

Video Transcript - Introduction to Graceland

Graceland University is a place to shape a new vision in your life. Here, we ask each student “who do you want to be?” We then help them explore their interests and passions. We help them understand their strengths and values, and in the end, we help them discover something invaluable, themselves. Graceland is a transformative education like no other, made possible by a faithful, supportive community like no other. It is, for all who come here, the Power of Together.

At Graceland, we believe in the importance of academics and academic rigor, so when you leave Graceland, you’re well prepared for a good future. At Graceland University, we believe in the Power of Together.

Graceland empowers students in several ways. Because of the size of the university, everyone is required to participate in order for community life to continue and to prosper. And so, everyone is called into activity, and it takes a strong will not to be involved. And so, everyone, whether they have a desire to be involved, initially or not, are swept into the activity. So, no one is left out.

Graceland empowers students by so many of the opportunities that they are provided. It’s through leadership opportunities. It’s pouring the most out of our kids that we possibly can to try to expand their minds. And in doing that, we really do empower them with knowledge.

In the School of Business, we think of the education here as kind of a layered approach, where the liberal arts are foundational to everything. Everyone needs to be able to communicate, to think quantitatively and critically, all those kinds of foundational skills that everyone needs. And then there are foundational business skills that are also important in terms of management, marketing and all those kinds of business skills that everyone needs.

Before my senior year, I had an internship with IBM. I was very curious to see how it compared to students who went to bigger universities. And through time, I really believe that I stood out from these students because of the opportunities that Graceland offers - from the Enactus program, to being a leader within residence life, to a number of opportunities that Graceland offers. I believe those are differences between me and the other students that I believe I had an edge

over. The friends you have for life are here at Graceland, and they really do want to see you succeed. I think that is the best thing about Graceland.

The School of Education is this very cool, little microcosm of Graceland. We are a place that truly is the threshold of social change. We have students that come from all over, I mean all over the United States, and they come here, and they're transformed, and they learn about who they are and how they can take that and change the world.

The Shaw Center, oh man, it's amazing. Right now, we're on the main stage. I've done three shows on this stage, all musicals. You can try out for any group you want. Try out, you're gonna make it because there is no stipulation - you're going to fit in no matter what you do. Doesn't matter who you are because right now, you probably still don't know. But as soon as you get to Graceland, you will.

One of the privileges I have is to be able to come back as alumni. I was able to cheer here when I was at Graceland, and I cheered all four years and was captain a couple years. And to come back and be part of the program again, and to see students experience the same things I have, has been an amazing journey and a blessing for me.

Meeting a lot of people has opened me up as an individual because I was self-closed, I was shy, and everybody here just wants you to grow. My friends here have come a long way from home. It was hard at first, but then we began to tell each other about our stories. We clicked instantly. It's a great experience.

You know Graceland, we have great spirit. If you are a potential recruit for Graceland University, you should consider us for the following reasons: passion, commitment, comradery and a family. Everybody who comes to Graceland joins the family and is forever a part of the Graceland family.

The community culture here at Graceland is amazing. Everywhere you go, people are being nice to you saying, "Hi, how's your day?" They genuinely do care. It's not just small talk. Everybody here wants to be a part of your life, and you want to be a part of their life. And it's an amazing culture on and off the field. On the field, it's an entirely different world. We're a huge family, like I said. And we do love and respect each other every single day.

A major part of Community of Christ is this belief of unity through diversity, and Graceland really embodies that. Where we all become one, not because we all confirmed to the same beliefs, because of the little differences and because of everything we can learn from each other.

The culture of community at Graceland really is centered around this idea that until a community understands what they care about, nothing will change. So, we are everyday assessing and auditing what is it that matters to us as a community. And always, always it comes back to the student. It is the student that matters.

The Power of Together
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A vertical arrangement of seven horizontal bars stacked vertically. Each bar contains the phrase "The Power of Together". The bars are white with rounded ends.