

LOYOLA MISSION STATEMENT

"Loyola University Maryland is a Jesuit Catholic university committed to the educational and spiritual traditions of the Society of Jesus and to the ideals of liberal education and the development of the whole person. Accordingly, the University will inspire students to learn, lead, and serve in a diverse and changing world."

JESUIT VALUES

- Magis
- Cura Personalis
- Unity of Heart, Mind & Soul
- Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, or, For the Greater Glory of God
- Forming and educating Agents of change
- Women and Men for or with others



Are you up for the challenge?

By Kelly Pease

Long ago, in early sixteenth century Spain, lived a valiant soldier named Ignatius. He was from a town called Loyola which is why he is referred to as Ignatius of Loyola ("Jesuit"). One day during battle, Ignatius severely hurt his leg. He spent months and months in recovery. In this early, pre-netflix time period, he did not have much to do during his excruciatingly long recovery process. Naturally Ignatius turned to the only thing that was available to pass the time: books. Specifically, religious texts. Ignatius ended up finding a deep appreciation for what he read. So, after his near-death experience, he decided to dedicate his life to God ("Jesuit Order Established."). This is how an injured Spanish soldier became the founder of the well-known Society of Jesus.

The Society of Jesus was founded in 1540 by Ignatius of Loyola ("Jesuit"). Today, through their global work in education, the Jesuits remain a very prominent group in Catholicism. They are founders of many of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the world ("What We Do"). In 1852, three centuries after the Society of Jesus had been established, a group of Jesuit priests decided to start a school in Baltimore, Maryland ("History and Mission"). They took inspiration from Ignatius of Loyola when creating the school and setting up its principles. Hence, Loyola became the name of the University we know and love today. The Jesuits worked diligently to integrate their society's ideals into the University. One way they did this

was through the mission statement:

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This mission statement exemplifies educating the whole person academically as well as spiritually. *Cura Personalis*, or care for the whole person, is a crucial Jesuit value. As a first-year Loyola student, I can promise you, this comes up a lot in discussions. This value focuses on the importance

of mind, body and spirit. A Loyola student puts their mind to the test daily through taking on a challenging core curriculum paired with a major. The body is kept in shape through the use of the Fitness and Aquatic center, the health center, or even the cafeteria. The spirit is nourished through theology classes, weekly masses and service projects depending on how much you are willing to get involved. Loyola's Jesuit ideals push you to grow each day. After going to Catholic schools in the city of Boston my whole life, I knew that there was one thing I would not compromise. I needed a school that would allow me to continue to grow my relationship with God. I wanted to choose a school that had a strong community feel that would support me and encourage me to challenge myself. I knew that this was asking for a lot and I was worried I wouldn't find what I was looking for. Everything changed when I visited Loyola. The beautiful campus near Baltimore was great, but one thing that really drew me to the University were the Jesuit values. I was really struck by the emphasis on education of the mind, body, and spirit. The academic core definitely scared me, but I was up for the challenge.

STUDENT QUOTES

"Reaching outside of my comfort zone has been so rewarding because of the many friends I made through the [ultimate Frisbee] club. My closest friends are on the team and every practice is more fun and entertaining than anything I've ever done before." Alessia Hughes '20

"Loyola's Jesuit Values impact me in a big way; they are the reason I decided to go to this school. I knew I wanted a place that would push me to seek God. I understand that a lot of students don't have a strong faith life, but for me it was important to not only keep it in college, but to help it grow." Katherine Ellis '20

As a freshman I have already seen myself beginning to live out these values in my everyday life. During my first semester, I was a walk on to the crew team. Before this point, I had never done crew in my life. At summer orientation, I was approached by the coach who urged me to try it and I did despite my nerves. This was a great experience because it allowed me to put myself out there. I was challenged mentally by having to learn an entirely new sport on the go. The sport itself challenged me physically which ties in the body. Spiritually I have grown having to rely on God to get me through a crew-related injury. Similarly, many freshman have similar stories of challenging themselves at Loyola. Alessia joined the ultimate frisbee team. She does not regret it stating that "reaching outside of my comfort zone has been so rewarding because of the many friends I made through the club. My closest friends are on the team and every practice is more fun and entertaining than anything I've ever done before" (Hughes '20).

Another Jesuit value that caught my attention is magis. "Magis" translated from Latin means "more" ("What"). One thing that my high school really focused on was pushing yourself out of your comfort zone in order to grow as a person. I think that as a shy person, I need this. The fact that magis was a core Jesuit value means that the curriculum would challenge me to do more, to be more, and to push myself more. This challenge to be greater was really appealing to me. Katherine, a freshman

at Loyola, felt inspired by these values, "Loyola's Jesuit Values impact me in a big way, they are the reason I decided to go to this school. I knew I wanted a place that would push me to seek God. I understand that a lot of students don't have a strong faith life, but for me it was important to not only keep it in college, but to help it grow" (Ellis '20).

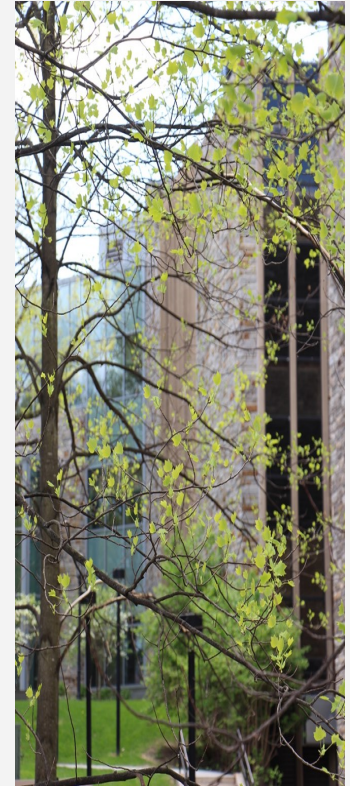
This semester I am also living the magis by volunteering at the Esperanza Center downtown on Tuesday nights. During my time at the center I help teach English to adults who want to learn it as a second language. This is challenging and something I never pictured myself doing, but it is a great opportunity to use my education and free time to help others. I probably would not have come across an experience like this if I had attended another university.

The Jesuit values play a huge role in our everyday life at Loyola. Our school would not be the same without its structure and guidelines. It helps to make our school so rewarding and different. I love the supportive community here at Loyola that is constantly pushing me to move forward. This can be tough, but it is exactly what I wanted out of college.

As I reflect on my first year so far, I definitely have had to overcome some extra challenges that I wasn't expecting. Yet, through an amazing faculty, administration, students, athletics, classes, and programs, Loyola has met, if not exceeded, all of my expectations. Loyola truly delivers. The University's strong

Jesuit values make the Loyola experience very special.

Are you up for the challenge?



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