



FRANCISCAN

PEER LEADERS

Program Handbook

Second Edition

Mentorship - Formation - Community



FRANCISCAN
MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY
UNIVERSITY



Purpose, Mission, & Goals

Our Purpose

The Franciscan Peer Leader program is meant to further the mission of FranU to form students as Franciscan servant leaders through the integration of faith and leadership development. This premiere program will be a conduit for authentic student connections across campus to promote student engagement, enhance the student experience, and optimize student recruitment.

Our Mission

The mission of the Franciscan Peer Leaders is to observe, uphold, and advocate for the mission of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.

As Franciscan Peer Leaders, we will examine the deeper significance of our mission, how to articulate it, and live it. We will have the privilege of representing a very unique contribution to the life and education on our campus by educating and forming Franciscan servant leaders of all faiths. Together, we will be beacons of our mission and Catholic, Franciscan identity.

We will serve our peers in an intentional manner to develop student leaders through the influence of the Franciscan charisms and Core Values, authentic servant leadership, and mentorship.

By influence of our culture and identity as a Catholic, Franciscan university, we will view ourselves through the lens of the physical, mental, and spiritual sense. We will accompany each other to grow in our actions, thoughts, and faith – no matter what faith tradition you belong. We will open ourselves towards our potential as effective and relationship-based leaders. We will facilitate a welcoming campus environment to foster community, exemplify uncommon hospitality, and accompany our peers to both personal and academic flourishing.

We will embody what it means to be a part of the FranU community, that is, to learn and act outside of ourselves, be leaders and positive influencers of our communities, and to cultivate a culture of relationships and belonging.

We will work together and facilitate opportunities to engage with new and current students of FranU, be a vital piece of the student experience, and build a positive community on campus.

We will also act as trustworthy advocates of campus resources to support personal and academic success.

Our Goals

1. To instill greater confidence as servant leaders and provided adequate opportunities to do so.
2. To assure practical understanding of authentic servant leadership and mentorship as defined by our Franciscan charism, values, and tradition.
3. To build university traditions and engagement opportunities, enhancing communal identity and support throughout campus.

Our Pillars

MENTORSHIP As an institution that holds relationships at the heart of our campus and the student experience, FPLs serve our campus through intentional, meaningful relationships that accompany their peers towards personal flourishing.

FORMATION Guided by our mission, the FPL program will provide students with focused opportunities to develop themselves as servant leaders influenced by the life of St. Francis, the Gospel, and Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITY Human beings long for a sense of community and purpose. The FPL program provides students with their own community while cultivating community across campus and being faith-filled citizens in the larger community



What does it mean to be a Franciscan Peer Leader?

To be a Franciscan Peer Leader means you are excited about developing yourself as a Franciscan servant leader, contributing to your campus and larger community, and being a source of hope and enthusiasm to your peers. You have a passion for cultivating authentic community and faith-filled citizenship. Franciscan Peer Leaders display our core values and encourage one another to grow in their own faith lives. Finally, you desire and/or are open to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Brand

*Franciscan ~ Authentic ~ Joyful ~ Humble ~ Open ~
Positive ~ Service-Oriented ~ Motivated ~ Faithful*

Franciscan Peer Leader Official Apparel

At not cost to the student, every FPL will receive official apparel that will be worn at official University functions where FPL representation is requested. The FPL is responsible for ensuring all apparel is kept in a manner that maintains professionalism and proper representation of the University such as wrinkles and stains.



Franciscan Peer Leaders Logo



Colors: The navy blue and gold colors are reflective of the University brand colors, which signify our role as leaders at FranU.

Shape: The circle is a popular reminder of our connections with one another. This represents all of us as members of the Body of Christ which teaches us that all are vital to the mission of FranU and the community.

San Damiano Crucifix: The blank space in the center of the circle is the same shape as the crucifix from which St. Francis received the call to “Go, rebuild my Church.” This reminds us of our universal call by God to serve one another and our identity as a Catholic, Franciscan university.

Other Logos



Selection

1. All incoming first-year students who have an overall high school GPA of 3.25 or higher are invited to interview.
 - Email communication is sent from the Office of Admissions with the invitation and link to schedule an interview via Zoom.
 - The interview will be conducted by a representative from either the Office of Franciscan Student Life & Servant and/or the Office of Admissions, from which a decision will be made to extend an offer for a Franciscan Peer Leader Scholarship.
2. Students who have been offered a Franciscan Peer Leader Scholarship must formerly accept the offer through a form provided by the Office of Admissions.
3. All those offered a Franciscan Peer Leader Scholarship will then be invited to participate in a “Scholarship Day,” after which 5 students will be selected to receive a Franciscan Peer Leader Fellowship Award.
 - The Scholarship Day comprises activities that include team/community building, leadership skills, faith formation, and campus life.
 - University staff and continuing Franciscan Peer Leaders will lead the selection process
- 3.3. Prior to the Scholarship Day, all interested incoming FPLs must submit a video that responds to a given prompt – this step is required to be considered for a FPL Fellowship.
4. Continuing FranU students who wish to be a part of the Franciscan Peer Leaders may be involved on a voluntary basis with the prospect of an award after their first year. They will be required to participate in an interview in order to be considered and must currently have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA.



FPL Awards

Franciscan Peer Leadership Scholarship:

- Awarded to all eligible incoming students who accept an offer to be a FPL
- The award is valued at \$6,000 annually in contingency of meeting all FPL expectations
- All students who attend the Scholarship Day and do not receive the FPL Fellowship will be awarded an additional \$1,000 award annually.
- This award is not stackable with any other FranU scholarships.

Franciscan Peer Leader Fellowship:

- Awarded to 5 eligible incoming students who accept an offer to be a FPL and are chosen as a recipient of the award
- The award is valued at full tuition and fees less TOPS at the current rate
- This award is not stackable with any FranU scholarship. This information can also be found on the FranU scholarship website: franu.edu/scholarships



Expectations

Franciscan Peer Leaders (FPLs) are a select group of FranU students dedicated to personal growth, leadership development, and service to the University community. To remain in good standing and maintain eligibility for the FPL award, each Peer Leader must:

- Maintain a **minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75** and **full-time enrollment** status.
- Attend all Franciscan Peer Leader activities, meetings, and trainings—arriving **punctual, professional, and engaged**.
- Wear **approved attire** at designated events, with specific dress guidelines communicated in advance.
- Serve as a **trustworthy guide and mentor**, responding to student and family inquiries with accuracy, respect, and Franciscan spirit.
- Participate in the **planning and execution** of FPL activities, events, and campus traditions.
- Adhere to all **student conduct expectations** as outlined in the FranU Student Handbook.
- Remain attentive and responsive to **all communication** related to FPL responsibilities.
- Complete **weekly service** to the University through assigned offices and departments

Service Requirements

Weekly service hours are required and distributed across University departments and initiatives, including but not limited to:

- **Office of Admissions:** campus tours, call campaigns, prospect entry, recruitment events
- **Student Government Association:** support of major events (Welcome Week, Franciscan Week, Oktoberfest, Crawfish Boil, etc.)
- **Student Affairs:** Career & Vocational Discernment, Health & Wellness programming
- **Marketing & Communications:** social media content, ZeeMee influencers, graphic design, photography
- **Institutional Advancement:** alumni connections, support of Fête, etc.
- **Miscellaneous Service:** Spirit Shop, Campus Ministry, interview support, service learning/events

Note: Participation in other student organizations is welcome, but hours served in those roles do not count toward FPL requirements.



Formation Nights

Formation Nights are dedicated to leadership formation and event/program planning. These sessions twice a month are scheduled to minimize conflicts with class schedules. Formation Nights are themed around different topics such as:

The Importance of Mentorship
What Are Your Values?
Gratitude and Reflection
Celebrating Christmas
New Year Goals
The Importance of Love For Others
Mental Health Awareness
Friendship and Creating Community

Attendance is required. Dates and times are published each semester in advance so all students can make necessary plans. All Franciscan Peer Leaders must discuss with program advisors any potential conflicts. Absences will be excused for clinical rotations and classes. Emergency situations will be handled ad hoc.

Fall 2026

August 26th
September 16th
September 30th
October 14th
October 28th
November 11th
December 16th Optional Christmas Party

Spring 2027

January 13th
January 27th
February 10th
February 24th
March 10th
April 14th
April 28th
May 12th Optional EOY Party



Community Nights

FPL Community Nights are held at least twice a semester as optional nights to build friendships and have fun!



Wolf and Cub

New FPLs will be paired with experienced leaders for guidance, mentorship, and support within the program.

Wolf and Cub Reveal will be in the beginning of Fall semester.



Wolf Pack Orientations & Enrollment Events

Wolf Pack Orientations and Enrollment Events such as Open House and Admitted Student Day are a significant portion of Franciscan Peer Leader responsibilities; therefore, it is required that all student leaders attend these events at the assigned days and times per the program advisors. Absences will be excused for unavoidable conflicts with clinical rotations and classes.



Conduct & Accountability

Student Code of Conduct Violations: FPLs under investigation for violations are placed on probation and may not participate in FPL-sponsored events until resolution. Outcomes may include reinstatement, dismissal, or loss of award.

Expectation Violations: Missing expectations (see above) will be addressed through advisor meetings and progressive accountability:

2 weeks unexcused absences → written warning

4 weeks unexcused absences → formal warning with the Director of FSL&SL and Dean of Students; may result in probation, and/or loss of award

Academic Standards

- Cumulative GPAs are reviewed each semester.
- FPLs falling below the 2.75 requirement may take summer classes at their own expense to recover standing.

Probation Policies

Academic Probation:

- Bi-weekly or monthly advisor check-ins
- Required academic coaching appointment in the LRC
- Recommended counseling or career coaching
- Required meeting with academic advisor
- Possible restriction from FPL social activities and service hours
- Failure to restore GPA will result in dismissal and loss of award

Conduct Probation:

- Bi-weekly or monthly advisor check-ins
- Required meeting with the Director of Franciscan Student Life and/or Dean of Students
- Recommended counseling or career coaching
- Required advisor check-in at FPL activities
- Continued violations after one semester of probation will result in dismissal and/or loss of award



Program Structure

The Franciscan Peer Leader program is a collaborative initiative between the Office of Franciscan Student Life & Servant Leadership and the Office of Admissions.

The Office of Admissions oversees the recruitment, awarding, and scholarships. The Office of Franciscan Student Life & Servant Leadership oversees student formation and engagement.

Approximately 30-40 students will be selected per year as a Franciscan Peer Leader. In total, approximately 120 FranU students will represent the University as a Franciscan Peer Leader. While the Franciscan Peer Leader program is a collaborative effort, the point person for the FPLs is the Student Leadership Programs Coordinator. The Student Leadership Programs Coordinator then reports to the Director of Franciscan Student Life & Servant Leadership and works closely with the Vice President for Enrollment Management and the Dean of Students.





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