

Messina Working Group

April/May Meeting - Suggested Agenda

Messina would be happy to buy your working group lunch at the Refectory (or other on-campus eateries) when you meet to discuss Messina collaborations and enrichment sessions. Simply save your receipt and bring it to Sarah Lewis in MH 145 for reimbursement or stop by MH 145 in advance of your lunch meeting to request a lunch voucher memo.

1. **General Introductions** – share some information about yourself including professional, personal and research interests.
2. **Messina** –what possibilities excite you? What do you still need to know?
 - a. For faculty - briefly describe your courses - what are the goals/outcomes? Do first year students typically take this course? How do you imagine the course being taught as a seminar? What readings and assignments do you typically assign?
 - b. For Mentors – Describe your office and your work – what are your day to day responsibilities? How does your office work with first-year students? What is your typical student interaction and work day availability?
 - c. For Evergreens – discuss what activities you have been involved in during high school and while at Loyola that will help you be a resource to first-year students. If you are a returning Evergreen, what were the most rewarding and challenging aspects of working with first-year students?
3. **Messina Themes** – Discuss the theme and begin to brainstorm ideas about how to integrate the seminars and enrichment sessions to enhance the theme. What additional resources do you need from Messina to successfully incorporate this theme into your course, enrichment hours, and activities?
 - a. Each member of the group should share 2-3 topics/activities that you think are important to discuss with students during the first semester of Messina.
4. **Communication** - How does each member of the working group prefer to communicate (in-person meetings, e-mail, etc.)?
 - a. Is there an opportunity to communicate over the summer? If yes, how would be best? In person? Phone call? E-mail?
 - b. Make sure everyone has contact information for other members of the working group.
5. **Expectations** - What are some expectations that you should have of each other?
 - a. Review your expectations in the context of Messina’s expectations for working groups and the Enrichment Session information provided in the Messina binder.
6. **Logistics** – Double check fall enrichment session day and times on WebAdvisor to make sure that everyone will be available to participate. Contact Messina at messina@loyola.edu if a conflict exists – we still have time to make a change before students are enrolled in courses.

Qualities of Faculty, Mentors and Student Leaders that would excel in the collaborative nature of Messina:

- Ability to engage with first-year students in and out of the classroom
- Understanding of Jesuit Mission and Pedagogy
- Understanding of first-year student transition issues
- Demonstrates organization and is able to prepare in advance
- Flexibility
- Demonstrates basic multicultural competencies
- Understanding of group dynamics and working with groups of students
- Well versed in campus resources and referral sources

Messina Learning Outcomes:

Jesuit Mission and Values

- Develop habits of discernment and reflection in the Ignatian tradition.
- Explore and articulate values and principles involved in their personal decision-making.

Critical Understanding

- Develop habits of reading, writing and intellectual conversation that support academic excellence and engagement.
- Demonstrate increased knowledge and use of campus resources that aid critical thinking.

Connections to Loyola Community

- Establish healthy, mutually beneficial and respectful relationships with others including faculty, administrators, staff and peers.
- Demonstrate a sense of belonging to the community at Loyola University both in and out of the classroom.

Integrated Learning

- Integrate multiple sources of knowledge gained through various disciplinary lenses, texts, instruction, out of class experiences and personal reflection to offer a perspective on the interdisciplinary theme of the community.

Fall Semester Enrichment Session Brainstorming Sheet

Time of the Semester	Loyola Activities	Developmental Considerations	Enrichment Session Ideas (bolded ideas indicate some of the most popular sessions over the past 2 years)
The First Six Weeks (Move-In through Family Weekend)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Weekend - Common Text Discussions - Initium Week - Activities Fair - Service Fair - Family Weekend - Class Dean BBQ - Step Up! Bystander Intervention Training for all first-year students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homesickness & Transition - Making Friends - Finding their “niche” & getting involved - Negotiating conflicts (interpersonal, roommates, etc.) - Not feeling a connection to the Baltimore community - Testing boundaries - Overall wellness - Changes to eating and sleep patterns - Orienting to college-level learning (undoing preconceptions) - Understanding the core curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus review - Teambuilding Exercises - Baltimore 101 Module - Fun & Engaging Off-Campus Trip - Values Clarification Module - Goal setting exercises - Conversation based enrichment sessions that set the tone for the rest of the year - Academic Integrity and Introduction to the Academy Modules - How to Write a College Essay - Academic Expectations
The next Six weeks (Mid-terms, Fall Break & Halloween)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare to Register for spring - Withdrawal deadline from classes - The Evergreen Players at McManus Theater - Latino Heritage Month - Mid-Semester Check-In for Messina Groups - Academic Integrity module due before registration - Homecoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finding their “niche” & getting involved - Fitting in (and struggling with how that is defined in Loyola context) - Feeling excluded - Not feeling a connection to the Baltimore community - Negotiating new freedoms in the context of alcohol and other drug use, intimate relationships, and how they spend their time - Feeling like “there is nothing to do on the weekends” - Hesitate to utilize campus resources - Managing academic setbacks and disappointments - Discussion of major and course selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time and Stress Management/Mindfulness Modules - Common Text Events - Course and Theme Enrichment - Library Module - Campus Involvement Discussions - Diversity & Justice Discussions/Understanding Diversity Module - Theme Integration Activity - Communication Styles Module - Academic Integrity Module (if not done earlier) - Enrichment hour on how to do college-level work - Course selection enrichment session
The final Six weeks (Thanksgiving and Finals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election Day - Thanksgiving Break - Leadership and Involvement Fair - Lessons and Carols - Native American History Month - Finals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparing college experiences with friends from home - Not feeling ready for finals - Determining whether or not Loyola is a good fit (retention) - Managing one’s academic aspirations and interests - Looking forward to (or not looking forward to) spending time at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study Skills & Review Sessions - Preview of Second Semester Class and Theme Connections - Reflection Module/ The Examen - Introduction to Service/Civic Engagement - Goal Setting for second semester - Managing Finances - Mindfulness/Stress Management - End of the Semester Celebration

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