As a renowned global hub for educating and forming leaders in ministry who can adapt to the rapidly changing religious and social landscapes of the 21st century, the **Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS)** facilitates the integrated ministerial development of diverse and dynamic leaders for creative, compassionate, and courageous service to church and society.

Through evening and weekend classes in downtown Chicago, in Vernon Hills, and online, you will be able to mold your graduate business program around the specific demands of your personal and professional life.

### Graduate Pathway: Institute of Pastoral Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs available</th>
<th>For a full list of programs, visit this link: <a href="http://www.luc.edu/ips/">http://www.luc.edu/ips/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate GPA requirement</td>
<td>While there is no minimum GPA required for application to the IPS, applicants with a GPA below 3.0 in their most recent academic work may be admitted on probation, in light of additional strengths. If you have concerns about your previous academic record, the IPS encourages you to apply and to complete the Academic Explanation essay as a qualitative supplement to your transcripts. This brief explanation should be 1 - 2 paragraphs long, detailing the factors contributing to your previous academic performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam required</td>
<td>IPS does not require any standardized test scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td>Loyola students do not need to submit official transcripts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Timeline</td>
<td>IPS has a rolling admission process and accepts new student each term: fall, spring, and summer. IPS strongly recommends submitting materials for admission at least one month prior to the start of a term to ensure time to process the application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Courses waivers | SCPS students pursuing an undergraduate degree in Pastoral Leadership are eligible to complete 4 IPS courses as an undergraduate student to be applied toward completion of the graduate degree from IPS:  
  - IPS 570 – Introduction to Theology and Ministry  
  - **Social Justice Track:**  
    - IPS 610 – Social Justice Foundations  
    - IPS 620 – Diversity and Equity  
    - IPS 660 – Leadership in Social Justice Organizations  
  - **Pastoral Studies Track:**  
    - IPS 417 Literature of Ancient Israel  
    - IPS 402 The Church and Its Mission |
| **Personal Statement** | Your statement should be approximately 6 double-spaced pages and respond to the topics below.

1. Write a brief autobiographical essay focusing on key themes in your personal development to date. Be sure to include details about your educational background, your career experience, persons and events that have been major influences on you, ministerial/volunteer/advocacy experiences that have most impacted you, and your learning style.

2. Based on these personal and professional factors, please discuss your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Please address the following questions:
   a. Why the particular degree for which you have applied?
   b. Why the IPS?
   c. Why now?
   d. What contemporary issues in your proposed field of study do you see as most pressing?
   e. Upon completion of the program, in what professional context and with which persons/clients/populations do you see yourself ministering or working?
   f. How do you envision your IPS coursework fitting with your other work/life obligations? Do you intend to pursue your degree full-time or part-time?
   g. If your degree program is offered entirely or partly online, do you intend to pursue your degree on-campus, online, or through a combination of on-campus and online courses? |
| **Recommendation letters** | Two letters are required. |
| **Scholarships and funding options** | Loyola’s Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS) offers a number of opportunities for financial assistance. Eligible students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program and meet normal admission standards.

Generous awards are available and every effort is made to make our program affordable. Last year alone, we awarded over $640,000.00 in financial assistance to our students.

Any financial assistance a student receives from IPS is one part of a larger financial aid package arranged through the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Students must work with the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) and the Office of the Bursar to coordinate the financing of their IPS education. Click HERE for a graduate student financial aid checklist. |

Apply online: [gpem.luc.edu/apply](http://gpem.luc.edu/apply). Please review your program of interest for required supporting materials.