

Hello and welcome to Grand Canyon University!

My name is Tim Griffin, and I am the Dean of Students here at the university. On behalf of all full-time faculty and staff here at our campus in Phoenix, Arizona, I want to congratulate you on making the decision to continue or complete your education here at GCU. You are taking the first step in a journey that we hope and believe will change your life in many positive ways.

As a GCU student, you are part of a nationwide community of over 40,000 students from all 50 nationwide. Many of them are people a lot like you – non-traditional students who have taken time out to work on a career, raise a family, or pursue other interests, and have now made the decision to continue their education in an online format that provides the flexibility to continue those commitments while receiving a first-class education.

In addition to our nationwide community of students, we have more than 3,500 traditional day students here at our Phoenix campus. Grand Canyon has occupied this site for 60 years. In recent years, the campus has expanded as our numbers have grown, and this has led to a number of new building projects, like our state-of-the-art fitness center, which opened in the spring of 2011, or our brand-new 5,000-seat arena, which opened its doors in the fall of 2011. Although you may be geographically located in other parts of the country, we want you to consider this campus your home also.

This class, which we call University Success, is designed to equip you with some of the skills that you will need to help ensure that you succeed here at GCU. Being a college student can be challenging, especially when you have other responsibilities, and so we have designed this course to help you successfully complete your course of study. In UNV-103, you will learn about the advantages and challenges of online education, about how to manage your time effectively, how to develop good study habits, how to conduct research using GCU's vast library resources, how to write strong essays, take tests, and plug in to the network of resources that are here to help you through tough times. You will also learn about academic honor and being part of an academic community. For those of you who were attracted to

the college because of its Christian heritage, you will also learn about the role that faith can have in helping you strive for excellence in your education. I want to encourage you to get as much out of this course as you can – because it provides you with skills that you will use throughout your program, we believe it is one of the most important courses you will take in your college career.

A college degree is about more than just a diploma. In addition to helping you achieve your career dreams, it can teach you about the world around you, give you the confidence that you can continue to learn and develop throughout your life, and help you become a more productive citizen who is devoted to the well-being of your community and your country. So once again, congratulations on the decision you have made, and remember: we are here to help you succeed.