



A beautiful view from the Humanities porch

"Taking intro classes is a great first step to take in deciding if you actually enjoy a particular area of academic interest."



The Chapel from one of the many study rooms

## You're On The Right Path

By Bella Martoccia

Finding a calling that feels fulfilling, purposeful, a perfect fit is a daunting journey. Coming to college, it can seem that everyone around you has a clear path, an endgame that they are working toward. Someone who grew up saying they want to be a doctor may become one, but more often than not, the path of vocational discernment is nonlinear. Most people are not completely sure what they want to pursue. The process of discovering your calling can make you feel lost and unsure, but this is so normal and can even benefit you in some ways. Being uncertain of what you want to do with your life allows you to be open to so many possibilities; it enables you to step out of your comfort zone to explore your skills and talents and set you up for success. Limiting yourself to what you are comfortable with makes it difficult to find a career that is fulfilling, purposeful, and satisfactory. So many people limit themselves to what is in their comfort zone or what they think will earn them validation from teachers, parents, or peers. It's so important to evaluate your definition of success when deciding on a career path. Don't let the opinions of others make you doubt yourself. You will find so much more success in a career that you're passionate about that may be out of your comfort zone than you will in a career you don't feel inspired and fulfilled by.

### Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

Exploring things outside your comfort zone can be difficult to incorporate in everyday life. Luckily, many Jesuit universities like Loyola highlight the importance of "Cura Personalis" which is Latin for "care of the whole person." This caring of the whole person helps students to become well-rounded individuals. The core curriculum at Loyola pushes students to take a variety of classes and discover new interests to promote a well-rounded education.

Extensive [core curriculum](#) classes can seem unnecessary, and you may not initially be enthusiastic about them. But look at it as an opportunity to discover new skills and talents you may have. Even if you take a political science class and end up hating it, you still walk away with a better understanding of politics. You may become more confident in your own political opinions, or have them completely challenged and changed. Either way you develop skills like critical thinking that are essential in the real world for all career paths. Many people come to college with a general idea of the field they want to study. Taking intro classes is a great first step to take in deciding if you actually enjoy a particular area of academic interest.



Humanities: my favorite place on campus

---

## The Career Center

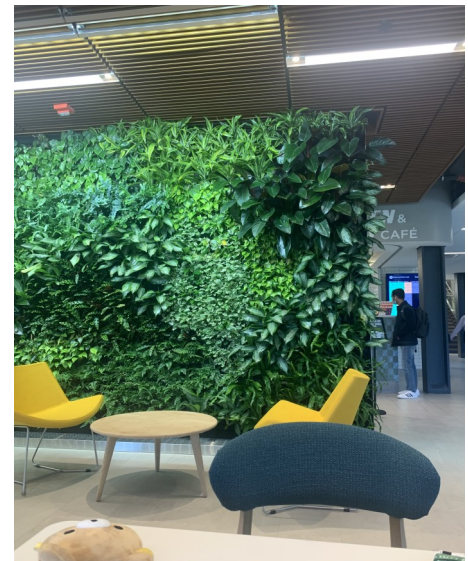
[The Career Center](#) is an amazing resource for all Loyola students, not just those who are undecided. Rachel Bachman, Assistant Director for Career Discovery, shared some insight on the specifics of how The Career Center can be “helpful to people from both ends of the scale: those who know exactly what they want to do, or those who have no idea what they want to do.” She explained how The Career Center goes about helping all students no matter where they are in their path of vocational discernment:

“A one-size fits all approach doesn't work for everyone, which is why [they] use [a] four phased approach to meet individual student needs. The Career Center has two teams, one focused on career readiness (discovery and exploration) and one focused on partnerships & recruiting (pursue and prepare) so there are experts on all aspects of career development here to help. We can provide assessments, counseling, and reflection activities to anyone who is deciding what careers might be a good fit. For those who have a goal in mind, we can help you achieve it by marketing yourself effectively, connecting with employers and alumni, and becoming a professional.”

## You Are Not Alone

Your time as a first-year can be overwhelming and scary at times. But remember you are never alone. Our tight-knit community at Loyola ensures that you will always have the support you need. Reach out to the reliable support system that is all around you from friends, professors, [The Counseling Center](#), The Career Center. I can promise you that at Loyola everyone wants to see you succeed and will help make sure you have everything you need to flourish and be the best version of yourself. I wish you the best and hope you are excited to explore, learn and grow throughout this first year.

Check out the Career Center's website to learn about resources like [HandShake and Loyola Connect](#). You'll also find a link to show you “[career options by major](#).”



Green and Grey Café is a great place to hang out with new friends.

---

