement Package (ICAP) evaluation must be performed on required transcripts by World Education Services (WES) or an evaluation by InCred must be obtained. Academic records not written in English must be accompanied by a certified translation. Special consideration is given for applicants having studied in China:

- Not seeking transfer credit: Applicant may submit official transcripts in Chinese, official graduation certificate and degree certificate in Chinese to verified through the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), CSCSE (Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange), or from the China Higher Education Student Information & Career Center (CHESICC) websites. CDGDC, CSCSE, and/or CHESICC will provide CIU with the official academic transcript and English verification report to determine highest post-secondary degree earned.
- Seeking transfer credit: Applicants submit their Chinese documents to CHESICC (China Higher Education Student Information & Career Center) and have CHESICC provide WES with the official academic transcript and English verification report and obtain a course-by-course evaluation.

Applicants to CIU graduate programs who have graduated from a school accredited by Asia Theological Association (ATA) may be considered as having received the equivalent of a U.S. Bachelor or Master degree from an accredited institution, as long as the school's accreditation with ATA is current at the time of the student's graduation.

Students having an earned Bachelor or Master degree from the state recognized CCC (China Christian Council) and TSPM (Three-Self Patriotic Movement) Seminaries in China may be considered as having received the equivalent of a U.S. Bachelor or Master degree from an accredited institution (full listing available at <https://www.ccctspm.org/church/2>).

*Baccalaureate Equivalence: Chinese Initiative applicants with an earned Benke Certificate of Graduation, without the accompanying bachelor's graduation certificate, may be provisionally accepted as having the equivalent to a bachelor's degree. The Zhuanke Certificate of Graduation does not indicate U.S. bachelor equivalency. Applicants graduating from Secondary Professional or Junior College Program of state recognized CCC (China Christian Council) and TSPM (Three-Self Patriotic Movement) Seminaries may be considered as GED/high school diploma graduates, but are not considered having earned the equivalent to the U.S. bachelor's degree.

- Leader Reference
- Personal Essay (800-word minimum)*
- Affirm CIU's Doctrinal Statement*
- Educational background form
- English Proficiency: For programs that have English proficiency requirements, the following CIU Admission policies apply to Kepha programs.

International students from the following countries do not need to submit an English proficiency exam: (UK) Virgin Islands, (US) Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, England, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Grenadines, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Nevis, New Zealand, Nigeria, Saint Kitts, Scotland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad, Uganda, United Kingdom, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

International students from the following countries may be required to submit an essay or go through an interview

process in lieu of an English proficiency exam: Caicos Islands, Cameroon, Cook Islands, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Jersey, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Island, Micronesia, Montserrat, Namibia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Island, St. Helena, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Turks Islands, Vanuatu.

**MED and seminary program applicants should demonstrate personal faith in Christ and full affirmation of the doctrinal statement. Students in the MBA program are not required to meet this same standard and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Kepha Admission Review Committee.*

Degree-Specific Requirements

- Counseling (Chinese), MA – Online Interview

Non-Baccalaureate Students

Students without an earned baccalaureate degree but meet other qualifications may be considered for special admission to certain graduate programs at Columbia International University. Requirements and availability for non-baccalaureate students is available in the Non-Baccalaureate Admissions Policy.

Dual Enrollment Admission

- **Online Application**
- **Eligibility:** High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors can participate in the dual enrollment program.
- **GPA Requirement:** A minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for acceptance.
 - Students with a GPA below 3.0 may be considered for admission with the submission of a letter of recommendation from the high school administration.
- **Transcripts:** Official high school transcript.
- **English Proficiency:**
The English proficiency requirement is waived, as the CIU Kepha Dual Enrollment program is taught in Mandarin Chinese, consistent with Kepha's graduate-level programs, which also do not require English proficiency.
- **Target Students:**
The Kepha Dual Enrollment program is designed for high school students in China, including those attending private schools, where the state does not officially recognize private schools or homeschooling.
- **High School Classification in China:**
In China, 9th grade is considered middle school, while 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are classified as high school. Therefore, only the GPA from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades is required for admission.
- **Course Approvals and Non-Degree Seeking Students:**
Kepha Dual-Enrollment courses, approved by the Academic Council, are included in the course offerings available to Non-Degree Seeking Students (NDSS) under the CIU Undergraduate Admissions policy.

Non-Degree Seeking Students (NDSS)

Students not applying for a specific degree program may apply to be accepted as a non-degree seeking student (NDSS). Examples include transient students, consortium students, and students seeking prerequisites for licensures and certificates. NDSS applicants must complete the general application requirements; unofficial transcripts or transient letter may be accepted as the admitting credential.

Graduate applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree. A maximum of 12 graduate hours may be taken as a non-degree seeking student.

Previously Enrolled Students

Students must reapply and submit all degree-specific admission requirements if out of attendance for two consecutive regular semesters. Students who have missed only one regular semester of study contact the Registrar and Financial Aid Offices.

Non-Accredited Degrees

Students graduating with a bachelor's degree from an unaccredited institution are generally ineligible for admission to graduate programs at CIU. However, it may be determined that the academic rigor required in the bachelor's program is sufficient to merit admission. Applicants who have earned a degree in this category must provide the following to the Admissions Office:

- All general application requirements and degree-specific admission requirements in the catalog
- Unaccredited Institution Review

Notification to Graduate Applicants

Once all application materials have been received, the completed application will be reviewed and the applicant notified of the admission decision.

Provisional Acceptance

Entering graduate students who do not meet the minimum requirements for their desired degree program may be admitted on a provisional basis. The Admission Review Committee will review the candidate's performance in previous education, work, or military training and determine if provisional admission is appropriate.

Hyperlinks

www.ciu.edu/policy