Marylhurst University History
The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a Roman Catholic religious teaching congregation, arrived in Oregon in 1859. The Sisters came to Oregon from Montreal at the request of the people and clergy of the city to serve their educational needs, and established St. Mary’s Academy that year.

St. Mary’s College
In 1893, the group started St. Mary’s Academy and College as the first liberal arts college to serve the educational needs of Pacific Northwest women. The school was originally located in downtown Portland, Oregon, where St. Mary’s Academy is still located. The Sisters purchased 63 acres between Lake Oswego and West Linn in 1908. The Sisters named the pastoral land Marylhurst, which means “Mary’s Woods”. The college was moved to the new property in 1930, and St. Mary’s was renamed Marylhurst College.

Marylhurst College
In 1959, Marylhurst College became an independent institution and formed a Board of Trustees, separate from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Beginning in 1996, US News & World Report’s Guide to America’s Best Colleges recognized Marylhurst as the best value in higher education among Western regional colleges and universities.

Marylhurst University
In 1998, Marylhurst College became Marylhurst University, Clackamas County’s first university. In 2005, Marylhurst University was placed among the Best Universities - Master’s (Western Region) in US News & World Report’s Best Colleges report. Marylhurst University was placed among the 50 Best Business Schools in Finance by the Princeton Review in 2008. In October 2009, the Portland Business Journal ranked the Marylhurst MBA #1 in total enrollment having the largest MBA program in Oregon.