

PASTORAL CARE (M.A.)

This program is offered online.

The Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in pastoral care is designed to prepare students engaged in ministerial work to be competent and effective pastoral caregivers in their present and future ministries. The program nurtures in-depth study, meaningful reflection, and the interdependence of theory and practice.

At the core of the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in pastoral care are philosophical, theological, historical, psychological, sociological, and cultural foundations. Various modalities of theological reflection are utilized: pastoral and practical theology, psychology, developmental theory, spirituality, and cultural and multicultural perspectives.

The students enrolled in this program are clergy and laypeople involved in ministry of many kinds: parish ministry, chaplaincy in hospitals or other settings, youth ministry, work with the elderly or with at-risk populations. Those interested in chaplaincy may use this degree to seek certification from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) or the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC).

The optional concentration in Trauma-Informed Care addresses society's growing need for helping professionals who understand the dynamics and effects of trauma on individuals and communities. Topics covered include the neuropsychology of trauma; the effects of early childhood trauma and attachment; historical, intergenerational, and cultural trauma, and the interaction of trauma, faith, and spirituality. Special attention is paid to issues of context, including race, class, gender, and sexuality, and students will be encouraged to bring in issues from their particular settings. The trauma courses in the concentration are offered exclusively through a synchronous, live-online format.

Are you interested in attending the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education? Request more information or schedule an information session today.

CIP Code

39.0705 - Lay Ministry.

You can use the CIP code to learn more about career paths associated with this field of study and, for international students, possible post-graduation visa extensions. Learn more about CIP codes and other information resources.