

Explore Your Purpose at DePaul University Enduring Understandings and Learning Outcomes

Enduring Understandings (EU)	Learning Outcomes
EU #1: Living a Meaningful Life Personal meaning and social purpose are essential components for a good and fulfilling life and are assets in one's work/career.	 Participants will be able to identify the skills, talents, values, and interests that are most resonant with their self-understanding. Participants will identify ways in which their social identities and social location impact their self-understanding and life experiences. Participants will create a set of "eulogy virtues" (or "legacy virtues") and a set of "resume virtues" and will be able to distinguish and discuss the qualitative differences and similarities between the two. Participants will be able to represent multiple important dimensions of a whole, good, and fulfilling life with career as one part of the larger whole. Participants will be able to describe a basic, initial understanding of the theological concept of vocation.
EU #2: Discerning Vocation Discerning a sense of vocation (personal meaning and social purpose) happens over time and requires intentionality and ongoing reflection as well as help from others.	 Participants will be able to apply strategies of self-reflection and mindfulness to their own life and decisions. Participants will be able to identify which communities and relationships are supportive and contribute to their sense of meaning and purpose. Participants will be able to incorporate peers' feedback and perspectives in articulating their own sense of vocation. Participants will understand that vocational discernment is an ongoing process.
EU #3: Understanding the Vincentian Heart Living with personal meaning and social purpose is not only about oneself, but ultimately includes how one relates to the larger world and human community.	 Participants will be able to apply the metaphor of the self as a gift for others when reflecting on their sense of purpose. Participants will be able to identify areas of particular need, hurt and injustice in the broader world, their own lives and among the people they know and love. Participants will be able to integrate a consideration of the needs and gifts of others into their life and career choices, with particular attention to those who may be experiencing poverty or who may be marginalized.
EU #4: Sustaining the Journey Sustaining personal meaning and social purpose over a lifetime will require moving through moments of difficulty and developing sustaining practices which foster and evolve one's sense of vocation in an ongoing way over time.	 Participants will be able to explain the idea of a "growth mindset" in relation to their sense of purpose and will be able to give examples in their life when they have practiced using this mindset. Participants will be able to identify some of the primary challenges they face in becoming their "true self" in line with their sense of purpose, as well as how they might address or overcome these challenges. Participants will be able to apply and evaluate specific, ongoing strategies that help them to cultivate and sustain personal meaning and social purpose over time, as well as to overcome obstacles and challenges along the way. Participants will be able to revise their initial description of the concept of vocation and describe how their understanding of the concept has changed over time.

The Explore Your Purpose effort (formerly called "V3" for Vincentian Vision and Values) kicked off in fall 2016 with grant funding from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) and the Vincentian Endowment Fund (VEF). This effort is being spearheaded by a cross-institutional group of staff led by Mark Laboe, AVP for University Ministry.