

What is Universal Vision?

Universal Vision is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and research organization devoted to the study of the universe and its various relationships. As humans, we are part of this universe. A major portion of Universal Vision's activity is to provide a focal point for gathering, researching, integrating, and attempting to verify knowledge with the goal of determining humanity's true place in the universe.

Why Universal Vision?

Many very interesting and very important questions in life are still unanswered, incompletely answered, or possibly incorrectly answered. These questions deal with the very basics of our existence.

Some people or groups are studying small pieces of the puzzle, but no one seems to be taking on the challenge of studying the large picture with a reasonably open mind. We must examine these questions from a broad or universal perspective.

While vision is our primary physical sense, vision also means having foresight, or having the ability to image a goal and recognize what needs to be done to achieve that goal. Can we develop 20-20 foresight in examining and resolving differences toward our search for ultimate truths? Universal Vision wants to take the lead by integrating information from many different areas of knowledge.

We believe an integrated social-theological-evolutionary-psychological breakthrough is overdue. We hope to provide the impetus for such a breakthrough.

Universal Vision is taking a comprehensive approach to studying humankind and it's relationship to the universe.

To carry out Universal Vision's purpose means having to ask some very tough questions. We realize that asking these questions will certainly lead to controversy. Many people may not be prepared to accept the answers, as they may conflict with long-held and very cherished beliefs.

We also realize that what we are attempting is an extremely difficult task. It may be one of the most difficult tasks ever attempted.

We also recognize that Universal Vision cannot do the job by itself. We will work with others and try to act as a coordinator or integrator to achieve an understanding of our place in the universe.

At some point humanity will have to start along the path toward this understanding. Why not start it now? Maybe we can achieve our goal sooner? Every journey begins with a single step. We have taken that first step with the founding of Universal Vision. Why not join us on this fascinating journey now?

If you would like to become a member of Universal Vision, basic memberships are available for US \$30.

Universal Vision gratefully accepts donations to support work toward its goals.

All donations are tax-deductible.



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Researching and disseminating
humanity's place in the universe

Some of the specific questions Universal Vision is addressing include:

Can the differences between science and theology or religion be resolved?

Many people consider these two approaches incompatible. This has led to major divisions and disputes. But maybe religion or theology and science can have the same goal and be *complementary* in leading to an integrated understanding of humankind's place in the universe.

Are any of our religious beliefs simply mythological holdovers?

Humanity has developed many beliefs over the time we have existed on earth. Some of these beliefs are still maintained today. Are these beliefs true? Or are they simply superstitions or holdovers from mythology? We must periodically re-examine our beliefs, to make sure we aren't holding to those which no longer stand up to scrutiny with our increased knowledge about the universe.

People have been persecuted for having beliefs different from established churches. For example, Ptolemy and many others believed the earth was the center of universe. The early churches accepted this viewpoint. When Galileo verified the truth of Copernicus' claim that the earth revolved around the sun, he was arrested and persecuted.

Some people are being persecuted and killed today because their belief systems are different from the establishment or some self-righteous groups or individuals.

Are there other, maybe more subtle, beliefs still held out there today which are incorrect?

What assumptions do we hold in maintaining our belief structure? Are we holding

assumptions we don't even recognize as such? Are there assumptions we hold as "fact", when they are really not?

For example, most geologists working in the early 20th century weren't willing to consider Wegener's continental drift concept. They were blinded by their assumption that the laws of geology regarding continents were known.

False assumptions can lead us down incorrect paths and impede our progress.

Are animals capable of thought and emotions?

Many people who study animals or who have pets claim that animals do have these capabilities, as well as intelligence and insight. Others disagree. Do humans alone possess these characteristics, or are they just one aspect of life which we all share?

Is there life beyond the death of the physical body?

If so, what type of existence do we have there? What forces and laws might govern existence there?

Are there things beyond what we can perceive with our physical senses?

People occasionally see or otherwise experience things which they and we don't understand. These things have no explanation at present.

We have discovered via instrumentation electromagnetic energy in the spectrum beyond what our eyes are normally sensitive to, and beyond what we could perceive or measure prior to the introduction of that instrumentation.

Shakespeare's often quoted line from Hamlet "There are more things in heaven and

earth ... than are dreamt of in your philosophy" should cause us to wonder: What else might be out there which our instruments or our own sensory mechanisms haven't yet detected?

What human potentials lie undiscovered?

Humans may have much greater potential than we realize or have exhibited to date. One biblical statement gives us an indication of what human potential might be. Jesus is reputed to have said (John 14:12): "... the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do" Based on what Jesus is reported to have done, this statement has tremendous implications for human potential. It is time we begin to realize what we are and develop our potential.

Do other intelligent or advanced civilizations exist in the universe?

Though human efforts and technology are limited thus far, we have begun human space flight. With some technological breakthroughs, humans could be on the verge of venturing much farther into space. If other advanced civilizations are out there to be encountered, are we ready for such an encounter? Have we already encountered them? If so, how can we prepare humanity to join this larger, universal society?

What is truth? Is there, ultimately, a single set of basic truths?

If so, all belief systems must eventually converge to this single set of truths.

And the questions go on...
Universal Vision is looking for the answers.