



# Crosses on Campus

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**Abstract:** We analyzed the crosses on campus, noting the importance of where they are on campus, their position in those places, and the connection that the cross has to its audience (students & faculty) with the use of the narrative paradigm.

## Classrooms



**What:** UD has incorporated a cross in every classroom across campus.

**Importance:** A cross in the classroom reinforces UD's mission statement of being a comprehensive Catholic university, committed in the Marianist tradition, to educating the whole person and to linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.

**Findings:** The cross drives a narrative that permeates through all learning spaces. It is a reminder that the Catholic faith is inherent in all studies. The presence of the cross may alienate those students whose world views contrast with those of the Catholic Church.

## Living Spaces



**What:** UD has crosses integrated in three primary living spaces on campus

**Importance:** This sends a message about UD's identity and regard for student faith life

**Findings:** Living spaces are sacred for students, including practicing their religion. Crosses can impair this for some, and while it makes narrative sense for the university, it may not for some students.



### What is Narrative Paradigm?

A communication theory claiming that all meaningful communication occurs via storytelling or reporting of events. Humans participate as storytellers and observers of narratives.