

Introducing *The Loyola Way*: Loyola University Chicago's Distinct Framework for Integrating Ignatian Values and Inclusive Excellence

By Bridget Colacchio, Jessica Mansbach, and Justin Wright

To better meet the needs of faculty and students in today's world, [the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy at Loyola University Chicago](#) has arrived at an integrated pedagogical approach that amplifies interpersonal and societal humanization and justice: *The Loyola Way*. Rethinking our approach to teaching and learning has helped us respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by current sociopolitical factors, such as ongoing racial injustices, the COVID-19 global health pandemic, global conflict, and challenges to student and instructor well-being. *The Loyola Way* is a unique combination of three pedagogical approaches: [Ignatian pedagogy](#), [anti-oppressive pedagogy](#), and [student-centered teaching](#). As illustrated in the figure below, these approaches combine to create a pedagogy distinguished by a focus on humanization and social justice. The five core components of *The Loyola Way* are:

- Critical reflection: consistently engaging in contemplative practices to improve one's praxis
- Responsiveness: acknowledging, celebrating, and serving the uniqueness of each individual
- Inclusion: inviting students into the co-creation of their educational experience
- Flexible accessibility: removing barriers to learning and differentiating instruction based on each student's needs and strengths
- Transformation: growth and development through a dynamic, mutual exchange between educators and learners.



The Loyola Way blends three dynamic pedagogical approaches into a humanizing and socially just framework grounded in Jesuit values.

After a thorough review of the literature about Ignatian Pedagogy, anti-oppressive pedagogy, and student-centered design, FCIP received feedback about *The Loyola Way* from colleagues from across campus. In an iterative and reflective process done in partnership with these colleagues, FCIP fine-tuned our description of this approach and its components. In a paper under review with the [Journal of Jesuit Higher Education](#). In this paper, we introduce *The Loyola Way* by briefly describing the contributing pedagogies, sharing the methods employed to develop this humanizing and socially just approach, and articulating the five core components. We conclude with a discussion of areas for future research and application.