

# Messina FAQs for Evergreens

## What is Messina?

*Messina*, Loyola's new First-Year Program, takes its name from a city in Sicily, Italy, where the Jesuits opened their first college for lay students. It represents the foundations of the Jesuits' commitment to education, much as our living learning program will represent the foundations of our students' educational experience at Loyola. The college at Messina set the tone for how Jesuit education has continued to evolve throughout its nearly 500-year history—through a commitment to academic excellence attained across a range of disciplines, and to the development of the whole person.

## What is the difference between Messina and FE 100, Alpha, and Collegium?

Messina isn't so different from Loyola's former First-Year programs. Messina will combine aspects of Alpha, Collegium and FE 100 into one comprehensive living learning experience. Students will enroll in a fall and a spring semester Messina seminar course linked by one of three Messina themes: Self and Other, Stories We Tell and The Visionary. The seminars, specifically designed with first-year students in mind, will be taught by a Messina faculty member, and, like Alpha, one of the two seminar course instructors will be the student's core advisor.

Similar to FE 100, Administrators from the Student Development division will be matched with faculty members. The Administrator ("Messina Mentor") will offer insight and perspective from the Student Development lens during Messina Enrichment Hours and co-curricular activities and events.

## What is an Enrichment Hour?

The Enrichment Hour is meant to engage students in special speaker opportunities, performances, and experiences specifically tied to the course and the theme, including excursions to Baltimore's unique restaurants, museums and other cultural institutions and neighborhoods – all at no additional cost to the student (or student leader!). Messina Evergreens will support their faculty and Administrator pairing during the planning and implementation of these events and activities.

## More about the "living" component of this Living Learning program...

Messina students will live in proximity (but not necessarily in the same rooms) to students in their seminar classes. The idea is that the proximity-style housing will allow students to form study groups, engage in informal conversations after class, and form connections and relationships from the very start of their Loyola career.

First-year residential students participating in Messina in 2013-2014 will live in Flannery O'Connor Hall and most Messina seminars will be taught in classrooms located in that residence hall. Commuting students enrolled in Messina will have access to Flannery O'Connor Hall so they can spend more time with their Messina classmates. Students who apply and are invited to enroll in the Honors Program will also live in Flannery O'Connor Hall as part of Messina.

## **How many students will participate in Messina?**

During the 2013-2014 school year, one-third of the incoming first-year class will participate in Messina. At that time, 24-30 Messina Evergreens will participate in the program. In 2014-2015, up to two-thirds of the incoming first-year class will participate in Messina. Finally, in 2015-2016, Loyola's full incoming first-year class will be enrolled in Messina.

## **What (or who) are Messina Evergreens?**

Messina Evergreens will take on the role of student leaders within the First-Year Messina seminar classes. They will guide a group of 16 first-years through the orientation process, and will stay with the same group of 16 students throughout the year to help with the transition to Loyola and to foster community both in and out of the classroom. The Messina Evergreen will participate in and help plan Enrichment hour lessons and events with a Messina faculty member and Messina Administrator. Messina Evergreens are also encouraged to check-in with their assigned first-year students throughout the year, especially within the first month or so of the Fall semester when the most adjustment occurs.

### **Specific Expectations of Messina Evergreens:**

- Assist in the development and facilitation of fall orientation small group activities.
- Plan at least one "student only event" each semester.
- Attend and participate in student leader cluster meetings (includes resident assistants).

### **Estimated Time Commitments**

Attending trainings and cluster/team meetings, planning co-curricular activities and attending interaction hours for one section of 14-17 students. (Estimated 2-4 hours per week for 32 weeks during the school year and some training time prior to the spring semester and before the fall semester begins in August.)

## **How do I apply to become a Messina Evergreen?**

The application process is very similar to the traditional Evergreen application:

- When filling out the Evergreen application, students will check a box indicating their interest in becoming a Messina Evergreen.
- Students will answer an additional question related to Messina themes.
- A representative from the Messina office will be present during the interview process.

## **Additional Questions?**

**Contact Katelin Santhin, Messina Program Coordinator**

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