

Faculty/Administrative Application

Where Faith and Learning Meet

Mission

The mission of North Park University, as an intentionally Christian university of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through education in the liberal arts, professional studies, and theology.

Vision

Our vision, building on our core institutional identity – Christian, urban, intercultural – is to fashion a university of uncommon character and enduring excellence where faith, learning, and service meet.

The Distinctive Learning Community at NPU

North Park University claims a rich and substantial history, one which over many years has shaped the institution we are today. We bring to our students a strong and lasting heritage of faith, a tradition of 115 years of education at the corner of Foster and Kedzie Avenues in the city of Chicago, and a practice of welcoming students from myriad cultures, social traditions, and faith experiences. Simply put, our space is Christian, urban, and intercultural. Yet this familiar history must be cast anew for today's learning environment, now as in the past shaped by and for the community and world our graduates will live in and to which they will be called.

Core Values of the NPU Learning Community

The University's challenging academic programs and supportive learning environment are molded by three core institutional values. Our learning community is:

1. **Distinctively Christian** – We nurture faith, balancing commitment and freedom, affirming the – We nurture faith, balancing commitment and freedom, affirming the historic Christian faith of the Church worldwide shaped by the ethos of the Covenant Church, even while we welcome students from all faith traditions.
2. **Intentionally Urban** – We engage Chicago as our dynamic place of learning and service; Chicago is – We engage Chicago as our dynamic place of learning and service; Chicago is our classroom and all Chicagoans are our teachers.
3. **Purposefully Intercultural** – We embrace and value all people, celebrate the complex global – We embrace and value all people, celebrate the complex global cultural tapestry, and engage the reconciling mandate of the Christian gospel.

We claim these three as intersecting values which shape a cohesive learning community based on the Christian faith, our social setting, and respect for one another.

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

1. Intentionally and Distinctively Christian: North Park faculty and staff integrate Christian faith, values and personal concern for students into the University's academic and co-curricular programs. Aiming at an interactive rather than insular Christian community, North Park draws together Christians from various traditions within the wider Church and admits students into all its academic programs (with the exception of its Seminary) without regard to religious belief.
2. Residential Campus in a World-Class City: North Park cherishes its character as a residential learning community in which deep and often life-long personal relationships are formed. All North Park students – residential and non-residential, traditional and non-traditional – benefit from the rare combination of the intimacy of a small university campus surrounded by the richness of one of America's great cities. The University integrates traditional classroom study with downtown internships, neighborhood service-learning opportunities and Chicago cultural fare.
3. Diverse Campus Community: Founded by Swedish immigrants in 1891 and located in a vibrant, multi-ethnic neighborhood, North Park attracts a broad diversity of students, faculty and staff from the greater Chicago area, across the United States and around the world. Through innovative programs such as its Institute of International and Cultural Studies, the University supports a welcoming environment for all of its people.
4. Comprehensive, Undergraduate Liberal Arts Curriculum: The liberal arts provide the foundation of North Park's academic culture. The University is committed to a comprehensive liberal arts undergraduate curriculum through which students gain exposure to the modes of thought and expression distinctive to the various academic disciplines. Contemporary culture is placed in historical context, and familiar truths are critically examined.
5. Tradition of Excellence in Professional and Theological Education: The University's theological seminary as well as its graduate and undergraduate professional programs enjoy a growing reputation for excellence. For many students, a foundation in the liberal arts leads naturally to preparation for careers in business, community development, education, health sciences, music, nursing, theology and ministry.
6. Educational Focus on the Whole Person: High quality co-curricular programs reflect North Park's commitment to educating the whole person. The University has won five national championships in men's basketball and competes in one of American's strongest NCAA Division III athletic conferences. Music performance groups tour nationally and internationally. Through regular, voluntary chapels, fellowship, prayer, Bible study groups, ministries to the poor and needy, and other services, North Park offers an array of resources to facilitate the spiritual formation of students.

7. Church and Community Serving: A primary focus of North Park is the equipping of the Evangelical Covenant Church (our sponsoring denomination) and the wider Church to fulfill the unique calling of proclaiming and living God's good news in Jesus Christ. Through North Park Theological Seminary and other academic and co-curricular programs, the University provides specific preparation for church vocations as well as lay leadership at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Through such initiatives as Urban Outreach, a nationally recognized model of student voluntary community service, the University responds to the needs of its surrounding community and encourages its students to receive their education as a gift from God for the good of others.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Evangelical Covenant Church, which founded and continues to operate North Park, has its roots in historical Christianity as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the biblical instruction of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, and in the great spiritual awakenings of the nineteenth century. Appreciating this classical Christian heritage and hungering for an even deeper experience of new life in Christ, Covenanters affirm a number of evangelical emphases. Among these are: the centrality of the scriptures; the necessity of the new birth; the Church as a fellowship of believers; the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the reality of freedom in Christ.

“Covenant Affirmations”
The Evangelical Covenant Church

APPLICANT'S RESPONSES

After reviewing the above statements of the history and mission of North Park University, submit three short essays on the following topics:

1. State your philosophy of education.
2. Describe your faith journey and how it aligns with the mission and values of the university.
3. Write an essay that addresses your understanding, experience and commitment to the three core identities of the university.

Send these statements, with your curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three references (including position titles, address, phone and e-mail) to the chair of the search committee.