Valle del Cauca is one of the regions with the greatest biodiversity and development in Colombia. It is privileged due to its geographical location, multiculturalism, modern infrastructure, business and entrepreneurial vigor, and friendly spirit of its inhabitants.
This region is the gateway that connects the country with the economies of the Pacific, axis of global development in this century. Buenaventura, the main port, connects to more than 80 seaports in the world and mobilizes 50 percent of all domestic freight.

Its industrial diversity makes Valle del Cauca a leading region in world-class products and home to the largest sugar and pharmaceutical industry of the country. It is a transforming center of raw materials which imports inputs and exports added value, mainly to the national, Andean, and North American markets, where companies have found a firm platform to produce and export to more than 52 multinational companies.

The industry from Valle del Cauca is the third largest one in Colombia, as it counts with a variety of agricultural and industrial products. Its economy is also based on the articulation of production chains such as health services, logistics, software, engineering, tourism, cultural industries, education, and knowledge.

The capital is Santiago de Cali, the third largest city in Colombia. Its strategic position; its industrial, commercial, and service vocation; its leadership in corporate responsibility and human talent, makes it one of the largest urban centers and an attractive place to investors in southwestern Colombia. Cali is a lively and modern city, characterized by its warm climate and fertile and generous landscape. In the south end of the city, the campus of the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente is located.

Information of the city:

- 25°C
- 2,294,643 inhab.
- 995 meters ASL
- 564 km²
The University Campus meets the technological, architectural, and environmental elements ideal to guarantee the integral development of our students in accordance with the goals set by the Institution for the future.

The University forms ethical, creative and reflective professionals, able to think globally in order to act locally, with skills for team working, communicating ideas, respecting others’ opinions, and assuming leadership. Therefore, the training aims at developing competences that enhance:

- Critical reflection on the learning content
- Construction of learning in situations opposite to ideal or foreign contexts.
- The ability to judge rational arguments, even their own ones, and to learn by themselves in order to promote intellectual autonomy and personal growth.
- Openness to dialogue and various forms of analysis, knowledge, argumentation, and research.
- Respect and care for the environment, looking for sustainable development.
- The use of technological tools to facilitate the generation of knowledge.

In this context, the new educational model of the Institution is integral, flexible, and socially relevant. Integral because it deals with professional, physical, and ethical formation of the students; flexible for the content of programs to adapt to the changes and needs of modern life; and socially relevant, for the University to hold a synergistic dialogue with the region and to propose solutions to their problems.

In order to do this, the University has 73 laboratories, over 130 audiovisual spaces, a library with access to over 200,000 documents, both physical and digital, in all areas of knowledge; a teaching staff with master’s and PhD, graduated from recognized universities in the country and abroad.
The 111,815 m² of Valle del Lili Campus, located at the outskirts of the city of Cali, are characterized by an architecture that privileges space, beautiful gardens, and high technology investment.

- **Main Building**: administrative offices, deans, library and auditorium.
- **Laboratories, computer rooms, and television studios (basements)**.
- **Main square (Agora)**
- **Classroom buildings (4 in total)**
- **Students cafeteria**
- **University Welfare Building**
- **Mixed Zone**: Sports fields, water treatment plant, and parking.
- **Villa Laurentino**: Students’ gym, cafeteria, and recreational areas.
- **Gimnasio Farallones School**: coliseum and swimming pool.
The University has achieved great developments in research and its programs have been recognized for their high academic quality in local, national and international contexts; it has strong and important graduate programs; its teaching staff is recognized for its professional and scientific quality; its students’ scores in the State tests exceed the national average; and its graduates show high professional performance, as well. The Institutional welfare program is a model in the country, and the region recognizes the great contribution the University has made to the professional field and to the scientific development.

The following data confirm its quality:

» Eleven accredited programs and two in the process of renewing the high quality accreditation, by the Consejo Nacional de Acreditación - CNA.
» Academic faculty with PhD and Master’s Degree from recognized universities in the country and abroad.
» 24 research groups recognized by Colciencias, for their academic and scientific production.
» 73 laboratories with excellent infrastructure and state-of-the-art technology.
» More than 130 audiovisual spaces and a campus with Wi-Fi coverage.
» More than 300 agreements with educational institutions around the world that enable student mobility.
» Option of Dual Degree in the United States.
» Library with access to over 200,000 digital and physical documents from around the world, in different areas of knowledge.
» Institutional repository in which there are more than 34,000 graduation works that can be consulted as learning tools.
» Institutional internship agreements with the most important companies in the region and in the country.
» The percentage of the labor market engagement of our graduates exceeds the regional and national average.

“The commitment to institutional quality has been an ongoing challenge since the early days of the University, which has historically allowed the development of our activities and projects, consolidating our regional, national and international reputation over time”

Luis H. Pérez
Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente
Ph.D., Northwestern University
The Universidad Autónoma de Occidente offers, through its five schools, 19 undergraduate and 18 graduate programs. This consolidates an academic offer which responds to the mission and regional vocation. Consequently, the quality and pertinence of its formal and non-formal academic programs are highly valued by students and alumni, as well as by the employers.

Being consequent with the innovative program proposal, some programs such as Environmental Engineering and Film and Digital Communication are created and integrated to the undergraduate offer. The Graduate School responds to the need of the society with programs that are unique in the region like the Master's programs in Logistics, Communication, and Hygiene and Industrial Safety.

The intellectual production of the faculties is reflected in outstanding publications, such as ‘El hombre y la Máquina’, ‘Economía y Administración’, ‘Habladurías’, and ‘Cibionte’, as well as in other specialized magazines and journals in which the academic faculty of the university, conformed by more than 600 professors with high formation level, participates. The University counts with an Educational Innovation Center which works on the promotion and development of Active Learning Methodologies, labs recognized at national level, and research groups that work on high impact areas. All this characterizes the Universidad Autónoma as a source of knowledge in the Colombian South West and as a referent in the country.

The Institution counts with the following Schools and Academic Departments:

**School of Engineering**
- Department of Energy and Mechanics
- Department of Automatics and Electronics
- Department of Operations and Systems

**School of Economics and Business Management**
- Department of Economic Sciences
- Department of Administrative Sciences

**School of Social Communication**
- Department of Advertising and Design
- Department of Communication Sciences
- Department of Language

**School of Basic Sciences**
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Physics
- Department of Environmental Sciences

**School of Humanities**
- Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Academic Programs

Undergraduate

» Environmental Engineering
» Biomedical Engineering
» Electrical Engineering
» Electronic and Telecommunications Engineering
» Industrial Engineering
» Informatics Engineering
» Mechanical Engineering
» Mechatronics Engineering
» Multimedia Engineering

» Business Administration
» Business Administration Dual Modality – with two emphases. One as Administration of Industrial and Commercial Businesses. Second, as Administration of Tourist Businesses.
» Public Accounting
» Economy
» Marketing and International Business

» Film and Digital Communication
» Advertising Communication
» Social Communication – Journalism
» Graphic Communication Design

» Environmental Administration

Graduate

» Master's in Hygiene and Industrial Safety
» Master's in Engineering
» Master's in Integral Logistics
» Specialization in Automation of Industrial Equipment and Processes
» Specialization in Energy Efficiency
» Specialization in Electro Medicine and Hospital Technological Management
» Specialization in Hygiene and Industrial Safety
» Specialization in Security Informatics
» Specialization in Telematics (Agreement with Universidad del Cauca, Colombia)

» Master's in Business Administration
» Master's in Economy (Agreement with Universidad de Sevilla, Spain)
» Specialization in Finances
» Specialization in Marketing

» Master's in Communication
» Specialization in Organizational Communication

» Master's in Philosophy of Contemporary Law – In collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights “Bartolomé de las Casas of the Universidad Carlos III from Madrid, Spain

» Master's in Environmental Sciences
» Specialization in Environmental Management (Virtual Modality)

Snies undergraduate codes:
53485, 20146, 20113, 55170, 20151, 20096, 20104, 20095, 20115, 10338 / 20127, 20152, 20109, 20107, 20100 / 54405, 20128, 20106, 20118 / 102078

Snies graduate codes:
90803, 54486, 53941, 91041, 20121, 20148, 20102, 20103, 20124 / 90793, 53814, 20122, 20123 / 90569, 20109, 20107, 20100 / 54405, 20128, 20106, 20118 / 102078
The Direction of Research and Technological Development, DIDT, is the unit responsible for the management of the institutional research system and it is adjunct to the Academic Vicerector’s office. It is internally ruled by the Mission of the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente and its Institutional Educational Project; externally, by the guidelines defined by the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Colciencias, public entity which leads, guides, and coordinates the National Policy of Science, Technology, and Innovation; and the National System of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The DIDT has outlined the Institutional Research Policy upon four focal points:

» Knowledge generation by skilled human resource
» Transfer, appropriation, and dissemination of such knowledge, findings, and developments.
» Contributions to the development of the society capability to transform itself and to innovate, add value, and diversify its economy.
» Building networks as a concept that governs the three above mentioned focal points; it becomes a vehicle for including research in the global thinking trends.

**Research Groups**

1. Fluid Mechanics Research Group
2. Materials Science and Engineering Research Group, GCIM
3. Energies Research Group, GIEN
4. Biomedical Engineering Research Group, GBIO
5. Remote Control Systems and Distributed Control Research Group, Gitcod
6. Applied Telematics and Informatics Research Group, GITI
7. Manufacturing Technology Research Group, Gitem
8. Competitiveness and Business Productivity Research Group, Gicpe
9. Advanced Materials for Micro and Nanotechnology Research Group, Imamnt
10. Environmental Studies for Sustainable Development Research Group, Geades
11. Solids for Industrial Application Research Group, Ginsai
12. Modeling and Simulation Research Group, GIMS
13. Motor Neurocontrol Research Group
14. Economics and Development Research Group, GIED
15. Administrative Sciences Research Group, Gicad
16. Accounting and Finance Research Group, Gicof
17. Communication Research Group
18. Communication for Development Research Group
19. Organizational Communication Research Group
20. Design of Graphic Communication Research Group
21. Humanities, Society and Contemporary Higher Education Research Group
22. Social-Political Studies Research Group, Giesp
23. Conflicts and Organizations Research Group
24. Surroundings and Identities Research Group
25. Education Research Group
26. Knowledge Management and Information Society Research Group
27. Marketing and Advertising Research Group, Gimpu
The Universidad Autónoma de Occidente considers its laboratories as one of the most significant scenarios for the academic work; a space to experiment and for knowledge development, providing solutions to the problems formulated and allowing to practice and to deepen into the acquired knowledge. The University has consolidated a platform that currently constitutes one of its differentiators in the context of the private universities of the region and of the country.

It counts with an infrastructure of 5,840 square meters distributed in 73 labs with state-of-the-art technology, from which 62% make the research work possible since they are combined or dedicated to doing research.

The labs in the University are distributed as follows:

- Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Labs
- Industrial Engineering Labs
- Environmental Engineering Labs
- Informatics and Multimedia Engineering Labs
- Biomedical Engineering Labs
- Automatics and Electronics Engineering Labs
- Marketing Analysis Lab
- Financial Analysis Lab
- Center of Organizational Solutions Censor
- Geselle Chamber
- Institutional Center of Entrepreneurship
- TV Studios
- Photography Lab
- Digital Image Engineering Labs
- 2D and 3D Animation Labs
- Digital Video Lab
- Digital Sound Lab
- Chemistry Lab
- Environmental Sciences Integrated Lab
- Vegetal Micro Propagation Lab
- Bioprocesses Lab
- Geographical Information Systems Lab (SID in Spanish)
Academic Support Resources

Library
It contains more than 20,000 books and magazines in physical format, and has access to bibliographic databases, books and electronic journals, an institutional repository, more than 500 papers, and theses that can be used as learning tools. This way, the library adds up more than 200,000 documents available to the university community, combining virtual and face to face service to users.

Computing resources
The Universidad Autónoma de Occidente has a robust information technology platform. Approximately 80% of computers are for academic use, and counts on state-of-the-art technology and latest software licenses.

Facilities
The university campus is a complete eco-friendly and enjoyable environment to facilitate learning and interaction in the academic, scientific, cultural, sport and social aspects of university life.

Valle del Lili Campus distribution by areas:
- Classrooms: 5,524 m²
- Library: 1,816 m²
- Auditoriums: 2,926 m²
- Laboratories: 5,840 m²
- Sports Area: 22,919 m²
- Paths, squares and gardens: 23,983 m²
- Administrative, common and service areas: 48,807 m²
Student welfare service

It is thought and designed to contribute to the integral development of the University Community by, improving the institutional quality and the strengthening of university life. It offers students, employees and alumni leisure activities including sports, fine arts, theater, music and dance as well as humanistic and health special programs. It also provides support to people in of vulnerable situations for them to be successful.
Plan Padrino
Godfather Program

It is designed to provide accompaniment to students who come from other cities or countries. It helps them adapt to the university life and to the city of Cali. It also provides academic support.

Center for Academic Excellence

The Center for Academic Excellence integrates and coordinates all institutional initiatives that work for students’ permanence and graduation. For this purpose it conjugates academic, administrative, and University Welfare units.

Its major challenge is to strengthen the academic excellence of students, and to provide all the necessary support for students to be successful.

CASA

This center offers personalized attention to the concerns and needs of students and verifies that they get a response on time. It serves as a channel for effective communication between students and the different units in the university and assists new students in the process of introduction to university life.
Internationalization

An essential part of the mission of the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente is the internationalization of its academic processes; therefore, it counts on different agreements and programs for their students to live a truly international experience.

Dual Degree (Global Connections)

Global Connections is a program of the Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), developed in order to offer students the opportunity to study in the United States and expand their cultural horizons, enrich their academic training and widen opportunities for personal and professional development.

The program also offers the opportunity of obtaining multiple degrees from up to three institutions of higher education with high academic standards.

Disney International College Program

Participants in the Disney International College Program in Walt Disney World®, a resort near Orlando, Florida (USA) have the opportunity to live an academic experience and perform in customer service positions in theme parks and resorts. This gives them the opportunity to meet visitors and cultures from all over the world and have a unique experience that will change their lives.

Language courses

It consists of carrying out an academic term studying a foreign language in the country where it is spoken. To this end, the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente has ally institutions which are experts in such programs.

Semester abroad

The Universidad Autónoma de Occidente has agreements with over 250 institutions around the world. It offers a scholarship of up to 70% of the tuition to students who are going to make their academic exchange. Depending on the type of agreement, the student might not have to pay at the destination university.

Once the destination is defined, subjects in the foreign university with content similar to the ones at Universidad Autónomona de Occidente are identified. The subjects taken in the exchange semester are homologated after following the protocol established for these cases.
It promotes and supports business and entrepreneurship as one of the hallmarks of the professional formation offered by the university, through fostering an entrepreneurial culture in the academic community starting from the identification of opportunities.

**Extension**

It promotes improvement of organizations and professionals through the development of special programs such as the Schools of Entrepreneurs, Business Talks, Research, Training and Assessment.
FRANCISCO JAVIER ANSUÁTEGUI
Director on the Human Rights Institute ‘Bartolomé de las Casas’
U. Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)

“Since the beginning of my collaborations with the Autónoma de Occidente, I have been able to observe various characteristics that I can highlight, such as the capacity and the level of education of its professors who maintain a constant effort to reach perfection and keep themselves updated. Additionally, there is an administrative structure that provides an excellent support to teaching and research. This operation is also characterized by a suitable use of the information and communication technologies. It also stands out, in my opinion, its awareness of the social function that universities have to develop today, allowing it to stand as an irreplaceable element of development in the region and the country.”

JORGE PARRA RODRÍGUEZ
Masters Program Coordinator
Tecnológico de Monterrey (México)

“The Autónoma’s Campus has a great infrastructure; the laboratories support and the hardware and software they have, give you the impression they are really focused on a well-structured education process and the development of citizen competences that the region, the country, and the world need.”

KELLY WESSEL
Associate Biology Professor - Tompkins Cortland Community College (United States)

“The experience was superb, the entire course is well organized, people are friendly and the itinerary we had was incredibly enriching for our students who could visit the different ecosystems and the biomes; it has been inspiring for me and my students.”
Hi, I’m Néstor Eduardo Leal, I come from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México campus, and my major is administration. They launched a call where there is a list of all the countries and universities that have an agreement with Mexico. It was the first time I traveled out of the country, and of course the first time I came to Colombia, specifically Cali. People have behaved in a very warm, very friendly way.

Rodolfo Isaac García Resendiz
Film and Digital Communication (México)

I come from Mexico city, specifically from the state of Mexico, within the metropolitan area; I belong to the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Méjico. Here in Cali, I was studying film and digital communication. For me, it was very important to choose the best schools that could be related to my major. Among those schools, the Universidad Autónoma was one of the top five according to the curriculum they have I already feel part of the Autónoma’s family; I feel like I’m from here, despite my accent, I feel that I can interact with any person without being discriminated or left aside for not understanding. The best I could have chosen is Cali; Cali is a delightful, rich city with a wonderful climate; we like the warm climate and the people here are like its weather. It is very pleasant to be here. Come and, apart from that, you are going to have a great time. The infrastructure, the tools, the students, and the teachers are the best that I could find here.

Natalia Valcarce Núñez
Social Communication (Spain)

I’m from the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid. I came here looking for something and found it. I came seeking for a society with different values from those they have in Madrid, which is super individualistic, and materialistic; and here, friendship and family are the most important things. The University has treated me as if I were part of the family. Starting from the first day, the International Relations people called me to see how I was, since during the first days I felt dizzy because of the heat. But it was good, and I got along with my classmates and with everyone, it was like we had been friends the whole life. I like the University so much that I will study one more semester. And since I started, I told everyone that I wish they could be here; that they will be amazed with the campus, with the facilities. I know they will love it. I invite everybody to come.

Janice Hyalt
University of the West Indies

I like the atmosphere; there are many trees, and plants. I like nature. I love the city, the University, all the people are very friendly, the students are very nice, and the classes are fun. If you are thinking of making an exchange in Colombia, I recommend the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente; it is an amazing experience, the atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly. And there are numerous activities that you can develop.
It seeks to promote the strengthening of organizations and persons as well as professional transformation of individuals, contributing to the recognition of the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente as an engine of development for competitiveness and welfare in the region. It integrates, with an international perspective, the substantive functions of teaching, research, and social outreach through a group of professionals with extensive academic training and experience. Besides, it also counts with the technological resources for the development of diverse and innovative training and consultancy programs at the highest level, which generate the necessary knowledge and solutions to the changing challenges in the surroundings.

Lines of action

ENGINEERING
» Information Technology and Communications (ICT)
» Safety and Health at Work
» Logistics
» Automatics
» Biomedical Science and Technology
» Electronics and Telecommunications
» Industrial Application of Computational Mechanics
» New Technologies for Manufacturing
» Application of non-destructive testing for failure analysis of mechanical components
» Design of new materials for industrial applications
» Energy efficiency and management
» Power Systems and Power Quality
» Renewable energy and alternative sources
» Electrical Machines and Power Electronics (Design of electrical machines)
» Evaluation and control of environmental pollution
» Integrated management of solid waste
» Sustainability indicators for companies, products, services, and regions
» Corporate Environmental Stewardship
» Hydraulic Design of Structures and Flood Protection

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION
» Communication within Organizations

» Communication for Development
» Digital Communication, Information and Communication Technologies, ICT
» Communication and Language
» Communication and Advertising
» Communication and Design
» Communication and Film
» Social Communication and Journalism

ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
» Administration and Management
» Marketing and Sales
» Foreign Trade
» Human Resource Management
» Economics and Finance
» Accounting and Financial Regulations
» Cost Management
» Tax management

HUMANITIES
» Social Management
» Citizenship Ethics and Democracy
» Cultural Pluralism
» Humanistic and Legal Issues in Companies

BASIC SCIENCES
» Environmental Management for Biodiversity
» Environmental Territorial Management
» Corporate Environmental Management

Languages Institute
The Languages Institute offers customized programs of language learning in English, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, and Mandarin, adjusted to the current demands of the knowledge of a language needed for work, social, or personal purposes. The knowledge of these languages allows greater work competitiveness and it is an added value for the growth and upgrading within the economic and cultural contexts.
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