

UUA Campus Ministry: Levels of Engagement

Many of our congregations have college or university campuses in their neighborhood, town, city or local area. No matter the size or budget of your congregation, you can engage in campus ministry! Try starting out with Level 1 and if you find the volunteer, staff and financial resources to keep going, move on down the list. Every level on this list is important in bringing our life giving faith to students.

Level 1: Build Relationships

This stage is about finding the people in your congregation who are already connected to the campus as well as those who feel passionate about outreach. Get the staff of the congregation involved, use social media and keep in touch with any students who are part of your community!

This approach needs no budget, a few committed volunteers, minimal staff time and some members and friends who are connected to campus.

Level 2: Create Capacity

This stage is about increasing the capacity of your congregation to connect meaningfully with students. You'll want a designated campus ministry team to start planning occasional events or projects, plus a contact person who follows up with students.

This approach needs a small budget, a team of committed volunteers and/or a small amount of staff time, plus connections with at least a couple local students.

Level 3: Grow on Campus

This stage is about supporting an on-campus ministry by collaborating with students on getting registered on campus, tabling and getting regular meetings going. You'll want to grow your campus ministry team, add additional volunteers and get staff more involved.

This approach needs a moderate budget, a team of committed volunteers, other occasional volunteers, a small amount of staff time and at least a couple committed students.

Level 4: Go All In

This stage is about fully institutionalized campus ministry that is recognized and supported by multiple segments of the congregation. You'll want a solid campus ministry committee as well as a staff person with campus ministry as a significant piece of their portfolio.

This approach needs a significant budget, a team of committed volunteers, other occasional volunteers, a decent amount of staff time and a solid group of students including committed leaders.

(see back for tips and ideas)

Tips and ideas for every level of engagement in campus ministry

Tips from the earlier levels may still apply to later levels; read them all!

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| <p>Level 1: <u>Build Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather members who are staff, faculty, alumni, parents or students related to the local campus to make connections - If the campus provides info on local houses of worship, get yours listed - Mention welcoming students on your website and social media pages - Ask the staff (ministers, religious educators, etc.) to touch on campus ministry in a sermon or class | <p>Level 2: <u>Create Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate a volunteer or staff person as student contact and make sure to rotate that responsibility if volunteer - Support students by coordinating rides to church events and/or worship - Try hosting an event for young adults in a coffee shop or casual restaurant near campus and invite your student contacts - Send care packages to any student contacts during finals weeks |
| <p>Level 3: <u>Grow on Campus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer assistance with forms and process for becoming a registered student organization - Encourage creative outreach: a simple engaging ritual or a fun item with your info are good for tabling - Provide snacks or meals for student meetings; rotating volunteers can cook or go shopping - Try hosting a program like young adult OWL in a space near campus | <p>Level 4: <u>Go All In</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support students in creating a solid leadership rotation structure - Encourage volunteers with personalized thank yous from students - Consider expanding to other campuses in your area - Offer to host a retreat for the students at your church - Collaborate with students on worship services and social justice projects |