

The Mission

By Ternell Rogers

Welcome to Loyola University Maryland! You have probably heard this a ton and this statement may have gotten numbing to you. Loyola seeks out students who can use their talents to better their community and the campus. Students like you!

I would like to give you a brief introduction to the personal development (*cura personalis*) part of the mission statement of the university and how this will shape your tenure at Loyola:



The Quad with a statue of St. Ignatius

“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.” (The Mission)

Development of the whole person (*cura personalis*) is an essential part of Loyola's mission: as a Baltimore native living in an impoverished redlined community, I, without hesitation, will say that the development of the whole person is one of the most essential skills of life. Personal development is the kindling to any great change. It's strange seeing so much talent in my community getting wasted by a lack of leadership, health, or even heart. Loyola's goal to develop the whole person seeks to make you a better leader, a healthier person, and a more courageous person.

How so?

A Better Leader

- Loyola's classes are built to help you retain and apply information to life. Elijah Brown, a Loyola student, praised their writing teacher saying, “The teacher helps students to develop their writing styles.” This teacher offered insight into

professional writing techniques that would benefit their students beyond Loyola. Teachers at Loyola want to give you relevant information that you can apply to life and the workforce. With the example given, we see a teacher looking to develop students into strong writers. Teachers want to develop your skills so you can use them in the field of leadership. You could pass by any marketing major at Loyola and they would give you a list on how marketing and finance works. Furthermore you could speak to any theology major in the theology department and learn mountainous amounts of information about what they are studying in a simple conversation. Being more informed about a topic will make you a better qualified leader, because competence leads to confidence and confidence is one of the driving factors of being a great leader. You do not have to look far to see great student leaders. SGA is composed of students who want to make a difference for students on and off campus.

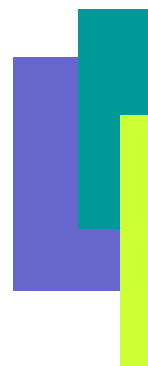


One of my study spots in the library. It overlooks the incredible manmade waterfall we have here.

A Healthier Person

- Dr. Hastings, one of the highly acclaimed chemistry professors at Loyola, praised Loyola's diverse culture, "Loyola has a culture where balance and *cura personalis* is good." This quote shows the value Loyola has developing the mind, body, and soul of its students by having resources that students can use to better themselves. Loyola has many peaceful places to study alone, many places to hang out with friends, places to work out, and places to practice your religious beliefs. These are a great way to ensure that your mind, body, and even soul stay healthy during the school year. One of my favorite spots on campus has to be the bottom floor of the Loyola - Notre Dame Library. This spot provides a peaceful and quiet environment where I can decompress from my classes and vigilantly study.

Maintaining and increasing your physical health is a vital goal for Loyola as well. Loyola offers many sporting clubs, the gym, and even different recreational sports like swimming. By keeping yourself



healthy, you have both the energy and physical ability to create change around you. Loyola also offers many opportunities to develop spiritually, with campus ministry, choir, retreats and much more!

A More Courageous Person

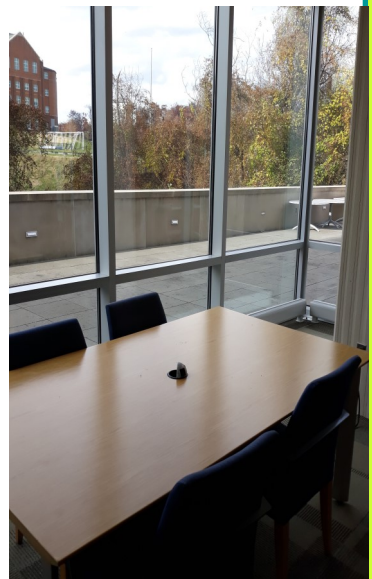
- Because of the class structure of many Loyola classrooms you are often encouraged to participate – to share the knowledge you have acquired. This requires courage, a valuable skill in the job world after college. Loyola's diverse offerings of leadership opportunities hope to create a more courageous person in you, propelling you from your comfort zone to create a bolder and more confident person in yourself.

With the greatest sincerity - Loyola offers a spectrum of opportunities to develop you as a leader, a healthy person, and a courageous person. Dr. Hastings (also a foodie) perfectly summarizes these points by saying, "It's a buffet, everyone chooses what they get on their plate," when describing the diverse options that each Loyola student has to develop themselves.

As you go through your time at Loyola University Maryland, I hope you remember the beauty of the holistic development that Loyola strives to provide for you, the beauty of your classes, Loyola, and taking care of yourself. This holistic approach to your self-development will ensure that you are highly qualified for any path that you take after your academic journey at Loyola and that you are highly capable of creating great change for the better in your local community, state, nation, or even the world.



Comfy chairs and a great environment make for amazing studying at the Loyola library.



This view oversees the balcony at the Loyola library, offering a tranquil study spot.