



## The Magis Common Core Curriculum: The Heart of a Jesuit and Catholic Liberal Education

Dr. Kevin Graham, Magis Common Core Curriculum Director and Associate Professor of Philosophy

### A Progressive Education

The Magis Common Core Curriculum leads students through a progressive, three-tiered process of educational development:

#### 1. FOUNDATIONS

- Contemporary Composition
- Critical Issues in Human Inquiry
- Oral Communication
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Philosophical Ideas
- The Christian Tradition

#### 2. EXPLORATIONS

- Ethics
- Global Perspectives in History
- Literature
- The Biblical Tradition
- Understanding Natural Science
- Understanding Social Science

#### 3. INTEGRATION

- Intersections

#### DESIGNATED COURSES

- Designated Ethics
- Designated Oral Communication
- Designated Statistical Reasoning
- Designated Technology
- Designated Written Communication

### Rooted in Jesuit Mission

- Each requirement of the Magis Common Core Curriculum is designed to help students fulfill **specific learning objectives** that are ultimately rooted in the Jesuit and Catholic educational mission of the university.
- Each requirement of the Magis Common Core Curriculum is **expressly justified in terms of its contribution to the Jesuit and Catholic educational mission** of the university.
- Each application to assign Magis Common Core Curriculum status to a course must **explain how the course promotes the Jesuit and Catholic educational mission** of the university.
- The periodic process of Magis Common Core Curriculum course review will **follow up** on this application.

### Diversity & Social Justice

- Beginning in Fall Semester 2014, Creighton University will be the only AJCU institution that begins and ends its Core Curriculum with a course about diversity and social justice.
- **Critical Issues in Human Inquiry.** A problem-focused course that teaches students to think critically and communicate effectively about issues of diversity and social justice in a small, seminar-style classroom; taken in the first year of study.
- **Intersections.** An interdisciplinary course that gives students the chance to integrate what they have learned in the Magis Common Core Curriculum and in their various major programs of study to address big questions related to social justice and diversity; usually taken in the final year of study.

### Transcendent Values

The Magis Common Core Curriculum requires all undergraduate students to engage with ultimate questions about transcendent values.

- **Philosophical Ideas.** A study of the ultimate nature of reality, the scope of human knowledge, and the nature of a good human life.
- **The Christian Tradition.** A study of the ways that Christians have sought to bring critical reason to the exploration of their faith.
- **Ethics.** A study of the nature and sources of moral obligation, moral virtue, justice, wisdom, and a good human life.
- **The Biblical Tradition.** A study of the central narratives of the Bible and its historical and social context.

*Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.*