

living; roughly 22 percent of first-year students participate. The university offers a variety of meal plan options and dining facilities and “all types of food are available,” according to a political science major. Students describe campus security as good too; “I have never felt unsafe,” a junior says.

The social life at LMU takes place “both on and off campus,” says one student. “There is always something to do on campus,” a senior explains, “whether it is a party or events hosted by different clubs.” Student service organizations and clubs frequently host activities, and Greek life influences the scene too, attracting 22 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women. Students say there is little pressure to drink. “If students want to drink, they can find alcohol,” says a freshman. “Those that don’t want to, don’t have to.” The university’s Jesuit heritage promotes a social atmosphere that “motivates students to improve themselves by helping others,” a student says. “Whether it’s Greek life, service organizations, or intramurals, students have a number of possibilities.” Students volunteer nearly 200,000 hours of service every year in hospitals, legal-aid clinics, after-school programs, and other settings. The area of Westchester is “definitely not a college town,” groans a sophomore. Fortunately, Marina del Rey and Santa Monica are a short car or bus ride away, and it’s only a mile to the beach. “Since L.A. is a big city, there are plenty of places for a college student to eat, shop, and find entertainment.” Popular road trips include San Diego, Santa Barbara, Las Vegas, and Mexico.

Back on campus, LMU’s varsity teams compete in the Division I West Coast Conference. Women’s water polo and men’s soccer each won their respective conference titles within the last few years; women’s soccer and volleyball are also competitive. The Lions’ rivalry with nearby Pepperdine always draws a huge crowd and the basketball team’s annual pep rally—Madness at Midnight—is a pretty big event,” says a student. Intramurals are popular and include softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and ultimate Frisbee. LMU’s debate team is a standout too, having placed first in more than 250 national and international tournaments over the past 40 years.

With its dynamic mix of solid academics, Jesuit tradition, and thriving social life, LMU offers students substance and style. “We’re very friendly with a gorgeous campus,” says a student. Whether you’re a budding scientist or a future filmmaker, Loyola Marymount University may be worth a look.

Students volunteer nearly 200,000 hours of service every year.

Overlaps

University of Southern California, UCLA, Santa Clara, University of San Diego, Chapman, Cal Poly–San Luis Obispo, UC–Berkeley, UC–Santa Barbara

If You Apply To ➤

LMU: Early decision and early action: Nov. 1. Regular decision: Jan. 15. Financial aid: Feb. 1. Application fee: \$60. No campus or alumni interviews. SATs or ACTs: required. Subject Tests: optional. Letters of recommendation: required. Essay: required. Accepts the Common Application with supplement. Applicants to animation, dance, music, and theatre arts are required to submit a portfolio or audition.

Loyola University New Orleans

6363 St. Charles Ave., Box 89, New Orleans, LA 70118

Of the four Loyolas in the nation, this is the only one where you can go to Mardi Gras and still get up in time for class. New Orleans is an ideal setting for this Roman Catholic university with strengths in business, communication, and the arts. New Orleans is the most free-wheeling Deep South city, and Loyola’s politics are mainly liberal.

Website: www.loyno.edu

Location: Suburban

Private

Total Enrollment: 3,019

Undergraduates: 2,432

Male/Female: 40/60

SAT Ranges: CR 520–620,
M 480–610

ACT Ranges: 22–28

Financial Aid: 89%

Pell Grant: 22%

Expense: Pr \$

Student Loans: 66%

Average Debt: \$ \$ \$

Phi Beta Kappa: No

Applicants: 3,591

Accepted: 90%

Enrolled: 21%

Grad in 6 Years: 66%

Returning Freshmen: 77%

Academics:   

Social:   

Q of L: ★ ★ ★

Admissions: (504) 865-3240

Email Address:

admit@loyno.edu

Strong Programs:

Mass Communication

Music Industry Studies

Psychology

Criminal Justice

International Business

Digital Filmmaking

Popular and Commercial

Music

Creative Writing

Minors in jazz studies and New Orleans studies are available.

Loyola University New Orleans is a Jesuit liberal arts school that continues to enhance its rich tradition through extensive service-learning programs, increasing admissions standards, and a renewed commitment to diversifying the student body. As a Loyola student, “you will be challenged, motivated, and inspired to do more,” says one happy senior.

The school’s attractive and well-kept 20-acre main campus, in the University section of Uptown New Orleans, mixes Tudor, Gothic, and modern structures. It overlooks acres of Audubon Park and, beyond, the mighty Mississippi River. Two blocks up St. Charles Avenue, Loyola’s Broadway campus has an additional four acres. The Monroe Library houses approximately 500,000 volumes, the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, and an art gallery. More recent additions include state-of-the-art science labs, new high-tech design studios, and a seventh-floor greenhouse, all located in newly renovated Monroe Hall, which houses 40 percent of all Loyola classes.

The Loyola Core requires all students to take courses in critical reading and writing, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, history, writing about literature,

“Classmates study together, seek each other out for help, and wish one another good luck.”

philosophy, religious studies, and creative arts and cultures. They must also complete a First-Year Seminar designed to introduce students to college-level work and the Jesuit tradition of “thinking critically, acting justly.” First-years also

participate in a three-day orientation followed by a comprehensive first-year experience that includes a common reading program, a series of lectures and panel discussions, educational excursions, exhibits, and service-learning projects coordinated around a common academic theme. An Executive Mentoring program lets freshman business students meet regularly with local business leaders to discuss their career and personal development, while a peer mentoring program helps new students adjust to college life during their initial semester.

Loyola offers dozens of comprehensive undergraduate degree programs. The School of Mass Communication, whose students do well in national competitions, wins praise, as do the international business program in the College of Business and virtually any major in the College of Music and Fine Art, which allows students to take advantage of creative professions such as digital filmmaking and commercial music in a city where these are specialties. Indeed, mass communication and music industry studies are two of the most popular majors, along with psychology and criminal justice. Creative writing is another strength, and minors in jazz studies and New Orleans studies are available. Loyolans also benefit from the New Orleans Consortium, with cross-registration and library access at other schools in the area.

Fifty-four percent of classes have fewer than 20 students, and the academic climate is challenging but collaborative. “Classmates study together, seek each other out for help, and wish one another good luck,” one freshman says. Undergraduate science courses offer the chance to participate in research projects, and many programs require a senior capstone experience. Honors options are available in all majors. “Faculty are extremely accessible to students and are always open to discussion,” says one international business major. Every year, 30 percent of undergraduates exercise their wings in study abroad programs available in more than 50 countries, from Mexico and Brazil to the Netherlands, Japan, and Korea.

“The students here are very laid-back and kind,” a junior says. Forty percent of Loyola undergraduates are Louisiana natives and many of the remaining students are from the Southeast; 3 percent are international. Undergraduates at Loyola are a diverse lot: 16 percent are Hispanic, 17 percent are African American, and 4 percent are Asian American. Religion—specifically Roman Catholicism—has a significant influence on campus. Daily mass is voluntary, but many students

attend. Students are generally well-informed and passionate about political and social issues, and many volunteer their sweat equity with the Loyola University Community Action Program, a student-led coalition of 11 organizations that provides community service opportunities that take on issues such as hunger and homelessness. With the help of the service-learning office, about 500 students make service learning part of their studies. Loyola awards merit scholarships averaging \$16,148 each year and 127 athletic scholarships in 10 sports. Twenty-two percent of freshmen are Pell-eligible.

Many Loyola students commute from home or off-campus apartments; 59 percent of all undergraduates reside on campus. “The residences are spacious and comfortable,” a freshman says. The transition to college is eased by Themed Living Communities, which house classmates together in a common living space within one of the residence halls. Campus dining is good and students may choose from an array of culinary delights, including “sushi, salads, and sandwiches,” says a sophomore. Students feel safe on campus, according to one junior. “We have a police force specifically for our campus.”

“Loyola gives us lots of cool things to do on campus,” a philosophy major says, including musical performances and sporting events. Fraternities and sororities are rarities at Jesuit schools, but make themselves felt at Loyola, with 9 percent of the men and 21 percent of the women choosing to belong.

“We have a police force specifically for our campus.”

Major campuswide social events include the annual “Sneaux Day” that blankets Loyola’s front lawn with “snow,” the senior crawfish boil, family weekend featuring a New Orleans-style jazz brunch, and the musical event “Christmas at Loyola,” held on the first Sunday in December. Loyola even allows students to register overnight visitors for the Mardi Gras holidays. As for underage drinking, Louisiana law requires that you be at least 21 to buy alcohol, but only 18 to consume it in a private residence. New Orleans is always bustling and offers “tons of live music, bars, clubs, and restaurants all easily accessible to students,” according to one senior.

Wolf Pack teams compete in the NAIA Division I as a member of the Southern States Athletic Conference. The most competitive teams are women’s golf and women’s basketball. Other successful teams include baseball, women’s soccer, and volleyball. About 60 percent of undergraduates participate in intramural and club sports, and Loyola’s wellness program offers a range of fitness classes, club sports, and recreational activities for jocks and non-jocks alike. Basketball, flag football (no real pigskins at Loyola), and volleyball are popular pastimes.

Students at Loyola know how to pull together and draw strength from their faith. Whether they’re working closely with caring professors or relaxing with friends amid the Big Easy’s boundless energy, students are satisfied with their choice. A sophomore says, “Overall, Loyola is an awesome small Jesuit college with a lot to offer as a community and academic institution.”

Major events include the annual “Sneaux Day” that blankets Loyola’s front lawn with “snow,” and the senior crawfish boil.

Overlaps

Tulane, Louisiana State, Fordham, University of Miami (FL), Loyola University Chicago

If You Apply To

Loyola: Rolling admissions. Early action: Nov. 15. Regular decision: Apr. 15. (Priority deadline: Feb. 15.) Financial aid: Mar. 1. No application fee. Campus interviews: optional, evaluative. No alumni interviews. SATs or ACTs: required. Subject Tests: optional. Letters of recommendation: required. Essay: required. Accepts the Common Application with supplement. Audition or portfolio required for admission to the College of Music and Fine Arts.