

## Frequently Asked Questions Marymount California University & Saint Leo University

Why is Marymount California University merging with Saint Leo University?

- Faced with the mounting pressures that are affecting small, private liberal arts colleges, MCU considered several options to continue its long tradition of offering a teaching-focused and student-centered education. The acquisition will allow Marymount to tap into the strengths and resources of Saint Leo University—the fourth largest Catholic university in the United States—and significantly expand our academic and geographic offerings to deliver a more robust educational experience. Both institutions share similar values and a mission to help students succeed.

Will Marymount retain its name?

- MCU will adopt the Saint Leo University name and brand. However, the name may also reference Marymount or our location when finalized. As one of the largest Catholic universities in the country, Saint Leo University has a strong reputation nationally, which will be beneficial to our students.

When is the acquisition final?

- An agreement describing the terms and conditions of the acquisition was signed on July 28, 2021, though the acquisition is not expected to be finalized until January 2023, pending accreditor approval. This period allows both institutions to work together to thoughtfully plan the many critical aspects needed to facilitate a successful integration.

Will my diploma say Marymount California University or Saint Leo University?

- Marymount California University will appear on diplomas issued to students graduating during the 2021-2022 academic year. Students entering Fall 2021 will graduate from Saint Leo University.

Will Marymount be a branch campus of Saint Leo University?

- No, MCU will become an additional location of Saint Leo University, under its administration and governance.

How will this affect my major and classes?

- We expect plenty of new opportunities for students, including new academic programs, majors and experiential learning. These will include flexible options as well, such as hybrid and online courses. Even with the combined institutions, students will still call the Rancho Palos Verdes campus their university home and learn from the same supportive and committed faculty and staff.

What about athletics?

- Athletics are important to many of our students and campus life, so we expect changes to be minimal. Athletes on the Marymount campus will continue to compete in the National

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the California Pacific Conference (Cal Pac). Saint Leo University athletes will continue to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Current MCU athletes will also retain their athletic scholarships.

Will the Villas still be an option for housing?

- Yes, the residential experience will continue to be part of the campus.

Who will be president of the combined institution?

- Jeffrey D. Senese, Ph.D. will be president of the combined institution. He is the current president of Saint Leo University.

How will this affect faculty and staff?

- Saint Leo University expects to keep most faculty and staff and encourages everyone to stay. MCU employees will be actively involved with integration planning to assure the smoothest possible transition.

How will this impact MCU's Catholic identity?

- Both institutions share Catholic heritage and values, so this new partnership will only strengthen our Catholic identity. We both embody the Catholic tradition of making a home for all faiths, fostering a community that supports every individual's spiritual journey, and challenging students to pursue lives of leadership and service. MCU was founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, a legacy Saint Leo University has committed to remembering and honoring.

Will tuition change?

- Saint Leo plans to honor the tuition rates of current MCU students.

How will this affect financial aid and scholarships?

- Saint Leo plans to honor the financial aid packages and scholarships of current MCU students.

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