A Humble Path to an Enriching Future
Loyola University Chicago is pleased to sponsor the LU-CHOICE (Loyola University Chicago Opportunities in Catholic Education) and JVC Magis (Jesuit Volunteer Corps) programs. LU-CHOICE and JVC Magis are Loyola’s response to the need for talented graduates in our Catholic schools and institutions. There are a number of programs nationally that channel the enthusiasm and idealism of recent Catholic college graduates who wish to serve and to grow spiritually and professionally. LU-CHOICE and JVC Magis give them that opportunity.

Through LU-CHOICE and JVC Magis, the Loyola community partners with other Catholic institutions to prepare future leaders in education and in a variety of ministries and professions.

We are proud to play a role in this important work and hope you will enjoy reading about the outstanding women and men who participate in LU-CHOICE and JVC Magis.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,
Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
President, Loyola University Chicago

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives.

That’s our aim at Loyola University Chicago, where our best effort comes through learning and faith in action. For those looking to take this commitment one step further—making it their very calling—Loyola offers two unique programs: JVC Magis and LU-CHOICE. Both allow highly motivated individuals the chance to help others and in the process improve themselves.

These are their stories…
Marcy Haugh

A higher calling in higher education

Marcy Haugh knew exactly what she was looking for in a master’s program—and she found it at Loyola, after serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. “My JV year in Alaska led me to recognize my professional call to be a social worker,” Haugh says of the precursor program to Loyola’s JVC Magis. “However, I also realized that I needed more academic training to best serve individual and families. I wanted to receive my master’s degree in social work while continuing to grow in the values of simplicity, spirituality, social justice, and community.” So for three years, Haugh doubled as an intern and JVC Magis volunteer at Chicago Jesuit Academy, a Jesuit Nativity middle school for boys on the city’s West Side. “It was both challenging and rewarding—the students there are incredible young men with extraordinary gifts,” she says. Now, because of JVC Magis, she can continue doing the work she loves. “I was grateful that the opportunity would relieve me of any debt after completing the program,” Haugh says. “I understood that this freedom would allow me to serve in positions where there existed the most need and which may not pay very much.” In these and other ways, the JVC Magis program has been a perfect fit for Haugh—and she for it.

Jordan Skarr

Walking with the poor

Getting involved in JVC Magis is a full-time commitment—something Jordan Skarr knows very well. The Chicago native was so committed, in fact, that he worked right up until the day of graduation. “One of my best memories,” Skarr recalls, “is when (director) Lee Hubbell told me I had a pen behind my ear at the ceremony.” “That, and the time I almost set the house on fire making cookies.” Living within a communal setting certainly has its highs and lows, but for Skarr there was never any doubt it was worth the occasional challenge. “I chose Loyola because it gave me the best opportunity to walk with the poor,” he says. “I wanted to be a part of a lay community dedicated to living the Gospel while working in an Ignatian ministry.” JVC Magis allowed him to do just that. It also gave him the opportunity to earn a master’s of divinity, a degree he finished in the most studious of style (pen and all) in 2008. “MAGIS prepared me to live an extraordinary life,” Skarr says. For Hubbell and the Loyola community, prouder words could never be spoken.
LU-CHOICE
Giving and receiving knowledge

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
Opportunities In Catholic Education (LU-CHOICE) is a two-year post-graduate service-teaching program aimed at advancing Catholic education by placing and supporting talented college graduates in elementary classrooms in the Archdiocese of Chicago. LU-CHOICE teachers live out their faith through service to their schools and dedication to their community. The three main components of LU-CHOICE, community living, professional teaching and spirituality, assist in educating and forming the whole person in the Jesuit tradition of education.

Eligibility
Any college graduate looking for a career in education is welcome to join LU-CHOICE.

Opportunities
Offered by Loyola, LU-CHOICE is available for highly focused individuals who want to:

- Work for the Archdiocese of Chicago
- Foster young minds through education
- Consider making Catholic education a lifelong commitment

Benefits
LU-CHOICE provides a clear, accelerated path to a career in education with the benefits of:

- A full scholarship
- A master’s degree in education from Loyola
- Monthly living stipend
- Work for the Archdiocese of Chicago
- Foster young minds through education
- Consider making Catholic education a lifelong commitment

Sean MacCready
The student becomes the teacher

I T’S BEEN SAID there’s a lot we can learn from children. Perhaps no one knows this better than Sean MacCready. For a long time, however, the Pennsylvania native was not exactly eager to work with kids. “I felt I didn’t have the patience,” MacCready says. “I also understood the challenges facing our urban children—but only in abstract terms and with only the most distant of sympathies.” Then he found LU-CHOICE. “My LU-CHOICE experience was a head-on collision between the challenges of feeling completely overwhelmed, exhausted, and intimidated by the task at hand and the joys of seeing children grow, learn, love, and develop into young men and women,” he says. And finally came the letter—from a student named Terrance. “You have really helped me to change my path in life,” Terrance wrote. “The way you teach, I understand better. . . If it was not for you helping me in school, I would have just been missing out on a lot of good things, so thanks a lot.” Though the grammar was a little rough around the edges, MacCready says the message was clear: “He was a miracle worker for me. Terrence’s letter still sits on my desk as the reason I work to support Catholic school teachers.”

Sandria Morten
Making a difference at home

A CHICAGO NATIVE, Sandria Morten has always been proud of her hometown. But she also saw a particular need in the inner city, working in Catholic education.

“I wanted to commit to service in inner-city Catholic schools, yet I also felt called to education,” says Morten, who earned her master’s in education at Loyola by participating in LU-CHOICE. “I appreciated the fact that all CHOICE communities were located in Chicago, therefore providing a strong community of support.”

Over the course of two years, Morten taught third grade within the Archdiocese of Chicago—learning a lot more than she expected and earning much more than a degree.

“I learned how to be available—to my students, their parents, and my roommates,” she says. “This often meant that I was inconvenienced by having to stay late at school or help with a roommate’s grading when I had my own to do; and yet, these experiences helped me to grow as a person.”

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“It wasn’t always easy. I was challenged professionally, personally, and spiritually through the LU-CHOICE program,” she says. “I entered the program as a hesitant teacher and left the program as a confident teacher, passionate about education.”

WIDE-EYED PUPILS • Students throughout Chicago enjoy hands-on learning from fresh-thinking instructors.
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Our MISSION

We are Chicago’s Jesuit Catholic University—a diverse community seeking God in all things and working to expand knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice, and faith.