



Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452  
or Diana Hernandez (504) 520-5120

## **Xavier University Institutes Changes to the Core Curriculum; Adds 10 New Programs**

New Orleans LA being introduced in the 2018 academic year, as administrators and teachers evolve the fundamental curriculum to meet the changing needs of educating each new generation.

Since its founding, [Xavier University of Louisiana](#) has prided itself on its commitment to the liberal arts, requiring all of its students, regardless of major, to take a prescribed set of courses that were deemed fundamental to a Catholic liberal arts education. Current students and thousands of alumni will recognize this as the Core Curriculum.

The Core in its current form, as rolled out in 1980, was designed to ensure that students in majors as diverse as business and history, or music and the sciences, would all have the same basic preparation. The expectation was that students, exposed to a wide variety of disciplines, would develop a wide range of intellectual capacities that would enable them to flourish throughout their lives and to make a difference in the lives of others.

And while the number of required hours expanded from 56 to 60 and a few of the specific courses themselves were added or dropped since that most recent tweaking of the core, for the past 37+ plus years all Xavier students needed to meet those basic requirements to graduate.

To elevate the academic experience of our future students, this fall semester will see the implementation of a new Core, the end result of years of study and planning by a new freshman class, e.g. the Class of 2022, will be the first students to follow the new standards, although upperclassmen will have the option to adopt them or remain under the Core their class came in with.

Although the most significant feature of the new Core is that it reduces the mandated workload from 60 to 40 hours, the impact of the changes go far beyond the mandatory basic course requirements. It fundamentally changes the essence of what the Core is supposed to do by modifying the types of courses that qualify as core requirements, increasing the flexibility for students to choose between different requirements, and introducing several new courses to satisfy certain criteria.

The streamlined core will also give students greater opportunity and ownership of their education and open up the possibility to pursue majors, minors, concentrations, certificates, or classes both within and outside of their chosen degree path that are interesting and innovative.



concentration in Crime and Social Justice, and the B.A. in Music degree with a concentration in Jazz Studies, while those seeking an advanced degree need look no further than the new Master of Public Health (M.P.H) in Health Equity.

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

### **Bioinformatics**

The Bioinformatics program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills relevant to the broad field of Bioinformatics, including understanding complex biological systems and their quantitative data; processing, storing, analyzing, and modeling of many types of biological data; and effectively communicating research findings.

The major will provide students with the scientific foundation for learning, discovery, engagement, and innovation. These opportunities will support a well-rounded understanding of the principles and theories of the computing and biological sciences so that students are willing and able to have leadership roles in their careers or as they enter graduate school.

The program's interdisciplinary curriculum will provide students with content knowledge across the field. Graduates of the program will acquire the qualifications needed to pursue careers in industry, government, and academia as bioinformatics professionals, or pursue further studies towards obtaining advanced degrees or other STEM related degrees.

### **Data Science**

The Data Science program will allow students to gain understanding and skills relevant to the broad field of Data Science, including

other scientific fields, or to enter training programs for health professionals.

to complete a pre-med curriculum in addition to the Neuroscience major. Alternatively, students may opt for a new minor in Cognitive Neuroscience.

### **Sociology with Concentration in Crime and Social Justice**

Students interested in sociology can choose to focus their study on the subfield of criminology and the criminal justice system. The new interdisciplinary concentration will use the lens of social justice to expand the study of criminology to encompass inequalities in the criminal justice system, the relationships among behavior, punishment, and public perceptions, and how social identities such as race, class, gender, disability and sexuality affect how individuals experience crime or the criminal justice system.

Unlike programs focused on vocational tools to develop critical, social scientific perspectives to consider how our definitions of crime, our awareness of its causes, and our reactions to crime are rooted in larger economic, political, and social contexts.

### **Jazz Studies**

The Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Concentration in Jazz Studies is designed for students who have an interest in the performance, theoretical, and historical aspects involved with the study of Jazz. The concentration is based on theoretical concepts, aural applications, and historical information used in Traditional New Orleans Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Fusion and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jazz forms and compositions.

The concentration will prepare students for performance, composition, and pedagogical application in the Jazz idiom. They will be introduced to devices used in early, main-stream and contemporary Jazz



field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Diana Hernandez at (504) 520-5120 or [dhernan1@xula.edu](mailto:dhernan1@xula.edu).