• Although students are in college to acquire knowledge through the use of their intellect, they feel as well as think. Students are whole persons. How they feel affects how well they think. While students are maturing intellectually, they are also developing physically, psychologically, socially, aesthetically, ethically, sexually, and spiritually. Helping students understand and attend to these aspects of their lives can enhance their academic experiences.

* A Perspective on Student Affairs
An Integrated & Transformative Jesuit Education

- Academic Formation
- Spiritual Formation
- Personal/Social Formation
Transformative Education

• Loyola University of Chicago (LUC) provides a transformative educational experience that continually promotes the intellectual, spiritual, personal, and social development of our world’s future leaders. In the School of Education (SOE), our Conceptual Framework emphasizes “Professionalism in the Service of Social Justice.” We hold that faith, knowledge, skills, and action and the promotion of justice are inextricably linked and are integral components of a true education.
Myths Exercise...

• At your tables you have a table tent with one of 10 myths about social justice
• Take no more than 5 minutes to discuss why this myth may be true or false
• Talk about with individual program faculty
Myth #1
• Social Justice is a “vague” concept with no real scholarly basis.

• Another Thought: There is much scholarship and research around the concepts of social justice. In their text "Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice", Bell, Adams & Griffin (2007) defined social justice as a process and a goal. "The goal of social justice education is full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society that is equitable and all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure" (p. 1).
Myth # 2

• Social Justice is just “diversity” and “multiculturalism” renamed.

• Another Thought: The concepts of social justice move beyond awareness and tolerance toward appreciation and action. They allow us to move beyond conversations about the “other” and focus on how our identities are windows into understanding oppression and creating change.
Myth # 3

• Talking about social justice moves us away from conversations on racism, sexism, classism, etc.

• Another Thought: Social Justice concepts allow us to enter into conversations related to all of the “isms” in more effective ways – using the dominant and subordinated groups that make up who we are.
Myth # 4

- Education professionals are “good people” and thereby the concepts of social justice are in their nature.

- Another Thought: Even “good people” with “good hearts” can do some very oppressive things in unintentional ways.
Myth # 5

- Social Justice does not welcome “conservative” voices and views.
- Another Thought: The “end outcome” of social justice is equity and inclusion. There are many ways in which we can achieve this and we might not always agree on the means by which to get there.
Myth # 6

• The concepts of spirituality and social justice are not compatible.
• Another Thought: Most if not all faith communities embrace the concepts of fairness, love, compassion and justice.
Myth # 7

- Social Justice focuses on “action” rather than “personal work.”
- Another Thought: Social Justice begins with personal work. It is through our understanding of ourselves that we can then engage in authentic dialogue with others and better strategize with others to enact change.
Myth # 8

• Students who have studied abroad are more aware of social justice issues.

• Another Thought: Yes, if they know and understand the dynamics of oppression and injustice in the United States before heading to another country. If not, they are just tourists on different soil.
Myth # 9

• Students aren’t interested in social justice issues.

• Another Thought: The annual UCLA study on first year students begs to differ. Over the last three years, there has been a constant increase in students reporting interest in civic commitment and social responsibility.
Myth # 10

- Social Justice is a “liberal” cause for idealists.
- Another Thought: Social justice is about making sure that everyone in the campus community feels connected and supported. This allows them to achieve at their greatest potential. This is what the college experience is about.
The mission of Jesuit education and specific goals of the SOE are linked to social justice. A component of LUC’s mission is social responsibility: “The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become.” For SOE, social justice can be a framework through which one can “make a living” and “make a life.” It entails learning about concepts in classroom-based contexts but also living social justice through life experiences. SOE seeks to develop professionals who use their scholarship to evaluate actions and decisions in light of their ramifications and impact on students, school organizations, colleges/universities, and the broader community.

Among other outlets you have, we welcome you to attend the SOE Diversity Committee meetings/events

www.luc.edu/education/resources_diversity.shtml