

UNIVERSITY MISSION

Vision

Discovering vocation, expanding horizons, deepening faith, and transforming communities.

Mission Statement

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where truth is pursued, grace is foundational, and holiness is a way of life.

Mission Context

The university, established in 1902 by the Church of the Nazarene, offers quality liberal arts and professional programs on its campus in San Diego and select graduate and professional programs throughout the denomination's Southwest Educational Region.

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO)

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO's) at Point Loma Nazarene University are the broad, over-arching outcomes aligned with university mission and core values that inform program outcomes in the university's academic, co-curricular, and support units. These ILO's capture the breadth of the PLNU experience and community and help define its uniqueness. For students beginning their educational experience, the ILO's determine those focal points that mark their journey, and for graduate and adult students continuing their academic careers, the ILO's define both the starting point and the direction of their ongoing journey. For the PLNU staff and faculty, the outcomes explicitly articulate the institution's expectations. They guide the community in discussions around questions of faith, profession, social justice, personal relationships, service, giftedness, political and community engagement, and life choices.

The university and the student work cooperatively to achieve ILO's, so that students will be prepared to live faithfully as engaged, growing Christians who seek to model the character of God in their lives. These students will also possess curiosity for life-long learning; the ability to think critically about global challenges; the ability to identify, create and weigh alternative viewpoints and opinions; and the ability to imagine and enact characteristically Christian ways of addressing these challenges. To assist students in achieving these ILO's, the university offers students a safe environment to challenge the status quo, to engage intentionally in discussions that test the foundation of their views, to build a respect for the stewardship of creation, to show compassion toward those in need, and to respect the diversity of opinions within and outside the Christian faith community.

"As a community of faithful learners, Point Loma Nazarene University's purpose for learning is to engender greater and deeper love for God and all that God has created, exploring the world in the confidence of God's grace. As a university seeking faithfulness to the Wesleyan tradition, we do not see learning and faith as two separate and distinct spheres that need to be forced together. Rather, we engage in the learning process as a people striving to live faithfully toward Jesus Christ, who calls us to this love of God and neighbor. We pursue such faithful learning, living and loving in the community. We pursue the vocation of learning

together in the very presence of the God of the universe, freeing us to ask hard questions about our beliefs, ourselves and our world." (*A Wesleyan Approach to Faithful Academic Life*, PLNU, from 2009 edition).

As a learner-centered expression of our mission statement, the ILO's describe how members of the Point Loma Nazarene University community will demonstrate learning, growing and serving.

Context #1: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ

ILO #1: Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning.

Context #2: Growing, in a Christ-Centered Faith Community

ILO #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.

Context #3: Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith

ILO #3: Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

University Profile

Programs at the graduate level are organized for the general purpose of giving the student a fundamental understanding and thorough mastery of a major field of study and of advanced preparation for a professional career.

Graduate Programs exist to:

- Recognize and foster superior scholarship through post-baccalaureate instruction, seminars, and research;
- Develop professional skills and competence;
- Encourage the acquisition and mastery of responsible and thorough methods of research;
- Enable students to improve their ability to think critically and achieve a greater measure of intellectual independence;
- Encourage the integration of the student's faith and learning; and
- Accelerate the engagement of graduates' faith in their professions.

Graduate study requires independent direction, a mature approach to study, and a commitment to professional goals. Students who have demonstrated a high level of achievement in undergraduate work and who want to increase their professional skills, expand their knowledge, and qualify for more demanding responsibilities are invited to apply for admission to Point Loma Nazarene University's Graduate and Professional Studies programs.

Courses and programs are offered through departments and schools of the university. Faculty determine the standards of admission, the standards for retention, the requirements for graduation, regulations governing transfer credit, and other matters pertaining to academic activities and responsibilities of the student. Thus, to receive graduate credit and to be eligible for a graduate degree, a student must be properly admitted to a graduate degree program and must meet the standards set by the faculty.

Community Standards

Above all, Point Loma Nazarene University is a Christian community. Regardless of personal religious perspectives, when students enroll

at Point Loma, they have entered into this unique community. Thus, the university community hopes that students will sense the love and holiness that characterizes life in Christ throughout their time of participation in the community. Faculty and staff desire to model that life in all they do.

Studying in a Christian community has several ramifications. First, it has an impact on the quality of workmanship - Christians offer God and each other their very best work. Students and faculty alike are held to a very high standard of workmanship. Second, work in a Christian community is characterized by integrity; there is a level of trust that makes life in Christian community uplifting. Third, work is grounded in Christ-like love and service. Faculty and students commit themselves to service in their professions, community, and places of worship. Fourth, students, faculty, and staff are expected to live disciplined lives. Living and working in Christian community affects our life-style choices.

The University Seal

The university seal is used on all official documents. It consists of a shield picturing the symbols of **Venia** (Grace), **Veritas** (Truth) and **Sanctitas** (Holiness), themes that in keeping with the heritage of Point Loma Nazarene University have been identified with the Wesleyan-holiness tradition.