



Loyola University Chicago's Participation in Pope Francis' LSAP/7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology

7.26.22

Loyola University Chicago (LUC) committed to participate in Pope Francis' LSAP/7-Year Journey on October 18, 2021. At that time, the university was developing its new Strategic Plan and participation in the *Journey* was a wonderful way to highlight Value 6 of the Plan: Care for Our World. A small committee began an inventory of sustainability programs and practices at LUC that already manifested commitment to various of the 7 *Journey* Goals. These activities number in the hundreds, so the best way to get a glimpse of sustainability efforts at LUC is to visit: [Sustainability at Loyola Overview | School of Environmental Sustainability: Loyola University Chicago \(luc.edu\)](#). A first step was to see what current LUC practices already further one or more of the *Journey* Goals. A rudimentary chart was created (shown at the end of this document) showing the connections between the Laudato Si *Journey* Goals and the LUC Strategic Plan. When students and faculty return after the 2022 summer break, a larger committee will be formed to carry this work forward and create a *Laudato Si* Plan for the university by Spring, 2023.

The values and priorities of the Strategic Plan are given below. At the end of the Plan, a chart shows early thoughts that went into a quick inventory of university practices and topics within which to consider future actions.

Loyola University Strategic Plan 2022 Values and Priorities

Value 1

Care for the Whole Person

Cura Personalis is a hallmark of Ignatian spirituality that urges us to care for the entire person. At Loyola, we commit to giving people the individual attention needed to make their moments with us memorable. We respect that every student, and every member of

our faculty and staff, comes to our shared work as a whole person, contributing to our community, and being nurtured by it. We will help Ramblers become their best selves and will strengthen connections across our institution to foster a sense of belonging and affinity for all.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Promote an environment of inclusive excellence where diversity, equity, and inclusion are further reinforced to foster a culture of respect for all and the cultivation of positive relationships with one another.

Priority 2

Enhance our Jesuit identity and prepare students for all life and career pursuits by nurturing the Ignatian skills of service, discernment, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and ethical and socially responsible leadership.

Priority 3

Recruit, engage, retain, and support students to help them achieve success academically and in their lives after graduation through agile and exceptional learning experiences, academic support, and career development.

Value 2

Extraordinary Academics & Research

We are called to transform lives through our teaching, learning, and research. We will pursue educational innovations and leverage the Ignatian traditions to make education accessible to all and enhance the success of our student body. We will lead research and scholarship that intentionally aligns with our mission, promotes racial justice, and addresses other complex societal challenges.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Prioritize the recruiting, hiring, and retaining of diverse faculty and staff educators to enhance teaching, learning, and research, as an integral step to transforming our culture to be more equitable and inclusive.

Priority 2

Work across campuses as One Loyola to incentivize leadership in interdisciplinary and innovative education and research to address new challenges and opportunities presented by contemporary issues.

Priority 3

Promote the culture of research by increasing research support infrastructure to enable faculty and students in the pursuit and dissemination of new and translational knowledge.

Value 3
Community-Centered Engagement

A community thrives when the individuals who inhabit it thrive too. It is our responsibility to give back by using our resources and partnerships for the greater good of our neighborhoods.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Align our strengths and activities in education, research, scholarship, service, and action with community priorities.

Priority 2

Leverage the University's position, resources, and strengths towards decreasing community inequities in areas such as economic growth, health, and housing.

Priority 3

Enhance partnerships with schools, faith communities, government, non-profits, local businesses, and other private partners to support the shared goals of our communities.

Value 4
Global Connections & Partnerships

We are called to expand knowledge in service to humanity. We will solidify the University’s position as a leader in global education, providing Ramblers with the tools needed to engage others around the world, while also bringing international students, faculty, and staff to Loyola to learn from. Our students will develop global empathy and multicultural competence through experiences both at home and abroad. We will expand our international connections and partnerships to develop solutions to urgent global challenges.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Increase students’ access to dynamic, multicultural experiential-learning, and research opportunities both locally and abroad, including through innovative partnerships with the global Jesuit consortia in the International Association of Jesuit Universities.

Priority 2

Promote international connections to enhance teaching and research by faculty and staff educators to advance innovative solutions to global challenges.

Priority 3

Strengthen the culture and infrastructure to support international students and scholars on campus.

Value 5
Operational Excellence

We are called to ensure that Loyola remains strong and resilient for future generations. We will act with the heart of a nonprofit organization and as a business and academic enterprise with ethical practices that advance our Mission. That requires carefully stewarding the University’s resources and developing the resources to support inclusive excellence. We will continue to build a culture of accountability, engagement, and transparency that supports and values diversity, collaboration, and innovation.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Maintain Loyola’s strong financial position.

Priority 2

Implement universal design principles of accessibility and strengthen physical, research, technological, and new business infrastructures and human resources to support the University’s mission.

Priority 3

Implement high performing comprehensive advancement programs and integrated marketing strategies aligned with strategic priorities.

Value 6

Care for Our World

We are called to take action on our world’s interconnected issues of social, health, economic, and environmental justice. As a leader in social justice and sustainability, we will pursue innovative approaches to meet the world’s urgent needs. We will make Loyola University Chicago a model of intentional design and operations that reduce harmful impact while maximizing benefits for the common good.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1

Instill in every Rambler the knowledge, skills, values, and desire to create a just, humane, and sustainable world for all people through their work, community, and actions.

Priority 2

Model sustainability through our actions, facilities, and policies.

Priority 3

Using an equity-centered approach, collaborate with community partners in achieving their environmental sustainability goals.

LSAP/7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology: Loyola University Chicago Response			
Year 1 Years 2-6 Year 7	Prepare the University's <i>Laudato Sí</i> Plan Launch Plan, Monitor, Adjust Celebrate Efforts and Accomplishments in a 'Sabbath Year'		
Goals	Sample of Current Practices & Future Possibilities	Alignment with Values and Priorities of LUC Strategic Plan	Appropriate Representatives
<i>Respond to the Cry of the Earth</i>	Clean energy and energy efficiency, Biodiversity, Water protection	Value 6, Priority 2	Office of Sustainability, Facilities Department
<i>Respond to the Cry of the Poor</i>	Protect all life, Hygiene, Indigenous rights, Land access, Air pollution, Audit community challenges, Learning from elders	Value 1, Priority 2; Value 3, Priority 1 & 2	Campus Ministry, CELTS, CURL, CSA
<i>Internalize and Teach Ecological Economics</i>	Circular Economy, Recycled Content, ESG Investing, Total Cost of Ownership, Local purchase, Fair trade, Gift economy	Value 5, Priority 2; Value 6, Priority 2	Investment Office, Purchasing Department
<i>Guide the Adoption of Sustainable Lifecycles</i>	Efficient buildings, Low carbon travel, Plant-based diets, Reduce single use plastics	Value 6, Priority 2	Facilities Department, Office of Sustainability, Loyola Dining, Finance
<i>Expand and Deepen Ecological Education</i>	<i>Laudato Sí</i> in classes, Sustainability curriculum, Youth-led events, Communicating LS, Access / Affordability	Value 6, Priority 1	Academic Affairs, Campus Ministry, Mission, Hank Center
<i>Support Practices of Ecological Spirituality</i>	Season of Creation event, LS in liturgy, Ecospirituality in nature	Value 1, Priority 2; Value 6, Priority 1	Hank Center, Jesuit Community, Mission
<i>Contribute to Community Resilience and Empowerment</i>	Advocating, Hosting events, Collaboration, Resilience	Value 6, Priority 3	Office of Sustainability, Community Relations