1. Executive Summary

The Catholic Studies Program fully embraces the essential liberal education commitment of both the Goals of Loyola University, and the Loyola Character and Commitment Statement. It addresses the whole person, the entire range of Catholic values, life, and expression, subjecting these to critical evaluation and assessment, thus partaking in liberal education’s critical task. It further commits our Jesuit and Catholic institution to the investigation of issues of faith and justice in relation to Catholic social teachings. The commitment of this program to address Catholic and religious literacy is thus at the core of Loyola’s goals and mission as a Jesuit and Catholic university.

The intellectual foundation for Catholic Studies is identical with the host of articulate reflections on life and thought from a Roman Catholic perspective. Catholic influences are evident in the expressions of many academic disciplines. Yet, there is no established academic field known as “Catholic Studies.” Rather, one finds philosophic, literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, scientific, and historical illustrations of uniquely Catholic influence. Because Catholic beliefs, practices, thought and life permeate many academic disciplines, a Catholic Studies program seeks to integrate in a coherent curriculum a number of courses currently taught in isolation from one another. It also encourages the development of new courses.

2. Unit Identity/Profile Summary

2.1. Name and Mission

Catholic Studies Program [Interdisciplinary Minor]

This program is designed to help foster the distinctive Catholic identity of this institution by promoting professional dialogue across academic disciplines and offering the students a coherent, curricular major and/or minor in Catholic studies at the undergraduate level. It focuses and expresses the Catholic dimension of Loyola University’s essential mission. This focused dimension spreads responsibility for the Catholic mission across the curriculum and throughout the community, thus extending the responsibility for the Catholic identity of the university beyond any one department and allowing the Religious Studies Department to treat the full range of its subject matter, without assuming entire responsibility for Catholic identity.

The program is roughly comparable to other inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary programs at Loyola, such as Women’s Studies, Environmental Studies, and African Studies. Catholic Studies programs have been introduced at several Jesuit universities and colleges in recent years (e.g., St. Louis University, Loyola College of Baltimore, Loyola University of Chicago, Scranton University, Georgetown University, and Holy Cross College).
2.2. General Statement and Descriptive Information
Catholic Studies Minor Program will be coordinated by a Catholic Studies Advisory Board composed of several faculty involved in the program including its Director. The Program Director will oversee the administrative aspects of the program. The Board will evaluate new course proposals, and its members will advise students for the program. The Advisory Board, with the approval of the Dean, will choose the Director. Including the Director, the Advisory Board will be constituted by at least, but not more than, two members from the Religious Studies Department, two members from the Philosophy Department, one member from the History Department, one member from the English Department, and one member from the Arts (e.g., fine arts or drama).

2.2.1 Headcounts of staff: n/a
2.2.2 Headcounts of faculty: n/a
2.2.3 Headcounts of undergraduate students: 3 as of F.2010
2.2.4 Headcounts of graduate students: n/a
2.2.5 Retention rates: n/a
2.2.6 Graduation rates: n/a

3. Assessment

3.1. General Statement on Assessment

3.2. Program Goals
The goals for the Catholic Studies program basically overlaps those of the university and college as a Catholic institution. Hence this program fits well into the basic university strategic plan, even though the Catholic Studies Program has not ever had an explicitly drawn up statement of strategic plan.

Programs goals in general
a. The Catholic Studies first and fundamental aim is to foster the distinctive Catholic identity of this institution by promoting professional dialogue across academic disciplines and offering the students a coherent, curricular minor in Catholic studies at the undergraduate level. It focuses and expresses the Catholic dimension of Loyola University’s essential mission. This focused dimension spreads responsibility for the Catholic mission across the curriculum and throughout the community, thus extending the responsibility for the Catholic identity of the university beyond any one department.

b. The Catholic Studies Program fully embraces the essential liberal education commitment as it goal in conformity with both the Goals of Loyola University, and the Loyola Character and Commitment Statement. It addresses the whole person, the entire range of Catholic values, life, and expression, subjecting these to critical evaluation and assessment, thus partaking in liberal education’s critical task. It further commits our Jesuit and Catholic institution to the investigation of issues of faith and justice in relation to Catholic social teachings. The commitment of this
program to address Catholic and religious literacy is thus at the core of Loyola’s goals and mission as a Jesuit and Catholic university.

c. A most important ongoing goal for this program is to get more students to minor in Catholic Studies. In this regard some of the strategic people have been approached to encourage them to solicit more minors. This goal has not been met. This is a goal that demands an ongoing effort. It is hoped that the new director for 2011-1012 will be effective in furthering this goal.

d. One goal set for the recent past was to provide one list of courses available for the Catholic Studies Minor Program from five different lists of the recent past. Dozens of hours have been spent by the director bringing these lists to conformity. This unified list has been approved by the Catholic Studies Board, thus removing all courses that are no longer offered and any other course deemed by the Board to be inappropriate for the program. This has made it possible to provide for students on the Catholic Studies Web page a list of all approved courses. This process was begun in 2009 and was to be completed in that academic year, but was not brought to completion until the spring semester of 2011.

e. A further goal for 2009-2010 was to have a public meeting, with food and drink and well advertised. This meeting did take place, with four faculty involved with the program making presentations. The program was general considered to be quite successful by the faculty attending. The director of the program, however, considered it minimally successful since most of those attending were faculty. Only a handful of students attended.

f. It was a specific goal for 2010-2011 to have a famous lecturer come to campus in the name of and sponsored by the Catholic Studies Minor Program. It was decided that Mr. George Weigel would satisfy this goal. Mr. Weigel is a world class author and lecturer, having authored or edited 19 books, among which are: *Witness to Hope*, a biography of Pope John Paul II published in 1999 by Oxford University Press; and by the same press this year [2010], *The End and the Beginning*, another book on Pope John Paul II. His lecture took place on February 16, at 7:00 p.m.

i. A final goal in the recent past was to put together a new brochure for Catholic Studies Program. The old brochure is obsolete. This goal has not yet been met, and is one of the immediate needs for the program. Such a brochure could not be undertaken until the official list of courses was updated and purged. This is now a goal for the immediate future.

Specific Goals for 2011-2012—to be set by the new director

3.3 Student Learning Outcomes
To be defined in the near future.
3.4 Assessment of Internal and External Factors Affecting the Unity

3.5 Assessment of Community-Related Activities

3.6 Assessment Results
As a result of an informal assessment consisting in discussions with students and faculty involved with the program, the requirements for the program were refined and amplified, with the approval in the fall in 2011 of the Catholic Studies Advisory Board. There are now only two named required courses instead of four: Rels-V252 NT as Literature and Rels-U247 Catholicism; and the capstone course, which is no longer taught, was eliminated.

4. Summary of Achievements

4.1. Unit as a Whole
a. The program and its requirements have been revised;
b. a uniform list of courses approved for the program has been finalized and put on the Catholic Studies web page.
c. Lecture by George Weigel in February, 2011.
e. Program for students: four faculty members participating in the program made a presentation regarding the area of Catholic studies

4.2. Faculty Achievements/Service: n/a

4.3. Staff Achievements/Service: n/a

4.4. Student Achievements: Calvin Monley, a Catholic Studies minor, received the Ignatius Award for the best male student graduating in 2011. He is now doing graduate work at Louvain in Belgium.

4.5 Community Engagement Achievements
The public was invited to the lecture by Mr. George Weigel. The event was advertised in the Times Picayune, the Clarion Herald, and personal contact was made with Xavier University, Holy Cross College, and the Catholic Center at Tulane University.

5. Budget

5.1 Funds made available:
   $1,350.00  2010-2011 operating budget
   $2,000.00  from dean of HUNS for Weigel lecture event,
   $1,621.14  funding from director’s professorship account
   $4,971.14  funds for the year 2010-2011

   $4,221.14 Expenses for the year:

   $750.00 Funds left over from operating budget:
5.1.1. Budget discussion
Almost all expenses were incurred for the lecture by George Weigel, the biographer of Pope John Paul II and the author of 19 books. He is an internationally known lecture and author. The Catholic Studies Program sponsored this event so that the program would attract attention from the public at large and from faculty and students at Loyola. Expenses included the airfare for Weigel, funds for the book display and sale, including payment for students and staff to work for this event.

5.2 2011-2012 Operating Budge: $1350.00

| 750.00 left from last year |
| 2100.00 |

5.2.1. Budget discussion
It will be up to the new Director to decide how these funds will be spent for 2011-2012.

6. Planning and Goals for 2011-2012

6.1. Strategic Planning.
The Interdisciplinary Studies Group, made up of directors of interdisciplinary programs and convened by the Senior Vice President, has committed itself to producing a collective strategic plan. This will include the Catholic Studies Program. Any further planning for the Catholic Studies Program should be left to the new director.

6.2. This program is designed to help foster the distinctive Catholic identity of this institution by promoting professional dialogue across academic disciplines and offering the students a coherent, curricular major and/or minor in Catholic studies at the undergraduate level. It focuses and expresses the Catholic dimension of Loyola University’s essential mission. This focused dimension spreads responsibility for the Catholic mission across the curriculum and throughout the community, thus extending the responsibility for the Catholic identity of the university beyond any one department.

6.3. Program Goals
The main goal of the past year was to provide one accurate list of courses in the Catholic Studies Program from the four or five different lists. Since this has been done, at the expense of many, many hours of work, other more important goals can now come into focus.

Any goals for the future of this program should be set by the new Director.
6.4. Student learning outcomes

6.5. Community Engagement

6.6. Resources
   Budget allocation for this year.

6.7. There is no assessment plan for the coming year. However, a program evaluation using the “Systematic Assessment Guide” provided at the assessment workshop this past year could be implemented.