JESUIT TRADITION
CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY
The heart and soul of Xavier University is our Jesuit, Catholic tradition of ensuring educational excellence, promoting knowledge and justice to serve others, and preparing each student to go forth and make a difference in the world.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY INSPIRES and challenges students in ways that go beyond most colleges. That’s because everything we do is infused by our commitment to our Jesuit heritage. The spirit and principles of Jesuit education define who we are and direct our everyday lives at this University.

Under the leadership of President Michael J. Graham, S.J., Xavier is dedicated to educating students intellectually, morally and spiritually, with academic rigor and compassion, toward lives of solidarity, service and success.

While the Jesuit tradition is familiar to our University community, we know that some students and families new to Xavier may have little, if any, knowledge about who or what is “Jesuit.” Even graduates of Jesuit high schools may want to learn more about the influence and impact of the Jesuit tradition on college education and campus life.

This brochure introduces the Jesuits and their legacy, and explain some of how this important heritage shapes and influences this University and our students. It’s a first step for future students and parents to learn more about Xavier’s valued Jesuit tradition and, we hope, be inspired to become part of our distinctive learning community.

WHAT IS JESUIT EDUCATION? A Jesuit education strives to inspire and challenge college students in meaningful ways to prepare for lifelong success. As a Xavier student, you will certainly develop knowledge, especially in your chosen major and other academic studies, and discover your talents to prepare for your career. You will also focus on shaping your values and ethics, growing spiritually, volunteering and serving others, understanding social justice and beginning a love for lifelong learning. These added
dimensions help to make Jesuit-educated students more well-rounded people who are better prepared to contribute to the global community.

Jesuit education is distinguished by certain key characteristics:
• Seeks to develop the whole student—mind, body and spirit.
• Values academic excellence, interreligious understanding and service to others, especially the poor and socially marginalized.
• Explores the interface between faith and culture.
• Pays special attention to values, ethical issues and the development of moral character.
• Prepares students for a rapidly changing and diverse society through broad-based, comprehensive learning.
• Maintains an optimistic view of human nature and its possibilities.
• Encourages critical, analytical and creative approaches to solving problems.
• Incorporates a global and international dimension for growth and learning.
• Inspires graduates to change society and the world for the better.

HOW DOES THE JESUIT TRADITION INFLUENCE XAVIER FACULTY AND TEACHING? Xavier students receive premier teaching and personal attention from an outstanding faculty, which includes Jesuit teachers as well as lay professors from diverse cultures and traditions. Most classes average 22 students and the student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1, making it possible for students and professors to more effectively interact.

Xavier’s faculty view teaching as a vocation and as service to others, and they seek to develop men and women who are both competent and compassionate. Other characteristics of Jesuit teaching include:
• Embracing the unique qualities in each student.
• Facilitating students’ understanding of information in personally relevant and appropriate ways.
• Encouraging students to decide what is truly good for themselves and for society through a process of discernment.
• Providing challenging, rigorous and interdisciplinary learning, and emphasizing speaking and writing excellence.
• Making use of novel teaching methods and emerging technologies.
• Using clear and specific evaluation methods.
• Fostering student responsibility and independence.

The Jesuits are members of the Roman Catholic religious order of men called the Society of Jesus, which was founded in Spain in 1540 by Ignatius of Loyola. Francis Xavier, the University’s namesake, was an early follower of Ignatius and went on to be the first Jesuit to preach in such non-European countries as India and Japan.

Currently, about 19,000 Jesuit priests and brothers are teaching and serving in missions in almost every country around the world. The abbreviation “S.J.” after a name means that he is a member of the Society of Jesus. For centuries, the Jesuits have been recognized as the “schoolmasters of Europe,” establishing schools and encouraging the pursuit of knowledge to serve others. Today, there are 3,730 Jesuit educational institutions throughout the world, caring for more than 2.5 million students. Xavier University is one of 28 Jesuit universities and colleges in the United States.
HOW DO XAVIER STUDENTS LIVE THE JESUIT TRADITION? Throughout our campus and beyond, Jesuit principles influence all aspects of the Xavier student experience.

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON: At Xavier, you’ll be encouraged to learn about and develop all aspects of yourself—social, physical, spiritual and academic. Xavier students can choose from more than 100 student organizations to find new interests, develop talents or just have fun. Xavier also has 16 different Division I athletic teams, including the winning men’s and women’s Musketeer basketball teams.

SERVING OTHERS: Xavier offers a range of volunteer and academic service-learning opportunities that enable students to share their talents and make a difference in the world. The Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice encourages students to envision a better world through service, dialogue and reflection.

During spring breaks and Christmas vacations, many Xavier students participate in service trips around the country and in some foreign locations through the Alternative Breaks Club. Started by students in 2001, the club sent more than 250 students on 23 trips in 2010.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS: As a Jesuit, Catholic institution, Xavier is committed to being a home to all faiths, providing opportunities for students to worship and pray in all religious traditions. Xavier’s Office of Interfaith Community Engagement works to create and strengthen a sense of community among individuals of diverse faiths on campus, in Cincinnati and beyond.

BUILDING GLOBAL AWARENESS: To more fully learn about and understand other cultures and traditions, Xavier students can choose from opportunities on six continents through study abroad, academic service-learning semesters and direct exchange programs.

MISSION invites us to understand the history and importance of our Jesuit heritage and Ignatian spirituality. Mission focuses on the centrality of academic excellence, grounded in a Catholic faith tradition.

REFLECTION invites us to pause and consider the world around us and our place within it.

DISCERNMENT invites us to be open to God’s spirit as we consider our feelings and rational thought in order to make decisions and take action that will contribute good to our lives and the world around us.

SOLIDARITY and KINSHIP invites us to walk alongside and learn from our companions, both local and afar, as we journey through life.

SERVICE ROOTED IN JUSTICE AND LOVE invites us to invest our lives into the well-being of our neighbors, particularly those who suffer injustice.
ADVANCING JUSTICE: The Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier focuses on the critical issues of our age, including religious and cultural diversity, social and economic justice, and sustainability. The Brueggeman Fellowship sends Xavier students around the world for hands-on research and learning.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Dedicated administrators, faculty and staff, as well as specialized offices such as Student Retention and Career Services, affirm Xavier’s commitment to student success. Students also prepare for meaningful futures with exceptional internship and co-op experiences, and outstanding alumni mentoring and networking programs.

Xavier graduates are ready to make a strong start on their careers, or go on to professional or graduate schools. For instance, Xavier has one of the nation’s highest acceptance rates to law and medical schools.

WHO OVERSEES XAVIER’S JESUIT, CATHOLIC MISSION? The Center for Mission and Identity helps faculty, staff and administrators understand Ignatian spirituality and the mission of Jesuit education at Xavier.

The Center develops programs to foster Xavier’s mission, provides digital and print resources through www.jesuitresource.org, facilitates participation in national and consortium-based mission initiatives, and is home to the Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Institute for Jesuit Education.

The Center is led by the Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity / Chief Mission Officer who is responsible for promoting the active engagement of the University community in carrying out its mission as a Jesuit, Catholic institution. Reporting to the President, the Chief Mission Officer also serves on the President’s Cabinet and works with the Jesuit Identity Committee of the Board of Trustees.

For more information about Jesuit traditions and Xavier University, please visit these online resources:

Center for Mission and Identity | www.xavier.edu/mission-identity/heritage-tradition
Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice | www.xavier.edu/cfj
Jesuit and Ignatian resources | www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource
Undergraduate admission | www.xavier.edu/undergraduate-admission
University mission | www.xavier.edu/mission
Xavier’s Jesuit heritage | www.xavier.edu/about/heritage.cfm
JESUIT TRADITION AND CORE CURRICULUM

Undergraduate students at Xavier choose from 83 majors and 52 minors, but all follow a common path: completing the Core Curriculum that serves as a valuable academic foundation. The Core, as it is known, covers a wide range of topics designed to round out individual values and build personal skills for lifelong success, regardless of the major students choose. In addition, if students are not yet sure about their major, the Core offers the opportunity to sample various fields of study. Along with courses in their major, Xavier students also take Core courses in:

• Cultural Diversity
• English Composition
• Ethics, Religion and Society
• Fine Arts
• Foreign Language
• History
• Literature
• Mathematics
• Philosophy
• Science
• Social Science
• Theology

For more about the Core Curriculum, go to www.xavier.edu/academic-advising.
A JESUIT GLOSSARY  Father George W. Traub, S.J., of Xavier University has compiled a glossary of the most popular Jesuit-related terms. Here are a few key phrases. To learn more, visit www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam: (Latin) “For the greater glory of God.” This is the motto of the Society of Jesus.

Cura personalis: (Latin) “Care for the individual person.” This attitude of respect for the dignity of each person reflects the Jesuit vision of human beings as unique creations of God.

Manresa: A town in northeastern Spain where Ignatius Loyola had a powerful spiritual experience that led to his founding of the Society of Jesus or Jesuits.

Spiritual Exercises: An organized series of prayers and reflections developed by St. Ignatius to guide meaningful meditation.

Xavier, Francis (1506-1552): The first Jesuit missionary to non-European cultures, he is the University’s namesake and patron saint.
XAVIER UNIVERSITY: A JESUIT, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN CINCINNATI, OHIO

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Supported by the Conway Institute for Jesuit Education

XAVIER AT A GLANCE
Founded in 1831, Xavier is a Jesuit Catholic university in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its three colleges offer 83 undergraduate majors, 52 minors and 13 graduate programs to 7,019 total students, including 4,368 undergraduate students.

ACCLAIM
• Recognized for the 16th consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report, with a 2011 ranking at #3 among the top 146 universities in the Midwest, #1 for graduation rate and top rankings for freshman retention and commitment to teaching.

• Named one of the best schools nationwide for undergraduate education for the seventh year by The Princeton Review.

• Ranked #41 among the “Top 50 Best Values” in private universities nationwide by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance.

• Tapped for the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for innovative service-learning and volunteerism.

• Recognized by BusinessWeek as one of “The Best Undergrad Business Schools” in the nation.

Xavier is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Information in this brochure is correct as of 11/10.