

PASTORAL THEOLOGY, M.A.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Assess pastoral situations from a critical stance;
- Reflect on ministerial practice in and perfect ministry skills for a culturally and religiously diverse society;
- Perform biblical exegesis with attention both to historical contexts and contemporary pastoral contexts
- Reflect critically on the praxis of faith and of justice within an ecumenically-minded Roman Catholic context
- Situate contemporary theological developments and pastoral practice in light of historical trajectories;
- Interpret the work of seminal thinkers in Christian ethics and analyze contemporary moral problems;
- Establish strategies and habits for the integration of one's own faith, pastoral practice, and theological expertise.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Core Requirements		
THST 6010	Foundations of New Testament Theology	3
or THST 6000	Foundations of Old Testament Theology	
THST 6030	Introduction to Systematic Theology	3
Select one of the following:		3
THST 6060	Foundations of Theological Ethics	
one course from the Historical area (THST 6020s)		
THST 6070	Foundations of Pastoral Theology	3
THST 6074	Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry	3
THST 6078	Supervised Pastoral Field Education ¹	3
THST 6090	Graduate Pro-Seminar (usually taken during the first semester)	3
THST 6091	Pastoral Synthesis Seminar (student must have completed at least 27 semester hours in order to take this capstone course)	3
Subtotal		24
Pastoral Theology Electives		
Select eighteen semester hours of electives ²		18
Subtotal		18
Total Semester Hours		42

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usually taken after 15 semester hours and THST 6070 Foundations of Pastoral Theology

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Pastoral Theology students are required to take one three-semester-hour course in either Liturgy, Religious Education, or Spirituality and select other elective courses offered by the Department of Theological Studies after consultation with their advisor. The course selected to satisfy this requirement cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of concentrations below.

The program is designed to allow a student to pursue general interests or a particular concentration. Concentrations are offered in two areas:

1. Pastoral Leadership and
2. Spiritual Direction.

Under special circumstances, students may take up to two courses (six semester hours) outside the department.

Spiritual Direction Concentration

An option for Students in the M.A. in Pastoral Theology

This concentration is designed for anyone enrolled in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology who would like to acquire the art of spiritual direction, a ministry of accompanying others in their spiritual journey. The purpose of the concentration is twofold:

1. to provide a course of studies that integrates theology, Scripture, psychology, spirituality, skills acquisition and supervision in the art of spiritual direction and
2. to assist participants to discern whether they are being called to the ministry of spiritual direction.

Upon successful completion of the four required courses listed below, participants will be able to designate that their Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology included a concentration in spiritual direction training.

Students who wish to concentrate their electives in spiritual direction would take the following courses. **Note:** THST 6051 The Theory and Practice of Spiritual Direction, needs to be taken first; THST 6054 Practicum and Supervision in Spiritual Direction, needs to be taken last. The other two courses can be taken whenever opportune, after completing the first course.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
THST 6051	The Theory and Practice of Spiritual Direction	3
THST 6052	Ignatian Spirituality and Discernment	3
THST 6053	Psychological Foundations of Spiritual Directions	3
THST 6054	Practicum and Supervision in Spiritual Direction (taken after completion of the three courses listed above)	3

Pastoral Leadership Concentration

An option for Students in the M.A. in Pastoral Theology

Description:

The concentration is made up of four courses (12 semester hours) that the student chooses from the set of approved courses listed in the Bulletin for this Concentration.

The concentration is designed to educate those who will serve (or who currently serve) as leaders in pastoral settings, either as leaders in specialized ministries or as leaders in general ministry positions.

Examples of leaders in specialized ministry include: Directors of Religious Education; Directors of Youth Ministry or Campus Ministry; and Directors of Catechumenate/RCIA. Leaders in generalist ministries include pastors, permanent deacons, and Pastoral Associates who are assigned a variety of general duties according to need.

The concentration is deliberately open to the students to design under the guidance of the academic advisor. In this way, students who find themselves actively engaged in, or aspiring to, leadership ministries within schools or parishes will choose courses for the concentration that fit their current or aspired ministry commitments.

Pastoral Leadership Concentration Course Offerings

Code	Title	Semester Hours
THST 6070	Foundations of Pastoral Theology	3
THST 6073	Theory and Practice of Pastoral Leadership	3
Select two of the following:		6
THST 6040	Liturgical Theology: History and Interpretation	
THST 6041	The Rites	
THST 6071	Pastoral Approaches to Religious Education	
THST 6043	Faith and Culture	
THST 6075	Pastoral Liturgy	
THST 6076	The Theology of the Parish	
THST 6077	Special Topics in Pastoral Theology	
THST 6053	Psychological Foundations of Spiritual Directions	
Total Semester Hours		12

Pastoral Synthesis Project (Pastoral Theology capstone)

The Pastoral Synthesis Project is the required capstone experience for all Pastoral Theology students. The project is designed to elicit familiarity with scholarly sources and pastoral analysis of issues that impact the contemporary practice of ministry. The project is neither solely a research paper nor a reflection paper, but a synthesis of both. The project is typically done in the last year of the Pastoral Theology program.