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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PMGR 6510</td>
<td>Theology of Ministry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGR 6010</td>
<td>Old Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGR 6011</td>
<td>New Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGR 6030</td>
<td>Christology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMGR 8030</td>
<td>M.A. Integrating Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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One of the following Intercultural requirement courses:

- 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

One Systematic Theology course:

- RLGR 6031 Theology of the Human Person
- RLGR 6032 Church and Society
- RLGR 6033 Sacraments: Theology and Rites

One Moral Education course:

- REGR 6120 Education for Peace and Justice
- REGR 6125 Moral Education & Development

One Spirituality course:

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

One Pastoral Counseling course:

- 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

Two general electives 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.

Updated: 07-24-2024