

COUNSELING FOR MINISTRY

MA DEGREE IN COUNSELING FOR MINISTRY

The Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS) provides a transformative educational experience for individuals already involved in or aspiring to faith-based leadership in professional ministry settings, non-profit venues, service-oriented professions, and social justice agencies.

Loyola's MA in Counseling for Ministry will equip you with the skills necessary to provide support and appropriate referrals to congregants. Because the program does not prepare practitioners for licensure, the degree can be completed in a compressed schedule.

This degree is ideal for students looking to enhance their skillsets with a foundation of counseling. The student population includes communities such as counseling, law, policy, psychotherapy, medicine, and business. The program is also ideal for international students as it does not result in licensure, only advancement of skills and training.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The degree offers part- and full-time enrollment.

MA average time to completion (full time): 2 years

MA average time to completion (part time): 3 years

Courses focus on skill building, so most classes meet in person at Loyola's Water Tower Campus in downtown Chicago. Select courses can be completed online.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

You will complete a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) experience and an integration project that synthesizes all that you have learned throughout your time in the MA in Counseling for Ministry program.

EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

After completion of your studies, you will have enhanced your human relation skills in active listening, accompaniment, and spiritual literacy, as well as gained a greater ability to be present to your congregants and the issues they face. These aptitudes are crucial for ministers and those who offer support in a religious or caregiving setting.

Career services are available at LUC.edu/career.

PROGRAM DISTINCTIONS

The Institute of Pastoral Studies is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. We continue the Catholic and Jesuit tradition of academic excellence, a personal and community approach to education, and social relevance.

Loyola's MA in Counseling for Ministry is one of only three programs in the U.S. that offers students the skills associated with a pastoral counseling degree without the time commitment associated with securing licensure. The program teaches spiritually grounded and psychologically informed counseling skills.

STUDENT LIFE

- **ACTS:** A proud member of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS), IPS partners with 11 Chicago-based theological schools whose courses will be available for you to take as you fulfill your elective credit requirements.
- **STUDY ABROAD:** We encourage you to widen your pastoral experience with an international immersion. Study abroad is open to full- and part-time students. Courses in Rome are scheduled for every summer and students are eligible for special scholarship funds to make the Rome experience a reality.
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:** As an IPS student, you are eligible to participate in the IPS Student Engagement Committee. You will also have many opportunities to connect with the IPS alumni base.

FACULTY

Our faculty members are respected leaders in their fields, integrating research and practical experiences in the classroom. They value interdisciplinary approaches and reflect expertise in a wide array of areas including narrative interpretive methods, Caribbean theologies of liberation, theology and political economy, pedagogies of storytelling, science and theology, ecological approaches to spiritual human development, theologies of pilgrimage, community organizing, integral formation for counseling practice, theologies of immigration, and more. Faculty participate in a number of professional organizations and conferences including the American Academy of Religion, Society of Christian Ethics, Catholic Theological Society of America, Black Catholic Theological Symposium, Center for Theology and Natural Sciences, Catholic Association of Theological Field Education, Karl Rahner Society, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, and Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling.

For more on our faculty visit [LUC.edu/ips/about/faculty](https://luc.edu/ips/about/faculty).

ACCREDITATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND AFFILIATIONS

As a part of Loyola University Chicago, the Institute of Pastoral Studies is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and affiliated with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). In addition, the IPS is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Those accreditations along with our mission to form students as leaders in diverse fields has led to the development of several additional memberships and affiliations. The IPS is a member of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, the AJCU Conference for Pastoral, Theological and Ministerial Education, the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, and the Association of Professional Chaplains among many more.

For more on our accreditations, memberships, and affiliations visit [LUC.edu/ips/about/affiliations/](https://luc.edu/ips/about/affiliations/).

FINANCIAL AID

Begin the financial aid process by completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov.

IPS has limited funds available for financial assistance. Options include merit-based scholarships, need-based grants, sponsored matching grants, and graduate assistant positions. You may also apply for the Mission Grant, Loyola University Campus Ministry Assistantship, or the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program. Learn more at [LUC.edu/ips/admission/finaid](https://luc.edu/ips/admission/finaid).

LEARN MORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

gpem.LUC.edu/apply

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about the academic program, or to arrange a visit, please contact:

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Lewis Towers—Sixth Floor
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Chicago, IL 60611

PHONE: 312.915.6124

EMAIL: ips@LUC.edu

ONLINE: LUC.edu/ips

The Institute of Pastoral Studies is accredited by:

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

PHONE: 412.788.6505

ONLINE: www.ats.edu

Send all supporting documents to:

Graduate and Professional Enrollment Management
Loyola University Chicago
820 N. Michigan Avenue
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