

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

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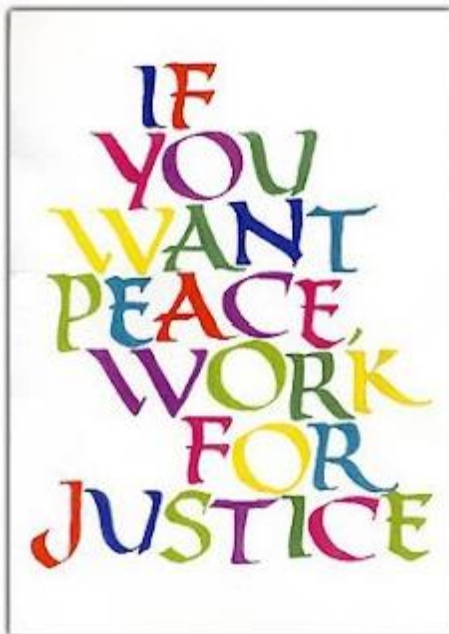
SOCIAL
JUSTICE
SCHOLARS

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Social Justice Scholarship Program began in 1994 as an avenue through which Loyola University New Orleans could actualize its Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and the pursuit of social justice. The program is administered through the Department of Sociology which has a strong commitment to the integration of academic learning and social action. Students in the program either major or minor in sociology, where they learn to critically analyze social problems and solutions. The program began with an initial cohort of eight students. Each year, approximately eight to ten new students join the program in the fall semester. At any given time, there are usually between 15-30 students enrolled in the Social Justice Scholarship program at Loyola.



Students become Social Justice Scholars (SJSs) either by applying for the scholarship on their freshman application to Loyola or, for current Loyola students, by applying for the Msgr. Edward David Frugé Scholarship of Social Justice. An interdisciplinary faculty committee reviews the applications and makes recommendations about the scholarship awards. Students who exhibit a high level of academic promise as well as

a demonstrated commitment to community service and activism are given the highest priority for the scholarship. Social Justice Scholars have contributed over 15,000 hours of their time to more than 100 different service organizations and projects since the inception of the program. These activities have proven to be an excellent way to help students develop linkages between the knowledge gained in the classroom and experiential learning gained in the community.

REFLECTION MEETINGS

Getting together to reflect on our social justice activities, both in the community and on campus, is not only a scholarship requirement, it is a fantastic opportunity to enhance our understanding and commitment to social justice. Sharing our experiences with the various learning opportunities on campus is another excellent way to keep our attention and efforts focused on social justice. We'll meet a few times each year to turn in our timesheets, reflect on our social justice activities, and share ideas and opportunities for social justice action.

These meetings are mandatory so please adjust your schedules accordingly.

All meetings will be held during the window (12:30-1:30). Refreshments will be provided.



TIMESHEETS

One important requirement of your scholarship is that you must document your social justice time and reflect on your social justice activities during the academic year at the end of each semester. You must submit a mid-semester timesheet as well as an end of semester timesheet. All timesheets are to be turned in to the Office of Community Engaged Learning, Teaching and Service (OCELTS), located on the first floor of Bobet Hall.

You are required to do 45 hours of service and critical analysis each semester. **30 hours** must be actual work or service with an organization or program that addresses issues concerning inequality or injustice. **Another 10 hours** are to be devoted to reflecting on and analyzing this work. The time spent on analysis is very important. It is during this time that we carefully consider the strengths and limitations of the work we are doing. Without critical reflection, we may unintentionally reinforce already existing inequalities. You may include the following in the 10 hours of analysis each semester:

- Mandatory SJS meetings
- Time writing up your reflection papers
- Time spent doing readings in preparation for SJS meetings
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Finally, the **remaining 5 hours** can be spent either in direct service OR in attending on-campus learning activities such as lectures, debates, plays, etc. that address social justice issues.

REFLECTION PAPERS

Reflection papers are due at mid-semester and at the end of the semester. These are to be critical reflections on the work you are doing in the community. About 50% should be a description of what you are doing and the other 50% should engage in reflexive, critical discussion of how your work addresses social inequalities or helps to work toward social justice. In this critical reflection, consider the strengths and weaknesses of the work you are doing in light of the goal of decreasing inequality and supporting social justice outcomes.

FRUGÉ ENDOWMENT

HISTORY

Because the social justice scholarship itself is available only to incoming first-year students, current Loyola students are ineligible. In 2003, Ms. Marjorie Frugé endowed a scholarship at Loyola to be used to support social justice activism efforts. During that first year, the endowment was used exclusively as a merit award, given to existing social justice scholars to recognize outstanding social activism in the community.

Many Loyola students have expressed a desire to become Social Justice Scholars but were not eligible since they had not applied for the scholarship when they entered Loyola. Beginning in 2004-2005, the endowment was split between merit awards and new scholarships to allow qualified current Loyola students or transfer students into the SJS program. The Frugé endowment is now used exclusively for that purpose. The number of scholarships awarded depends on the available funding. Ideally, each year, a Loyola sophomore is awarded the Frugé scholarship, which is automatically renewed for the junior and senior years as long as recipients maintain the scholarship requirements.

Frugé Scholarship Applicants must be Loyola students, have a 2.75 overall GPA, and agree to minor or major in sociology.

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REQUIREMENTS

To make sure your Social Justice Scholarship is renewed, you must:

- *Maintain a 2.75 overall grade point average*
- *Officially declare a sociology major or minor*
- *Complete 45 hours of social justice activities every semester*
- *Turn in your completed timesheets and reflection papers on time*
- *Attend the reflection meetings (check Blackboard for meeting dates)*



COMMUNITY SERVICE

There are numerous projects to choose from here at Loyola. Many social justice scholars become involved in one or more of the Loyola University Community Action Program (LUCAP) projects, a student-led program that is overseen by University Ministry. LUCAP works with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Hunger Relief, and ACORN, among others. SJSers also participate in many on-campus social justice activities, for example, Hunger and Homeless Awareness.

Learning

In addition to performing community service and promoting social activism, it is also important for SJSers to increase their



NUTS 'N BOLTS BLACKBOARD

The Social Justice Scholars have a permanent Blackboard site where you can find blank timesheets and other resources for the group. You can also communicate with one another about social justice opportunities, ideas for new projects, etc. Meeting reminders and other announcements will also be posted on Blackboard.

awareness of social justice issues. Throughout the semester, Loyola offers a variety of opportunities for you to learn more about social justice and injustices, through, for example, guest lectures, plays, debates, and panel discussions. Up to 5 learning hours can be applied toward the social justice service requirement.