

Objectives of the University  
As shown in the charter of  
Inter American University and  
explained in the catalog of  
1931-1932

*Palmer*

Objective and Aim:

According to the articles of Incorporation of 1911, which were revised and stated more specifically in the 1920 charter, the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico "is to be of the rank of a college or university" and its objective is "to develop youth of both sexes mentally, morally and physically, through the regularly accepted studies in liberal and practical arts and sciences, the study of the Bible (not from a sectarian standpoint) , which shall be used as a text book in the work of all its students, and the performance of manual labor by students domiciled at the Institution, thus to produce well-rounded character, resourceful, independent, and of sturdy Christian faith."

Purpose

The purpose was to establish a school within the reach of the common people, free from all class or caste feeling, where the sons and daughters of the poor and rich alike would find study inviting and profitable, with congenial surroundings. This idea led to an attempt to supply the people of Puerto Rico with an educational institution of a distinct type and aim not furnished by either the sectarian or public schools.

The objective is to develop mentally, morally, and physically the youth of both sexes through the regularly accepted studies of liberal arts and sciences, the study of the Bible (not from a sectarian standpoint), and the performance of daily manual labor, thus to produce American citizens of trained minds, sound bodies, well-rounded, vigorous character, resourceful, independent and of a sturdy Christian faith. Feeling that the exercise of the brain in directing the physical muscles of the body toward the attainment of certain ends in the field or work develops character equally as much as does study in the field of science, art, and literature, manual labor was made as is a cardinal principle of Polytechnic Institute. The purpose is not to magnify manual labor above the stored up knowledge in books and nature, but to claim for it an equal place with other branches in the development of well-rounded Christian character.

This old world is no pillow but a stony path, no protected garden but a broad battleground, no swing that wafts us through delights and joys, but a crackling fire behind and sharp thorns beneath our feet--to hasten us on in our battle for the victory. Even so, this is not all. Think of the sky and stars above after the smoke of battle has cleared, of the flowers and birds beneath, of the beautiful mountains and green fields, of your many friends. The sun rose and set today. Tomorrow I must fight on.

The Polytechnic Institute helps the youth to see the real things. Some are heart breaking, some are heart cheering. It takes both heart breaks and heart cheers plus and indomitable will to make life's battle field blossom into gladness. (end of quote)

**Objectives of the University**  
As shown in the Last Catalog

**Statement of Purpose**

A college of liberal arts and sciences, Inter American University aims to:

1. Strengthen its broad Christian emphasis by helping each student to discover the inner resources for social, moral, and spiritual growth that will aid him in formulating a philosophy of life.
2. Provide a broad general education based upon a thorough knowledge of Puerto Rican and world cultures so that each student may be well at home in the world of his time and sensitive to the needs of community, island, nation, and the world.
3. Emphasize the ability to communicate with clarity and ease in speech and writing in Spanish and English.
4. Promote a co-curricular program that will instill in each student and faculty member an appreciation of the supreme worth and dignity of the individual.
5. Serve as an educational laboratory for the study of problems confronting Puerto Rico and similar growth areas of the world.
6. Stimulate an atmosphere that gives to each individual on the campus and in the community the feeling of belonging and the opportunity to build attitudes conducive to self-discipline, mutual cooperation, and a spirit of service.
7. Concentrate on the development of the whole individual by:
  - a. Encouraging experimentation in the direct application of theory and practice in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences.
  - b. Providing actual laboratory situations in which the solving of problems, the making of choices, the promotion of thinking from an informed basis, and the assumption of responsibility will cultivate more fully capacities for leadership.
  - c. Experimenting to determine the common core of content, procedures, and experiences that will enable each student to prepare more adequately for the future by becoming acquainted with avicational, pre-vocational and pre-professional activities.

**Objectives of the University  
As Shown in the Brochures  
Inter American University**

**Why at IAU?**

Because, since its founding in 1912, Inter American University has continually endeavored to provide the finest and best in Christian higher education.

Because by tradition, location, and programming Inter American University is a natural laboratory for the problems confronting Puerto Rico and similar emerging areas of the world.

Because, as a distinctive institution of higher education dedicated to greatly expanded educational opportunities, Inter American University emphasizes:

1. Continual experimentation with new concepts and approaches to meet the needs of a continually changing society.
2. Training for leadership in the economic, social, political, cultural, and spiritual life of growth areas.
3. The dignity of physical labor, the joy of creativity, and the satisfaction of skill in the practical arts and the common affairs of life.
4. An international image in staff, study, student body, programming, and outlook.