



DIVINE MERCY
UNIVERSITY

2025-2026

Impact Report

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, DMU WELCOMED
ESTEEMED SPEAKERS TO OUR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES.

DR. ARTHUR BROOKS



**IN 2025, WE WERE
BLESSED TO WELCOME
DR. ARTHUR BROOKS,**

a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Business School, where he teaches courses on leadership and happiness.

Dr. Brooks is one of the world's leading experts on the

science of human happiness, appearing in the media and traveling the world to teach people in private companies, universities, public agencies, and faith communities how they can live happier lives and bring greater well-being to others.

Dr. Brooks encouraged our graduates to "make your faith public, natural and magnetic." Unlike the priests and religious who serve the Church as "uniformed officers," Dr. Brooks compared the work of our lay counselors, therapists, and spiritual directors to "missionaries in a secular society" who work for the new evangelization.

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH HIS
FULL REMARKS!**



"How do you see yourselves, not just as Catholic professionals helping Catholic people, but rather, using your expertise? How can you be missionaries in a secular society? How can you use what you're excellent at, and what the world admires you for, and the skills that you've gained, to lift people up and take them to heaven? You're doing excellent work in helping people. That's your missionary work."

 **197**

TOTAL NUMBER OF
GRADUATES FROM OUR
PROGRAMS FROM
OCT 2024-SEPT 2025

141

FROM
GRADUATE
PROGRAMS

56

FROM THE SPIRITUAL
DIRECTION
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM

CARL ANDERSON



IN 2026, WE HONORED CARL ANDERSON,

former Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Carl Anderson is a lawyer, educator, and public leader whose distinguished career spans government, academia, and international service. He also served as Founding Dean and Vice President of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C.

Drawing on his decades of leadership and service to the Church, Professor Anderson encouraged our graduates to help advance what he described as "a new psychology, infused with the love of Christ." He reminded us that the future of Catholic psychology depends upon the faithfulness and courage of institutions like DMU, its graduates, and its friends and supporters.

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
WATCH HIS
FULL COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS.**



"Christian therapists, counselors, and clinical psychologists stand as sentinels today for a mental health care profession that is rapidly coming to a crossroads. At stake is nothing less than the dignity and integrity of the human person. And much will depend upon the witness of Catholic mental health care professionals."



216

TOTAL NUMBER OF
GRADUATES FROM OUR
PROGRAMS FROM
OCT 2025-SEPT 2026

156

FROM
GRADUATE
PROGRAMS

60

FROM THE SPIRITUAL
DIRECTION
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM

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Over 25 years of continued growth

THE GROUND WORK FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. John Hopkins, L.C.,
Chairman

Dr. G. Alexander Ross,
Vice Chairman

Rev. Charles Sikorsky, L.C., J.D.,
J.C.L., President

Sr. Mary Patrice Ahearn, R.S.M.

Mr. Carl Anderson

Mr. Thomas Cunningham

Dr. Maria Lourdes Fernandez

Mr. Frank J. Hanna, III

Mr. Christopher Laconi

The Most Reverend
Paul S. Loverde

Dr. Barry Sugarman

Very Reverend Jamie Workman,
J.C.L.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Divine Mercy University exists to form mental health professionals who unite strong clinical training with a Catholic understanding of the human person.

For more than 25 years, this mission has responded to a growing need. Individuals and families today seek care that not only addresses psychological suffering but also respects the dignity and spiritual reality of the person.

Through this work, DMU has formed more than 1,200 alumni who now serve in clinics, schools, dioceses, and communities across the country. They accompany individuals through anxiety, trauma, addiction, grief, and spiritual challenges with both professional excellence and compassion.

This formation is the result of decades of academic rigor, clinical training, and a continued commitment to integrating faith and reason in service of healing.

As you read this report, you will see the impact of that work over the last 25 years — made possible through the generosity of those who believe in our mission.

Thank you for being part of our story and our impact.

God bless you,

FR. CHARLES SIKORSKY, LC, JD, JCL
PRESIDENT,

Divine Mercy University



1,200

ALUMNI SERVING
ACROSS THE
NATION AND
INTERNATIONALLY

300+

COUNSELING
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

\$19.5M

SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
SINCE 1999

31

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED
GLOBALLY

156

DEGREES
AWARDED
(2025–2026)

DMU HISTORY

HONORING GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL ACTION

DEAN EMERITA

Gladys A. Sweeney, Ph.D.

Dr. Gladys Sweeney was one of the founding members of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences and served as Academic Dean from its founding through 2012.

Her leadership helped shape the university's commitment to integrating psychological science with the Catholic understanding of the human person.

A respected educator, clinician, and lecturer, Dr. Sweeney contributed significantly to the development of IPS and its academic vision during its formative years. Her legacy continues to influence the mission and formation of Divine Mercy University today.



Dr. Sweeney was honored for her service to IPS/DMU, along with Bishop Paul Loverde and Dr. Bill Nordling, at DMU's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

DMU HISTORY

HONORING GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL ACTION

FOUNDATION (1999–2004)

Divine Mercy University was founded to address a growing need: integrating psychological science with the Catholic-Christian understanding of the human person.

Early milestones included state approval to grant graduate degrees, the launch of the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, and the establishment of the Newman Lecture Series and IPS Press.

These foundational years established both the academic credibility and mission-driven identity that continue to shape the university today.

GROWTH AND ACCREDITATION (2005–2014)

As the need for integrated mental health care continued to grow, so did the institution.

Accreditation to grant master's and doctoral degrees marked an important step forward, followed by program expansion, research development, and increased access through online education.

During this period, the leadership of Dean Emerita Gladys Sweeney helped ensure that integration remained central not only academically, but in how students were formed to serve others.

TRANSITION TO DMU (2015–2019)

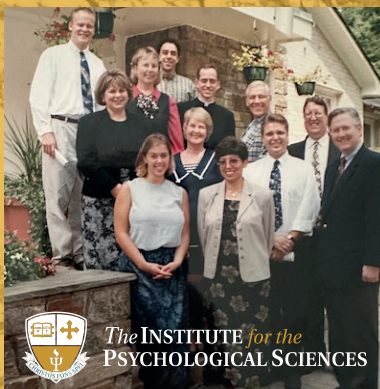
The transition to Divine Mercy University reflected a growing clarity of mission and identity.

New academic programs expanded the university's reach, including the Master's in Counseling and the Spiritual Direction Certificate. During this period, the Psy.D. program also received APA accreditation.

In 2019, DMU moved to its campus in Sterling, Virginia, marking an important moment of stability and continued growth.

DMU HISTORY

HONORING GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL ACTION



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CERTIFICATE

DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY



DIVINE MERCY
UNIVERSITY



DMU HISTORY

HONORING GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL ACTION

EXPANSION (2020–PRESENT)

In recent years, DMU has continued to expand its academic offerings, professional formation, and global reach.

The publication of the Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person contributed a meaningful framework for integration within the field. New initiatives, including the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision and the Lifelong Learning Institute, further expanded the university's ability to serve

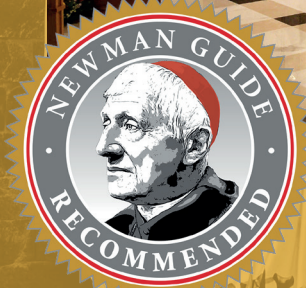
students and professionals.

CACREP accreditation for the counseling program strengthened the university's academic foundation and continued commitment to excellence.

Together, these developments reflect steady growth rooted in mission and responsive to real needs.



CACREP



SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

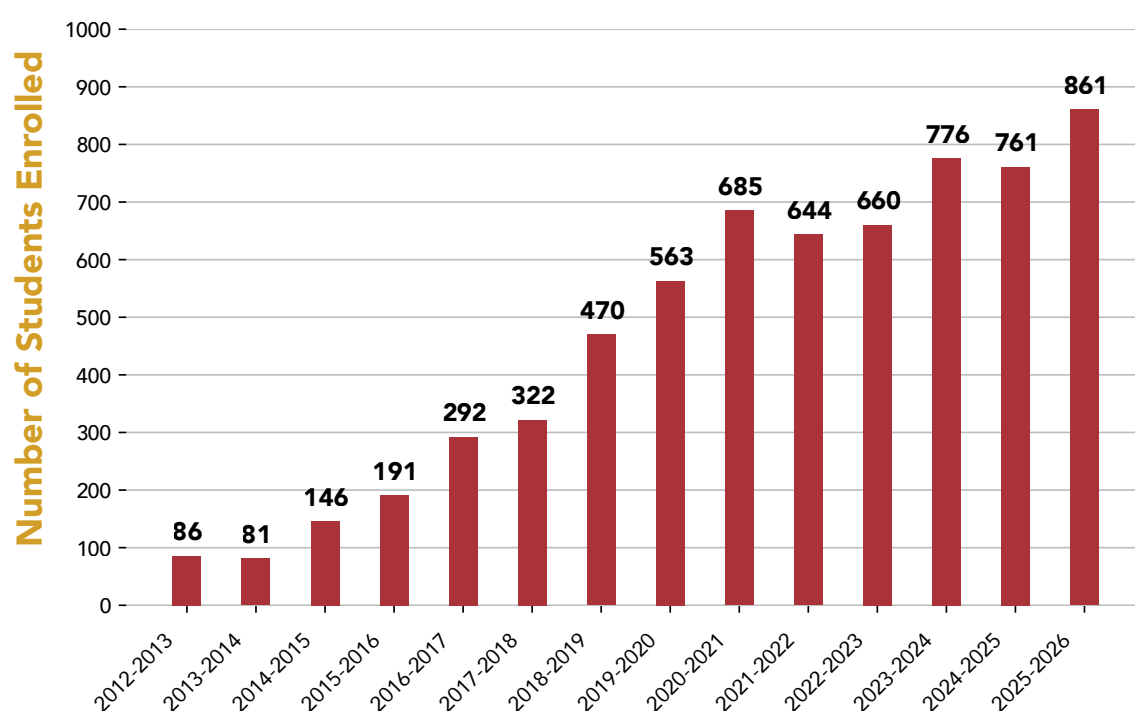
ENROLLMENT GROWTH

DMU's enrollment continues to grow as our programs, mission, and brand expand across the nation and the globe. Over the past 14 academic years, our student enrollment has increased by 901%!

This is a testament to the extensive reach of DMU's influence—and the powerful draw that our curriculum has for students seeking an education anchored in Catholic anthropology and the truths of the human person.

Enrollment Growth Over the Past 14 Years (Estimated)

Fall 2012 to Summer 2026



DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

at RECENT CONFERENCES

In May 2026, DMU co-sponsored the Sixth Global Summit on Spirituality, Religion and Mental Health. The Summit was held at Harvard Medical School. In addition to DMU, co-sponsors included the American Psychological Association and the World Psychiatric Association. The goal of the conference was to advance the integration of spirituality, religion and mental health. Fr. Sikorsky gave remarks at the opening reception and faculty member Dr. Suzanne Hollman gave a presentation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMIT INCLUDED:

- 360+ registrants from 18 countries
- 89 individual presentations spanning psychiatry (20), psychology (38), and chaplaincy & faith leadership (31)
- 59 poster presentations



Here's a video
summary of
the Summit:



DMU's participation was fruit of its years-long partnership with McLean Hospital and its Spirituality and Mental Health Program, led by Dr. David Rosmarin.

Fr. Charles Sikorsky with Dr. David Rosmarin.

DMU HELPS BRING THE *Catholic Christian Meta-Model* TO EUROPE

In May 2026, Divine Mercy University helped bring the *Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person* to a new international audience at the II International Congress of Christian Anthropology and Mental Health Sciences in Barcelona, Spain. The congress focused on integrating religion and spirituality in psychotherapy and gathered more than 100 attendees from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Poland, Finland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The conference represented an important step in DMU's mission to renew the mental health sciences through a sound Christian anthropology. Dr. Helena Orellana of DMU and Dr. Suzanne Hollman presented "Made For Love: Enhancing Psychotherapy with a Catholic Vision of the Person," introducing European scholars and clinicians to the theoretical and clinical promise of the Meta-Model. They also led a workshop on DMU's distinctive approach to teaching psychology in light of Catholic anthropology, including the University's formation of students in character, conscience, clinical competence, and intellectual excellence.

DMU's presence extended beyond the lecture hall. At its conference table, DMU shared English and Spanish copies of *A Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person* with participants, nearly exhausting its supply by the close of the congress. The event drew clinicians and academics from across Europe, including

Christian psychotherapy networks as well as representatives from the Gregorian, the North American College, and Santa Croce.

For donors and Church leaders, the Barcelona congress offered a concrete sign of DMU's growing international influence. What began as a collaboration with Universidad de Navarra developed into a major European gathering at Universitat Abat Oliba CEU that positioned DMU as a global leader in articulating and teaching a fully Christian vision of the human person. The enthusiasm generated in Barcelona has already led to conversations about a follow-up congress in Rome in 2028, with the potential to deepen DMU's relationships with pontifical institutions and Catholic mental health leaders throughout Europe.



Six countries are represented in this photo of some conference attendees.

PROGRAM AND ALUMNI IMPACT

PSY.D. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

PROGRAM AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

The Psy.D. program prepares students to integrate strong clinical training with a Catholic understanding of the human person.

Through rigorous academics, supervised clinical practice, research, and diverse placements, students develop the judgment and skills necessary for professional psychological practice.

PSY.D. GRADUATES WORK IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS AROUND THE US AND THE WORLD, INCLUDING:



MELANIE WILLIAMS
Mishawaka, IN,
Director of Diocesan Mental Health Ministries at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN Psy.D. Graduate

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Research collaboration with Harvard Medical School
- Clinical training partnership with The Catholic University of America
- Internship placements across the country

PROGRAM STATS:



DOCTORAL STUDENTS ENROLLED



GRADUATES (2025-2026)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

"What most impressed me about Divine Mercy University was the rigor of the classes. I knew that I was going to be trained to be a competent psychologist...all the professors really just witnessed to what it means to be a Catholic psychologist and that mentorship model made all the difference in the program."

REFORMING *the* ACADEMY

Doctorate in Counselor Education & Supervision (CES)

In January 2025, DMU began its online Counselor Education & Supervision (CES) doctorate. In the past few years, this degree was made a *requirement* for all professors who will teach counseling students in the future. Yet very few new programs have been created, and the professors who were grandfathered in have started to retire from counseling education. This shortage has even been described as a “crisis” in the industry. Moreover, faith-based online CES programs are even harder to find. The market is wide open. **And DMU is responding to this urgent need.**

This has created a rare opportunity to not just form the counselors of tomorrow, but to teach and to mold the *educators* of thousands of future counselors in a Catholic integrated approach to counseling. Indeed, there is no comparable opportunity to have an outsize impact on the worldview that tomorrow’s counselors will use towards their clients, their research, and their outlook on social and public policy.

In just over 18 months, the program has grown to over 50 doctoral students. A cohort of 10 is expected to graduate in May 2027.

CURRENT STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Nicole Caselman's work reflects both the depth and the reach of a DMU education.

After earning her degree in 2019, she entered the non-profit sector, working with individuals facing addiction, serious mental illness, and complex life circumstances. Her experience has included work with families, the homeless, and residential treatment settings.

She now serves as a Director and Clinical Supervisor with Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services.

Over time, her focus began to expand. Alongside her clinical work, she felt called to help form future counselors.

That led her back to DMU as part of the first CES cohort.

“I was drawn to DMU because I was looking for a school that focused on treating the whole, integrated person, acknowledging and honoring the mind, heart, and soul,” she says.

Her decision reflects a broader view of the profession.

“As counselors, we have a responsibility not only to our clients, but to our field, and in order to help the world to the fullness of our calling, we have a responsibility to form and guide those who come after us, and I trust DMU to provide the same integrative experience I received the first time around.”



NICOLE CASELMAN
M.S. Counseling '19
CES student

MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY (ONLINE)

PROGRAM AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

The Master's in Psychology program prepares students to apply psychological principles within professional, organizational, and ministry settings.

Students learn practical leadership, communication, and decision-making skills grounded in a deeper understanding of the human person.

The program continues to grow through faculty research, professional partnerships, and applications across multiple industries.

CONCENTRATIONS

- Organizational leadership
- Bioethics
- Pastoral and spiritual care

PROGRAM STATS:



Would you like to hear from Erich about his experience at DMU?
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO HEAR HIS STORY!



ERICH BOILEAU,
Holland, MI,
Partner at Boileau & Co. in Holland, MI
MSP 2024 Graduate

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

"When I was looking at graduate schools I looked at a lot of different options...I wanted something that was going to be academically challenging, rigorous enough that it was going to challenge me...I wanted something that was going to cause me to really open up my mind and think about psychology in a different way.

I'm a partner and owner of a business and I have the opportunity to use some of the skills that I've learned through the psychology program in my workplace every day...learning more about how our employees and clients think, and coming up with interventions to make their lives better so they can thrive and flourish in the workplace."

MASTER'S IN COUNSELING (CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING)

PROGRAM AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

The Master's in Counseling program forms clinicians who are both professionally prepared and attentive to the dignity of each person they serve.

Students develop the clinical skills needed for counseling work while learning to approach individuals with clarity, compassion, and respect.

PROGRAM GROWTH

- 300+ current students
- Projected growth to 500+ by FY2027

MASTERS-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS ARE EMPLOYED BY A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS:



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

BETH HLABSE,
Director of the Fiat Program, McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame, IN,
MSC Graduate



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

DANIEL KITZHABER,
Licensed Professional Counselor at the Center for Human Development in Wausau, WI,
MSC Graduate

"Drawing upon the wisdom of our faith tradition in dialogue with the psychological sciences, DMU helped me to understand and approach mental health, human suffering, and healing in a manner that engages the wisdom of the sciences without falling into certain traps that reduce the human person to a diagnosis or treatment plan. Rather DMU helps us as clinicians-in-training to recognize our ultimate call: to uphold faith in each person's capacity for interior freedom and for their growth in hope, faith, and charity for them, such that illness and suffering do not determine the ultimate trajectory of one's life."

"I wanted to have a program that was going to feed me the truth when it looked at the human person and as I looked at what Divine Mercy University offered, it aligned very well with that desire. What has impressed me most during my time at Divine Mercy University has been the integration of Catholic content."



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO HEAR ABOUT DANIEL'S EXPERIENCE AT DMU!

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

PROGRAM AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

This year, we are pleased to announce that our Spiritual Direction Certificate program has grown into the School of Spiritual Direction at Divine Mercy University!

The School of Spiritual Direction is devoted to nurturing a culture of attentive listening to the Holy Spirit, fostering well-formed spiritual directors and supporting the Church's mission of accompanying souls toward a deeper union with God.

The School is devoted to the ministry of spiritual direction in the following ways:

- Foundational courses, for preparing ourselves to deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit;
- Certificates, for developing those who are called to the ministry as directors and/or as supervisors; and
- On-going support, for spiritual direction supervision and related activities.

The program combines theological formation with an understanding of the human person, helping students develop the ability to listen thoughtfully and respond with wisdom and care.

Graduates serve in parishes, dioceses, retreat centers, and ministry settings across the country.

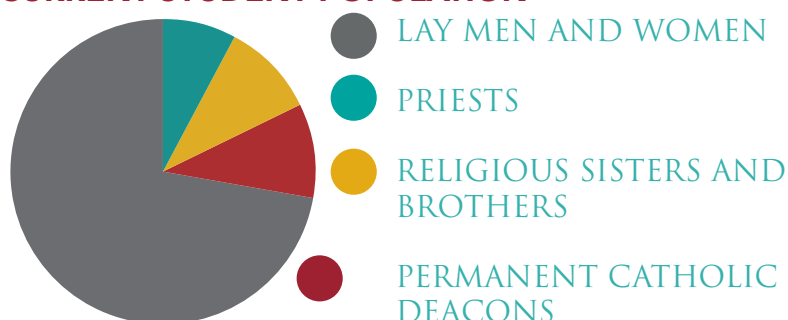
PROGRAM IMPACT

- Serving dioceses nationwide
- Updated curriculum launched in 2026
- Continued expansion of continuing education opportunities for spiritual directors

SDC GRANT FUND

All the funds we receive in the SDC Grant Fund are distributed to help students finish the program or applicants come into the program. We are truly grateful for the generous benefactors who support the SDC Grant Fund!

CURRENT STUDENT POPULATION



EILEEN WIECK,
Founder of Direction for
Your Soul, LLC
San Jose, CA,
SDC Graduate

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

"I would have stayed enrolled in DMU for the rest of my life if I could. It was just a stellar experience and totally transformed the way I attend to souls in spiritual direction compared to the way I was trained in the 90's. I'm so grateful! The graduates from our SDC program are making an incredible difference in our world!"

LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Lifelong Learning Institute extends DMU's mission beyond degree programs by offering continuing education for professionals seeking practical tools and deeper formation.

Programs focus on trauma-informed care, grief and loss, compassion fatigue, and psychological first aid.

FOCUS AREAS

- Trauma-informed care
- Grief and loss
- Compassion fatigue
- Psychological first aid

The institute continues to grow, with plans to expand offerings and reach a broader audience.

At Divine Mercy University (DMU), we are dedicated to the integration of psychology and counseling with a Catholic-Christian understanding of the human person. Our mission is to inspire personal growth, professional excellence, and human flourishing through innovative programs that serve students worldwide.

The certificate programs offered here are an extension of this mission, providing focused learning opportunities that align with DMU's commitment to education grounded in both faith and science. These programs are designed to help you expand your skills and enrich your understanding while pursuing personal and professional goals.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Expand professional certificate offerings
- Increase partnerships with international institutions
- Pursue additional professional accreditations

CURRENT CERTIFICATES & CEUS

- Psychological First Aid
- Grief and Loss
- Treating Sexual Trauma
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Treating Traumatized Families



RESPONDING WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies extends Divine Mercy University's mission beyond the classroom, preparing mental health professionals to respond with skill, compassion, and hope when communities face crisis.

Working through the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology (GCAT), students and professionals receive advanced training and certification as Mental Health First Responders, equipping them to serve in disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and communities recovering from trauma.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, DMU TEAMS SERVED:

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Supporting individuals and families affected by devastating wildfires through trauma-informed care.

KENYA: Providing counseling, trauma education, and professional training for clergy, teachers, healthcare workers, prison staff, and orphanage caregivers. DMU also presented its HEART Model for complex trauma at the United States International University in Nairobi.

JAMAICA: Helping communities recovering from hurricanes by training local counselors, chaplains, and ministry leaders in trauma recovery and long-term resiliency.

COMING NEXT: In 2026, the Center plans to serve survivors of human trafficking in Moshi, Tanzania.



CENTER FOR TRAUMA
& RESILIENCY STUDIES
AT DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

"We are privileged to have the opportunity to bring in depth training and certification in aspects of trauma to the students, alumni, and community professionals around Divine Mercy University," said Dr. Benjamin Keyes, Director of the Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies. "It is through the certification process that we are able to directly impact those suffering and those in need."

SERVING THE CHURCH NATIONWIDE

HELPING DIOCESES BUILD CATHOLIC MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Across the country, dioceses are seeking faithful, clinically sound ways to respond to the growing need for Catholic mental health care. In response, Divine Mercy University launched the National Diocesan Initiative to identify and share successful models of ministry already serving dioceses throughout the United States.

Working with bishops, diocesan leaders, Catholic counselors, and other experienced professionals, DMU documented five models that dioceses can adapt to meet the needs of their own communities.



The initiative also brings together Catholic leaders who have successfully implemented these models and are willing to share their experience with other dioceses seeking to strengthen their own mental health ministries.

By helping dioceses learn from one another, Divine Mercy University is expanding access to Christ-centered mental health care and strengthening the Church's ministry of healing across the country.

A CATHOLIC VOICE AT THE NATION'S HIGHEST COURT

When one of the nation's most significant counseling cases reached the United States Supreme Court, Divine Mercy University was invited to help ensure that a faithful Catholic understanding of the human person was part of the conversation.

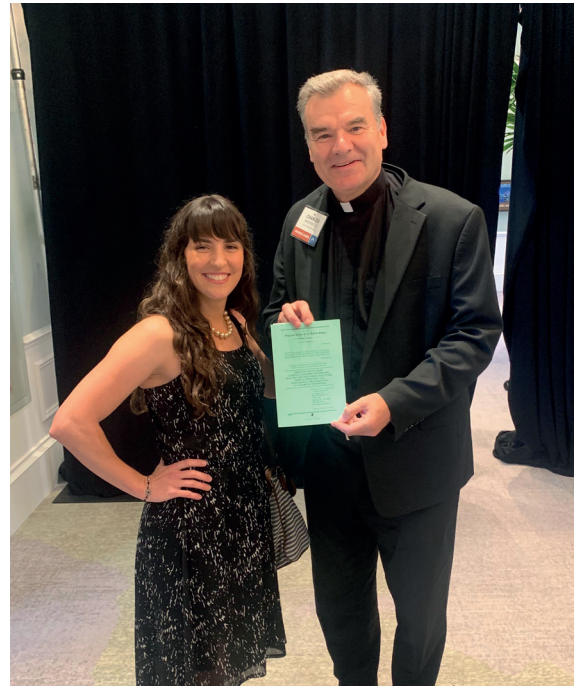
Working alongside Alliance Defending Freedom, Dr. Enika Cocoli Bowen, and a coalition of 25 Catholic organizations and individuals, DMU helped present a Catholic perspective grounded in human dignity, freedom of conscience, and compassionate, client-directed counseling. In an 8–1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of counselor Kaley Chiles, affirming important First Amendment protections for professional speech and recognizing the right of counselors to work toward the goals their clients freely choose.

The Court's decision affirmed that counselors cannot be compelled to offer only one government-approved viewpoint. It protects the freedom to provide compassionate, client-directed care consistent with professional judgment and deeply held convictions.

More importantly, this moment demonstrated that Divine Mercy University is helping shape important national conversations where psychology, faith, ethics, and religious liberty intersect.

Because of the generosity of our donors, DMU was prepared to contribute when a Catholic voice was needed. Our faculty and partners brought thoughtful, clinically informed, and faith-filled perspectives before the nation's highest court—demonstrating how DMU's mission extends beyond the classroom to influence the Church and the broader culture.

While important questions remain across the country, this decision affirms free speech, professional integrity, and respect for the dignity of every person. Divine Mercy University will continue contributing its expertise wherever thoughtful Catholic scholarship can strengthen mental health care and serve the common good.



Kaley Chiles, plaintiff in the Chiles v. Salazar case, with Fr. Charles Sikorsky and the amicus brief that was presented by DMU and other partners.

SUPPORT FOR DMU

Clergy across dioceses continue to support DMU's mission, recognizing the importance of integrated mental health care within the life of the Church.

"We have seen first-hand the quality and compassion DMU graduates bring to mental health care."
— Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge



"Over the years, we [the Diocese of Arlington] have benefited from the externs and graduates of DMU who have worked with Catholic Charities and other agencies.... We have seen first-hand the quality and compassion they bring to mental health care. As a Catholic institution, the training of future generations of mental health professionals allows the Church to show the merciful hand of God to all she serves."

MOST REV. MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese
of Arlington, Virginia



"In the Church we spend more money dissolving marriages than we do saving them. I want therapists who have a bias towards preserving the union [of marriage]."

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN

Archdiocese of New York



"The contribution that Divine Mercy University is making to the Church is irreplaceable. You have blazed a path forward with great courage, and at the University of Mary we gratefully follow your model of infusing solid Catholic anthropology into all of our programs in psychology, social work, criminal justice, and counseling. How much healing Divine Mercy University has brought to Catholic education! That's cause for genuine admiration and appreciation here below, even as it brings forth joy for God and the angels!"

MONSIGNOR JAMES SHEA

President of the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota
DMU Commencement Speaker, 2024

LISTEN TO DMU IN THE MEDIA

INTERVIEW WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

DMU attended the 2026 FOCUS SEEK conference in Columbus, Ohio, and Fr. Charles Sikorsky had the opportunity to speak with Fr. Mike Schmitz, discussing the urgent need for mental health care, particularly for youth and young adults, that is consistent with Catholic-Christian values. Fr. Schmitz shared about the dire situation on college campuses for students seeking counseling services, yet they cannot find a therapist in a timely fashion who will walk with them amid their struggles.



DMU exists to change that - to train the next generation of mental health professionals who will be there to bring the light of Christ into the darkest places of mental health challenges, so clients may experience transformation, hope, healing, and flourishing in their lives. Scan the QR code here to watch the full conversation.



INTERVIEW WITH BISHOP EARL FERNANDES

Also at the SEEK conference, Fr. Charles had the privilege to sit down with Bishop Earl Fernandes of that diocese and discuss the importance of mental health for the Church. Bishop Fernandes expressed the desire of Mother Church to help her faithful to flourish and live fulfilling lives, even in the midst of woundedness and suffering. However, the bishop also described the challenges of finding a faithful Catholic counselor who is formed in the Catholic-Christian vision of the person, and the dearth of trustworthy mental health resources in his own diocese. Scan the QR code to listen to the full discussion!



ALUMNI NETWORK



After obtaining his masters degree from DMU in July 2014, Rev. Keith Chylinski joined the faculty of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. He has formed hundreds of seminarians from across the country, teaching courses in Pastoral Psychology and Introductory Psychology. He was also Director of Counseling Services. He recently created a seminary-wide conference curriculum on psychosexual development, which affords young men the opportunity to grow in affective maturity and a healthy approach to chastity and celibacy.

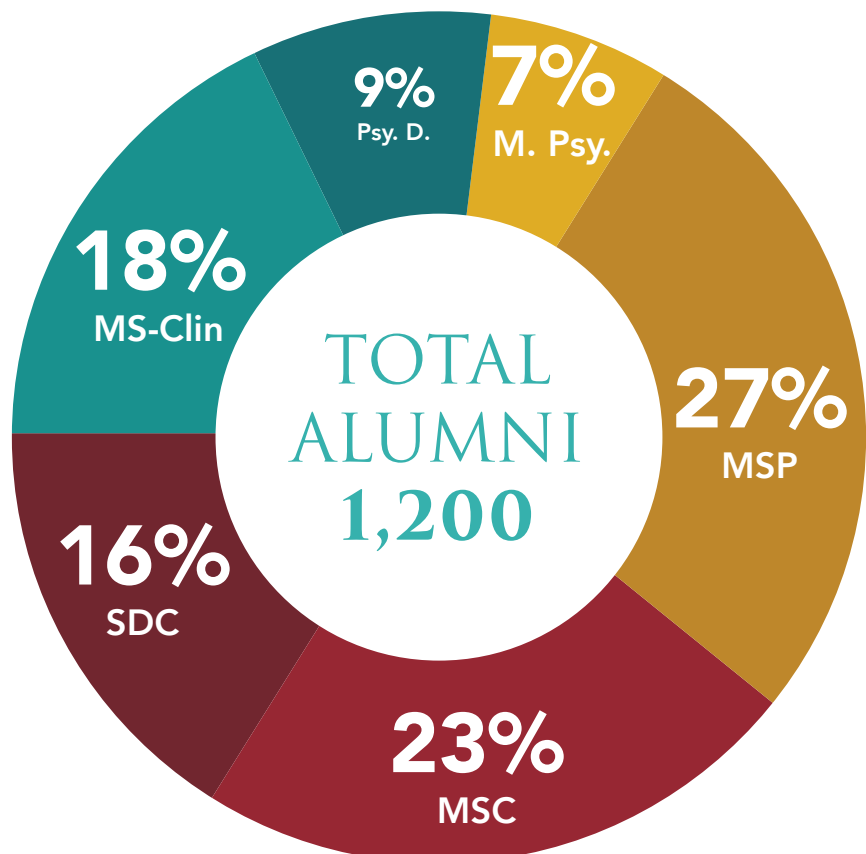
Bishop Chylinski was appointed the 32nd Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in July 2022, and on December 8, 2023, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Chylinski as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Bishop Chylinski's use of his degree from DMU to form the priests of tomorrow is very similar to how the CES will work. The graduates of that program will go on to form potentially thousands of counselors who will be firmly founded on a Christo-centric view of the human person, and who will impart those benefits to their clients, colleagues, and research partners.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

From 340 alumni in 2019 to nearly 1,200 in 2025, the DMU alumni network continues to grow.

This expanding community remains united by a shared mission of bringing compassionate, integrated care to individuals, families, and communities throughout the world.



ALUMNI NETWORK



JOSHUA KALMAN - PSYD IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (2017)

A Convert's Story of Helping Veterans

Since graduating from Divine Mercy University in 2017, Joshua Kalman has been blessed to serve in two settings that remind him why he was called to psychology. Each day offers the opportunity to accompany others in their healing and to bring together the science of the mind with the truth of the human person revealed through faith.

He currently serves as Staff Psychologist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Miami, providing individual and group psychotherapy to veterans facing depression, trauma, and PTSD. There, he leads evidence-based groups in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), behavioral activation, and interpersonal skill development.

Alongside his VA work, Joshua founded Saint Joseph's Psychological Services, a private practice serving individuals and couples throughout South Florida. Much of his work focuses on helping men struggling with pornography addiction and sexual integrity, as well as couples seeking to rebuild trust and rediscover the grace of their vocation. As the practice expands, he hopes to welcome additional clinicians, and broaden their outreach to the Catholic community in South Florida.

His path to this work began long before graduate school. Joshua was raised in a Jewish home, attending Hebrew school through adolescence and celebrating his bar mitzvah at age thirteen. He shares that: "My family's faith life, especially through my Orthodox grandparents, gave me a deep respect for prayer, tradition, and the presence of God in ordinary life. In 2008, I entered the Catholic Church, discovering the profound continuity between the Old and New Covenants and a personal relationship with God the Father that transformed my understanding of redemption and vocation."

When Joshua began his studies at DMU in 2011, he found an environment where his faith and his academic formation could grow together. DMU offered not only rigorous clinical training but also a way of seeing the human person that continues to shape every aspect of his work today.

In closing, Joshua reflects that: "Now, as a husband and father of four, I am deeply grateful for the foundation I received at DMU. Whether sitting with a veteran reclaiming his sense of purpose or walking with a man striving for purity and integrity, I draw daily on the integration of faith and reason that I first encountered there. My hope is that both my work at the VA and the mission of Saint Joseph's Psychological Services will continue to serve, heal, and strengthen the Body of Christ in South Florida and beyond."

ALUMNI NETWORK



RICARDO CORONADO - M.S. IN COUNSELING (2024)

Tech Executive Turned Therapist

For Ricardo Coronado, the journey to becoming a Licensed Mental Health Counselor wasn't a career change - it was a calling. Born and raised in Mexico City, Ricardo's early professional life included a 25-year career as a tech executive in multinational corporations. This took him around the world, giving him a unique vantage to observe cultures, challenges, and the resilient approaches people take to life. For years, he provided support to colleagues navigating professional and personal transitions, sensing a deeper purpose that eventually led him to the mental health field.

That purpose was solidified through his Catholic faith and service. After dedicating seven years to youth ministry, he gained an understanding of the unique struggles and needs of young people. It was this combination of global exposure and ministry experience, coupled with a calling by God to become a therapist, that inspired him to pursue formal education, earning a M.S. in Counseling in 2024 from Divine Mercy University.

Ricardo built his clinical foundation by collaborating with The Center: A Place of Hope, a top clinic in the country for anxiety, depression, ED, and addictions. This work provided the expertise and confidence necessary to launch his own practice, Pax Animi Counseling ("Peace of the Soul") - dedicated to those seeking faith-based mental health support, guiding clients toward clarity, resilience, and purpose.

Utilizing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Internal Family Systems (IFS), he addresses issues like stress, burnout, anxiety, depression, and life transitions. He integrates spirituality by honoring and exploring the client's individual faith journey as a vital part of the healing process, never imposing a specific practice.

A key pillar of his work is cultural fluency. Ricardo is fluent in Spanish and holds a deep understanding of the nuances of Latin American life and culture. This allows him to navigate complex family dynamics, faith expectations, and the rich tradition of long sobremesas (table talk). A resident of Seattle for thirteen years, he finds a metaphor for life in the region's changing seasons: knowing God allows growth in all conditions, whether life is full of light, or cloudy and introspective. Ricardo uses this perspective to help his clients find inner peace and resilience regardless of their external circumstances.

Where DMU Alumni Are MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SEMINARIES



CONCEPTION
Living the Benedictine Tradition
ABBAY



Holy Spirit Seminary
QUEENSLAND



MOUNT
ST. MARY'S
SEMINARY



THE PONTIFICAL NORTH
AMERICAN COLLEGE



ST. JOHN VIANNEY
COLLEGE SEMINARY
& GRADUATE SCHOOL



MOUNT ANGEL
ABBAY & SEMINARY

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

DIOCESES & CATHOLIC CHARITIES



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA



THE DIOCESE OF
HARRISBURG



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF WICHITA



Catholic Diocese
of Sioux Falls



ARCHDIOCESE OF
MANILA



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



Catholic
Charities
of the Diocese of Green Bay



DIOCESE
of
AUSTIN



ARCHDIOCESE
of MILWAUKEE



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
FORT WAYNE + SOUTH BEND



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

UNIVERSITIES



Belmont Abbey
COLLEGE

NAU
NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

TYNDALE
UNIVERSITY



BENEDICTINE
COLLEGE

McGRATH
INSTITUTE

RESEARCH PARTNERS

**CENTER FOR TRAUMA
& RESILIENCY STUDIES**
AT DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

McLean HOSPITAL
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE



RiU **REGNUM
CHRISTI**
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITIES



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Universidad
de Navarra**

MINISTRIES

focus

CATHOLICPSYCH
INSTITUTE

DIRECTION FOR YOUR SOUL

SANCTUARY
Mental Health Ministries

FIERCE
Athlete

Red Bird
MINISTRIES



CLINICS & HEALTH CARE CENTERS

ALPHA OMEGA
CLINIC

**THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA** Counseling Center

SIERRA
HEALTH + WELLNESS

SACRED GROUND
Psychotherapy

RUAH WOODS
INSTITUTE
Revealing The Human Person

SACRED SPACE
PSYCHOTHERAPY

VETERAN & MILITARY

U.S. AIR FORCE



U.S. ARMY

AROUND THE WORLD



DMU's reach extends far beyond its campus. Graduates serve in clinical, academic, ministry, and leadership settings around the world, bringing their formation into a wide range of communities and professions.

9%

OF GRADUATES
ARE
INTERNATIONAL

156

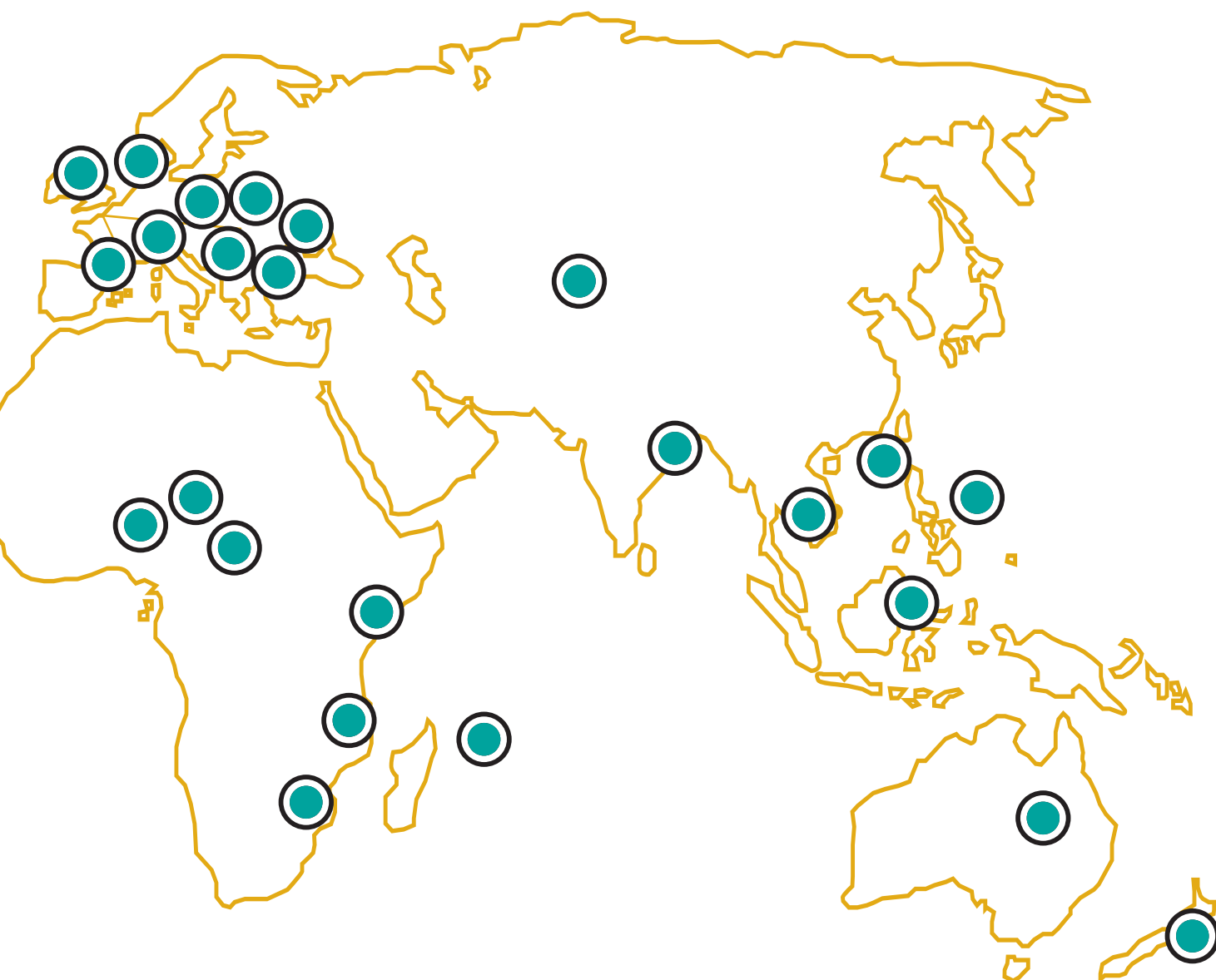
DEGREES AWARDED
(2025-2026)

GLOBAL

THE AMERICAS

1. United States of America
2. Bahamas
3. Canada
4. Ecuador
5. Mexico
6. Paraguay
7. Trinidad & Tobago
8. Croatia

STUDENTS REPRESENTED ACROSS 31 COUNTRIES



Graduates are serving in clinical, academic, and ministry settings around the world, bringing their formation into a wide range of contexts.

EUROPE

- 9. England
- 10. France
- 11. Germany
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Italy
- 14. Netherlands
- 15. Slovakia
- 16. Spain

AFRICA

- 17. Cameroon
- 18. Ghana
- 19. Kenya
- 20. Mauritius
- 21. Nigeria
- 22. South Africa
- 23. Zambia

ASIA

- 24. India
- 25. Kazakhstan
- 26. Malaysia
- 27. Philippines
- 28. Thailand
- 29. Vietnam

OCEANIA

- 30. Australia
- 31. New Zealand

WATCH OUR RECENT MENTAL HEALTH WEBINARS GIVEN BY ALUMNI

This past May, DMU hosted a series of webinars for Mental Health Awareness Month, presented by our esteemed alumni on various topics relating to mental health care and technology. Scan the QR codes below to watch the webinars and share with family and friends!

**DR. FERNANDO
ALESSANDRI**
(MS-Clin Graduate)
"More Than An
Answer"



NKECHI JUWAH
(MSP Graduate)
"Technology and
Social Media
Addiction"

**JEROME
PLACIDO**
(MSP Graduate)
"Augmenting Care,
Not Replacing It"



**DR. KATHIE
ERWIN**
(MSC Professor)
"Algorithms
v. Therapeutic
Awareness"

**DRS. GARRETT
BOYER AND
LAURA
CUSUMANO**
(PsyD Graduates)
"You Are Not
Data"



DMU organized a panel on mental health at the 2025 Napa Institute Conference last summer. Archbishop Coakley (Oklahoma City, OK), Bishop Conley (Lincoln, NE), and Bishop Hying (Madison, WI) sat down with Dr. Gregory Gisla (a DMU graduate) to discuss the intersection of faith and spirituality with mental health, and the importance of integration between the two to truly help the human person flourish. Scan the QR code to watch the full panel recording.



In December, Fr. Charles Sikorsky appeared on the Cardinal Newman Society's podcast to discuss the mission of Divine Mercy University, and how we are making an impact on the mental health culture. Scan this QR code to watch the podcast.



ADVANCEMENT

BECOME A VALUED PARTNER IN DMU'S MISSION

The need for well-formed mental health professionals continues to grow, and your support helps make that formation possible.

Through scholarships, academic programs, and new initiatives, benefactors help prepare students whose future work will impact countless lives.

YOUR IMPACT SUPPORTS

- Scholarships for students
- Expansion of academic programs
- Formation of future clinicians
- Increased access to integrated mental health care

Each gift contributes to a mission that extends far beyond the university itself.

SUPPORT
OUR MISSION

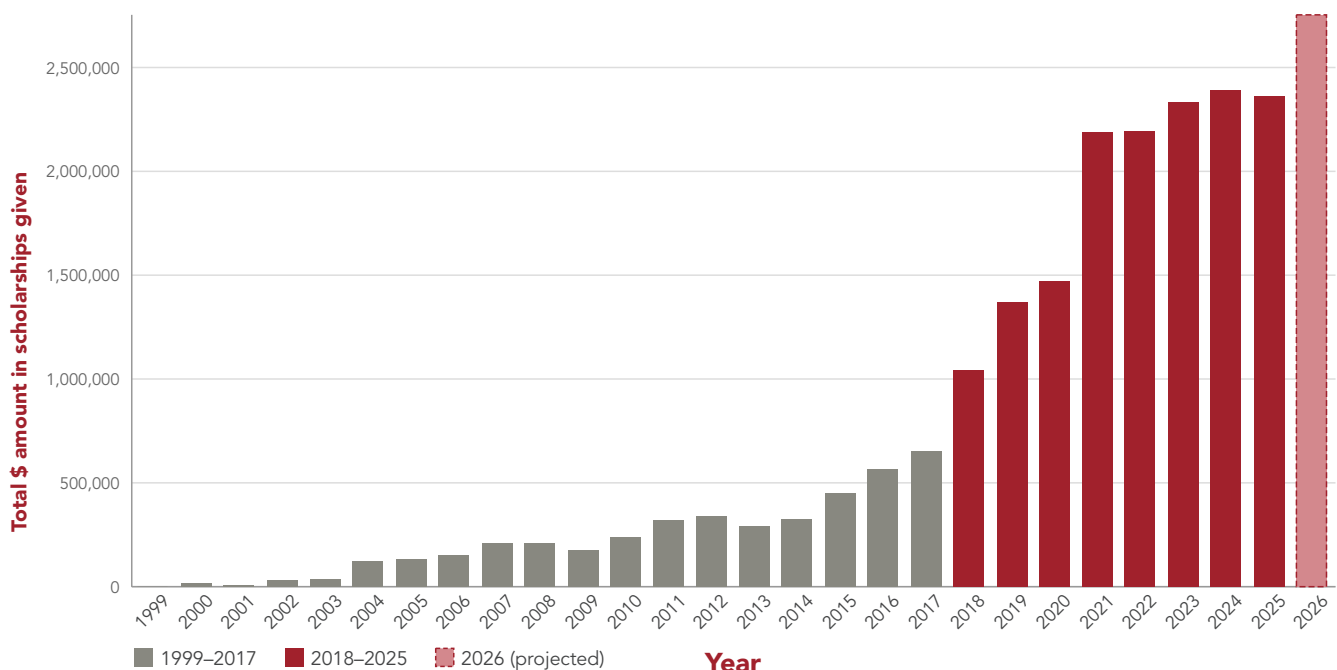


THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN OUR MISSION.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES:

- Expansion of the Master's in Counseling program
- Continued support for the Bishop Loverde Scholarship Fund
- Increased formation opportunities for priests and religious

TOTAL AMOUNTS IN SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN IN DMU HISTORY

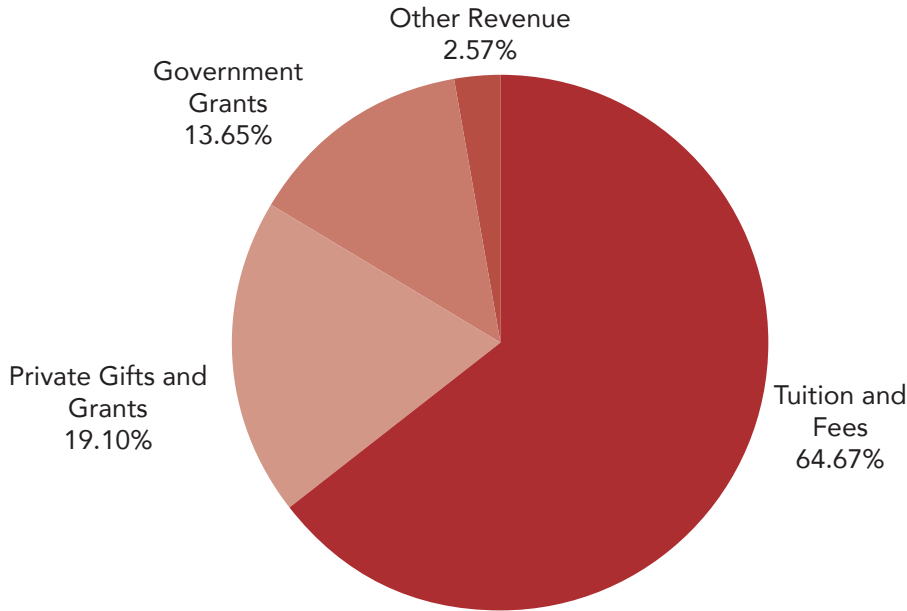


FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE

2023-2024

Amounts: \$13,927,282



**Tuition
and Fees**
\$9,007,377

**Private Gifts
and Grants**
\$2,660,771

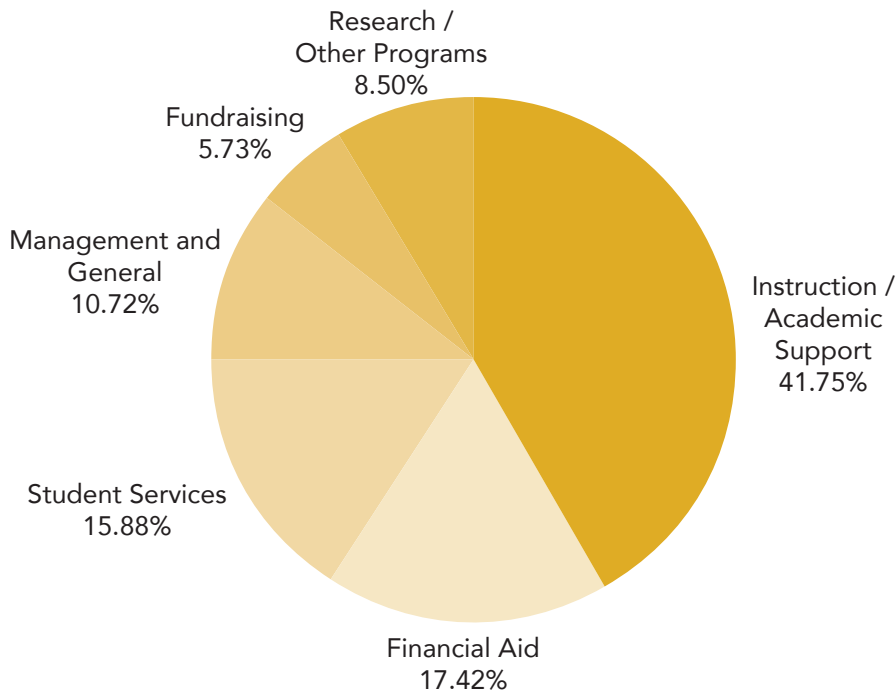
**Government
Grants**
\$1,900,601

**Other
Revenue**
\$358,533

OPERATING EXPENSES

2023-2024

Amounts: \$13,715,282



**Instruction
/ Academic
Support**
\$5,726,175

Financial Aid
\$2,388,575

Student Services
\$2,178,087

**Management
and General**
\$1,470,743

Fundraising
\$785,606

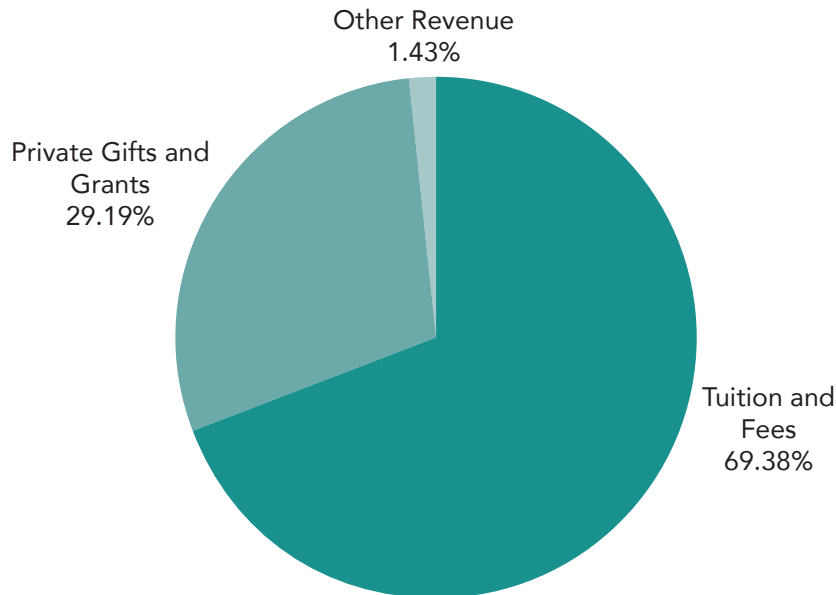
**Research /
Other Programs**
\$1,166,096

FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE

2024-2025

Amounts: \$14,410,520



Tuition and Fees
\$9,997,398

Private Gifts and Grants
\$4,206,473

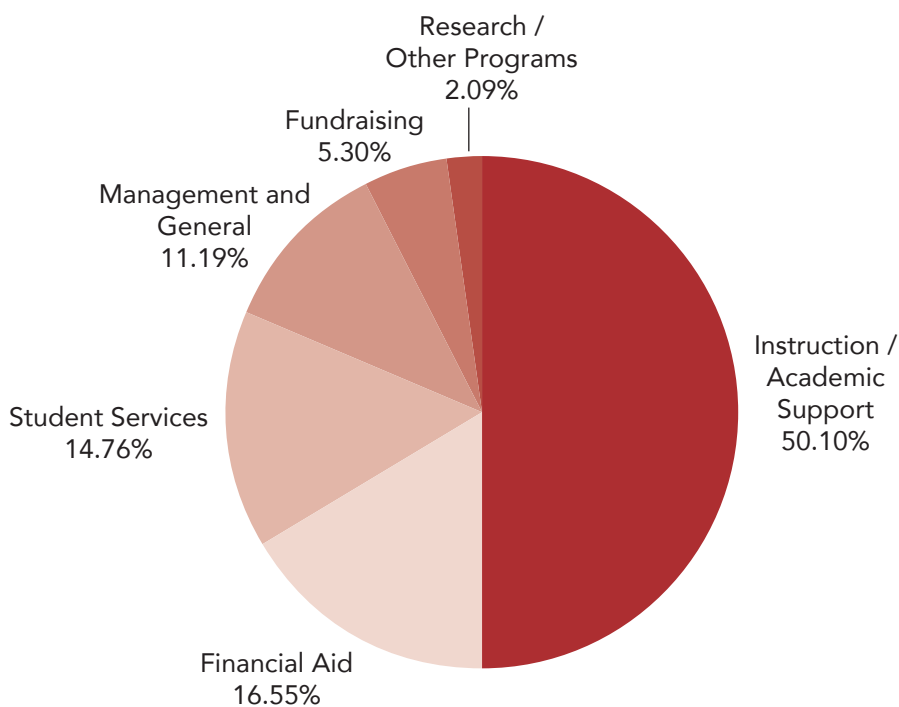
Government Grants
\$0

Other Revenue
\$206,649

OPERATING EXPENSES

2024-2025

Amounts: \$14,351,813



Instruction / Academic Support
\$7,189,555

Financial Aid
\$2,375,920

Student Services
\$2,118,877

Management and General
\$1,606,638

Fundraising
\$760,826

Research / Other Programs
\$299,997



*We are grateful for your continued support.
Your generosity helps more students receive a DMU
education and bring Christ's healing presence to a
world in need.*

For more information, visit: www.divinemercury.edu
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