

Becoming A Jesuit

By Joey Martino

During my high school years, I didn't do all the research that I should have done while going through the college selection process. I found myself too caught up in having fun in high school. When the time came to start applying, I had no knowledge of what I wanted in a school, or even what a real college campus was like. After going through and applying to schools that I had heard of before, I decided to apply to Loyola. Up until September orientation, I had no idea what it meant to attend a liberal arts school, but I would soon find out that choosing one was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

The core of Loyola consists of seventeen classes in liberal arts, and one diversity requirement. The diversity requirement can be filled in conjunction with a liberal arts requirement. According to Loyola's website, the Loyola core "requires students to take courses in the: Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Natural Sciences" ("Academic Advising and Support"). Using these fields, the core embodies the "Jesuit ideology of 'Cura Personalis,' focuses on development of the whole person and creating well rounded individuals" ("Academic Advising

and Support"). These courses are what shape Loyola into what it is today.

During the start of the first semester, I despised the core. After attending philosophy and art class a couple of times, two classes that would never even cross my mind to take if they were not required, I regretted ever going to a liberal arts school. For the first two weeks, I considered transferring just to escape the core. Something I never would have expected occurred soon after; I started to enjoy philosophy. I came into class, with the same down and dreary attitude, just waiting to get out, but as my professor started the lecture for the day, Plato's theory of forms was written on the board, and for some unknown reason I was intrigued. Class went on and I was pulled into Plato's theory, trying my hardest to follow along with all the complex arguments. Before I knew it class was over, and I was astonished at the fact that I didn't want it to end. Class after class, the information we talked about always captivated me, and I couldn't wait until the next class to hear more. "The Founda-

"The topics of philosophy seem extremely difficult at first, but if you give your all in the class, slowly it will all start coming together."

Paul DeFelice '20



tions of Philosophy" roped me in and I had a new way to look at the things around me. I no longer looked at the world as it is in plain sight. Philosophy had taught me to envision what is behind what we see, what is really there. I finally realized how great the core really is.

The importance of the core can be seen anywhere you look. When you see it in action, you realize just how important it really is. The core of Loyola is what makes this school as special and outstanding as it is. It was crafted by the leaders of Loyola to properly envelope the Jesuit values. Each class we have to take leads us down the path to good values and good morals. More importantly, the core makes each and every student get a taste of many different types of studies. There are countless stories of students coming to Loyola with a major they think they will definitely pursue. As these students follow their path to success, they realize they were wrong. Their intended major turns out to be something they don't like or aren't any good at. In the process of the core, they also stumble upon something they

“I’ve never felt more welcomed than I do at Loyola.”

Aurelia Lundberg ‘20

like. They can then switch majors and get back on track, with nothing but the core to thank for showing innumerable options. In the end, the core helps us truly discover who we are, giving every student the chance to search for what they really want.

In an article written at Creighton University, a fellow Jesuit college, they discuss six key Jesuit values. Two values really stick out that are truly embodied by the core we are required to take. Magis, meaning “more, this is the challenge to strive for excellence” (“Jesuit Values”), and the value of Unity of Heart, Mind, and Soul, which means “developing the whole person and integrating all aspects of our lives” (“Jesuit Values”), are both perfectly personified by the core we have to take. The core, using these Jesuit values, sets us on a path to unite us as a community and to show us many classes and the countless routes we may take our lives.

The Jesuit values we see in the core are identical to the values we hold ourselves to as a community. Loyola University has

adopted the value of *cura personalis*, or “care for the whole person” (“Jesuit Values”), as their chief value. You do not have to stay more than an hour on the campus of Loyola to witness this value at work: as you walk through Boulder you can see many posters hung up on the walls, all based on this value of caring for each and every person. Posters like “We stand together” and “When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty.”

The values we share at Loyola are reflected in our school’s vision statement. On Loyola’s website, Loyola’s vision statement states: “the standards by which we measure achievement will be many: the enrollment of outstanding students; the creation of a diverse and supportive community...” (“History and Mission”). These values and what continues on from there are what you see every day at this school,



On the Quad At Loyola University Maryland

“The Core is definitely nothing to be afraid of.”

Melody Kuzu ‘20

and what are cultivated by the core.

Liberal arts colleges are nationally renowned for the core curriculum that they provide. Any person who is lucky enough to be able to afford a liberal arts college will get a great return on their money. What is this return? A new student who is well rounded, diversified, and ready to take on what is ahead.

"Academic Advising and Support Center." Core Curriculum. Web. 01 Mar. 2017.

"History and Mission." Mission, Vision, and Values - Loyola University Maryland. Web. 18 Feb. 2017.

"Jesuit Values." Creighton.edu. Web. 18 Feb. 2017.

"The Perks of Attending a Liberal Arts College." *USA Today*. Gannett Satellite Information Network, 15 Apr. 2014. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.