



faith life and learning

STUDENT STORIES

I have been fighting a chronic illness since I was 19. I think the most devastating part of that was leaving my dreams of earning my degree behind me. At age 26 I gave my life over to God and something deep inside of me said, "Don't give up on your dream." I now know, that was the voice of God. Shortly after this I found LAPU. I was very scared to start. I had no idea if I would be able to succeed with my limitations. From day one I shared all my concerns and feelings with the people I have worked with at LAPU. It is because of the faith and support they gave me, that I have successfully completed classes and am on my way to getting my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. To anyone with a chronic illness or personal affliction that is questioning whether or not you can achieve your academic dreams I say this, "With God and LAPU you most certainly can!"


Dana Wheeldon
Bachelor's in Applied Psychology

My academic journey really began in 2017 when I decided to take Psychology 101. After my mother passed away in 2015, I decided to take a different path in regards to my college career. My mother died of a rare neurodegenerative disease called Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). I grieved for about two years after my mom died and out of the blue, I sensed God was pulling me through and giving me strength to go and do something good for the world. In 2018, I chose to transfer all of my credits and attend Los Angeles Pacific University. I was so lucky that I had a great Success Coach at LAPU and started the Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies program. This program has helped me learn and gain knowledge I never even thought was possible. My overall sense of career goals has been changed and I continue to be inspired daily by the awesome and supportive professors in each class I take at LAPU. I have also since become a volunteer with the charity, Defeat MSA Alliance. I feel that my calling is to help caregivers and patients of this disease by giving my support to study research and bringing further awareness to the disease.

Arnetta Steptoe
Bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies

My educational journey at Los Angeles Pacific University has been life-changing because I have grown as a believer, educator, mother, student, and woman. All of the challenges I have endured during my educational journey has only deepened my appreciation and determination to continue strong at LAPU. I feel so proud to be a part of such an inspiring and warm learning community where I have been able to plant my roots and grow. As a returning college student and single mother of three small children, I knew my educational journey would be a challenge, but I have not traveled alone since day one at LAPU. God led me to LAPU and he has not left my side since. I am the first member of my immediate family to obtain a college degree and my children will follow in my footsteps. I believe it is through education that positive change can come about within our homes, cities, states, countries, and the world. I have many hopes and dreams for my future. Therefore, every day, I mindfully work towards these goals. Completion of the Associates of Arts program at LAPU encouraged me to enroll in a bachelor's program. Next, I will apply to a master's program at LAPU. Obtaining my degrees will enable me to build a better life for my family.

Tiffany Ross
Bachelor's in Liberal Studies

A background image of a woman with long dark hair smiling and hugging a baby. The image is slightly faded and has a green vine graphic with leaves overlaid on the bottom left. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image: a yellow one on the left and a blue one on the right.

In January 2018 I started the BSOL program. At first, it was exciting, but then it got harder and even more challenging. My Success Coach would call me once a week to encourage me and provide guidance if any was needed, but life challenges became more complicated. After a year of trying to have a baby, my wife and I decided to visit our doctor. After several tests, the doctor informed us that we were unable to have children. I remember walking out of the hospital lost and my body feeling numb, and once we got to our car, we broke down into tears. In September 2018 my wife and I decided to start the foster to adopt program. On June 7th, 2019 my wife and I brought home a beautiful baby girl. During this entire process I was still taking two classes every eight weeks, doing homework, reading, and writing papers. Trying to stay on top of school work and having to feed a newborn every two hours was arduous. My wife and I had many sleepless nights, yet God continued to give us strength. With the tremendous help from my professors, school staff, my wife, and God giving me strength, I completed my Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership (BSOL). Twenty-two months of many happy moments, tears, life challenges, sleepless nights, and many essays to write, but God gave me the strength to finish successfully. Anyone is capable of returning to school.

Juan Lopez

Bachelor's in Organizational Leadership (Graduated)

Many times I felt like I just needed to quit and forget about getting my degree. I became depressed and was losing hope. The key to being able to endure through my trials was prayer. Not only did I pray, but I also had Success Coaches, my professors and many other staff members that I interacted with at Los Angeles Pacific University, all praying for me. My Faith has grown and I now have a greater understanding of Christ and know the importance of keeping God first and foremost in my life.

Roberta Tyler

Bachelor's in Applied Psychology