

APPENDIX
Core Curriculum Purpose

¶ 1
Approved
12/6/05

Education in the liberal arts is central to the mission of Loyola College, as articulated in the College's Mission Statement and in its Vision and Values, and the cornerstone of each student's education is the core curriculum.

No change

Although the College now offers majors in more than two dozen disciplines, all students bring a shared foundation in the liberal arts to their specialized studies as a result of their work in the core program. In addition to serving as a common bond for students, the program represents, on the strength of its continuing commitment to liberal education, the principal source of continuity between the Loyola of today and its past.

No change

Loyola has always been devoted not only to the transmission of knowledge but also to the development of particular qualities of mind and character. The mission of the College is fulfilled only to the degree that it liberates students from self-absorption, parochial ideas, and unexamined beliefs, replacing these with concern and compassion for others, an appreciation of things past or unfamiliar, and a capacity for critical thought. Although this mission shapes all of the courses and many of the activities at Loyola, it is manifested most clearly in the core curriculum.

¶ 4
Approved
12/6/05

Sharpness and versatility of mind have always been the hallmarks of a Jesuit education. It is in large measure the core that affords students an opportunity to begin developing these skills, which are deepened and refined by the rest of the curriculum.

No change

Both long tradition and the needs of contemporary life mandate the ability to communicate effectively and elegantly as a primary goal of liberal education. Therefore, writing plays a central role in the core curriculum.

¶ 6
Revised and
approved
12/20/05

An important goal of a liberal education is familiarity with the history, the great literature, the central scientific paradigms, the primary philosophical and theological ideas, and the central debates of the Western cultural heritage. Such familiarity, along with the knowledge of a foreign language, helps to set a foundation for examinations of the ideas and mores of other cultures.

Students need a global perspective and a sensitivity to and appreciation for the rich diversity of traditions and perspectives that constitutes our world. Such an understanding of diversity helps to challenge cultural assumptions and fundamental categories, developing a broader, more cosmopolitan view.

¶ 7
Approved
12/6/05

A Loyola graduate should be able to think critically and analytically, to reason mathematically, and to understand the methodology of disciplines in both the natural and social sciences. Yet, the unifying objective of the core curriculum extends beyond the provision of fundamental knowledge to the setting of the foundations of intellectual, moral, and spiritual excellence. A liberal education in the Jesuit tradition seeks, ultimately, to provide a rigorous intellectual foundation for religious faith, for the development of moral convictions, for a life of continuous learning and action in service of that faith and those convictions, for an appreciation of the responsibilities of privilege, and for the continued cultivation of a solidarity with the least advantaged in our world.

In addition, the Senate approved the following recommendation concerning Educational Aims and the Core:

“The Senate adopts the nine broad undergraduate educational aims as learning aims for the core curriculum, with the understanding that these aims are to be viewed in the context of the overall mission of the College and the statement of purposes of the core. These aims are an interconnected set of specifications expressing the distinctiveness of Loyola education. As such, they apply to the core as a whole. The Senate also asks the Core Review Committee to refine, as necessary, these nine aims as they pertain to the core.”