



# All Things Ignatian



## Dental Student Perspectives of Ignatian Values through Service-Learning

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An Ignatian world-view can be introduced to health science students through the teaching and learning of Ignatian values. Occupational therapy faculty mentor dental faculty in a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project to incorporate the teaching and learning of Ignatian values within a service-learning course.

### Course Description

Senior dental students (n=86) participate in a 2-week service-learning rotation at one of three sites. Students reflect on the Ignatian values of:

- *Men and Women For and With Others*
- *Finding God in All Things*
- *Cura Personalis*
- *Magis*
- *Faith That Does Justice*

Self assessment toward a disposition of Ignatian values in dentistry includes reflection questions developed using the Ignatian pedagogy framework of context, experience, reflection, action and evaluation.

### Research Design

- Qualitative pilot study using a unique case orientation: each student represented a unique personal case study
- Cross-case analysis: comparative case analyses with discovery of patterns or themes among cases
- Careful document review and coding of reflective journals to capture students' personal experiences and perspectives



### Reflection Questions

Describe one distinguishing feature of public health dentistry.  
 Recognize an Ignatian value in yourself or others while on rotation.  
 What difference did this experience make for you and/or others?  
 How will you apply what you learned from this course?  
 What would you like to learn more about as a result of this experience?  
 What do you want others to know about a community health center?  
 What are some of the pressing needs/issues among the population you served? What could be done about them?  
 Have you identified areas for future service and leadership in your career? If so, explain.  
 Has this experience helped you clarify your career goals? If so, explain.

### Results

Four (4) themes from analysis of student reflections related to Ignatian values:



- Ignatian value of *Men and Women For and With Others* & theme of deeper understanding of public health dentistry:  
 “Public health dentistry. . . it is the spirit of giving”
- Ignatian value of *Magis* & theme of developing a deeper understanding of public health dentistry:  
 “Public health serves the community as a patient rather than the individual”
- Ignatian value of *Finding God in All Things* & theme of challenging stereotypes:  
 “The patient told me she had been having this pain for the past few weeks and she has been able to cure her inflammation with a cold potato on her face. Although I though this was hilarious, I held back my laughter. The assistant told me that it is a common belief in their culture to put cold vegetables on inflamed body parts”
- Ignatian value of *Cura Personalis* & theme of gratitude:  
 “I am grateful I had the opportunity to make this mistake. . .with someone watching over me and the patient, helping me, and teaching me.”  
 “. . . It helped me to realize how real and debilitating dental pain can be and it helped me to develop more compassion for my patients”