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Core Reengagement Workshops

The Core's overarching goal this academic year has been to engage instructors who deliver elements of the Core in a more nuanced awareness of how the parts fit together to create a unified curricular experience for our undergraduate students. This fall, the Core has hosted five Core Reengagement Workshops in October and November.

These interactive Core Reengagement workshops have brought together over eighty faculty and staff members from across colleges, schools, and campuses to discuss how each part of the Core fits together to form a student's whole Core experience. In these workshops, each attendee represented a distinct area of the Core in which they teach, around tables in which they collectively embodied a student's entire Core curriculum experience.

After drawing connections between all Core components, each table collaborated on their own distinct statement describing how SLU's Core uniquely prepares students for their life after SLU. The statements demonstrate the myriad ways our SLU community conceptualizes the Core. Multiple teams affirmed that the Core helps students reflect on who they are and how they might engage with the world of ideas and with the communities around them. One statement generated at these workshops reads, "We teach our students what to do and how to do it while also asking why it's worth doing and who it affects. Students learn how to think through problems and how to solve them using interdisciplinary knowledge." Another statement defined the Core's approach to education as "a personal foundation that teaches students to think about the world, where they are in the world, and how to

live." Two teams also crafted their own taglines for our Core: "Learning and Context Matter" and "Confident and Connected in Community." Overall, these fall workshops provided opportunities for the SLU community to come together and reflect on how and why we are educating our undergraduate students.

The Core plans additional workshops in the Spring semester. Look for more information about these workshops in the near future!

Core Assessment



Infusing Experiential Learning with Ignatian Principles-Fr. Brian Christopher

Faculty and staff from across SLU came together on October 23, 2024 to attend a lecture and discussion with Fr. Brian Christopher, S.J., alum of SLU and current Superior of the Jesuit Community in Belize. With years of experience working in disadvantaged and marginalized communities, Fr. Brian drew on his own community engagement experiences while an undergraduate at SLU to offer insights into how we at SLU can best prepare our students to encounter the "gritty reality" of the world and learn from their engagement beyond campus.

Fr. Brian began his talk by encouraging SLU faculty and staff to invite students to

"uncover their blind spots in order to live with open eyes and open hearts, which may help them to grow to love our entire broken world." He also encouraged instructors to invite students into solidarity and accompaniment with the people around them. Through this accompaniment, students should be invited into lifelong learning rooted in curiosity about the world and people around them. And above all, students should be invited into hope, as they are not alone and moments of growth are also moments of learning.

By engaging outside of campus, all SLU students are invited to embody Ignatian principles of reflection and acting for and with others. This value is reflected in the Core's ninth learning outcome: All SLU graduates will apply and acquire knowledge through engagement beyond the University. This year, the Core is assessing student achievement of this learning outcome. If you are interested in working with the Core on SLO 9 Assessment, please contact Dr. Bobby Wassel, Associate Director of the Core for Cura Personalis and Reflection in Action, at bobby.wassel@slu.edu.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines



Ignite Seminar Proposals Needed!

This October, students at SLU-Madrid had the opportunity to attend "Insectalia," a food tasting event hosted by a Spanish-based insect farm as part of their Ignite Seminar course. Over fifty students sampled chocolate crickets, crispy meal worms, and chips made from insect flour. Tastes were expanded and minds were changed!

Do you have an idea for Ignite? The Core invites any full-time faculty or staff with a terminal degree in their field to submit an Ignite Seminar proposal for Fall 2025. You can find more information and submission guidelines on the Ignite Seminar page of our [Core Instructor Resources site](#).

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Collaborative Inquiry Coffee
9:00 am-10:00 am, Verhaegen Hall 213

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Ignite Instructor of the Year Award
Ceremony
4:30pm-6:00 pm, Cupples House

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Ignite Brown Bag
12:00 pm-1:00 pm, Verhaegen Hall 213

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Writing Intensive Workshop "Orientation,"
9:00 am -11:00 am via Zoom ([Register here](#))

[View email in browser](#)

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