

About Saint Leo University



Founded in 1889, Saint Leo University is a leading Catholic teaching institution that enrolls more than 16,000 students across their traditional Florida campus, more than 40 education center and office locations, and online degree programs.

CHALLENGE

Saint Leo University wanted to increase enrollments for its online MBA program in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Saint Leo decided to find a strategic partner that understood the needs of the university, yet was able to bring the expertise and technology required to compete for online students. Saint Leo wanted a proactive partner to provide recommendations to continually improve its recruitment efforts, and one that would understand and integrate with its entire online enrollment management process.

The school's enrollment management requirements included:

- A full service solution that worked seamlessly within the school's framework.
- A solution designed to meet recruitment goals and assist with retention.
- A partner that understood and would protect the school's image and reputation.
- A profitable relationship that would increase enrollments and maximize the school's ROI.
- A solution that would enable Saint Leo to successfully compete against regional as well as national for-profit institutions.

SOLUTION

After reviewing several potential partners, Saint Leo selected AnswerNet Education Services for enrollment management and marketing support based on its education industry expertise and open, communicative approach to partnerships. Saint Leo felt that AnswerNet understood both their online and overall enrollment management goals.

The following was created and implemented:

- A complete branding strategy, touting the school's strengths while positioning it against its competitors.
- A unique search engine marketing strategy to better identify prospective students.
- A strong lead follow up plan, ensuring Saint Leo University recruiters would be the first to contact prospective students.
- Enrollment counselors were trained by the school at the school so counselors clearly understood the institution's brand and strengths.

- Ongoing weekly meetings with university leadership to review performance and continuously optimize the campaign and processes.
- A continuous improvement plan that included regularly scheduled and ongoing enrollment counselor training, both by AnswerNet leadership and remotely by university program directors.
- A comprehensive strategy to ensure all student services was utilized by students, ensuring consistent communication and positive learning outcomes.
- Integration between marketing and enrollment counselors, ensuring streamlined operations.

RESULTS

Marketing/Lead Generation:

- Increased year to year lead volume by 118% by optimizing campaigns geographically, demographically, by programs, and designing targeted landing pages.
- Improved lead to enroll conversion by 41% utilizing search generated leads.
- Reduced lead cost by 32% through campaign optimization.
- Developed presence on major social networks and reached out to communities, growing Facebook members from 140 to 10,000.
- Created the largest following on Twitter for any private non-profit institution.

Recruiting/Enrollment Management:

- Through the lead follow up plan, recruiters increased the likelihood of students enrolling by 296%.
- Increased year-to-year enrollments for one program by over 300%.
- Enrollment counselors become over 45% more efficient by focusing their time only on motivated, qualified students.
- Reduced cost per enrollment by over 31%.

The partnership was so successful Saint Leo eventually expanded the relationship to include financial aid support, student services support, retention counseling, and enrollment management for all online programs. Saint Leo continues to prove to be one of the most successful private, non-profit online schools, and expanded its partnership with AnswerNet to launch a new division to help other institutions succeed.