

Concordia University Mission Move Scenario Analysis

1. Mission The mission of Concordia University at Austin is to develop Christian leaders. Our mission is what we do, a sum of the total experience of a university education at Concordia. It includes curricular and co-curricular activities. The outcome of this mission is that our students will serve their church and communities as both lay leaders and professional church workers.

We define Christian leadership as first carrying out God's will. Christian leaders seek to accomplish God's will in their own lives and then lead the organizations that they are a part of to accomplish the role that God has prepared for them in their communities. The Bible is replete with examples where God has called a person, like Moses or Paul, to serve God's people in accomplishing His will. Our students might be called to be a teacher in a classroom or a businessperson or a Director of Christian Education, but each can serve God and His people in that vocation.¹ The second facet of Christian leadership is the responsibility we have to each other as members of the human race and as part of the body of Christ. As Paul teaches in Corinthians,² we are all members of the body of Christ and each one of us has gifts that make the body function. Christ calls us to care for each other and to serve one another. Servant leadership is a core principle of our mission of developing Christian leaders. The third aspect of Christian leadership is equipping the next generation of leaders. One of a Christian leader's most important responsibilities is to identify the next generation of leaders. This might be by supporting or encouraging someone in a role within their church or community, or guiding a young person in a path where they seek to model servant leadership.

Concordia University will accomplish its mission by developing and teaching a curriculum designed to develop Christian leaders. Concepts of Christian leadership will be integrated across the curriculum in courses like the freshman seminar, Old and New Testament, and other courses both in the core and individual programs. In addition the faculty, staff and administration will model Christian leadership. This means that the faculty, staff and administration understand Christian leadership and are engaged in a program of development to learn Christian leadership concepts and turn them into action. Next Concordia University will provide opportunities for students to practice Christian leadership both in curricular, co-curricular or off-campus venues. Finally Concordia University will recognize outstanding examples of Christian leadership in our students, our community, our church and nation. We will accomplish this recognition through such activities as award programs, speaker series, and honorary degrees.

2. Outcomes Our mission means that Concordia University students will understand and strive to live the Christian faith, be educated in the liberal arts, be skilled in effective communication (this includes oral/written communications, technology, interpersonal communications, and relationship skills), have expertise in a specific academic major, program

¹ See for example Colossians 3:23 to 24 and 1 Corinthians 3: 5 to 9. Also include a reference from Luther or Gustav Wingren.

² 1 Corinthians 12

and/or minor, and understand basic leadership concepts especially those encompassed by servant leadership.

a. Outcome 1 (Written and Oral Communication)

Students will have the ability to communicate clearly, logically, and creatively through written and oral presentations, in both individual and group projects.

Subjects: English, Communication, and Computer Literacy.

b. Outcome 2 (Aesthetic Sensibility)

Students will understand and appreciate visual, musical, theatrical, and literary beauty and the beauty of God's creation through participation in and analysis of the creative process.

Subjects: Art, Music, Drama, Literature, and Natural Science.

c. Outcome 3 (Problem Solving, Mathematical Thought)

Students will think logically and analytically and to solve problems through abstract thought, the use of computers, and the methods of science.

Subjects: Mathematics, Natural Science, and Computer Science

d. Outcome 4 (Integration to the College Campus)

New students will assimilate into the campus community socially, academically, and spiritually.

Subject: First Year Seminar

e. Outcome 5 (Wholeness)

Students will live a healthy lifestyle and understand the relationship between physical activity, mental health, and spiritual well being.

Subjects: Physical Education, Natural Science, Religion, and Psychology

f. Outcome 6 (Ethical Decision-making, Moral Standards)

Students will develop or affirm a biblical standard of morality through an understanding of God's self-disclosure in Jesus Christ and use that standard for making ethical decisions as well as understanding the contribution of Christianity to the formation of American culture.

Subjects: Religion and Philosophy

g. Outcome 7 (Logic, Cultural Sensitivity, Foundations and History of Western Civilization)

Students will be equipped to understand the contributions of the history and literature of western civilization to American culture through the major works that have shaped our thinking.

Subjects: Philosophy, History, Classical Literature, and Religion

h. Outcome 8 (Cultural and Cross-Cultural Sensitivity, Understanding of Societies)

Students will understand the thought patterns of people of their own culture and of different cultures in their historical, geographical, political, and economic context and to develop a sense of civic involvement.

Subjects: Sociology, Political Science (Government), Economics, History, Geography, Anthropology, and Fine Arts

i. Outcome 9 (Leadership)

Students will understand the basic principles of leadership theory using secular and Biblical examples. In addition, students will have practiced leadership in curricular and co-curricular settings.

Subjects: Leadership, Religion, and First Year Seminar

3. Mission and Scenario Analysis

Concordia University will be able to accomplish its mission in any of the three potential move scenarios. The way we accomplish our mission of developing Christian leaders will probably differ in each scenario but our educational outcomes will remain the same. Two possible limitations are:

-In the near term (1 to 5 years) and maybe over the long term (5 years and beyond), Concordia will remain a commuter campus in the "Urban Oasis" scenario. Being a commuter campus makes it more difficult to engage students in activities which allow them to practice Christian leadership. Additionally, commuter students are typically less connected to campus life in general.

-Based on our current cost and space analysis, the maximum capacity for the campus in the "Urban Oasis" scenario is under 1,500 students. This is based on the assumption that the city of Austin will issue permits for the development of the campus to a student population approaching 1,500.

Developing Christian Leaders	Scenario		
	Urban Oasis	Round Rock	Country Living
Teach	+	+	+
Model	+	+	+
Practice	-	+	+
Recognize	+	+	+