

Loyola Marymount University

INTERCULTURALISM

Definition, Vision and Goals

**Intercultural Affairs
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Interculturalism

Interculturalism is sharing and learning across cultures with the aim of promoting understanding, equity, harmony, and justice in a diverse society. Our actions must be grounded in, and guided by, the following:

- LMU is composed of individuals and groups who continue to grow in knowledge of the historical contexts from which we emerged.
- Knowledge of self and others, inspired by a commitment to human dignity and justice, is the hallmark of interculturalism.
- Promotion of the common good requires the recognition of similarities within a common humanity, the appreciation of differences, and the willingness to share cross-cultural experiences.
- Interculturalism is a dynamic and critical endeavor that involves the acquisition of knowledge, ongoing examination of the way we view the world, and purposeful action to promote a just and harmonious society at LMU and beyond.

Vision

Grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, Loyola Marymount University affirms human dignity and promotes justice. Different cultures are unique expressions of these common aspirations. All cultures can contribute to the search for knowledge and the building of communities based on the common humanity of all people. At LMU, interculturalism is an essential source of academic excellence and a defining characteristic of our campus community. We draw upon interculturalism to create a university of excellence, to serve as a model Catholic institution, and to be a catalyst for the creation of a more just society built on respect and a sense of shared destiny.

We embody interculturalism in our policies, practices, and curricula. We promote personal and professional interaction, encouraging intercultural engagement to engender trust, respect, and compassion. Intercultural engagement enables us to share power and responsibility as we grow in self-knowledge, learn to value the unique qualities of diverse cultural groups, and understand the common elements of our shared humanity.

Goals

As part of a broad effort to fulfill our mission to promote educational excellence, the education of the whole person, service of faith and the promotion of justice, we will:

- Promote a diverse LMU community at all levels: boards, administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
- Support academic success for all students, acknowledging the importance of retaining and graduating students from underrepresented groups and first generation college students.
- Support Faculty and Staff retention and promotion, acknowledging the importance of underrepresented groups.
- Enhance curriculum, pedagogy, scholarship and creative work, to involve students and faculty in the learning process and to prepare them to engage issues of diversity as concerned citizens of the world.
- Provide ongoing education and development about interculturalism for the university community.

- Provide resources to create and sustain a culture of evidence that emphasizes assessment, critical analysis, and the identification of solutions that promote educational equity and excellence.