

What is Character Education?

Grand Canyon University's **Canyon Center for Character Education** within the College of Education aims to provide an understanding of character, virtues, virtue development and character education to promote school cultures that encourage human and societal flourishing through virtue formation.

CHARACTER EDUCATION DEFINED

Character education includes the acquisition and strengthening of virtues to live a flourishing life and contribute to the betterment of society. Character education is modeling and teaching virtue knowledge, understanding, literacy, reasoning and formation to cultivate a thriving society through development of confident and compassionate humans who are effective contributors to society, successful learners, moral decision makers and responsible citizens.

CHARACTER EDUCATION IN ACTION



Aids individuals in employing a balance of **virtues** and virtuous actions when using practical wisdom to make ethically sound choices, contribute to society and drive social change to live a life in a world worth living in.



Helps students grasp **what is ethically important** in situations and how to act for the right reasons so they become more autonomous and reflective in the practice of virtue.



Includes all explicit and implicit educational activities that **help people develop positive personal strengths** called virtues.



Promotes **individual and collective flourishing** through leading, teaching, serving and learning with character.



Serves as more than just a class subject and **has a place in the culture** and functions of families, classrooms, schools and other institutions.



Develops **practical wisdom** (good judgment) in self and others so that all can achieve human flourishing.



Offers a comprehensive, school-based approach that includes an intentional **focus on promoting character, virtue formation and ethical decision making** through curriculum, school ethos, school activities and engagement with family and community.

¹Reference Jubilee Center: Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues (2017). Framework for Character Education in Schools. Available at: <https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/userfiles/jubileecentre/pdf/character-education/Framework%20for%20Character%20Education.pdf> (Accessed: Sept. 21, 2021).

Have questions? Reach out to
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