

PASTORAL STUDIES (M.A.)

This program is offered online.

The Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in pastoral studies prepares students to serve in parishes, denominational offices, schools, hospitals, and other such organizations where leadership depends on skilled cultivation of religiously informed practice. This degree is also designed to meet the requirements for pastoral ministers set out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Association for Lay Ministry. Courses include scripture, theology, spirituality, pastoral care and counseling, religious education, and ministry. This degree provides a solid foundation for students seeking to follow many different career paths that benefit from bringing religion scholarship to service.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate facilities with methods of research in specific theological disciplines for post-graduate and doctoral studies.
2. Students will communicate the Christian story competently to make it accessible through a variety of means (e.g. teaching, writing, dialogue, personal consultation).
3. Students will articulate the relationship between the Christian tradition and their professional practice and spiritual development.
4. Students will articulate a well rounded knowledge and critical appropriation of Jesuit Spirituality and the Catholic intellectual tradition.
5. Students will use tools of literary, cultural, historical, and social analysis in the interpretation of various cultures and their relationship to the Christian tradition.
6. Students will demonstrate a well-rounded and critical appropriation of effective ministerial skill in ecclesial, congregational, and institutional settings with theological understanding and practical skills consistent with his/her specialization.

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.

Requirements

Students admitted to the program are expected to have sufficient academic background to complete the program. Additional coursework

may be required for students with insufficient background, raising the total number of credits required to complete the program to 42 or more. Additional coursework may include the following:

- A religious education elective consisting of any course with the REGR subject code numbered 6000-7999, as listed on our course listings page.
- A pastoral ministry elective consisting of any course with the PMGR subject code numbered 6000-7999, as listed on our course listings page.

Students with sufficient academic background are waived from these additional course requirements.

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
PMGR 6510	Theology of Ministry	3
RLGR 6010	Old Testament	3
RLGR 6011	New Testament	3
RLGR 6030	Christology	3
PMGR 8030	M.A. Integrating Seminar	3
<i>One of the following Intercultural requirement courses:</i>		3
REGR 6150	Foundations for Intercultural Ministry and Religious Education	
PMGR 6612	Ministry with Latinxs	
PMGR 9999	ST Tutorial-Pastoral Ministry (An approved section)	
Another course approved by the Pastoral Ministry faculty committee		
<i>One Systematic Theology course:</i>		3
RLGR 6031	Theology of the Human Person	
RLGR 6032	Church and Society	
<i>One Moral Education course:</i>		3
REGR 6120	Education for Peace and Justice	
REGR 6125	Moral Education & Development	
<i>One Spirituality course:</i>		3
SPGR 6742	The Ignatian Way	
SPGR 6830	Discernment in the Christian Tradition	
<i>One Pastoral Counseling course:</i>		3
PCGR 6310	Human Growth and Development	
PCGR 6380	Theology of Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care	
PCGR 6410	Psychology and Religion/Spirituality	
PCGR 7420	Death, Dying, and Bereavement	
<i>Two general electives</i> ¹		6
Total Credits		36

¹ A general elective is any nonrestricted 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.

Final Project

The Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in pastoral studies program concludes with a capstone course, PMGR 8030 (offered each spring). The course involves a terminal group research project on a topic determined by the faculty.