Rising to New Levels of Excellence

I have the distinct honor of serving the University of Portland as its 21st president. It fills me with great joy and pride to lead such a renowned institution and such a distinguished team as we prepare a new generation of students to thrive in their lives and careers.

We are a comprehensive, Catholic, liberal arts university guided by a singular mission to educate the whole student – head, heart, and hands. We are steeped in both tradition and innovation, history and opportunity.

Since our founding in 1901, we have remained committed to giving our students the educational and ethical foundation to lead with confidence and make a difference in the world.

That’s why I am especially proud to announce that UP has been awarded the 2024 Carnegie Elective Classification for Leadership for Public Purpose. This honor recognizes our dedication to cultivating leadership abilities across our campus and tackling complex societal issues in the interest of the public good.

We do that with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that teach students to analyze complex problems, implement solutions, communicate constructively with diverse people and ideas, and act ethically – skills integral to success in any profession.

I have no doubt that our upward trajectory will only continue, as we meld our storied traditions with the promise of all that is to come to make the University of Portland the transformative Catholic university.

I invite you to learn more about UP and how we are preparing our students to lead the way to a promising future.

Robert D. Kelly, Ph.D.
President
Carnegie Leadership for Public Purpose

The University of Portland is honored to earn the 2024 Carnegie Elective Classification for Leadership for Public Purpose. This new classification reflects our commitment to fostering a deep understanding of leadership as a positive force in our community.

Student Achievement — By the Numbers

80% average six-year graduation rate, highest in Oregon over the past 10 years

37% of undergraduates enroll in graduate studies within four years

81% of students participate in experiential learning before graduating

6 Fulbright Scholars, 2024

3 Goldwater Scholars, 2024

84% of UP's class of 2022 reported a positive career outcome, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Top Honors

- University of Portland is consistently ranked among the top universities on U.S. News & World Report's list of Regional Universities West.
- We are one of the 2024 Best Colleges in America, according to Money Magazine.
- For nine consecutive years, UP has been the top Oregon school in Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranking of best values in private universities.

Bring All of Who You Are

UP welcomes and values people of all faiths and backgrounds. We continually strive to create an environment where everyone feels at home. In-state, out-of-state, international, first-generation, multicultural, LGBTQIA+, and BIPOC folks – they're all part of the fabric that forms our beloved community.
A Hands-On Curriculum that Drives Discovery

No matter what major our students choose, they benefit from a core curriculum in the humanities and sciences that fosters critical thinking and problem-solving, a foundation in ethics and moral formation, and the confidence and leadership skills to use what they've learned to make a difference in the world.

Faculty: Educating and Inspiring

UP’s faculty members are focused on student success within the classroom and beyond. They share a commitment to teaching excellence and offer boundless opportunities for undergraduate research, hallmarks of a UP education. They give students hands-on experiences to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom.

Major Grant Support

The University of Portland College of Arts and Sciences has amassed more than $2.5 million in major grant funding since 2022. These initiatives allow undergraduate students to have learning experiences outside the classroom, preparing them for future studies and meaningful careers.

- A $635,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the impacts of urbanization on numerous aspects of wildlife health.
- An M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust grant for UP researchers to study increasingly harmful algal and bacteria blooms in Oregon waterways.
- A National Institutes of Health grant for UP to conduct research on immune responses in prostate cancer treatment.
- A National Endowment for the Humanities grant to connect UP students with the community through engaged study in the humanities.

Faith and Hope

Since its founding in 1901, UP has been a place where people of all faith traditions – or no faith tradition at all – gather to discover their deepest purpose and learn to lead a life of fulfillment. The University’s Holy Cross mission is lived out, each and every day, in classrooms and in residence halls, on The Bluff, and around the world.

Building Innovation

This year we opened the Shiley-Marcos Center for Design & Innovation (pictured), a place for creative thinkers to collaborate, experiment, and bring new inventions to life. The $40 million, four-story structure contains 43,800 square feet of creative educational spaces to spark the imagination of UP students from all majors.
Five Schools, One Mission.

UP is anchored by the College of Arts and Sciences, with four professional schools offering targeted pathways toward careers and graduate degrees in business, engineering, health care, and education.

College of Arts and Sciences
Pamplin School of Business
School of Education
Donald P. Shiley School of Engineering
School of Nursing & Health Innovations

The Elsie Franz-Finley Simulated Health Center is the first and only fully accredited, state-of-the-art simulated health center in the state and prepares nursing students for work in acute care units and ambulatory care centers.
Approaching our 125th Anniversary

A milestone in the making – Founded in 1901, the University of Portland is on course to celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2026. We look forward to celebrating 125 years of teaching and learning, faith and formation, service and leadership.