

Important Information Regarding Chapel at California Baptist University

What is Chapel?

Chapel is a gathering of the CBU community for worship, fellowship, Christian growth, and spiritual encouragement.

Am I required to attend Chapel?

If you are a traditional undergraduate student enrolled in seven (7) or more units, you must attend Chapel. If your enrollment falls below seven (7) units due to dropped courses you are responsible to also drop Chapel. If your enrollment falls below seven (7) units after the "Last Day to Drop a Course with Refund" you will be expected to meet the Chapel expectations for the semester.

How do I add Chapel to my class schedule?

In most cases GST050 Chapel/Convocation will be automatically added to your course schedule as you enroll in classes. You also have the ability to Add or Swap a Chapel Section prior to the "Last Day to Add a Course."

What if I don't enroll in Chapel?

You will still be responsible to attend Chapel and meet the minimum requirement of fifteen (15) Chapels. The Spiritual Life Office will add Chapel to your schedule, but it may not be at your preferred time.

Where and when are Chapels held?

Chapel services are held in the Events Center. You must attend the Chapel section for which you are registered to receive credit. Depending on your class schedule, you will be expected to attend Tuesdays and scheduled Thursdays at either 9:00a.m. or 10:45a.m. It will be necessary for you to attend a combination of both Tuesday and Thursday Chapels in order to meet the attendance requirements.

What is expected of me when I attend Chapel?

You will be expected to participate in the Chapel experience, directing your attention to the worship team, speaker, and other presenters or presentations. Texting, studying, use of electronic equipment, or any other activity that would distract you (and those around you) or keep you from actively participating is not permitted during Chapel and could cause your credit for that Chapel to be denied.

How many Chapels do I have to attend each semester?

You must attend a minimum of fifteen (15) Chapels during the semester. Students are encouraged to attend every Chapel, but illness or emergencies may prohibit you from doing so. Additional Chapels are scheduled to allow for those days when you might be unable to attend.

Where can I get a Chapel schedule?

Chapel schedules are available through the CBU website, Blackboard, Life@CBU Guidebook, Events Center Check-In Stations, and InsideCBU under the Spiritual Life folder. Chapel dates are also listed on the University Calendar which is also available through InsideCBU.

Can I attend Chapel at a time that is not listed in my schedule?

A student is welcome to attend any Chapel service throughout the week. However to receive credit you must attend Chapel at the time listed on your official class schedule.

Can I attend Chapel twice in one day and get two credits?

No, only one (1) Chapel credit is granted for any given program/date.

How is attendance taken at Chapel?

Students are expected to present their valid CBU Card upon entry. Designated student workers will scan your card upon entering the Chapel venue. Students will then be expected to confirm their attendance by responding to the prompt on the attendance tracking device. That data is then stored in the Chapel Attendance Tracking System.

Where can I check my Chapel attendance?

Chapel attendance can be viewed through InsideCBU on the "Life@CBU" tab by clicking on "Chapel Attendance" in the left margin or within the Spiritual Life Guide of the Life@CBU Guidebook app. The dates that you attended, scanned and acknowledged are listed and totaled.

Who is responsible for tracking my Chapel attendance?

You are expected to keep track of your attendance to ensure that it is correct. Check your attendance often to verify that you have received credit for each Chapel you attend.

Whom do I talk to if my Chapel attendance is incorrect?

The Spiritual Life staff will be able to assist you with Chapel attendance issues. Attendance discrepancies must be reported in person to Chapel staff in the Spiritual Life Office within thirty (30) calendar days of the Chapel date in question and prior to the start of Final Examinations.

What if I arrive late to Chapel?

To receive credit, you must arrive within five (5) minutes of the start of Chapel. If you arrive after 9:05a.m. or 10:50a.m., you are welcome to attend but will not receive credit.

What if I have to leave Chapel early?

You must stay for the entire Chapel Service to receive credit. If you leave early for a test, for a meeting with a professor, for a medical appointment, or for any other reason, you will be required to sign-out with a Chapel staff member and will not receive credit for that Chapel.

What if I am late to Chapel because I stayed after class to speak with a professor, or the professor asked me to stay?

Ask the professor if there is another time that you can meet so that you will not forfeit a Chapel credit.

What if I get sick or have an appointment that keeps me from attending a particular Chapel?

The number of Chapel Services scheduled exceeds the minimum amount that you are required to attend so that you can occasionally miss Chapel for these reasons.

Do I need to request to be excused from a Chapel service?

No, you can be absent from any Chapel service for any reason that you determine; however, you are still required to attend the minimum amount of fifteen (15) Chapels. Be cautious about missing Chapels.

What happens if I miss a few Chapels to study, but get sick and end up missing too many Chapels to pass?

You will fail Chapel. Attend Chapel early in the semester and attend often. Miss Chapel only when you cannot help it or when you have enough Chapel credits to pass.

What if I have to be off-campus during Chapel due to official University business with a CBU team or group?

If you are required to be off-campus because you are representing the University with a team or group, Chapel credit will be granted under one of the following conditions: your team is leading or attending the equivalent of Chapel services as part of your official University business, or your required, University-related absences cause you to miss too many Chapels to pass. Address either exception to the Director of Chapel.

Can I make up any Chapels?

Students enrolled in regular Chapel (Sections A or B) are permitted to make up one (1) Chapel per semester. The Make Up opportunity will be made available through Blackboard at the end of the semester. There are no make up opportunities for students enrolled in the Alternative Chapel Program (Section C).

What if I am short just one or two Chapels at the end of the semester?

You must acquire a minimum of fifteen (15) Chapel credits to receive a passing grade. Attending less than fifteen (15) Chapels will result in a failing grade.

How many semesters do I have to attend Chapel?

If you have received a passing grade in Chapel at CBU for a total of eight (8) semesters, you may apply for a waiver from Chapel requirements. See the Spiritual Life Office for this waiver application.

What if I have a work schedule, class schedule, commuting, or other significant conflict that keeps me from attending Chapel each week?

You might be eligible to participate in the Alternative Chapel Program (ACP). ACP provides spiritual enrichment and the opportunity to fulfill the minimum requirements of the CBU Chapel program for students who have a significant, legitimate conflict with the regular Chapel schedule because of a work schedule, class schedule, commuting requirement, or personal/family obligation.

What if I can attend Chapel on Tuesdays each week but not Thursdays due to a work schedule, class schedule, commuting, or other significant conflict?

You might be eligible to participate in a Hybrid Chapel. Students enrolled in a section of Hybrid Chapel acquire credits by attending in person on Tuesdays and completing the requirement by interacting with online Chapel opportunities. For consideration a student must submit the online ACP application available through InsideCBU.

Can anyone enroll in Alternative or the Hybrid Chapel?

No, only students who have a significant, legitimate conflict with the regular Chapel schedule because of a work or class schedule conflict, commuting requirement, or personal/family obligation, which would cause a significant hardship if required to attend Chapel are eligible to apply.

How do I enroll in Alternative Chapel?

Applications and information are available in InsideCBU on the "Life@CBU" tab. All applications are approved or denied by the Director of Chapel and the Assistant Director of Chapel according to the criteria listed on the application form. Deadlines apply.

How does the Alternative Chapel Program (ACP) work?

ACP is offered through Blackboard. Students approved to participate in ACP interact with an online Chapel message by viewing a series of videos and responding to prompts associated with the material presented. Students must view the Chapel video in its entirety to be granted credit. Alternative Chapel videos are available for at least a one-week time period.

What Chapels are posted in Alternative Chapel?

Most Chapel Services with a speaker are posted for credit through ACP. Video messages from a variety of speakers will be posted when a regular Chapel Service cannot be posted.

If I am enrolled in Alternative Chapel (ACP), can I attend Chapel Services in the Events Center for credit?

Yes, you may attend regular Chapel for credit as your schedule allows.

Can I attend a Chapel Service in person and then view it through Alternative Chapel (ACP) for two credits?

No, only one (1) Chapel credit is granted for any given program/date.

Can I appeal a failing grade in Chapel or a credit denied for a particular Chapel?

A student has the right to appeal Chapel-related outcomes. You must appeal denial of credit for a particular Chapel within five (5) days of receipt of the email that your credit has been denied. You must appeal a semester grade within ten (10) days after the grade has been posted by the University. All appeals must be in writing via email to chapel@calbaptist.edu.