

Saint Louis University Core Curriculum

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the University Core! We hope that you had a restful and rejuvenating summer and are feeling energized as we all return to campus. As the Core begins its second year, we are excited to report that we now have nearly 5,000 students on the new Core between our St. Louis and Madrid campuses. Over 500 individual courses, together satisfying more than 1500 distinct Core requirements, have been reviewed and approved for the University Core as of April 2023. This year, we continue our assessment of student learning, focusing on assessing two of our [nine graduation-level University Core Student Learning Outcomes](#): SLO 4: Effective Communication and SLO 6: Recognizing Global Interdependence.

We are writing today to provide you with several announcements and important deadlines as we begin the fall term.

SLU's First-Year Experience

The Core's First-Year Experience consists of both the Ignite Seminar (Core 1000) and Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community (CORE 1500). This fall, over 80 sections of Cura Personalis 1 are up and running in St. Louis and Madrid, and we are likewise teaching over 80 unique topics under the banner of CORE 1000: Ignite Seminar.

- **Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community:** Sections of this one-credit-hour introduction to SLU can be taught by both faculty and staff members and can be tailored to specific student populations and/or linked to other academic or experiential programs.
- **Ignite First Year Seminar:** These small, discussion-based classes designed around a faculty member's passion for their particular arena of scholarly and civic commitment. Topics are approved for two years at a time in order to ensure that new faculty members are able to join in each year. However, after an instructor's two years are up, they are free to indicate interest in continuing to offer their seminar or to design a new seminar topic.

To propose an IGNITE seminar, [click here](#) (deadline October 16, 2023 for 24-25 and 25-26). To learn more about teaching opportunities in either the Ignite Seminar or the Core's Cura Personalis sequence, email core@slu.edu.

Collaborative Inquiry Courses

The Core's Collaborative Inquiry requirement gives all upper-level students an opportunity to integrate and collaborate. In seminars that explore complex questions without straightforward answers, students work with their peers to apply concepts, methodologies, and ways of thinking

learned in earlier Core and other coursework to find multidimensional approaches to contemporary societal problems or enduring questions. Working together in teams, students share their acquired knowledge and experiences to explore and develop a solution to their problem/question through their own disciplinary lens. The role of the faculty member is to facilitate discussion and encourage students to lean into expertise cultivated in their own majors to practice the skills of multidisciplinary collaboration.

Collaborative Inquiry courses can be designed as entirely new courses or a current course reimagined for a group of students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. The Core is actively soliciting courses to be reviewed and approved for Collaborative Inquiry, and we are happy to meet with departments, programs, and individual faculty who are interested in learning more about and/or proposing course(s) for Collaborative Inquiry. Email us core@slu.edu.

Syllabus Requirements

Making students aware of how their Core courses connect to each other and to SLU's Core learning outcomes is critical to student success. If you are teaching a course that fulfills requirements for SLU's University Core, please refer to the [Core Instructor Resources](#) page to access and adopt into your Fall 2023 syllabus the required Core syllabus materials, including University Core student learning outcomes, before the fall semester begins.

Submission Deadlines for Core Courses and Experiences

The University Undergraduate Core Committee continues to solicit and review new courses and experiences for inclusion in the Core. Click [here](#) to review all approved Core courses and experiences published in the catalog to date. Please let us know if you see any errors or need for revision.

- **Monday, October 16th:** Deadline for SP24 and AY24-25 Ignite seminar topics to the [IGNITE seminar portal](#). Decisions are made and communicated to faculty and department / program chairs before the end of the Fall 2023 semester.
- **Monday, October 16th:** Priority Deadline for inclusion in AY 24-25 Catalog. Courses submitted to the UUCC through [CIM-Courses](#) by this date will have ample time to be reviewed, revised if necessary, and ratified by the UUCC in time to appear in the 24-25 academic catalog. After October 16, the UUCC will continue to review course submissions on a rolling basis through the remainder of the academic year. Courses submitted after October 16th will be reviewed and, whenever possible, approved for the 24-25 catalog.
- **Rolling Submissions of Core Experiences:** Submissions for non-credit bearing Core experience requirements—Cura Personalis 2 and Reflection-in-Action—that are not attached to credit-bearing courses are reviewed by the Cura Personalis subcommittee on a rolling basis.
 - [Click here to submit a Cura Personalis 2 experience](#)
 - [Click here to submit a Reflection-in-Action experience](#)

Core Newsletters Launching

This year we are launching monthly Core newsletters to provide regular communications from the University Core beginning in September. If you have taught a course/experience approved for the

Core and have an idea to share or a story to tell, we want to hear from you! Email us at core@slu.edu.

Wishing you a successful start to the Fall 2023 semester and a fulfilling academic year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ellen Crowell
Director of the University Core

Dr. Liz Burke
Assistant Director of the University Core