

Meeting days: N/A	Instructor: Diane Law, DBA
Meeting times: N/A	Phone: (408) 472-7085
Meeting location: Online	E-mail : dlaw@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: N/A	Office location and hours: By appointment
Additional info:	

Fall 2025 Quad 1 OL

PLNU Mission

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 grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Fermanian School of Business Mission

Character – Professionalism – Excellence – Relationships – Commitment - Innovation

As members of a vital Christian community, we strive to provide high-quality business programs that equip students to make a positive impact in their workplace and community by connecting purpose to practice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how leaders can use data to inform the decision-making process. Topics include identifying the right information, eliminating bias, understanding predictive analytics, data visualization, communicating uncertainty and addressing challenges to your data. An emphasis is placed on basic methods of gathering, analyzing and communicating data.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define “big data” and the increasing role of evidence-based decision making to support executive decision making (PLO 1).
2. Explain the differences between predictive, prescriptive, and descriptive analytics, and the organizational questions that can be answered with each approach (PLO 1).
3. Examine the processes of gathering, analyzing, visualizing and communicating data (PLO 1, 2).
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of analytics using examples from a variety of organizational functions and industries (PLO 2).
5. Recognize the ethical implications of collecting, managing, and using data for managers and leaders (PLO 4).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

1. Richardson, V.J. & Weidenmier Watson, M. (2024). *Introduction to business analytics*. New York: McGraw Hill LLC. ISBN: 978-1-265-45434-0
2. Loth, A. (2019). *Visual Analytics with Tableau*. New York: Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-119-56020-3
3. Tableau for Students at www.tableau.com/students
4. Microsoft Excel, which is available through Point Loma Nazarene University.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Activities and Point Distribution

Activity	Total Points
Chapter Discussions	200
Exams	300
Homework Assignments	500
Total Points	1000

Points will be converted to grades as follows:

Points	Grade	Points	Grade
930-1000	A	730-769	C
900-929	A-	700-729	C-
870-899	B+	670-699	D+
830-869	B	630-669	D
800-829	B-	600-629	D-
770-799	C+	0-599	F

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due dates. There will be a 10% reduction of possible points for each day an assignment is late, and assignments will not be accepted for credit four days after the due date. If missing assignments result in failure to meet learning outcomes, you may receive a letter grade reduction on the final grade in addition to the loss of points for missing work. Assignments will be considered late if posted after the due date and time using Pacific Standard Time. No assignments will be accepted after midnight on Sunday night, the last day of class. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be pre-approved by the instructor and the program director.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI. APA Style: [How to Cite ChatGPT](#)

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 8 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

CONTENT WARNING

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Consumer and Organizational Behavior all the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate and Adult Undergraduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. We have onsite chaplains at our different campuses who may be available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with our chaplains, you can find them at the Chaplain's Page via myPLNU. In addition, the Mission Valley and Balboa campuses have a prayer

chapel for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

GPS ACADEMIC RESOURCES

PLNU offers the following free academic resources virtually for Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) Students. Visit myPLNU through the links below for more information.

- **The GPS Writing Center offers:**
 - **Zoom Writers Workshops** offered each quad on a variety of helpful topics
 - **One-to-one appointments** with the Writing Coach
 - **Microlearning YouTube Video Library** for helpful tips anytime
 - **Research Help Guide** to help you start your research
 - The physical office is located on the third floor of the **Mission Valley Regional Center** off the student lounge
- **Academic Writing Resources Course:** Found on your Canvas Dashboard, this course is non-credit with 24/7 access, no time limits, and self-paced content. **Watch a quick video run-through** and take time now to explore!
- **Grammarly:** Students have unlimited FREE access to Grammarly for Education, a trusted tool designed to help enhance writing skills by providing real-time feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and providing suggestions. Grammarly's Generative AI is NOT available with our student accounts.
- **Tutoring:** Students have access to 24/7 live or scheduled subject tutoring through Tutor.com, including a Paper Drop-Off Service with feedback within 12 hours.

We are here to support you! Contact us anytime: GPSWritingCenter@pointloma.edu

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of

these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog.

See the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: "In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignment in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work."

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal

requirements. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously**, and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [ADC Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog](#).

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition: Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but not limited:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with a faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirements.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

COURSE MODALITY DEFINITIONS

1. **In-Person:** Course meetings are face-to-face with no more than 25% online delivery.
2. **Online:** Coursework is completed 100% online and asynchronously.
3. **Online Synchronous:** Coursework is completed 100% online with required weekly online class meetings.
4. **Hybrid:** Courses that meet face-to-face with required online components.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in your course, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system

requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use for any online or hybrid classes. Please note that any course with online proctored exams require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work on time.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The ‘official’ and up-to-date schedule of all activities will be on the Canvas website. Make sure to check Canvas regularly.

Week	Readings	Assignment s
1	Read Chapters 1, 2, & 3 in Visual Analytics with Tableau	Week 1 Discussions
2	Read Chapter 3 in Visual Analytics with Tableau and Chapter 6 in Introduction to Business Analytics.	Weekly Discussions Assignment: Data Visualization using Tableau
3	Read Chapter 1 in Introduction to Business Analytics	Weekly Discussions
4	Read Chapter 2 in Introduction to Business Analytics	Weekly Discussions Assignment: Data Sources
5	Read Chapter 3 in Introduction to Business Analytics	Weekly Discussions Assignment: Data Analysis Labs and SOAR Reports Midterm Exam
6	Read Chapter 4 in	Weekly Discussions

	Introduction to Business Analytics	Assignment: Descriptive Analytics Case Studies
7	Read Chapter 5 sections 5.1 and 5.2 on Time Series Analysis.	Weekly Discussions Assignment: Creating a Dashboard for Real Estate Project using Tableau
8	Read Chapter 5 sections 5.2 and 5.3 on Regression.	Weekly Discussions Exam on Predictive Analytics