

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY / SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

MA DEGREE IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Optional Concentration in Spiritual Direction

POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

ALSO OFFERED ENTIRELY ONLINE

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.

MA IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

The interdisciplinary field of Christian spirituality integrates insights from spirituality, theology, the Bible, history, ethics, and psychology, and emphasizes critical academic and pastoral skills. Through your studies, you will develop the competencies for personal spiritual growth and effective pastoral work, and will gain an aptitude for reflection and discernment.

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO PURSUE THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CONCENTRATION:

MA in Christian Spirituality students have the opportunity to focus their formation on acquiring the theoretical and practical skills they need to provide spiritual direction. Spiritual directors walk alongside you during your journey, accompanying you in your spiritual development and relationship with God. The IPS provides the unique opportunity for graduate-level study to learn to direct and use the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, offering spiritual direction framed by and infused with the Jesuit perspective and values.

POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

IPS also offers an 18-credit-hour Post-Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction that prepares you for the specialized ministry of spiritual direction. This certificate is suited to applicants holding a master's degree or above in theological or ministerial studies, psychology or counseling, psychiatric social work, or health care. Certificate students may focus their studies on learning to direct and use the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola.

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): 4 years

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

The Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality (Spiritual Direction Concentration included) and the Post-Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction can be pursued entirely on-site at Loyola's Water Tower Campus, or in a blended format of online and on-site classes. Courses may also be completed at the Rome campus during the summer.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Christian Spirituality degree incorporates a three-credit Contextual Education placement as well as a capstone integration project that synthesizes your learnings at the end of your studies. Contextual Education is a structured field learning program that combines on-site mentoring and supervision with peer and faculty weekly reflection sessions. Students typically minister 10–15 hours per week for a period of 17–20 weeks, for a total of 200 hours of on-site experience and formation. Students in the Spiritual Direction program will acquire the practical skills for spiritual direction in learning interactions with their peers and under the supervision of an experienced spiritual director. Students may choose to focus their contextual education experience in a variety of spiritual traditions (e.g., Carmelite, Benedictine, Franciscan, the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, etc.) under the guidance of a trained mentor.

EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

After you complete your studies, you will have built a strong resume for a career in positions such as spiritual director or retreat director. 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.

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 all students to widen their pastoral education with an international immersion via the IPS Summer Rome Program that is offered every year.
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:** As an IPS student, you are encouraged 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.

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/.

FINANCIAL AID

Begin the financial aid process by completing the 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, Mission Grants, Loyola University Campus Ministry Assistantship, the Chicago Archdiocesan Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program, and/or graduate student worker positions at IPS. Learn more at 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:

Institute of Pastoral Studies
Loyola University Chicago
Lewis Towers—Sixth Floor
820 N. Michigan Avenue
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
Lewis Towers 1200
Chicago, IL 60611

PHONE: 312.915.8950
EMAIL: GradApp@LUC.edu
ONLINE: gpem.LUC.edu/apply

