

## **Jesuit Values Essay**

Regis University is founded on the Jesuit principles and values. As a Regis student you will explore these principles throughout your courses and engage in community service work with the goal of applying the Jesuit values to your studies, work, and life. To better understand your growth relative to Jesuit values and application of the values to your work and life you will complete a pre and post essay. The initial essay and final essay will be assessed upon the rubric provided in this packet.

**Initial Jesuit Values Essay prompt and assignment:** Research the History of the Jesuit Values and write a 2-3 page essay on how the Jesuit Values apply to your life. Address the following:

- 1) As you prepare to become a teacher through the Regis University Teacher preparation program how do you plan to apply the Jesuit Values in your:**
  - a) courses
  - b) service work
  - c) student teaching
- 2) How do you hope to apply the Jesuit Values in your life/profession?**

Upload your essay to TaskStream for approval. Your essay will be approved by a Teacher Education faculty member via Taskstream.

**Final Jesuit Values Essay prompt and assignment:** Research the History of the Jesuit Values, review your initial Jesuit Values Essay, and your coursework related to the Jesuit Values. Within EDEL 461, you will write a 2-3 page essay on how the Jesuit Values apply to your life and address the following:

- 1) As you prepare to complete the Regis University Teacher preparation program, how did/will you apply the Jesuit Values in your:**
  - a) courses
  - b) service work
  - c) student teaching
- 2) Based on your service work and assignments related to the Jesuit Values, how will you apply the Jesuit Values in your life/profession?**

Upload your final essay to Taskstream for approval. Your essay will be approved/graded by a Teacher Education faculty member, along with a rubric, via Taskstream.

To get you started on your research a brief history of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus and the Jesuits follows along with an overview of the Jesuit Values is included below:

### **Ignatius of Loyola - Life and Legend**



#### **Ignatius of Loyola – Life and Legend**

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) was born the youngest of thirteen children from a Basque family in Northern Spain. In youth he served Ferdinand and Isabella as a courtier and later entered the army as a gallant warrior eager to defend Spanish territory. During a fierce battle against the French soldiers at Pamplona he was struck by a canon ball that shattered the bones in his lower leg. Ignatius's life was spared by his enemy, and out of military honor was carried by stretcher back to Loyola where he spent nearly nine months in convalescence.

To pacify boredom often encountered during the extended period of recuperation Ignatius was provided copies of the only two books his sister-in-law had in her possession. One was the life of Christ and a second on lives of the Saints. Ignatius took great interest in the stories he read and his thoughts soon transitioned from previous desires for novels on romance and acts of chivalry to more encouraging dreams of emulating Christ in daily life.



Upon recovery, Ignatius embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where he experienced a profound spiritual conversion that would forever change his life. The next several years were spent in deep meditation and writing about his reflections on God and relationships. His personal journal and contemplations would eventually become published into a small book entitled, *The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius*.

At the age of 33 Ignatius decided to acquire a formal education, and attended schools in Barcelona, Alcalá, and Salamanca. His studies culminated in a Master of Arts degree awarded from the University of Paris. While in Paris, Ignatius banded with six like companions including Peter Faber and Francis Xavier who, by collaborating in spiritual communion, sought papal approval to form a new religious order. They titled themselves the Society of Jesus, and in 1540 received official recognition to serve the Church and humanity from Pope Paul III.

Ignatius spent the remaining sixteen years of his life serving as Superior General and writing the Constitutions for the Society. He died in 1556, but not without sharing beforehand a personal account of his life at the request of a friend; a story that later became published as his autobiography. Ignatius was canonized in 1622 by Pope Pius XI, and his remains are enshrined in a small church in Rome known as the Gesu. Since its founding, the Society of Jesus has embarked on numerous missions of international service.

In addition, Jesuits have become highly regarded for their astute ability to create, organize, and successfully operate one of the most elaborate systems of education found throughout the world. Today there are over 200 Jesuit institutions of higher-learning including 28-Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States alone.



Regis University's Jesuit education provides an opportunity to explore the question "How ought we to live?" through service learning, academic excellence and spiritual development. Your college experience will challenge you to be more, do more and learn more. Through the cultivation of leadership in service to others, you will be engaged in an academic environment that calls you to strive for excellence and seek God in all things.

Regis University has adopted the following Jesuit values as part of its culture:

# Key Values in Jesuit Higher Education

## CURA PERSONALIS

Latin phrase meaning "care for the person," Cura Personalis is having concern and care for the personal development of the whole person. This implies a dedication to promoting human dignity and care for the mind, body and spirit of the person.

## MAGIS

Latin meaning the "more," Magis embodies the act of discerning the best choice in a given situation to better glorify or serve God. Magis does NOT mean to always do or give "more" to the point of exhaustion. Magis is the value of striving for the better, striving for excellence.

## MEN AND WOMEN FOR AND WITH OTHERS

This value embodies a spirit of giving and providing service to those in need and standing with the poor and marginalized. We are encouraged to pursue justice on behalf of all persons.

## UNITY OF MIND AND HEART

Our hearts and minds are not divided; they are congruent when the whole person is educated and engaged.

## CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION

Although we are thoughtful and philosophical, we do not merely think about social problems, we take action to address them. Developing the habit of reflection centers and strengthens one's spiritual life and guides our actions.

## FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

This may be the one phrase that sums up Ignatian Spirituality. It invites a person to search for and find God in every circumstance of life; God is present everywhere and can be found in all of creation.