

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

MA DEGREE • CERTIFICATES • DUAL DEGREE

The Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS) educates people for faith-based leadership and 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.

## MA IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

The MA in Social Justice is an ecumenical and interfaith degree program that offers a balanced, integrated approach that engages both theory and practice.

The degree program educates students to lead societal transformation in a variety of contexts, from local neighborhoods to international settings, with a focus on improved economic, racial, cultural, and gender equity and ecological health. As an aspiring “change agent,” you will study the spiritual and theological foundations of social justice, key contemporary social justice issues, the tools of analysis in addressing social justice issues, best-practice strategies for effective work in advocacy and community development, and the practical skills of successful leadership.

## CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

—AVAILABLE ONLINE

This graduate certificate program will prepare you for faith-based leadership in social advocacy, community organizing, and systemic social change. The program combines theoretical and practical learning in social justice and activism.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The degree offers full- and part-time enrollment.

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

*MA average time to completion (part time): 4 years*

*Certificate average time to completion (full time): 1 year*

## INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

As a student in the MA in Social Justice program, you will complete a three-credit Contextual Education experience, as well as a capstone integration project that synthesizes your learnings at the end of your studies.

## EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

When you complete your degree, you will have a strong resume for a career in a variety of settings such as non-profit leadership, issues advocacy, legislative work, environmental activism, government work, and community organizing.

Career services are available at [LUC.edu/career](https://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.

You can broaden your academic and experiential foundation by pursuing the MA in Social Justice along with another master’s degree.

- The MASJ/MDiv prepares you for leadership in faith-based organizations that promote justice, foster global awareness, and develop professional programs committed to excellence.
- The MASJ/MSW provides you with a strong background to become an agent for positive change as well as the competencies to become a licensed social worker.

## 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.
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:** As an IPS student, you are welcome to participate in the IPS Student Engagement Committee.

## 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 AFFILIATION

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 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).

IPS has a variety of funds available for financial assistance. Via the Sponsored Matching Grant program, IPS will match up to 50% of tuition for eligible students from sponsoring institutions. Other options include merit-based scholarships, need-based grants, Mission Grants, Loyola University Campus Ministry Assistantship, the Chicago Archdiocesan Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program, and/or graduate assistant positions at IPS. Learn more at [LUC.edu/ips/admission/finaid](https://luc.edu/ips/admission/finaid).

## LEARN MORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

[gpem.LUC.edu/apply](https://gpem.LUC.edu/apply)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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EMAIL: [ips@LUC.edu](mailto:ips@LUC.edu)

ONLINE: [LUC.edu/ips](https://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](https://www.ats.edu)

*Send all supporting documents to:*

Graduate and Professional Enrollment Management  
Loyola University Chicago  
820 N. Michigan Avenue  
Lewis Towers 1200  
Chicago, IL 60611

PHONE: 312.915.8950

EMAIL: [GradApp@LUC.edu](mailto:GradApp@LUC.edu)

ONLINE: [gpem.LUC.edu/apply](https://gpem.LUC.edu/apply)

