



Solidarity & Social Justice

The Solidarity and Social Justice (SOSJ) minor strives to provide students with a thorough understanding of the range of ways that scholars, researchers, and students address injustices and engage efforts to promote social justice in the contemporary world. The minor provides students with a strong foundation for understanding and researching justice issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and endeavors to inspire them to become “people for and with others,” while also fostering the practical skills necessary for employment.

THE PROGRAM

The Solidarity and Social Justice minor is distinct from any other program that Gonzaga offers. Its distinctiveness is illustrated by the questions that form its curricular structure and extends to its interdisciplinary combination of **theoretical, empirical, and practical skills** courses. Students pursuing a minor will first take Introduction to Solidarity and Social Justice, followed by a course sequence that explores four questions:

Block A: What is social justice, and why does it matter?

Block B: What does social injustice look like, and how does it happen?

Block C: How does social change happen?

Block D: What skills do I need to promote social change?

Students pursuing the minor will take one course addressed to each of the first three questions, which constitute Blocks A-C. Students will take two courses for Block D. The courses available to fulfill each block span many academic disciplines: religious studies, philosophy, sociology, economics, history, political science, journalism, broadcast studies, English, and communication studies. This interdisciplinary approach provides a rich lens for a better understanding of social justice issues and how they may be addressed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The minor will culminate in an integrative and reflective portfolio. For their portfolios, students will select and include a variety of artifacts from their program coursework and experiences that demonstrate successful completion of the following program learning objectives:

- Foster students' understanding of social justice theory and practice.
- Encourage students to formulate solutions that challenge injustice and effect positive social change.
- Provide students with the opportunity to consider their academic and professional career through the lens of social justice.
- Provide students with practical skills and experiences related to issues of justice.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum enables students to blend the best of the liberal arts with courses designed for professional training, thus integrating themes of justice and peace into their academic, civic, and social pursuits. Special emphasis will be placed upon the development of a student's ability to:

- Compare and evaluate philosophical and theological perspectives of social justice, including the role of justice in Catholic social teaching.
- Recognize and analyze social structures and practices that create conditions of justice or injustice.
- Identify the processes of social change and/or analyze the role of social movements in producing change.
- Identify solutions to injustice and address them through service in a community organization.
- Develop and apply skills in professional writing, dialogue, public speaking, leadership, persuasion, and/or use of media in the service of social justice.

Examples of **Solidarity & Social Justice courses** include:

- Global Social Change
- Rights, Justice, & U.S. Citizenship
- Social and Economic Inequalities
- Sociology of Education
- Social Problems, Social Change
- Inequality, Crime, & Urban Life
- Photojournalism

CAREER OUTCOMES

The Solidarity and Social Justice minor, with its range of disciplinary perspectives and experiential learning opportunities, helps students prepare for careers in the public, non-profit, private, and academic sectors. Students are exposed to justice-oriented careers in the introductory and capstone courses by invited speakers working in a variety of relevant fields. They develop concrete skills such as writing, public speaking, and dialogue, which are essential to succeeding in future careers.

Most importantly, students acquire work-relevant skills and experiences in justice-oriented organizations. Students gain direct insight into the pressing issues that these organizations face, reflect on these experiences with faculty, classmates, community partners, and access important community networks.



DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The capstone seminar integrates experiential learning through a semester-long internship. As a “praxis” course, the goal is for students to combine action with reflection and understanding. Students meet weekly to reflect on their practical internship experience and integrate empirical and theoretical information that they learned in their introductory and elective courses. A final portfolio constitutes a large portion of their final grade in this course.

FACULTY CONTACT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.gonzaga.edu/college-of-arts-sciences/departments/solidarity-social-justice

For students interested in continuing their study of solidarity and social justice, Gonzaga offers an online Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, with a concentration in Change Leadership.

Contact: gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu

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