



Vision and Mission – an elaboration on the NLA University College statutes

Adopted by the board 31.03.2020



What we do

NLA University College is a private, non-profit corporation. The corporation's purpose is the operation of an accredited college in compliance with the University and University Colleges Act, with local facilities in several places in the country. (Statutes § 3).

NLA University College offers education for qualified applicants regardless of religion or world view. The college engages in instruction, guidance, research, communication and professional and artistic development, in keeping with recognized scientific, artistic, pedagogical and ethical principles. Our mission is mandated by and rooted in the Christian and humanistic tradition on which the college is founded. NLA University College shall promote and defend academic freedom. These tasks and duties are incumbent upon the institution according to Norwegian law, which also grants institutions the right to establish their own professional and philosophical foundations.

Commensurate with this foundation, NLA University College represents an alternative option as regards values and world view within the higher education sector.

Why we do what we do: Our Foundation

NLA University College is founded upon the Christian faith as is it expressed in the Bible and the Evangelical Lutheran Confession (Statutes § 5).

It is central to our foundation that all persons have been given a unique value, expressed in the belief that humanity is created in the image of God, and therefore inviolable. According to Jesus' teaching all persons are described as our neighbor. This inspires us to act on behalf of the weak, oppressed and marginalized. Because all persons have the same value, they must also be treated with love and respect, guaranteed the right to life from conception to natural death, and cared for in all phases of life.

This commits us to maintaining high ethical standards in occupational practice and research, and to an occupational practice which is in the best interests of our neighbor. We are encouraged to be good examples and to promote all that is true and good. For this reason we offer study programs characterized by formation and qualification for service, under the motto «-because someone needs you».

Our Christian faith confesses that the Bible is given to us by God and conveys God's revealed word to people of all times. In the Evangelical-Lutheran tradition to which NLA University College belongs, the Bible is regarded as a binding norm for Christian faith, doctrine and life.

A key concept in Christian ethics is that the individual person is tasked with stewardship. We are called to realize this on the global as well as on the local and individual levels. This entails for example that the responsibility of stewardship will inform our response to the climate challenges of our time, and to the question of just distribution and sustainable and creative stewardship of the earth's resources.

In light of this stewardship, the situation of the family and the conditions for development of children and youth is of concern to society. NLA supports the responsibility and duty of parents to raise and care for their children. In the tradition to which NLA University College belongs, marriage between man and woman continues to be understood as an ethical norm undergirding society. At the individual level, values such as duty, faithfulness, respect, forgiveness and trust will be central to all human relations. In occupational ethics this means that we live to serve rather than to be masters over others.

According to Christian belief we are persons who need mercy, forgiveness and the opportunity for a new beginning. We desire to practice these things at the college in a vibrant community of worship, devotion and prayer.

Why we do what we do: Purpose

Based on a Christian understanding of nature, humanity, culture and society, NLA University College sees its purpose as promoting formation, empowering individuals for service both in and outside of the home, and contributing critically and constructively to meeting local, national and global challenges.

NLA University College considers its most important tasks as those involving research, development, instruction, guidance and communication, and further seeks to facilitate a good professional, social and Christian environment for students and employees, where respect for the individual's world view is maintained. NLA University College will give guidance in the interpretation of life and culture, devote particular attention to foundational questions, study important processes and sustaining institutions and structures in culture and society, and support multidisciplinary approaches. NLA University College will contribute to forming ethical awareness and promoting foundational Christian attitudes and values (Statutes § 6).

On this foundation, employees at NLA University College intend to work together in constructive collaboration, in order to realize the vision of the school, loyal to its vision and mission.

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