

Institutional Profile

History and Tradition of Loyola Marymount University (LMU)

The history of Loyola Marymount University extends back to 1548 when the founder of the Society of Jesus, Saint Ignatius Loyola, endorsed the first school. Independent of this, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary was establishing educational institutions in France in 1849. The educational establishment of LMU begins with the inauguration of St. Vincent's College for boys in Los Angeles. Though the school closed in 1911, members of the Society of Jesus founded Los Angeles College. The College was eventually relocated to the Westchester campus in 1929 and received university recognition in 1930. Around this time, the Religious of Sacred Heart of Mary began educating young women at Marymount Junior College, which transitioned to a four-year institution and started awarding baccalaureate degrees in 1949. By 1968, Marymount College had moved to the Westchester campus of Loyola University and marked the formal partnership between the Congregation of Saint Joseph of Orange and the Religious of Sacred Heart of Mary. It was not until 1973 that Loyola University and Marymount College joined together to form Loyola Marymount University.

Today LMU is a private Catholic University located in the heart of Los Angeles, CA a dynamic city that inspires creative work, advances research, and embraces active social justice engagement. LMU is at the forefront when it comes to the global capital arts and entertainment, innovation and technology, and business and entrepreneurship. LMU offers rigorous undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral and professional programs. It serves 10,179 students (7,273 undergraduates, 1,828 graduates, and 1,078 law students) from diverse backgrounds and religious perspectives (LMU IRDS, October 2024). The University supports a student population that is academically ambitious and committed to living a life of meaning and purpose.

LMU is the largest Catholic university on the West Coast and comprised of seven schools and colleges:

- Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts
- College of Business Administration
- College of Communication and Fine Arts
- Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering
- Loyola Law School

- School of Education
- School of Film and Television

In fall 2024, LMU's total enrollment of 10,179 students, pursuing 56 majors and 56 minors; and 2,906 graduates pursuing 46 masters and professional degree programs (LMU IRDS, October 2024). In addition, LMU offers three doctorate programs, and 12 certificate programs. The average class size is 19 students for undergraduates and 13 students for graduates (LMU Facts & Figures, June 2024).

The University offers a unique and rigorous liberal arts education within a comprehensive university setting in the backyard of one of the nation's most diverse urban communities. LMU is a National University / High Research (R2) putting LMU and ranks as one of the top universities in the U.S., as indicated by its accolades below:

- Top 2% in Diversity – College Factual, 2021
- No. 4 “students Most Engaged in Community Service’ Nationally, Princeton Review, 2023
- No. 3 Promotion of Latina/o Student Success, Education Trust, 2017
- No. 8 Best Catholic College, Nationally, Niche.Com, 2023
- 6th out of 50 California Colleges that graduate the most students in 4 years, U.S. Dept. of Education
- No. 91 in “Best National Universities in the U.S” – U.S News & World Report, 2025
- No. 31 in “Best Undergraduate Teaching” among national universities – U.S. News & World Report, 2025 ;
- College of Business Administration, Entrepreneurship Program ranks 16th nationally among undergraduate programs.

LMU has a long-standing commitment to recruit and enroll high-achieving, students from across the region and the state of California, providing an educational experience that is rigorous, inclusive, engaging, socially sensitive, inter-disciplinary, and global. It is the University of Silicon Beach, next door to offices of Google, YouTube, BuzzFeed, Facebook, and other high-tech firms. At LMU, the city becomes an extension of the classroom, offering a rich diversity of culture, interests, access, and opportunities.

The fall 2024 undergraduate student body is diverse and comprised of 55 percent

minority students: 25 percent Hispanic / Latino, 8 percent African American, 8 percent two or more races, 10.5 percent Asian American, and less than one percent Native Hawaiian and American Indian / Alaska Native students; with White student enrollment at 38 percent of the undergraduate students. (LMU IRDS, October 2024). Underrepresented graduate students comprise most of the enrollment at 64.3 percent (combined American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races) compared to 24 percent White (IBID). The same trend is seen for all degree seeking students at the graduate and undergraduate level, where underrepresented students represent nearly 55 percent of the enrollment compared to 35 percent of the White students.

For fall 2024, The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) designates LMU as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) (<https://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSIs.asp>), which is a milestone for LMU. LMU meets HACU's definition of HSI with 27 percent combined graduate and undergraduate Hispanic student enrollment. Federal eligibility for HSI uses a narrower definition of full time equivalent (FTE) degree seeking undergraduate students for this distinction, which places LMU at 25 percent Hispanic undergraduate student enrollment (LMU IRDS, October 2024).

Mission

The mission of LMU is the *encouragement of learning, the education of the whole person, and the service of faith and the promotion of justice*. The University is institutionally committed to Roman Catholicism and takes its fundamental inspiration from the combined heritage of the Jesuits, the Marymount Sisters, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. This Catholic identity and religious heritage distinguish LMU from other universities and provides touchstones for understanding LMU's threefold mission, which is as follows:

- The encouragement of learning
- The education of the whole person
- The service of faith and the promotions of justice

As a mission driven institution, Loyola Marymount University serves all students with a social justice framework, an emphasis on the whole person, and a commitment to diversity and global awareness. Outreach and service to the campus community reflects LMU's Jesuit and

Marymount Catholic heritage, a dedication that maintains a diverse community, embraces interfaith exchange, and fosters mutual respect.

As of Fall 2024, the university-wide rankings for LMU are as follows (*not a comprehensive list*):

- Top 2 percent nationally for diversity (College Factual, 2021)
- No.4 for students most engaged community service (Princeton Review, 2023)
- No.21 in academic programs to look for in service learning (U.S. News & World Report, 2022)
- 95% graduation rates for athletes (NCAA, 2020)
- No.31 best undergraduate teaching (U.S. News & World Report, 2025)
- No.57 best colleges for veterans (U.S. News & World Report, 2025)
- No.23 for the best science lab facilities (Princeton Review, 2024)
- Top producer of U.S. Fulbright Students (The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2019)
- No. 5 Film School (The Hollywood Reporter, 2024)
- No. 24 Best College Theatre (Princeton Review 2024)
- Top 3rd of U.S. Law Schools (U.S. News & World Report, 2024)
- No. 23 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs (*where no doctorate offered*) (U.S. News & World Report, 2024)

Student Characteristics and Persistence

The total fall 2024 enrollment is 10,179 ($n = 7,273$ for undergraduates, $n = 1,828$ for graduates, $n = 1,078$ for law school) by headcount for all students. The majority of the students (96 percent) are degree seeking. The gender distribution for fall 2024 enrollment is 45 percent males and 55 percent females. The number of degrees awarded in Academic Year 2023 is 1,738 Bachelor's, 739 Master's, 41 Certificates, 20 Doctorates, 313 Juris Doctorates. The average high school GPA of all degree-seeking, first-time, first-year students in fall 2023 is 4.01.

LMU is ranked as “more selective” by U.S. News and Report (a 3.0 GPA is required for admittance), with a fall 2023 acceptance rate of 40 percent. Over one-third (39 percent) of all entering freshmen were in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Students at LMU are gifted, high performing high school students that when given support will thrive, as evident by the average freshmen fall to fall retention rate of 88.2 percent and average six-year graduation rate of 80 percent (LMU IRDS, October 2024).

Faculty Characteristics

LMU faculty are academic scholars who are driven by the university's mission and values, and in fall 2023 the faculty body was comprised of 387 full time tenure-line faculty and 465 part-time. 41 percent ($n = 351$) of faculty are members of a minority group and ($n=564$) are White. Ninety-six percent of full-time, instructional faculty that hold a doctorate or other terminal degree. The faculty are split evenly by gender and are comprised of 50 percent women and 50 percent male. The fall 2024 student-to-faculty ratio is 11 to 1 (LMU IRDS, October 2024).

Governance

The 2024-20254 Board of Trustees is a 38 member governing body of the University. The board has the ultimate responsibility for the education, physical, and financial well-being of LMU, as well as for its preservation and advancement as a leader in Catholic higher education. The board is composed of prominent lay persons, members of the Society of Jesus, and members of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange.

Accreditation

LMU is accredited by (WASC) Senior College and University Commission. In addition, program specific accreditation includes:

- American Art Therapy Association
- American Bar Association
- Association of American Law Schools
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
- Association of Theological Schools
- California State Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California
- Counsel for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
- The Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- National Association of Schools of Dance
- National Association of Schools of Music
- National Association of Schools of Theatre
- National Association of School Psychology

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