



News From the Core

November 2025

Core Happenings: Core Student Workshop at SLU-Madrid



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This academic year, the Core continues to center its focus on engaging our undergraduate students in conversations that foster developing a more holistic understanding of the Core. In October, we extended those efforts to the SLU-Madrid campus by offering two Core student workshops in addition to the two we are offering this fall on the St. Louis campus.

These workshops, entitled "Get It Together! Your Core Experience and Holistic Jesuit Education," have brought together students from diverse years, majors, and experiences to discuss how each Core requirement fits together to form a holistic and unique Core experience. Students are invited to identify a distinct area of the Core to which they felt particularly connected, and then in teams, to educate each other on their respective Core areas while listening for connections and common themes. The teams then use these connections to create an image of the Core that represents their answer to the question "*How does SLU's Core uniquely prepare students for their next steps beyond the University?*." These images are then presented to the larger group.

From the SLU-Madrid images of the Core emerged common themes: exploration, reflection, collaboration, orientation towards growth, and being "ready for life." SLU-Madrid students emphasized how SLU's Core brings together students from very diverse backgrounds to embark on a journey of discovery and growth facilitated through reflection. As one group put it, "SLU's Core has taught us that it's important to understand our differences and work together so we can collectively rise."

The Core will host one final fall student workshop in St. Louis before Thanksgiving and will continue the workshop series again in the spring.

Interested in Partnering on a Core Workshop?

**In the Core Classroom @
SLU St. Louis and Madrid**



Howl at the Powell

Students in Maddie Schurman's *Cura Personalis* 1 class headed to Powell Symphony Hall in mid-October to get into the Halloween spirit at the *Howl at Powell* concert. All CP1 courses include an off-campus excursion, and Schurman's class overwhelmingly voted to go to this family-friendly concert filled with "playful melodies, ghostly tunes and fun surprises." The students absolutely loved it!



Five Monuments to Social Justice

Cities are full of monuments that people pass every day but rarely look at and even more rarely stop to think what they represent. Through the Five Monuments experience, which counts for Reflection in Action and *Cura Personalis* 2, groups of students go out into Madrid and visit 5 monuments that are related to social justice. At each monument, they interview passers by to see if they have noticed them or know what they represent. They then present their findings, reflect on what they have learned, and draw parallels with monuments or historical events from their own hometowns. One student noted, "I have passed by these places so many times over the last few years without noticing them at all but now I do!"



The Clothesline Project

This fall, students in Professor Alesha Durfee's WGST 3800: Violence Against Women course hosted the Clothesline Project outside of the CGC. This student-led event was an



UCC. This student-led event was an arts-based installation with tabling that aimed to educate the SLU Community about domestic and sexual violence, as well as provide resources to people impacted by violence. This course, which counts for both Collaborative Inquiry and Dignity, Ethics, and a Just Society, invites students to wrestle collaboratively with the question, "What is violence against women, and how do we eradicate it?"

Core Assessment: 7 of 9 Student Learning Outcomes Now Being Assessed

The University Undergraduate Core regularly assesses its nine graduation-level student learning outcomes. Core assessment is undertaken by the University Undergraduate Core Committee (UCCC) in partnership with SLU's Office of University Assessment. As of the 2025-26 academic year, the

assessment process has begun for seven of the nine Core graduation-level student learning outcomes (SLOs).

The first year of SLO assessment begins in the UUCC subcommittees with the development, piloting, and application of a rubric to measure how well student work demonstrates their achievement of Core graduation-level outcome(s). In the second year, data collected from assessment are compiled, analyzed, and summarized in an assessment report that outlines the process and recommended curricular and pedagogical changes emerging from the data. Years three and four then focus on "closing the assessment loop" via conversations and workshops in partnership with the Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. These conversations and workshops are designed to raise awareness of the recommendations that emerged from assessment and to offer ongoing faculty professional development.

This year, the Theological and Philosophical Foundations subcommittee continues to close the loop on SLO 1 assessment, which is currently in its fourth year, through ongoing conversations and assignment design workshops for faculty teaching Ultimate Questions courses. The Eloquentia Perfecta and Equity and Global Identity subcommittees are also closing loop in their third year of assessment through assignment design and community-building workshops for instructors who teach Cura Personalis 3 (SLO 4) and Global Interdependence (SLO 6). The subcommittees overseeing SLO 2 and SLO 9 are currently working in year two on data analysis and creating a series of recommendations to present to the UUCC in early spring. The Core has also begun development of rubrics to initiate the assessment of SLOs 3 and 5. Next year, the Core will begin assessing the last two graduation-level learning outcomes: SLO 7 and SLO 8.

[Find Out More About Core Assessment Here](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

November 11

Core Instructor Reengagement Workshop

Postponed until spring; more information to come!

November 20

Core Student Workshop with SGA, 3:30 - 5:00 pm
BSC 251A

December 2

Ignite Instructor of the Year Award Ceremony

January 13

Priority deadline for new Ignite Seminar proposals for
AY26-27, [Ignite Proposal link here](#)

Full List of Core Events



Questions? Email core@slu.edu

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