

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.