

# *A General Description of Dharma Realm Buddhist University*

## **HISTORY AND PURPOSE**

Dharma Realm Buddhist University was founded by the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association in 1976. It is located near Ukiah, California, approximately 110 miles north of San Francisco. The campus is composed of over 70 buildings, enclosed in a 500 acre setting. The University is on the grounds of the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, a community of monks, nuns, students, and lay persons seeking to further personal and spiritual development through the study of the Buddha's teachings.

## **Mission and Goals**

Dharma Realm Buddhist University provides undergraduate and graduate education in the areas of Buddhist Studies, Language Study and Translation, Chinese Studies, and related fields. Goals of the University programs include: 1) training of undergraduate students in their chosen fields of study either in preparation for further education on the graduate level, or to participate in the understanding and transmission of Buddhist teachings throughout the world, or as a firm grounding for the student's chosen vocational path; 2) the preparation of graduate students for positions of academic or religious leadership; and 3) the development of moral character and self-knowledge. The University expects all of its graduates, regardless of their chosen vocations, to be motivated to work for the benefit of the entire world rather than merely for selfish and personal gain. The University welcomes all students, regardless of age or background, who share its vision. At Dharma Realm Buddhist University, students, teachers, and administrators alike learn from one another, and so all are considered both students and teachers in the lifelong process of education.

## **International Outlook**

Dharma Realm Buddhist University is established in the millennia-old tradition of Buddhist commitment to the development of both wisdom and virtue. Therefore, the University is established in a setting which will assure the students the maximum opportunity to study and practice according to the Buddha's teachings, and to carry on the traditions of orthodox Buddhism whatever their professional endeavor. The University is further planned as an international community where the best features can be culled from the cultures and traditions of all peoples, nations and religions. For that reason, cultural and religious diversity is actively sought in the faculty, administration and student body. As a meeting point of East and West, of ancient and modern, Dharma Realm Buddhist University is emerging as a point of new focus in the development of a truly international culture.

## **ETHICAL STANDARDS**

Throughout the programs and services of the University, a high premium is placed upon the development of personal character and good citizenship. Thus, each degree program is developed in a manner that will assure a balance between the development of moral character and the transmission of knowledge. The ethical dimension of the curriculum is concerned with the student as a whole person: a member of a family, of a university community, of a religious community, of an extended local, national and world community, and of a professional community for which the student is in preparation. To help students realize the responsibilities of each role, the University encourages them to preserve the purity of their bodies and minds by observing only the highest standards of moral conduct. They are encouraged to be mindful of their opportunity to become inspiring models for society and the world at large. The qualities of humaneness, righteousness, filial respect and responsible citizenship are emphasized both formally and informally. In addition, students learn to honor the Six Principles of not fighting, not being greedy, not seeking for personal gratification, not being selfish, not striving for personal advantage, and not lying. Within the University community, the faculty and students all abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages, social dancing, smoking, taking drugs, gambling, and promiscuity; Unmarried men and women students live separately. All food on campus is vegetarian.

### **AREAS OF INSTRUCTION**

The University is organized into the following Programs, leading to degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**The Buddhist Study and Practice Program** offers the Bachelor, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Buddhist Study and Practice degrees. The core curriculum is developed around texts selected to reflect the most important aspects of orthodox Buddhist tradition and practice. Students may specialize in an area of textual study appropriate to individual interest at the advanced levels, following completion of preparatory courses. A Master of Buddhist Education is also offered.

**The Translation and Buddhist Languages Program** offers the Bachelor, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Translation of Buddhist Texts degrees in areas of concentration related to the traditional languages of Buddhist textual sources, including Chinese, Sanskrit, and modern languages in addition to English. The focus is upon attaining sufficient proficiency in the languages involved to continue independent translation of Buddhist texts with sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic contexts within which the texts were produced, as well as those cultural contexts in which the translations will appear.

**The Chinese Studies Program** offers the Bachelor degree in Chinese Studies. The program provides a firm grounding in Chinese language and literature, and also Chinese historical, philosophical, cultural and religious traditions.

**The Fine and Applied Arts Program** currently focuses on the studio arts and Chinese calligraphy. Degree programs are in the planning stage. Emphasis is on the traditional studio concentrations as well as agriculture and other applied arts.

### **ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID**

The University is open not only to regular degree program students on both undergraduate and graduate levels, but also to special part-time non-degree students. Information is available about academic year and summer session programs.

Financial aid is granted on the basis of financial need. Both scholarships and work-study are available to qualified applicants.