At University of Portland, we push past our own limited views and shine light in new directions.
We test our beliefs and create space for greater understanding.
We explore our convictions, affirm our values, and grow in our faith.
We empathize with others, and we’re not afraid to raise our hands, speak up, or take action.
We call on a full range of disciplines, combining data with expression and theory with practice. And whether we find ourselves in familiar territory or uncharted waters, we revisit and we revise, reframe and readjust, without a template for perfection.

We’re conscious of our past and how it shapes our thinking. It’s how we become closer: to each other and to the full, purposeful future that lies before us. All in an effort to better this world and find our place in it.

And it all starts when we wonder.

Who We Are

There is so much before us. What happens when we take the time to question what we see?
That’s when we wonder.

At University of Portland, we’re fascinated. Whether it’s the subjects we study or the relationships we build, the places we travel to or the communities we call home, we’re not afraid to ask questions and look further. Ours is a comprehensive Catholic university, grounded in the liberal arts. So we aren’t here to simply absorb information and get a degree. We’re here to turn ideas over in our minds, to test our beliefs and gain new understanding. To draw on the power of a well-placed question and embrace a culture of curiosity that shapes a lifetime love of learning.

Then, we put that knowledge into action.
Academics

*What if every uncertainty were a discovery waiting to be made?*

Not all those who wonder are lost in thought.
We call it purposeful thinking.

Idea churning. Deep discussion. Number crunching. You'll do them for a good reason: To learn how to think critically about the world around you. To separate truth from fiction. To think beyond the immediate to the long term. To be equipped not only for a rewarding career but for a lifetime of discovery. Through a focused and rigorous curriculum, all academic programs at the University of Portland will prepare you to make new discoveries and lead in your field. And you won't go at it alone. You'll have the expertise of dedicated and caring professors to provide guidance and support.

Direction doesn't determine the destination.
As you explore our programs, keep in mind that what you're interested in today doesn't have to dictate your entire journey. Because no two students' paths are the same. UP’s curriculum is designed for you to test out your intellectual interests — you can change direction or combine fields of study to create a route that's right for you.

Survey what’s out there, then chart a course that’s entirely your own.
The best way to do that? Getting out in the field.

Lessons learned from a textbook can take a very different shape in real life. That’s why we offer internships, clinical experiences, student teaching, practica, research, cooperative education, and community service — all forms of work-integrated learning that will make up a significant component of your education at UP. Because as you wonder about the world around you, it’s just as important that you step directly into those real-world experiences. Whether that’s in ecosystems or healthcare systems, in a school or a multi-national business, in a tech start-up or local government — whatever catches your curiosity, we want you to find yourself right in the middle of it. And to direct your discovery toward something that speaks to you.

Things tend to look different from another vantage point.
Imagine yourself studying in Australia, Austria, Ecuador, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, or Tanzania — for a summer, a semester, or even a full academic year. Or immersing yourself in a service opportunity somewhere as close as downtown Portland or as far away as Central America to explore issues of poverty and immigration, as well as social, environmental, and human rights. But think beyond the location. How could a new landscape, culture, and way of living shift your perspective and broaden your understanding of the world? Of your area of study? Of your own purpose? The only way to find out is by taking that leap to study abroad or participate in an immersion experience yourself.

Place
What happens when you take the scenic route?
You might find something you didn’t know you were looking for. A hidden hiking trail. A new favorite coffeehouse. An unexpected find on a thrift store’s clearance rack. They’re all out there waiting for you. Welcome to Portland, the City of Roses. Mere minutes from campus — by bike, bus, or foot — you’ll find a wealth of experiences waiting to be explored. Music venues. Food carts. A bookstore spanning an entire city block. Professional basketball and soccer teams. Green spaces galore. And miles and miles of bike paths. You’ll also want to get out and take advantage of Oregon’s spectacular coast and scenic Mount Hood, both just 90 minutes away. With our mild weather, it’s easy to get around. (Just remember to bring your rain gear.)

Get outside the classroom and catch a breathtaking view.
Our campus is nestled in a quiet, safe, residential neighborhood, overlooking the Willamette River and downtown Portland. But instead of concrete sidewalks and towering skyscrapers, we have majestic trees, green grass, and birds overhead. From the moment you step on campus, we think you’ll feel right at home. Come take a look and see for yourself why some 4,000 students love being a part of The Bluff.

Plan out your visit at up.edu/upvisit

Community
What happens when building a community mean breaking down barriers?
You create room for new understanding. Because it's not just about how many hours are in the day, but everything you can do with them.

We see the UP community as an opportunity: a place where diversity, equity, and inclusion are paramount. Amid a broad range of bright minds and varying backgrounds, we encourage honest and open conversations about values, perspectives, and experiences. You and your peers will direct your collective energy to help others. You'll shift your idea of service from counting hours to measuring meaningful change. From global issues affecting millions of people to the details of the everyday lives of our neighbors, you'll wonder about how it could be, and then work to make that happen. Our Moreau Center for Service and Justice partners with a host of local organizations and nonprofits that share our commitment to social justice, which offers you the chance to gain a new understanding and have an impact on the greater Portland community.

We collectively shape our story by asking, listening, and connecting with one another.
By living in one of our 10 residence halls, you’ll be right at the heart of our vibrant campus community. We have male, female, and coed halls, and each has its own distinct personality and traditions — like hall Olympics and game nights, dances and trivia competitions, and auctions that raise funds for charities.
More than 90 percent of first-year students live on campus; so you’ll not only learn how to study and live among others, you’ll also gain lifelong friends and mentors who will shape your four years here and well beyond.

**We strive to be not simply the best, but rather our best selves.**
Everyone defines success differently. Discover what it means to you.

With more than 90 student clubs and organizations, you’ll have quite a few ways to let your passions shine and be a part of the community. We’ve got clubs that cover interests from mock trial to robotics, from climbing to lacrosse, from the environment to culture and diversity — including Hawai’i and Guam Clubs and our Latinx Student Union.

So whether you’re an expert or a rookie, you’ll find a group of fellow Pilots to help you explore all your interests at UP.

**Immerse yourself in a loud sea of purple.**
Whether you’re on the field, on the court, or in the stands, you’ll find yourself cheering for our 16 NCAA Division I intercollegiate teams. As Pilots, we proudly compete in the West Coast Conference and see competition as an opportunity to raise our teammates up and succeed as one.

**Discover how far your health can take you.**
Scale to the top of our free-climbing wall or dive into a deeper sense of self. Speed down snow-covered mountains or paddle across calm, quiet waters. Here, we see health and wellness as a part of a holistic experience — a chance not just to invest in a fuller life, but also to jump into unfamiliar surroundings and new experiences, either on your own or with a team.

At the Beauchamp Recreation and Wellness Center, you’ll have access to an abundance of fitness resources, classes, machines, and more. Or sign up for a trip offered by our Outdoor Pursuits Program, and explore Oregon through hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and other fun activities.

Discover all the ways you can get involved at up.edu/upstudentlife.

**Faith**

**What role does faith play in our world?**
It’s an open invitation and an endless journey.

We are a Catholic university where all faiths are valued. Inside and outside the classroom, we encourage you to ask questions, explore personal convictions, and consider moral and ethical implications — all in an effort to help you solidify your beliefs while opening your mind to new ideas. We have lots of ways to help you in your spiritual journey: You might choose to attend weekly Mass in your residence hall, enjoy quiet contemplation on a retreat, or join one of the many bible-study, faith-sharing, or interfaith groups on campus.
UP is guided by the Congregation of Holy Cross, a community of priests and brothers who see education as a formation of both the heart and the mind. Faith, along with acceptance and inclusivity, is interwoven throughout our community. You'll find members of Holy Cross and people of all backgrounds and walks of life on campus — in our classrooms, in our residence halls, and in our offices. Everyone is welcome here — no matter where you come from or how you worship.

Explore how it all takes shape at up.edu/upfaith

Outcomes

Where will wonder take you?

We don't know exactly where you'll land. But we do know what you'll take with you. The ability to explore issues from multiple angles. The empathy to see things from another perspective. The courage to ask tough questions and grapple with complex ideas.

And above all, a never-ending curiosity that leads you to unimagined places and unbelievable accomplishments, like these:

- Starting a coffee company that sustains an entire Brazilian community
- Coaching an NBA team and winning two championships
- Inventing a prosthetic heart valve and saving thousands of lives
- Writing a best-selling series of novels
- Designing the first wetsuit and founding an iconic American surfing brand
- Starring in one of the nation’s most-watched sitcoms
- Searching for ways to cure diseases like Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s
- Working on trauma stabilization in Iraq and Syria
- Going undercover to expose animal and human trafficking
- Inspiring new ways of teaching and impacting generations of students

These are real things our graduates have done. We can't wait to add your accomplishments to the list.

For more alumni stories, visit up.edu/upoutcomes.

There are so many well-worn trails that others have cleared and climbed so carefully. But why follow in the footsteps of someone else when you can chart your own course?

Forge your own direction at University of Portland.

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