

Overview

Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) is a liberal arts university located on the peninsula of Point Loma, a coastal community in the city of San Diego, California. The university, founded in 1902, is sponsored by the Church of the Nazarene, and moved from Pasadena, California to the present location in San Diego in 1973. PLNU offers quality liberal arts and professional programs on the main campus in San Diego, and graduate programs at southern California regional centers in San Diego, Bakersfield, Arcadia, and Corona.

The present 80-acre location of the main campus is on the Pacific Ocean and has a rich history in the San Diego community. There are 17 departments and schools with baccalaureate degrees offered in science and the arts. Graduate degrees are offered in the School of Nursing, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry, and the Department of Biology. Approximately 37% of the full time faculty members are tenured with the average length of service being eight years. For the Fall of 2008, there are 2282 FTE full time undergraduate students and 471 graduate students attended in of Spring 2008.

The campus master building plan is nearly complete. In 2003, the Fermanian School of Business, which houses the business program, was dedicated. In the summer of 2008, construction on Sme Hall was completed. Sme Hall houses the School of Theology and Christian Ministry. Funds are currently being raised for a new science and technology building. Technology is continuously updated in each of the university classrooms and/or computer labs. All full-time faculty members receive notebook computers which are upgraded periodically.

PLNU is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The most recent self-study was completed in 2007 and the university was granted a 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation. The institution changed to university status in May, 1998. While primarily a teaching institution, this did open the way for more graduate programs.

Faculty morale is generally very high across all campus settings. The Provost and Academic Vice President is beginning his third year at the university and is actively supporting scholarship and excellence in teaching. The President is in his 11th year of service to the university and has been effective in assuring a solid financial base and continuing support for development and continued excellence in all programs.

The baccalaureate nursing program (BSN) began in 1972 and graduated the first nursing students in 1974. In 1975, the program was granted an eight-year accreditation by the National League for Nursing, and a ten-year accreditation was granted by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in 1998. Therefore, the program has had continuous accreditation since 1975. The Master of Science (MSN) program was granted initial accreditation by CCNE in 2004.

A Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program began in 2002, with an emphasis available in either the education role of the nurse or the advance practice nursing (APN) role of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS). The MSN program is an interdisciplinary program with two required courses in the School of Education. The program began after two years of study related to community needs, feasibility, and meetings with an advisory committee comprised of the healthcare and educational community of interest. The critical need for qualified nurse educators and the clinical nurse specialist role, specifically in mental health nursing, was the impetus for this program.

Since the last CCNE visit, the School of Nursing (SON) has relocated to Taylor Hall. This space was remodeled to accommodate the nursing skills lab, computer lab, nursing classrooms, meeting space, and faculty & staff offices. It currently meets the academic and learning needs for the 66 new sophomore students and approximately 115 junior and senior nursing students that will be served in our undergraduate program this academic year. The predominant vision for the SON is to create a high fidelity computer simulation lab to replace the current nursing skills lab. Recent literature in the nursing profession is replete with the positive student learning outcomes that occur as a result of nursing students having had experience with computer simulation. Critical thinking skills, clinical decision making, and clinical judgment would be enhanced with such an opportunity, as well as the ability for students to experience “life-like” patient scenarios in a controlled environment.

This report focuses on the BSN and MSN programs of the School of Nursing at Point Loma Nazarene University and reflects the response to four standards and key elements for CCNE accreditation. The appendices are located behind the four standards.