



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Notre Dame: A Catholic University

How does Notre Dame define itself as a Catholic University?

- Through its Objects as set out in The University of Notre Dame Australia Act, 1989.
These are listed in S5:
 - a) The provision of university education within a context of Catholic faith and values ; and
 - b) The provision of an excellent standard of:
 - (i) teaching, scholarship and research;
 - (ii) training for the professions; and
 - (iii) pastoral care for its students.
- Through its canonical statute and diocesan agreements.
- Through its governance structures, and especially through the role of its Trustees.
- Through its Statutes and Rules.
- Through particular activities and programs directly supporting of the role and work of the Church and its agencies.
- Through its role as a centre for Christian intellectual life.
- Through its international Catholic university relationships, especially with the University of Notre Dame in the United States.
- Through its physical facilities and images.
- Through its private status.

What are key strategies and practical steps adopted by the University of Notre Dame Australia to achieve its objects as a Catholic University?

Ten Steps:

1. Having Schools of Philosophy and Theology which are central to the University's academic mission and structure and, through it, offering a compulsory core curriculum for all students, comprising units in philosophy, theology and ethics.
2. Recruiting 'for mission': selecting students and staff to build a community which supports the Objects of the University.
3. Providing an academic development program in theology and philosophy for all staff, and encouraging lecturers to integrate discussion on ethical and faith issues into the curriculum in all Schools of the University.

4. Supporting social justice education: through encouraging a spirit of voluntarism, through special curriculum options, 'service-learning' programs and 'service' internships, with a special focus on advancing Aboriginal people.
5. Encouraging a sense of community within the university by actively supporting the Student Association and student clubs; promoting student involvement in sport, recreation, cultural activities and social life; encouraging social interaction and team building among staff.
6. Investing in an active campus ministry, and special religious initiatives in each School, underpinning and promoting spiritual and liturgical life on and off campus for staff and students.
7. Emphasising pastoral care as central to university life and, in so doing, facilitating a university culture which recognises and values highly every student and staff member.
8. Being openly and unequivocally Catholic. Welcoming people of all faiths (and none at all) into the Notre Dame community; being clear about and proclaiming Notre Dame's Christian faith underpinnings, and its integral membership of the Catholic Church.
9. Providing excellence of standards in teaching, scholarship, research and professional training, and understanding that such excellence is fundamental to the very idea of a Catholic university
10. Adopting policies which maximize graduation rates and the successful entry of alumni into their vocation or profession of choice.