PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIETY

Overview

Jesuits beginning First Studies undertake a three-year interdisciplinary course of graduate study that will prepare them to evaluate and engage the complex contexts of ministry as members of the global Society of Jesus. They will acquire the competencies necessary to communicate the Gospel to the contemporary world while appropriating the meaning and implications of the Jesuit charism for their life and mission. Distinctive features of the program include:

- a commitment to interdisciplinarity that integrates the study of philosophy and theology with the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences;
- a praxis-based pedagogy in which intellectual inquiry and moral reflection are rooted in direct contact with the poor and marginalized so as to foster a well-educated solidarity;
- an intercultural exchange experience with ITESO, the Jesuit university in Guadalajara, Mexico, that will form Jesuits for global mission;
- a commitment to deepening individual and communal spirituality, not only exercising the habits of genuine spiritual conversation but also cultivating the skills necessary for communal discernment.

The program incorporates a robust advising model in which students collaborate with advisers to discern an appropriate pathway through the First Studies experience taking into account their emerging intellectual and apostolic interests as well as the pressing needs of the world and the church to which the Society of Jesus is committed to respond.