

Models of Integration: Using Case Studies for Mentoring Students and Improving Student Integrative Skills Learning Outcomes

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I. Executive Summary

The integration of psychology and the Catholic approach to the human person ("Catholic anthropology") is a hallmark of the training provided at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences (IPS).

To strengthen this aspect of the clinical psychology program, the faculty proposes to develop a portfolio of detailed cases in clinical psychology, which are conceptualized and discussed from an integrative point of view. These cases will bring the more theoretical and philosophical aspects of the Catholic model down to the particulars of different case histories. The purpose of the casebook will be to provide students with examples of integrative reasoning for their own case conceptualizations.

As supported in the integrative learning literature, the availability of these examples to students is expected to strengthen the integrative aspect of the clinical psychology program across the curriculum, while also heightening and sharpening the faculty's shared understanding of the project of integration.

Progress and success will be measured by testing students' ability to employ an integrative approach in the case conceptualizations they develop as part of a public examination component at the doctoral level. The IPS Faculty has developed an instrument for evaluating students' integrative reasoning. The QEP will be judged to be effective if comprehensive exam results, as measured by this instrument, show significant improvement after the portfolio of cases has been written and broadly used in the IPS curriculum.