**PASTORAL CARE (M.A.)**

**Requirements**

The Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Pastoral Care requires 36 credits for completion. This online degree program requires a one-week, intensive course in pastoral counseling skills (PCGR 6440) offered on campus.

**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6386</td>
<td>Pastoral Counseling Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6310</td>
<td>Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6384</td>
<td>Professional Ethics in Pastoral Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6380</td>
<td>Theology of Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6440</td>
<td>Pastoral Counseling Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCGR 6382</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Foundations of Pastoral Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two courses from the following: 6

- PCGR 6410 Psychology and Religion/Spirituality
- PCGR 6420 Marriage/Family Therapy
- PCGR 7420 Death, Dying, and Bereavement

**One Religious Education course:**

- REGR 6120 Education for Peace and Justice
- RLGR 6031 Theology of the Human Person
- REGR 6202 Young Adult & Adult Ministry
- REGR 7140 Curriculum and Religious Education

**One Scripture course:**

- RLGR 6010 Old Testament
- RLGR 6011 New Testament

**One Theology course:**

- RLGR 6030 Christology
- PMGR 6510 Theology of Ministry
- RLGR 6031 Theology of the Human Person

**One Spirituality course:**

- SPGR 6830 Discernment in the Christian Tradition
- SPGR 6742 The Ignatian Way

Total Credits 36

**Final Paper**

All Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in pastoral care students are required to complete a final paper as part of the degree requirement. The final paper allows students the opportunity to integrate, reflect, expand, and apply their coursework. It should be noted that there is no registration fee for this component of the program. Additionally, no credits are awarded for the paper. However, students are required to register for maintenance and matriculation if not currently registered for classes.

All students in the 36-credit program have two options for the final paper. Students are to choose the option in consultation with a final project mentor of their choosing. A mentor can be chosen at any point during the program.

**Option 1: Complete a 30- to 40-page pastoral care project with a for-ministry focus.**

Students choosing this option are asked to draw upon their current or future pastoral care ministry and, informed by psychological and spiritual scholarship, write a final project that addresses an identifiable issue/concern. The paper is to include three parts:

1. A written discussion of the purpose of the project, including a description of the pastoral care need that will be addressed by your project and your goals for the project
2. A detailed description of the pastoral care project
3. A reflection on the psychological and spiritual dynamics of your project

**Option 2: Complete a 30- to 40-page major paper.**

Students choosing this option will have the opportunity to explore a pastoral care issue and the implications of this issue in depth. The major paper may take the following form:

1. Identify a significant pastoral care issue
2. Provide an account of why this is an important issue today
3. Discuss the issue drawing from psychological and spiritual resources
4. Explore some of the pastoral, clinical, and ethical dimensions or implications of the issue

**Mentorship**

Ordinarily, mentors of the final project are any of the full-time faculty in the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education in pastoral care and counseling that the student chooses. With permission, students may work with contingent faculty. It is the role of the mentor, who need not be one’s faculty adviser, to help the student develop a proposal for the paper, to approve that proposal, to offer suggestions, to give feedback on the writing as needed, and to approve the final copy. It is not the role of the mentor to correct for grammar, spelling, and the manual of style.

**Manual of Style**

The final paper needs to be written according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA style).

Updated: 07-25-2021