

AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

MARCH

17

START OF
ADMISSIONS

JUNE

2

PRE-
REGISTRATION

JUNE

9-20

REGISTRATION

JUNE

23

START OF
CLASSES

The Adventist University of the Philippines reverts to **June to March** academic calendar* in ALL levels (elementary, academy, and tertiary) **starting Academic Year 2025-2026**.

AUP Shifts to June-March Academic Calendar

by Roi Matthieu Buhia

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) has officially transitioned its academic calendar from August–May to the previous schedule of June–March. This change, announced today with the release of the University-wide academic calendar, will take effect starting Academic Year (AY) 2025–2026 and applies to all levels: elementary, academy, and tertiary.

The transition aligns with the Department of Education's (DepEd) nationwide directive reinstating the June–March school year, formalized in Department Order No. 012, s. 2025. Although the directive primarily addresses public schools, private institutions such as AUP are granted the option to follow suit under the School Calendar Law (Republic Act No. 7797).

The decision is a timely response to public concern over the health and safety risks posed by intensifying heat during the dry season. On April 29, 2024, former Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri released a statement urging both DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to shift the academic calendar back to its traditional cycle to safeguard students and educators from extreme summer temperatures.

Key Dates for the Upcoming Academic Year:

Start of Admissions: March 17, 2025
Preregistration: June 2, 2025
Registration Period: June 9–20, 2025
Start of Classes: June 23, 2025

Specific Schedules by Level:
Elementary & Academy:

School Year: June 2025 to March 2026
Start of Classes: June 23, 2026

Tertiary:

1st Semester: June to October 2025

2nd Semester: November 2025 to March 2026

Inter-Semester: April to May 2026

College of Medicine Exception:

Levels 1–3: August 2025 to May 2026

Level 4: June 2025 to May 2026

Adventist University of the Philippines The School Year Calendar				
UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FIRST SEMESTER 2025-2026				
JUNE 2025	JULY 2025	AUGUST 2025	SEPTEMBER 2025	OCTOBER 2025
<p>Key Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of Admissions: March 17, 2025 Preregistration: June 2, 2025 Registration Period: June 9–20, 2025 Start of Classes: June 23, 2025 				
<p>Calendar Details:</p> <p>The calendar shows the academic schedule for the first semester, including holidays, exam periods, and class days. It is designed to align with the June-March school year.</p>				

AUP Annual Mass Blood Donation Collect 364 Blood Bags for Life-Saving Mission

The Adventist University of the Philippines lived up to its mission of nurturing Christ-centered, service-oriented students through its annual Mass Blood Donation held on April 6, 2025, at the Medical Laboratory Science Center. Led by the AUP Biology Department and Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Department, the event collected an impressive 364 bags of blood—a testament to the continued dedication of the University community to health, compassion, and service.



This initiative, rooted in Adventist values of holistic education and selfless service, was done in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross Silang-Pasay Chapter and the Adventist Medical Center-Manila. As a yearly tradition dating back to 2011, the Mass Blood Donation has become one of the University's flagship service activities, consistently mobilizing medical and allied health students and faculty alike to meet the urgent needs of patients in local hospitals.

This long-standing project has previously earned the University the "Gabriela Silang Award" from the Department of Health from 2020-2024 recognizing its vital contribution to public health and community outreach. Last July 2024, the University again received



"The act of donating blood is a powerful way to reflect Christ's love in practical terms," said one of the faculty coordinators. "This is science in action—faith in action."

The partnership between the departments and external health institutions not only provides students with real-world experience in health-care but also highlights the role of Adventist education in producing responsible, service-driven professionals.



the award for conducting mobile blood donation activities with accumulated collection of 100-199 blood units.

Through events like this, AUP reinforces the core Adventist belief in the healing ministry of Jesus, calling every student to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) with both skill and compassion.

PALMED 2025 Kicks-Off at AUP

by Paul Andrei Lotereña

Over 1,200 medical students and guest delegates from 18 medical schools in the National Capital Region and South Luzon gathered for Palarong Medisina 2025. The event took place at the Adventist University of the Philippines, Silang, Cavite, on April 6 and 9, 2025.

AUP College of Medicine (AUP-COM) was selected to host the annual sporting event this year, with students from the medical colleges of vAMA, Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health, Chinese General Hospital Colleges, De La Salle Medical Health Sciences Institute, Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation (FEU-NRMF), Metropolitan Medical Center, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, San Beda University, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine, University of Perpetual Help Rizal-Jonelta, University of Santo Tomas, University of the East and the University of the Philippines being sent to compete in the two-day athletic contest.



their respective schools. Dr. Lemuel Dee Berto, AUP-COM faculty, delivered the opening remarks to welcome the delegates and to formally commence the event, followed by the opening program and recognition of participating schools this year.

Notably, AUP men's football team currently holds the third place with 2 wins, 1 tie and two losses, with dominant victories over St. Luke's and FEU-NRMF.



The sports segment of the program was also handled by selected AUP MSC Officers together with their APMC SN NCR SL Regional Officers counterpart, who were in charge of organizing various athletic events including basketball, volleyball, football, frisbee, badminton, and table tennis. The successful coordination of these sports competitions contributed to the smooth flow and vibrant energy of the entire event.

Supporting the core organizing team were 70 student volunteers from the AUP-COM. Their commitment and teamwork were instrumental in executing a memorable and meaningful Palarong Medisina, turning the event into more than just a sports festival. It became a celebration of unity, leadership, and the holistic development that AUP-COM stands for in its pursuit of healing and wholeness through Christ.

"The hardest [challenge] is that we were only given 3 weeks to prepare," Salpak Head Kayla Nicole Duremdes of the AUP College of Medicine stated. "We don't even know if people are willing [to participate] knowing that in AUP-COM, we have less than most medical schools do.... But in that hardship and challenge, you could really see God moving. You could really see that it was God showing us that, 'There is nothing impossible if you trust in me.' God uses lots of things, even [Palarong Medisina], to use us as His ministry, and that is the most rewarding."

Medical student athletes competed in different sporting events including basketball, volleyball, badminton, ultimate frisbee, and table tennis to showcase their skills beyond the academic setup within



Empowering Physician Missionaries in the Physician Licensure Exam

AUP's College of Medicine empowered more physician missionaries in the March–April 2025 Physician Licensure Examination (PLE), achieving a 70.53% passing rate for first-time takers and an overall performance of 63.64%, surpassing the national average of 49.67%. Last October 2024 PLE, COM also achieved a 66.67% for first-time takers and an overall passing rate of 70.18%, higher than the 58.27% national average.

These shining blessings remind us that true success is rooted not only in preparation and knowledge but also in the faithfulness of a limitless God who leads every step of the journey. As AUP continues to cultivate excellence in various fields, the University gives back all the glory to God—our Master Teacher and Healer.

CON Celebrates Successes in Skills and Community

The College of Nursing (CON) celebrated a season of accomplishments in academic excellence, spiritual renewal, community building, and personal achievement for the month of April 2025.



100% Passing Rate in TESDA Caregiving NC II Exam

Caregiving NC II National Assessment Examination administered by TESDA on March 7, March 14, and April 11, 2025, achieved a 100% passing rate. This outstanding result was a testament to the quality of training, commitment of faculty, and the diligence of the students. The achievement reinforced AUP-CON's role in preparing competent and compassionate caregivers ready to serve both locally and globally.



CON Week of Prayer: Nurturing Faith and Purpose

More than just academics, the CON devoted a week to spiritual upliftment through the CON Nights of Testimonies Season 2 held from April 21-26, 2025. Themed "Nurses In Christ's Time," the event provided students and faculty a meaningful opportunity to reflect, reconnect with God, and renew their mission as future healthcare professionals grounded in Adventist values.

CON as ONE Sportsfest

The College hosted the "CON as ONE" Sportsfest on April 26-27, 2025. With the theme "Strength in Scrubs, Power in Unity," the event brought together students and faculty for friendly competition, athletic challenges, and team-building exercises that reinforced unity, wellness, and a spirit of joy.

The recent accomplishments of CON reflect AUP's commitment to holistic education — one that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit in service to humanity.

AUP Joins 2025 Sta. Rosa SHS Career Expo

The Adventist University of the Philippines participated in the 2025 Senior High School (SHS) Career Expo, held at the Sta. Rosa City Sports Complex, with the theme "Bridging Pathways: Empowering Senior High School Students for Higher Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship."

This initiative significantly expanded AUP's visibility and accessibility to prospective students from nearby public high schools, including Don Jose Integrated High School, Sinalhan Integrated High School, Sto. Domingo Integrated High School, Balibago Integrated High School, Labas Senior High School, Sta. Rosa Science and Technology High School, and Aplaya National High School--located in close proximity to the University.

AUP joined over 20 higher education institutions (HEIs) in showcasing academic offerings, campus life, and pathways to further education and career employment. The University's presence aimed to inspire informed decisions to approximately 1,000 SHS students of Sta. Rosa City.



COM Clinical Clerks Begin Clinical Rotation at Loma Linda University Health

Eight clinical clerks from Altum Septima 2025, the graduating class of the Adventist University of the Philippines-College of Medicine, have officially begun their six-week clinical rotation at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) in California, USA. This enriching rotation, running from April 20 to May 25, 2025, is part of an annual exchange initiative between AUP and its esteemed sister institution, the Loma Linda University School of Medicine (LLUSM).

Carefully selected through a competitive and rigorous process, these clinical clerks were chosen for their embodiment of AUPCOM's five-star plus physician model—demonstrating not only academic excellence, but also a strong commitment to integrity, service, and whole-person care.

This international rotation offers AUP students a unique opportunity to broaden their clinical experience and deepen their medical insight within a globally recognized healthcare environment. Under the mentorship of expert clinicians at LLUH, the clerks will engage in patient care and medical team collaboration, further equipping them for compassionate, Christ-centered medical service.

The collaboration between AUP and LLUH stands as a testament to their shared vision of nurturing healthcare professionals who integrate faith, knowledge, and healing. This partnership continues to open doors for Filipino medical students to experience high standards of care and education in a Seventh-day Adventist institution overseas.



CES Reaches Out to Fire Victims in Inchican with Urgent Relief Aid

In the spirit of service and compassion, the University extended timely relief efforts to victims of a devastating fire that struck Barangay Inchican on the evening of April 19, 2025. The tragedy left 51 families — totaling 215 individuals — homeless after 38 houses were completely razed, according to the Bureau of Fire Protection.



Mobilized through University Community Extension Services (CES), the initiative gathered faculty, staff, and students who came together to provide essential relief items to the affected families just two days after the incident on April 21, 2025. The initiative was a tangible expression of the University's mission to be a beacon of hope and service to the community.

Each of the 51 families received a thoughtfully curated set of 13 basic household items, tailored to support their immediate hygiene and dignity needs. The donated items included a pail with cover, plastic cups, cutlery, arinola (chamber pot), bar soap, hangers, tabo (dipper), basin, towel, adult briefs, and assorted undergarments for adults, children, and babies (as applicable). The total value of goods distributed amounted to PHP61,684.50.

"The goal was not just to give supplies, but to show these families that they are not alone in this difficult time," said one CES volunteer. "We hope that this small act of kindness helps lighten their burden, even for a moment."

To ensure an organized and respectful distribution, representatives from each family were guided through 13 stations, where they received one item at a time with dignity and care. The fire relief operation reflects AUP's ongoing commitment to community service — not just as a response to tragedy, but as a demonstration of Christian compassion and collective responsibility.



AUP Hosts 7th International Research Forum with Global Participation

The Adventist University of the Philippines continued to take strides in advancing academic scholarship with the successful staging of its 7th International Research Forum, held under the theme “Bridging Mind: Expanding Horizon” via Zoom on April 24, 2025. Organized by the AUP Research Office, the forum highlighted commitment to fostering a global research culture that bridged knowledge and innovation across disciplines.

This year’s forum featured 95 research paper presentations from diverse academic fields. A total of 120 participants registered, and 168 individuals joined online, demonstrating wide-reaching engagement both locally and internationally.

The forum was graced by two esteemed keynote speakers: Dr. June Bryan Dela Peña, assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, School of Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, USA and Dr. Crisamar Javellana Anunciado, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, a senior medical science liaison and nurse practitioner from Chula Vista, California.

Both speakers inspired the audience with insights on interdisciplinary research and the evolving landscape of global healthcare and science. Feedback from the forum was overwhelmingly positive, with evaluation results averaging 3.90 out of 4.0, rated “Excellent.” Participants lauded the quality of presentations, the relevance of topics, and the smooth execution of the event.

The forum served not only as a platform for knowledge dissemination but also as a vital space for collaboration, professional growth, and academic excellence. As AUP continued to nurture a research-oriented academic environment, events like these marked significant milestones in its mission to be a center of excellence in Christian education.



AUP Elementary Joins Friendship Games at Lipa

Eighty-six students from Adventist University of the Philippines Elementary (AUPE), Lipa Adventist Academy (LAA) Elementary, and Rosario Adventist Elementary School (RAES) came together for a day filled with fellowship, fun, and faith at the Friendship Games 2025, held at Lipa Adventist Academy on March 16, 2025.

The event focused on the value of friendship, especially in times of challenge. The games served not only as a platform for friendly competition but also as an avenue to strengthen ties among Adventist elementary schools. Pastor Lyndon Mar Catolico, chaplain of LAA, opened the day with a short devotional. Drawing from the verse of Proverbs 17:17, Pastor Catolico reminded everyone that true friendship mirrors the love of God, emphasizing that real friends uplift each other during difficult times.

Highlights of the day were the sport events. The students enthusiastically participated in various sports events including volleyball (boys and girls), basketball, and badminton (singles, doubles, mixed).

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1st Kintsugi Chaplaincy Summit Held at AUP

The Kintsugi Summit 2025, a trauma-informed pastoral care and chaplaincy event, brought 128 attendees together: clergy, pastors, seminary students, chaplains, and care practitioners for a day of healing-centered dialogue and training from Adventist Medical Center–Manila (AMCM), AUP Academy, AUP Student Services Office, AUP College of Theology, Cavite Mission, Community Care Chaplains, Central Luzon Conference, Central Luzon Provinces Mission, and South Central Luzon Conference. Organized by the Spiritual Development Office in partnership with the Guidance Services and the College of Theology, the first Kintsugi Summit was held at AUP Finster Hall of All Nations on April 23, 2025. The keynote speaker was Pastor Geoffrey Tio, Director of Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health, Northern California, USA.

The event was also supported by the Kintsugi Resilience Philippines team: Mags Tio, Pastor Ronald Yabut, Jennevie Yabut, Pastor Erwin Pajares, Dr. Addie Jackson, and Mrs. Vanessa Lewis Williams. The summit emphasized the integration of trauma-informed approaches into spiritual care, fostering resilience, and building compassionate ministry communities.

"[I learned about] the timeless truths about human brokenness which it can be restored despite all of these scars that maybe left in the person due to the experiences of pain and all, in the past experiences. I hope that the ministry will come and many more will be blessed," Pastor Jay Fajardo, AMCM head chaplain, shared.



Pastor Tio further shared that Kintsugi Resilience is for people who are going through times of crisis in life. "We are finally giving this to the community for you guys to have a sacred space where you can find healing [in God]."

Another pastor from Central Luzon Conference shared who "there are spaces in my life that God's grace can flourish." And his role of being a shepherd is significantly emphasized in the summit that "walking with my members and not just me teaching them biblical truth" but go through that journey together with God and to God.

In addition to the summit, the Kintsugi team also led the devotional worship for the University Administrative Committee, dedicating the leaders to service through faith and prayer.



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These friendly matches allowed the students to develop camaraderie, sportsmanship, and mutual respect while enjoying a day of physical activity and healthy competition. Participants and school leaders alike shared their appreciation for the meaningful experience: "Together, these gatherings give me the chance to bond, exchange stories, and develop our social skills," expressed a player from LAA Elementary.

"May the same event happen in the future—and we want it to be at AUP!" Sir Josel Balbido, principal of RAES, stated expressing interest in hosting the next round of Friendship Games.

Beyond sports, the event was a reflection of shared faith and unity in the Adventist education community. These kinds of programs not only promote physical wellness but also foster spiritual growth and lifelong friendships.

"This Friendship Game among the three participating Adventist schools is a wonderful way to build unity, strengthen friendships, and foster a spirit of cooperation and friendly competition," Isabelo Susada, principal of AUPE, shared. "These events allow pupils to connect, share experiences, and grow in their faith together."

1st Faculty and Staff Team Building Held in Campus

With energy high and spirits soaring, the AUP held its first-ever Faculty and Staff Team Building Activity dubbed “Amazing Race 2025” at the AUP Campsite on March 31, 2025. The event gathered hundreds of AUP employees across departments in a day of challenge, camaraderie, and celebration of limitless possibilities.

Led by the AUP Socials Committee headed by Mrs. Romelda Rodelas, the team building focused on teamwork, integrity, problem-solving, and institutional pride. A total of 10 teams, each comprising 57 to 58 members, were formed. Led by their respected team leader and supported by an assigned photographer/videographer, the groups competed across 12 uniquely designed stations that tested their physical agility, mental sharpness, and collaborative skills.

The 12 stations were:

Station 1: 3, 6, 9 Clap Challenge

Station 2: Team Balance Relay

Station 3: Human Slingshot Reach

Station 4: Itlog ko 'yan!

Station 5: Foundation Day!

Station 6: Balloon Centipede

Station 7: Snacks Station

Station 8: Dress up

Station 9 Basket Holes

Station 10 Trust Walk

Station 11 Hula Hoop

Station 12 Ball Tunnel

The event concluded with three teams emerging victorious in the Amazing Race 2025. Team Ube claimed the championship title with a



time of 42 minutes and 58 seconds. Team White secured the position of 1st runner-up with a time of 47 minutes and 9 seconds, while Team Yellow finished as the 2nd runner-up with a time of 50 minutes and 53 seconds.

To add a creative aspect to the competition, teams were invited to submit a 3-minute video showcasing their journey throughout the race. The Amazing Race Video Contest evaluated entries based on fun, creativity, team involvement, and adherence to the time limit. Team Blue won first place in the video competition, with Team Brown and Team Orange coming in second and third, respectively.

The cash prizes from the competition were donated to various ministries by faculty, staff, students, and organizational groups at the University. While the competitive edge kept teams on their toes, the deeper value of the activity lay in its ability to integrate faith in the activity while bridging departments, building new friendships, and fostering a spirit of unity and trust within AUP's workforce.



AUP-COM Celebrates National Award Achievements for 2025

The Adventist University of the Philippines-College of Medicine recently celebrated the remarkable achievements of its alumnus and faculty member, Dr. Jon Sergei Aclan, alongside student Kevin De Jesus.

Aclan Honored as Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines 2025

Dr. Aclan was recognized as one of the 30 National Honorees for the 58th Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) and ranked among the Top 10 awardees representing CALABARZON-NCR at the awards ceremony held in Mandaluyong City on April 27, 2025.



Dr. Aclan, a Doctor of Medicine graduate from AUP-COM, exemplifies the ideals of academic excellence, social responsibility, and servant leadership, which are central to the TOSP legacy. He was not only a Top 10 finalist for CALABARZON-NCR but also earned a place among the National Top 30. Known for founding Project GiFTED and serving as both the founding president of the AUP Medicine Student Council and the national chairperson of the APMC-SN Medical Education Committee, Dr. Aclan's commitment to education and community impact is significant. He has also been recognized as a podium presenter at the 3rd Institutional Research Conference and a grant winner in the 2017 Angat Buhay Grant Competition.

The 58th TOSP batch marks a historic revival of recognizing young leaders, academics, and service-oriented individuals after a delay

due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the ceremony, which also commemorated the first death anniversary of TOSP founder Mr. Jose S. Concepcion Jr., Dr. Aclan stated, "Community service is more than just giving money or volunteering in community projects. It is about uplifting people's lives and providing them with the means to navigate life's challenges while serving as an inspiration to others."

De Jesus Named Among the Natatanging Mag-aaral ng Medisina ng Pilipinas 2025

Adding to the celebrations, Kevin De Jesus from the Altum Septima 2025 batch received the prestigious title of one of the "Natatanging Mag-aaral ng Medisina ng Pilipinas 2025." This accolade was awarded on April 9, 2025, at the Siew Huy Atrium of AUP College of Medicine during SALPAK: Palarong Medisina 2025, hosted by the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges Student Network (APMC-SN) NCR-SL.

Recognizing medical students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, community service, and integrity, De Jesus distinguished himself among candidates from various medical schools across the NCR and South Luzon regions. His achievement not only reflects his dedication but also underscores AUP College of Medicine's commitment to nurturing "Five-Star Plus Physicians"—healthcare professionals who are competent, ethical, compassionate, socially responsible, and grounded in faith.



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Adventist University of the Philippines

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Prepares People for Heaven*

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