



## **Bachelor's Degree in Didactics in Christian Education: Concentration in Artificial Intelligence**

### **Program Presentation**

The Bachelor's Degree in Didactics in Christian Education: Concentration in Artificial Intelligence at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) constitutes an innovative educational proposal that unites the Christian tradition of teaching (magisterium) with the sciences of education and the disruptive technologies of the 21st century. In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, Christian Education is the fundamental process of transmitting the faith (Traditio) and the integral formation of the disciple, vital for the Church's evangelizing mission. This education, or Didactics, focuses on the methods, techniques, and resources for the effective transmission of the Gospel message in catechesis, schools, and pastoral settings, as well as in the design of evangelization and Christian teaching resources in digital environments.

This vocation to qualified teaching is renewed in the contemporary context through the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), a discipline that revolutionizes instructional design, learning personalization, educational management, and content creation. The Bachelor's Degree in Didactics in Christian Education at UNICA offers an interdisciplinary formation that combines pedagogy, theology, ethics, and data science, preparing professionals capable of:

- Understanding the didactic and pedagogical principles applied to Christian faith and morality.
- Designing learning environments enhanced by Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.
- Accompanying faith formation processes, uniting fidelity to the Magisterium and technological innovation.
- Leading educational, pastoral, and knowledge management projects in the Church and society.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, the program is accessible to students from different contexts, who can carry out instructional design projects and teaching practices in their places of residence or in partner institutions. Likewise, its bilingual offer (Spanish and English) opens doors to serve in multicultural communities and international environments. With this degree, UNICA reaffirms its commitment to the mission of the Church and society: to train educators and leaders who are witnesses of faith in science and technology, in the spirit of the Gospel and the Social Doctrine of the Church.

### **Justification**

The mastery of Didactics in Christian Education with a Concentration in Artificial



Intelligence is of fundamental relevance for the being and mission of the Church in the 21st century, directly impacting evangelization, formation, and service.

- Formation of Priests:** AI becomes a tool for preparing personalized homilies, managing parish information, and adaptive catechesis. Priests trained in these didactics will be able to optimize their time, reach digital audiences, and improve the quality of faith teaching.
- Formation of Committed Laity:** The laity, as educators of the faith in family, school, and parish, need to understand and use emerging technologies for effective transmission. This bachelor's degree equips them to create digital Christian educational resources, innovate in catechesis, and lead online formation, becoming agents of Digital Evangelization.
- Pastoral Agents and Leaders from Different Traditions:** AI offers solutions for ecumenical dialogue, instant translation of biblical texts, and personalization of pastoral content. Training leaders capable of integrating AI ethics with Christian ethics ensures that technologies are used to promote truth, charity, and justice—combating misinformation and promoting an integral vision of the human person in the digital age. The Church thus positions itself as a leader in the ethical reflection on technology.

### **Institutional**

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, fosters spiritual life, and trains its students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

### **Identity**

### **Mission**

To train professionals in didactics of Christian education and educational technologies with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies, prepared to design, implement, and evaluate faith-based teaching-learning processes through the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence, in fidelity to the evangelizing mission of the Church.

### **Vision**

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the formation of Christian educators and didactic innovators, with an impact on the quality of faith education, research in educational AI, and pastoral leadership in America and the world.

### **Values**

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

### **Technical Program Sheet**

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| Field                 | Description                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Program Name</b>   | Bachelor's Degree in Didactics in Christian Education: Concentration in Artificial Intelligence                                      |
| <b>Academic Level</b> | Undergraduate / Bachelor                                                                                                             |
| <b>Duration</b>       | 8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)                                                                            |
| <b>Total Credits</b>  | 160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)                                                                                     |
| <b>Modality</b>       | Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive instructional design workshops, and pedagogical/pastoral practices) |
| <b>Language Offer</b> | Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student's selection)                                                                     |
| <b>Location</b>       | State of Texas, USA                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Degree Awarded</b> | Bachelor in Didactics in Christian Education: Concentration in Artificial Intelligence — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)      |

### Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- High School Diploma or recognized equivalent (GED).
- High school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (motivation letter and vocational discernment toward Christian education and technology).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational/pedagogical).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Demonstration of language proficiency according to modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current immigration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation regulations.

### Formative

### Purpose

To train leaders with mastery of didactic and pedagogical theories, capable of integrating faith into the educational process and using Artificial Intelligence tools ethically in the design of meaningful learning experiences.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the holder of the Bachelor's Degree in Didactics in Christian Education: AI Concentration will be able to:

- Analyze pedagogical and didactic theories in the context of faith education.
- Apply instructional design methodologies for the creation of Christian curricula and materials.
- Integrate biblical, theological, and Social Doctrine of the Church foundations into educational content.
- Design, implement, and evaluate personalized learning models supported by Artificial

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Intelligence.

- Promote ethical and responsible use of technology in educational and pastoral settings.
- Develop skills in LMS platform management and learning analytics for student monitoring.
- Use basic machine learning and generative AI tools for the creation of didactic resources.
- Research and evaluate the impact of technology on the formation of conscience and Christian morality.

### Competencies

- **General:** Critical thinking, oral and written communication, educational leadership, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, advanced digital competencies.
- **Specific:** Instructional Design, Didactics of Faith, AI Ethics, LMS Management, Learning Analytics, Curriculum Studies, Theology of Education, Bilingual Teaching.

### Language Offer and Language Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. The language certification requirements remain equivalent to other programs (TOEFL/IELTS, DELE, or institutional tests).

### Curriculum Plan by Semesters (8 Semesters — 160 Credits)

| Semester | Code    | Course                                             | Credits | Summary                                                            | Prerequisites |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1        | DID-101 | Fundamentals of Christian Education and Catechesis | 6       | Biblical and magisterial foundations of the transmission of faith. | None          |
|          | DID-102 | Learning Theories and Cognitive Development        | 6       | Educational psychology applied to the teaching process.            | None          |
|          | DID-103 | Digital Literacy and Educational Platforms (LMS)   | 4       | Use and management of virtual learning environments.               | None          |
|          | DID-104 | Pedagogical Communication and Orality              | 4       | Skills for effective instruction and didactic oratory.             | None          |



|          | <b>Total</b> |                                                              | <b>20</b> |                                                                             |         |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>2</b> | DID-201      | General Didactics and Curriculum Design                      | 6         | Principles of teaching, planning, and objectives.                           | DID-101 |
|          | DID-202      | Introduction to Fundamental Theology and Magisterium         | 6         | Revelation as the source of the curriculum and the authority of the Church. | DID-102 |
|          | DID-203      | Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 4         | Basic AI concepts, algorithms, and educational applications.                | DID-103 |
|          | DID-204      | Descriptive Statistics for Learning Analytics                | 4         | Basic data analysis for didactic decision-making.                           | None    |
|          | <b>Total</b> |                                                              | <b>20</b> |                                                                             |         |
| <b>3</b> | DID-301      | Pedagogy of Faith and Active Methods                         | 6         | Study of catechetical methodology and discovery-based teaching.             | DID-201 |
|          | DID-302      | Ethics of Technology and AI in Education                     | 6         | Moral reflection on privacy, algorithmic bias, and human dignity.           | DID-202 |
|          | DID-303      | Instructional Design for Digital Environments                | 4         | Design models (ADDIE, SAM) applied to virtual learning.                     | DID-201 |
|          | DID-304      | Adolescent Psychology and Faith                              | 4         | Psychological and spiritual accompaniment in adolescence.                   | DID-102 |
|          | <b>Total</b> |                                                              | <b>20</b> |                                                                             |         |
| <b>4</b> | DID-401      | Learning and Competency Assessment                           | 6         | Design of formative and summative assessment instruments.                   | DID-201 |



|              |         |                                                                |           |                                                                       |                       |
|--------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|              | DID-402 | Moral Theology and Formation of Conscience                     | 6         | Christian morality as an educational and formative content.           | DID-202               |
|              | DID-403 | Generative AI Workshop for Didactic Resources                  | 4         | Use of AI tools (text, image, video) in material creation.            | DID-203               |
|              | DID-404 | General Elective I                                             | 4         | Elective course in humanities or social sciences.                     | According to elective |
| <b>Total</b> |         |                                                                | <b>20</b> |                                                                       |                       |
| <b>5</b>     | DID-501 | Didactics of the Bible and Liturgy                             | 6         | Methods for teaching Scripture and sacramental life.                  | DID-301               |
|              | DID-502 | Learning Analytics and Personalized Learning (AI)              | 6         | Use of data for curricular adaptation and individualized tracking.    | DID-204               |
|              | DID-503 | Legal Framework and Intellectual Property in Digital Education | 4         | Regulations on copyright, licensing, and data protection.             | DID-302               |
|              | DID-504 | Teaching Practice I (Supervised)                               | 4         | First teaching experience in a formal or pastoral setting.            | DID-303               |
| <b>Total</b> |         |                                                                | <b>20</b> |                                                                       |                       |
| <b>6</b>     | DID-601 | Methodology of Educational and Technological Research          | 6         | Design and execution of research in didactics and technology.         | DID-204               |
|              | DID-602 | Social Doctrine of the Church and Education for Citizenship    | 6         | Social teaching as a pillar for forming civic leaders.                | DID-402               |
|              | DID-603 | Design and Management of Educational Innovation Projects (AI)  | 4         | Creation of prototypes and pilots for AI-based educational solutions. | DID-403               |



|   |              |                                                            |           |                                                                          |                       |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | DID-604      | Teaching Practice II (Intensive)                           | 4         | Intensive experience in technology-assisted instructional design.        | DID-504               |
|   | <b>Total</b> |                                                            | <b>20</b> |                                                                          |                       |
| 7 | DID-701      | Didactics for Bilingual and Multicultural Learning e-      | 6         | Strategies for teaching faith in diverse and multilingual contexts.      | DID-501               |
|   | DID-702      | Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue, and Technology         | 6         | Use of digital tools to promote dialogue and unity.                      | DID-602               |
|   | DID-703      | Leadership and Management of Digital Training Centers      | 4         | Managerial and administrative competencies for online education.         | DID-502               |
|   | DID-704      | Advanced Elective in Didactics or Applied AI               | 4         | Specialized course in a pedagogical or technological area.               | According to elective |
|   | <b>Total</b> |                                                            | <b>20</b> |                                                                          |                       |
| 8 | DID-801      | Integrative Seminar and Innovation Project (Thesis)        | 10        | Development and defense of an AI project applied to Christian education. | DID-601               |
|   | DID-802      | Professional Ethics and Teaching Deontology                | 6         | Ethical principles governing the Christian educator's profession.        | DID-302               |
|   | DID-803      | Future Trends in Education (Web 3.0, Metaverse, and Faith) | 4         | Analysis of the impact of new technologies on evangelization.            | DID-502               |
|   | <b>Total</b> |                                                            | <b>20</b> |                                                                          |                       |

**Methodology and Evaluation**

- Mixed methodology: synchronous/asynchronous classes, practical programming and instructional design workshops, intensive seminars, educational hackathons, and field practices in educational or pastoral institutions.
- Continuous evaluation: instructional design portfolios, applied AI projects (proof of concept), LMS management simulations, learning analytics reports, applied research, and P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222 (correspondence), and 627 Rocky Mountain Dr., Houston, TX 77037 [contacto@uca-virtual.us](mailto:contacto@uca-virtual.us)



defense of the degree innovation project.

- In the bilingual modality, social and linguistic competencies in both languages will be evaluated.

### **Institutional Observations and Regulatory Compliance**

The university will adapt documents and admission requirements in accordance with the regulations of the State of Texas and with the current authorization and accreditation conditions applicable to religious institutions and virtual/hybrid programs.