



News From the Core

September 2025



**In the Core Classroom:
Cura Personalis 3 in the Humanities**

Jesuit education is built on the principle of *cura personalis*—care for the whole person—and this value is woven into SLU’s Undergraduate Core through a three-part sequence of courses and experiences. These courses/experiences invite students to pause, reflect, and consider how best to care for themselves and others—both during their time at SLU and as they prepare for life beyond graduation. The final course in the sequence, *Cura Personalis: Self in the World* (CP3), challenges students to answer the question: “How does SLU’s Core uniquely prepare me for my next steps beyond the university?” While CP3 emphasizes career-readiness skills such as résumé building and mock interviews, it also provides space for deeper reflection on who students feel they have become and who they aspire to be.

Although most CP3 courses are taught as general sections open to students from any major, five departments within the College of Arts and Sciences—English; History; Linguistics, Literature, and Cultures; Philosophy; and Theological Studies—have collaborated to create a CP3 specifically for Humanities majors. Spearheaded by Dr. Torrie Hester, Associate Professor of History, *Your Humanities Degree at Work* will allow students majoring in the Humanities to explore career preparedness through dialogue with other Humanities majors. This version of CP3 retains core elements from general sections—students still craft résumés, attend the Career Fair, and take stock of their strengths and skills. However, this course helps students translate the theoretical and critical approaches central to the Humanities into practical skills for the workplace.

“This course will not only help prepare Humanities majors for job X, Y, or Z,” noted Dr. Hester, “but will also prepare them to be flexible, thoughtful people in the world—individuals who care about details, ethics, and why things matter. This course aims to lift students up with purpose.” The course launches in Spring 2026 and will be first taught by Dr. Kayla Dang, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies

[Learn More About CP3](#)

Undergraduate Core Fellows 2025-26



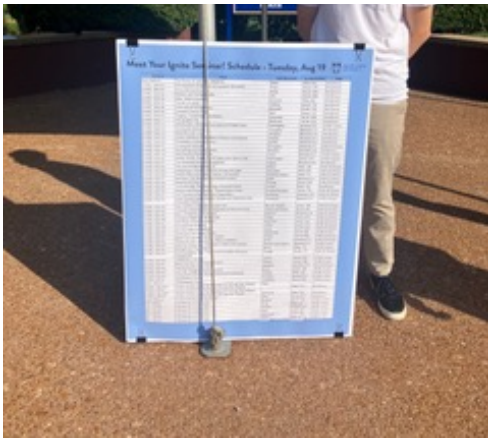


This fall, the Core welcomes six new undergraduates as Core Fellows who will join our two returning Fellows to create a dynamic team of eight. These six Fellows, chosen from a pool of over 70 applications and a rigorous interview process, will work closely with the Director, Assistant Director, and Associate Directors of the Core to offer their unique experiential insights into the undergraduate general education experience. Core Fellows are deeply committed to undergraduate education and play a vital role in ensuring that SLU students experience the Core in transformative ways—both now and in the future. Past Core Fellows have highlighted how much they value this unique opportunity to gain direct experience with curriculum development and assessment while strengthening their communication and leadership skills.

This year's Undergraduate Core Fellows are, from left to right, Bella Gustafson (*Eloquentia Perfecta*: Oral and Visual Communication and Creative Expression); Amanda Kovathana (*Eloquentia Perfecta*: Written and Visual Communication); Youngji Cho (Theological and Philosophical Foundations); Ella Osenga (Ignite Seminar); Megan Hughes (Collaborative Inquiry); Ellen Nguyen (*Cura Personalis* and Reflection in Action); Lear Rose (Ways of Thinking); and Hannah Goodwin (Equity and Global Identities).

[Learn More About Our Core Fellows](#)

**Semester Kick-Off:
Ignite Meet and Greet**



What do bumper chairs, speed dating, and scavenger hunts have in common? These are all icebreakers used to get first-year students talking to each other at this year's "Meet Your Ignite Seminar" Fall Welcome event. Hosted by the Core and SLU's Student Involvement Center, these "Meet Your Ignite" sessions are designed to build community before the first day of classes and help to officially kick off the semester for SLU's newest students.

A central goal of the Ignite Seminar is fostering community and belonging—both key factors linked to student retention. Ignite is one of the first places where students begin to find community, and Ignite instructors play a vital role in helping them find both purpose and people at SLU. Over the course of two hours, more than 80 30-minute sessions gave incoming freshmen and transfer students a chance to learn names and faces and start building connections. These pre-semester meetings helped this year's incoming students feel more comfortable on their first day of classes.

[Learn More About Ignite](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

September 16

Core Brown Bag, 11:45 - 1:00 pm
Verhaegen Hall, Room 219
"Balancing Flexibility and Accountability"

September 30

Core Student Reengagement Workshop
4:00 - 5:30 pm, Busch Student Center, Room 352

October 21

Core Brown Bag, 11:45 - 1:00 pm
Verhaegen Hall, Room 219

"Engaging Undergraduate Students"

November 4

Priority deadline to submit a Core course to be included in AY26-27 catalog

November 10

Core Coffee, 8:30 - 9:30 am
Pere Marquette, DuBourg Hall, Room 240
"Assessing Students in the Age of AI"

November 11

Core Instructor Reengagement Workshop
3:30 - 5:00 pm, [Register Here](#)

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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