

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY (M.A.)

Concentrations

Spiritual Direction Concentration

Coursework in the spiritual direction concentration prepares you for work in retreat, campus ministry, and spiritual direction settings. It allows students to use electives to prepare for ministry as a spiritual director. Students also have access to Fordham's excellent retreat and campus ministry programming. In addition, it may be completed on campus, online, or as a hybrid program.

In the second year of the program, students must be available one Saturday per month for a practicum class that meets September through May to complete the program. In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete:

Course	Title	Credits
SPGE 7870	Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice	3
PCGE 6440	Pastoral Counseling Skills	3
SPGE 7740 & SPGE 7741	Spiritual Direction Practicum I and Spiritual Direction Practicum II	6
Total Credits		12

¹ Registration requires approval from the spiritual direction committee and your SPGE 7740 instructor, and successful completion of SPGE 7740 Spiritual Direction Practicum I.

In addition, concentrators must complete a comprehensive examination or M.A. thesis (please see the Requirements section (p.) to understand the language/submission/length requirements for the thesis option).

The decision to continue with the practicum is based on the student's performance in the initial courses and on interviews with the practicum directors during the application process for the practicum sequence. Students not admitted to the practicum may decide to resign from the program or ask to be considered for another certificate program. The practicum is a yearlong experience; students gather one Saturday per month from September to May and also complete field placements and phone/hybrid meetings between campus visits.

At the end of the supervised practicum, the supervisor works with the student to assess any particular needs for developing the necessary knowledge base in theology, psychology, or scripture based on the intern director's experience working with directees.

Participation in monthly spiritual direction with a credentialed spiritual director for at least one year is normally a prerequisite for admission to the spiritual direction concentration and for admission into the practicum. Students are expected to continue in spiritual direction throughout their course of studies. Resources regarding spiritual direction can be found at Fordham's campus ministry website. You might also wish to consult the resources offered by Spiritual Directors International, e.g. "Questions to Ask a Prospective Spiritual Director."

Students are required to complete the following prerequisite courses before starting the yearlong practicum sequence that begins every fall semester only:

- SPGE 7870 Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice
- SPGE 6830 Discernment in the Christian Tradition
- PCGE 6440 Pastoral Counseling Skills

Students should enroll as soon as registration opens since these courses are in demand across multiple degree programs.

As noted, admission to the practicum sequence will be based on a student's satisfactory completion of the prerequisite courses and successful interviews with the practicum directors.

The practicum sequence includes the following courses:

- SPGE 7740 Spiritual Direction Practicum I
- SPGE 7741 Spiritual Direction Practicum II

(Admission to Practicum II is conditional upon the judgment of the Practicum I instructor.)

Students should apply for admission to Spiritual Direction Practicum I in the spring semester prior to their intended start date. Students who are not admitted to the practicum sequence may either withdraw from the program or seek admission to another certificate program. Admission to Practicum II is conditional, based upon the decision of the Practicum I instructor. Contact the assistant dean for any questions and further assistance regarding the application process.

For a detailed description of Practicum requirements, see the information provided in the Bulletin under the Advanced Certificate in Spiritual Direction.

Generalist Concentration

This concentration allows for a broad program of study in Christian spirituality for those who do not wish to focus on research or spiritual direction. This concentration may be completed entirely online, entirely on campus, or through a mix of both.

In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete:

Course	Title	Credits
Two Spirituality electives ¹		6
Two general electives ²		6
Total Credits		12

¹ Spirituality electives are any course with the subject code SPGE.

² A general elective is any non-restricted course at GSE. 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.

In addition, concentrators must complete a comprehensive examination or M.A. thesis.

Research Concentration

The research concentration prepares students for doctoral programs and careers in higher education teaching Christian spirituality. Students have access to renowned faculty and all the resources of Fordham's other schools, centers, and institutes. In addition, this concentration may be completed entirely online, entirely on campus, or through a mix of both.

In addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) in Christian spirituality, students must also complete all the requirements for the generalist concentration, with the following additions:

Completion of an M.A. Thesis

Requires students to complete a master's thesis. The research paper is typically 60 pages.

Demonstrated Ability in a Second Language

Requires students to demonstrate competency in a second language in preparation for the research of the thesis. The master's thesis must employ a language that is relevant to the subject being researched and a language that is a second language for the student. Language competency is demonstrated by the successful completion of a language examination. The language is typically one of the following: French, German, Spanish, Latin, or Greek. Students may petition for faculty permission to substitute an alternate research language. Approval for any exceptions to the typically approved language list will be made by a vote of the Christian Spirituality faculty at an area meeting during the Fall and Spring semesters only. Translation knowledge of a research language may be indicated by exam (see the assistant academic dean for possible dates and locations) or coursework (two semesters of university-level courses within the past six years with a grade of B+ or higher). Proof of competency in a research language requires a letter from the assistant academic dean indicating that you have shown competence in an approved foreign language by examination or review.