



1976 - 2026
CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
IRVINE

50 Years In. *Just Getting Started.*

Opened in 1976 with 36 students and a single building on an Irvine hillside, Concordia University Irvine today serves nearly 5,000 students annually, counts 28,000+ alumni, and this fall opened \$45 million in new facilities funded entirely by the institution's community of generous donors.

6

academic schools

60+

degree programs

28,000+

alumni worldwide

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June 8, 1975: Founders break ground on the empty hills of Irvine.

LEGACY

It began with a leap of faith.

Concordia began in 1976 with one building, 36 students, five professors, and two staff members, on a hillside overlooking a city that was still being built. From the first day, its founders were building for generations to come.

And Concordia kept building. It earned full accreditation within five years and took the name Concordia University Irvine in 1993. New schools followed, along with graduate and doctoral degrees and new campuses in Rancho Cucamonga and Irvine — and graduates who show up ready to lead.

Fifty years later, the founding conviction is unchanged: a university is measured by the people it sends into the world. What has grown is the scale. A comprehensive Lutheran Christian university, Concordia now prepares nurses, teachers, executives, counselors, coaches, pastors, and beyond across six schools and multiple campuses, ready to serve in all of their callings.

“I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:20 — theme of Concordia’s 50th anniversary

36 → 5,000

students, first class to today (served annually)

1 → 3

from one building to three campuses

28,000+

alumni, serving on every continent but Antarctica

1st

NCAA Division II school in Orange County

Five decades of milestones.



1976 · Class on the lawn, year one



1993 · A new name



2023 · Second Irvine campus opens

1964

Founders purchase 113 acres of Irvine hillside from The Irvine Company.

1976

Christ College Irvine opens with 36 students, five faculty members, and one building.

1981

Earns full WASC accreditation.

1993

Becomes Concordia University Irvine.

1999

MBA program launches.

2002

School of Business established.

2010

The Core Curriculum and the Around-the-World Semester® debut.

2016

Townsend Institute for Leadership and Counseling launches.

2017

Joins the NCAA as Orange County's first Division II school.

2019

Designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

2021

"Forward in Faith" campaign tops \$100 million, the largest in Concordia's history.

2023

Concordia – Spectrum™ Campus opens.

2025

Named Founding Education Partner of OCVICE.

2026

50th anniversary. \$45 million in new facilities open debt-free.

On the field, too: 10 national team championships since 2000, from cross country and basketball to volleyball, softball, lacrosse, and, most recently, beach volleyball.



BUILT BY BELIEF

\$45 million. *Zero debt.*

On Oct. 2, Concordia celebrated the opening of three new and transformed buildings at once — the largest construction program in its history. All \$45 million came from donors and alumni — not a single tuition dollar — and every project was delivered on time, on budget, and without long-term debt.

The projects nearly complete Phase 2 of the campus master plan, a vision set in motion 14 years ago with the Borland-Manske Center. The renewed CU Center for Worship and the Performing Arts grows from 500 to 800 seats, giving Orange County a home for concerts, convocations, and civil dialogue on difficult questions.



CU Center for Worship and the Performing Arts

800 seats — up from 500 — around a 270-degree thrust stage

Fully rebuilt **Casavant pipe organ** and new acoustics

New **baptismal font** and beautiful art installations

Across campus, the two-building Golden Eagle Athletics Complex adds the largest fitness center in NCAA Division II's PacWest Conference, open to every student. With nearly 40% of undergraduates competing as student-athletes, it reshapes daily life and game day alike.

The people who know Concordia best are investing in what comes next.



Golden Eagle Athletics Complex

More than **20,000 square feet** across two buildings joined by a skybridge

5,000-square-foot weight room open to every student

Rooftop decks and **350 stadium seats** over the fields



“Whenever a university engages in new construction, it shows vibrancy, financial health, and a commitment to invest back into the student experience.”

— Dr. Michael A. Thomas, President, Concordia University Irvine



A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

Six schools. 60+ programs. One mission.

Bachelor's • Master's • Doctoral • Credentials & Certificates • On campus and online

Arts & Sciences

STEM, humanities, and the arts, grounded in the Enduring Questions & Ideas curriculum.

Business & Economics

Business degrees from bachelor's to MBA.

Education

Respected reputation locally and nationally.

Health & Human Sciences

CCNE-accredited nursing, kinesiology, and the health professions.

Christ College

Theology, philosophy, and church-work formation.

Townsend Institute

Counseling, executive coaching, and leadership, founded with Dr. John Townsend.

A NOTE TO ORANGE COUNTY'S EMPLOYERS

Keep an eye on our graduates.

They're already in your hospitals, classrooms, finance teams, and boardrooms. They were taught to think for themselves, to work hard, and to lead by serving — and U.S. News & World Report ranks Concordia among the nation's Top Performers on Social Mobility. The next ones are on their way.



2026 SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Rev. Dr. Steve Mueller '86

From his days as a Christ College student to his role today as Chief Mission Officer, Mueller has served Concordia for decades as a theology professor, dean, and administrator. His hymns and books on doctrine, worship, and C.S. Lewis reach across The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and beyond.



CONNECT WITH CONCORDIA

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Honoring 50 Years of Learning, Leadership, and Lasting Impact

50 Years of Illuminating Possibilities

In 1976, Concordia University Irvine opened its doors to just 36 students. Fifty years later, more than 28,000 alumni carry its legacy into classrooms, boardrooms, hospitals, laboratories, and communities around the world.

Behind that remarkable growth are generations of people who have made Concordia what it is today: faculty who inspire, staff who support, students who pursue their potential, and alumni who turn their education into meaningful contributions.

As Concordia celebrates its 50th anniversary, Titan Health & Security Technologies, Inc. is proud to support the university community and recognize its lasting impact on Orange County and beyond.

This milestone honors both the university's history and the countless individual stories that give it meaning, the opportunities opened, the relationships formed, and the lives shaped by education.

Congratulations to Concordia University Irvine and everyone who has helped build its first 50 years. Titan HST looks forward to celebrating its next chapter and the generations of leaders who will continue its legacy.

For more information about Titan HST, visit www.TitanHST.com.

Celebrating 50 years of learning, leadership, and community.
Titan HST proudly congratulates Concordia University Irvine on
this extraordinary milestone.



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
IRVINE



Titan HST
ONE COMMAND

WWW.TITANHST.COM

Congratulations Concordia University Irvine on 50 Years of Impact!



Congratulations to Concordia University Irvine on half a century of God’s faithfulness transforming lives through academic excellence and unwavering Christian values! Crean Lutheran High School rejoices with you and celebrates that Christ has been the cornerstone of Concordia’s mission and ministry. May God’s grace and wisdom continue to guide you as you train up and send out faithful servant leaders into His mission fields.



**CREAN LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**



Proclaiming Jesus Christ Through Excellence in Education

