

# CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY (M.A.)

## Concentrations

### Spiritual Direction Concentration

Coursework in the spiritual direction concentration prepares you for work in retreat, campus ministry, and spiritual direction settings. It allows students to use electives to prepare for ministry as a spiritual director. Students also have access to Fordham's excellent retreat and campus ministry programming. In addition, it may be completed on campus or as a hybrid program. Some direction courses will require a residence on campus as well as a yearlong field work or practicum in the New York City area (one Saturday per month, plus online meetings).

In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete:

Course	Title	Credits
SPGR 7870	Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice	3
PCGR 6440	Pastoral Counseling Skills	3
SPGR 7740 & SPGR 7741	Spiritual Direction Practicum I and Spiritual Direction Practicum II <sup>1</sup>	6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

<sup>1</sup> Registration requires approval from the spiritual direction committee and your SPGR 7740 instructor, and successful completion of SPGR 7740 Spiritual Direction Practicum I.

In addition, concentrators must complete a comprehensive examination or M.A. thesis.

The decision to continue with the practicum is based on the student's performance in the initial courses and on interviews with the practicum directors during the application process for the practicum sequence. Students not admitted to the practicum may decide to resign from the program or ask to be considered for another certificate program. The practicum is a yearlong experience; students gather one Saturday per month from September to May and also complete field placements and phone/hybrid meetings between campus visits.

At the end of the supervised practicum, the supervisor works with the student to assess any particular needs for developing the necessary knowledge base in theology, psychology, or scripture based on the intern director's experience working with directees.

Participation in monthly spiritual direction with a credentialed spiritual director for at least one year is normally a prerequisite for admission to the spiritual direction concentration and for admission into the practicum. Students are expected to continue in spiritual direction throughout their course of studies. Resources regarding spiritual direction can be found at Fordham's campus ministry website. You might also wish to consult the resources offered by Spiritual Directors International, e.g. "Questions to Ask a Prospective Spiritual Director."

Students are required to complete the following prerequisite courses before starting the yearlong practicum sequence that begins every fall semester only:

- SPGR 7870 Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice
- SPGR 6830 Discernment in the Christian Tradition
- PCGR 6440 Pastoral Counseling Skills

Students should enroll as soon as registration opens, since these courses are in demand across multiple degree programs.

As noted, admission to the practicum sequence will be based on a student's satisfactory completion of the prerequisite courses and successful interviews with the practicum directors.

The practicum sequence includes the following courses:

- SPGR 7740 Spiritual Direction Practicum I
- SPGR 7741 Spiritual Direction Practicum II

(Admission to Practicum II is conditional upon the judgment of the Practicum I instructor.)

Students should apply for admission to Spiritual Direction Practicum I in the spring semester prior to their intended start date. Students who are not admitted to the practicum sequence may either withdraw from the program or seek admission to another certificate program. Admission to Practicum II is conditional, based upon the decision of the Practicum I instructor. Contact the assistant dean for any questions and further assistance regarding the application process.

In addition, concentrators must complete a comprehensive examination or M.A. thesis.

### Generalist Concentration

This concentration allows for a broad program of study in Christian spirituality for those who do not wish to focus on research or spiritual direction. This concentration may be completed entirely online, entirely on campus, or through a mix of both.

In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete:

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Two Spirituality electives <sup>1</sup></b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Two general electives <sup>2</sup></b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

<sup>1</sup> Spirituality electives are any course with the subject code SPGR.

<sup>2</sup> A general elective is any non-restricted course at GRE. In addition, with the permission of the designated faculty and/or department, students may enroll in courses offered at other Fordham University graduate schools, and the member schools of the New York Theological Consortium.

In addition, concentrators must complete a comprehensive examination or M.A. thesis.

### Research Concentration

The research concentration prepares students for doctoral programs and careers in higher education teaching Christian spirituality. Students have access to renowned faculty and all the resources of Fordham's other

schools, centers, and institutes. In addition, this concentration may be completed entirely online, entirely on campus, or through a mix of both.

In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete all the requirements for the generalist concentration, with the following additions:

### **Completion of an M.A. Thesis**

Requires students to complete a master's thesis. The research paper is typically 60 pages.

### **Demonstrated Ability in a Second Language**

Requires students to demonstrate competency in a second language in preparation for the research of the thesis. The master's thesis must employ a language that is relevant to the subject being researched and a language that is a second language for the student. Language competency is demonstrated by the successful completion of a language examination.