The overwhelming majority of M.A. in Philosophy and Society (MAPS) students will spend their lives in ministry. It is crucial, therefore, that they acquire skills to be effective, collaborative, integrated members of ministry teams; leading and following, learning to contribute deeply to the shared work. During the entirety of three-year MAPS program, students will be engaged in a community-based project, selected in consultation with program leadership and in partnership with both members of the local community and fellow students. Based in the tradition of Ignatian communal discernment and spiritual conversation, this course provides a valuable opportunity for the students to learn to reflect deeply on their shared ministry, focusing on building skills to read the local context and to plan, execute, and evaluate ministry initiatives. This weekly course will provide another space for ongoing integration of theory and praxis in light of faith that is a hallmark of the First Studies Program.

Since its foundation in 1540, the Society of Jesus has made important theological, philosophical, educational, and cultural contributions to Catholic and secular culture. This course will be delivered in three discrete, yet interconnected, one-credit modules whose specific topics will always be directly related to the primary aims of First Studies—the evaluation of the contexts of ministry and the appropriation of the Jesuit charism in service of the world and the church.

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The M.A. in Philosophy and Society includes three one-credit “contours” courses that are paired with corresponding core courses in the history of philosophy. Each of these courses aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore more deeply the cultural climate within which philosophical inquiry takes place. Through readings, museum visits, and performance attendance, students will experience and reflect on the pivotal role played by the arts and humanities in reflecting and constructing human cultures. This first movement will be taken alongside ancient philosophy and will focus on the shape of the ancient and late antique world.
MAPS 5402. Contours of the Late Medieval and Early Modern World. (1 Credit)
The M.A. in Philosophy and Society includes three one-credit “contours” courses that are paired with corresponding core courses in the history of philosophy. Each of these courses aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore more deeply the cultural climate within which philosophical inquiry takes place. Through readings, museum visits, and performance attendance, students will experience and reflect on the pivotal role played by the arts and humanities in reflecting and constructing human cultures. This second movement will be taken alongside the philosophy course in Aquinas and will focus on the shape of the later medieval and early modern world.

MAPS 5403. Contours of Modernity and Postmodernity. (1 Credit)
The M.A. in Philosophy and Society includes three one-credit “contours” courses that are paired with corresponding core courses in the history of philosophy. Each of these courses aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore more deeply the cultural climate within which philosophical inquiry takes place. Through readings, museum visits, and performance attendance, students will experience and reflect on the pivotal role played by the arts and humanities in reflecting and constructing human cultures. This third movement will be taken alongside the contemporary philosophy course and will focus on the shape of the modern and postmodern worlds.

MAPS 5500. Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry. (3 Credits)
The course provides an introduction to philosophy as a discipline and to philosophical ways of thinking in order to prepare for the study of philosophy and of broader intellectual history, especially in regard to the formation of the Christian tradition and the context of the contemporary world. That is to say: (1) It develops philosophical skills, such as critical thinking, reasoned argument, and philosophical writing. (2) It exposes students to the most significant philosophical topics and ideas and gives them a sense of the historical progression of the broader philosophical conversation. (3) It focuses especially on the topics and ideas most significant for the development of the Catholic tradition and helps students discover the important role philosophy played in this formation. (4) The course will also show the continued relevance of philosophy today for understanding the contemporary world and its various intellectual challenges.

MAPS 6000. Concluding Integration Capstone Seminar. (3 Credits)
The M.A. in Philosophy and Society concludes with a final Integration Seminar that provides students in the program with the opportunity to synthesize the interdisciplinary learning that has taken place over the previous three years. Facilitated by select faculty from representative disciplines as well as a member of the learning community's leadership team, the course will assist students in producing the final capstone project that demonstrates their acquired competencies.

MAPS 8999. Independent Study. (1 to 3 Credits)
Independent study for M.A. in Philosophy and Society students with a faculty member on an agreed-upon topic.