

**Loyola University Chicago  
Institute of Pastoral Studies  
MA in Pastoral Counseling  
IPS 511/513 Internship Supervision**

Welcome to your MA integration project, an extended pastoral/clinical theological reflection, drawing upon much that you have learned, inside and outside the classroom during your time at IPS. You will be organizing your reflections around one particular counseling experience, and you will be completing portions of this project throughout your two semesters of internship supervision.

In the *Fall semester*, you will prepare the chapters which articulate the contexts describing your counseling practice: (1) the vision and mission of your internship site, (2) your own pastoral counseling identity, vision and practice, and (3) a primary counseling approach which you are developing within your context.

Early in the *Spring semester*, you will select one of your cases (an individual, couple or group) as the focal point of your reflection. You will then prepare chapters describing the client's situation as you encountered it, and discussing assessment, treatment, and ethical reflection on the counseling relationship. You will also reflect on the theological themes that have informed your Praxis. Lastly, you will write an introduction and brief conclusion, and formalize your references.

Your Fall Loyola group supervisor will serve as your reader for the contextual chapters (Chapters 1-2), providing preliminary approval of your work-in-progress and incorporating the completed chapters into your final grade for IPS 511 Internship Supervision I. Your Spring Loyola group supervisor will have the responsibility for final approval, and will incorporate the completed project into your final grade for IPS 513 Internship Supervision II. (Chapters 3-8)

**MAPC Final Project Guide**  
(Updated 12/11/2018)

*Suggested length of paper: 50 pages*

**FRONT MATTER**

**Title page**

**Acknowledgments**

**Table of contents**

**Introduction** (written last): Briefly orient the reader to the situation and theme(s) which the reader will encounter in this paper.

**I. CONTEXTUAL FOUNDATIONS (Fall semester)**

**Chapter 1: Contextual Analysis**

**A. Internship Site 1-2 pages**

Briefly summarize the history, vision and mission of your internship site (in your own words, not copied from agency materials). Use both literature and interviews with key personnel. Identify the pastoral needs of the populations served, the primary approach the agency takes to pastoral/clinical care, who collaborates in the care of those being served, and how power and privilege impact the clientele. Consider how the sociocultural context is significant to the work of the agency, and to your own experience there as a counseling intern.

**B. Counselor's pastoral identity, vision and practice 3-4 pages**

In addition to your internship context, you bring your own history and worldview to your counseling interactions. In this chapter, discuss the faith context for your development as a pastoral counseling professional:

1. **Pastoral identity:** Discuss your sense of a ‘ministry’ of counseling. Was there a larger faith/spiritual/philosophical tradition that nurtured that desire? What current community nurtures your ongoing faith/spiritual journey? Do you have an explicit leadership role in your current faith community? If not, how do you see your role as a counselor contributing to your larger communal context?
  
2. **Pastoral theological vision:** As you engage in the specific duties of the internship, place your counseling activity in a larger context of meaning: identify wisdom from select theological resources to discuss your understanding of human wholeness/purpose/fulfillment/health/maturity. As you meet with these specific individuals/group members, reflect on what you understand about human suffering, how you envision change, how you see yourself as an instrument of healing. In what do you ground your hope?

**C. Theological resources/theological resources:**

**4 pages**

1. What theological and/ or spiritual sources guide your vision of counseling? Identify and summarize significant learning from your IPS courses, along with other core themes/ideas that influence you. Cite key theological/spiritual texts which provide inspiration and guidance. (Include references.) Identify the at least one theologian (an author reflecting on the experience of caring for others in the midst of human experience) whose ideas you will consult as you reflect on your own clinical work.
  
2. **Pastoral practices:** As you engage your internship and coursework, what ongoing spiritual practices provide work/life balance, keep you grounded and oriented to your vision, and nourish and sustain your pastoral clinical work? Consider the following arenas:
  - **Healthy self-care:** habits of caring for your body through diet and exercise, play, and cultivating a spiritual dimension to life;
  - **Care of interpersonal relationships:** practices that keep you engaged with family, close friends, neighbors, faith companions;
  - **Engagement with local community:** associations that connect you with an 2 and others who share your vision, working to ameliorate significant local issues and contribute to human flourishing;
  - **Solidarity with the global community:** associations that incorporate you in a cross-fertilization of faith and service communities across the globe dealing with a range of care and justice issues, calling for shared learning exchanges and potential joint action.

**Chapter 2: Counselor's theoretical approach****8 pages**

Identify one primary approach which you are exploring as you work with clients in your internship setting. Summarize this theory, including background on its historical development, exploration of core ideas/themes, and the type of difficulties for which it is most effective. How does this theory interface with your internship context? With your vision of wholeness, healing, change? Identify areas of fit and areas of tension. (This chapter will likely have significant overlap with the paper assigned in your Pastoral Psychodynamic Assessment course.)

**II. CLINICAL PROCESS (Spring semester)****Chapter 3: Counselor's assessment of the clinical situation****6 pages**

**A. Identifying information/Demographic data:  
Presenting situation and preliminary assessment:**

Describe client (or group), especially first impressions. Provide pseudonym or initials for client(s), age, race or ethnicity, gender identity, relational status, socioeconomic status, immigrant status, physical appearance, and any other relevant identifying information.) Describe client's situation as you first encountered it. What brought them to seek care? What were key precipitating events? What brought them to this agency? What was client initially seeking?

Describe the counsee's relational, developmental, psychodynamic, or social difficulties as the case warrants. What strengths and resources has the person(s) brought as they engaged their presenting issues? What challenges seemed most in need of addressing in the counseling relationship?

**B. Brief Psychosocial and socio-cultural assessment:**

Summarize the significant data you uncovered in your psychosocial assessment that informed your response. What further understanding have you needed about the client's psychological issues? What socio-cultural factors have been at play in the situation, and in the client's primary relationships; how has the client's cultural background interrelated with your background, and how has this informed your response? What further understanding about the intercultural contexts of the client and situation would contribute to your ability to be of assistance?

**C. Pastoral theological assessment:**

How have you gone about gaining a pastoral/spiritual understanding of what the counselee needed from you? Are there any relevant client religious/spiritual framework or practices that impacted your work and how has this informed your response? What further understanding did you need to gain about the client's spiritual/religious beliefs, practices, and relationships? What community connections might support the client in drawing upon their spiritual/religious resources?

**Chapter 4: Research**

**3 pages**

Given your assessment, identify a significant issue relevant to this clinical situation for which you sought further research. What research have you undertaken, and what further research would be relevant to inform your effective response to this situation? Identify an issue intrinsic to your work with this counseling situation, and identify scholarly resources from texts or peer-reviewed journals which addressed this issue.

**Chapter 5: Therapeutic plan and treatment goals**

**4 pages**

Based upon your analysis of the presenting problem/situation and your psychosocial, socio-cultural, and pastoral theological assessment, what therapeutic plan was put into place? How did you specifically support growth, healing, wholeness for this person/group?

What was your plan to assist this person with their stated needs/problems?

1. *Immediate goals* – what needed to be addressed first
2. *Longer term goals*
3. *Prognosis* – considering all circumstances, including the limitations of your internship timeframe, what did you envision would be possible as an outcome of this counseling process?

Reviewing the contextual foundations you articulated in your paper, reflect on your assessment of this particular client and situation. And, now, after final reflection on your counseling relationships during your internship, address the question of *how your counseling theory fits and/or doesn't fit the particular needs of this case*. Discuss the ways in which your treatment plan has been congruent with your pastoral vision. Are there ways you have been challenged in this particular circumstance to adapt/expand/modify your understanding and response?

### III. PASTORAL INTEGRATION: Clinical, Ethical and Theological

#### Chapter 6: Reflections on the counseling/supervision process

6 pages

Looking back over your sessions, describe the counseling process itself, noting particular shifts, crisis points or significant transformations along the way.

1. Beginning phase: engaging the client
2. Middle phase: shifting into deeper work
3. Termination phase: bringing work to closure
4. What adjustments have you made in light of the actual process of therapy?

Include core insights you have gained from supervisory conversations, both at your site and in your Loyola groups.

#### Sample session

As a way of illustrating your particular approach with this client, offer a two-page verbatim report from one of your sessions. Select a part of the interaction which you feel exemplifies your intended approach, and offer an assessment of your own emerging pastoral/therapeutic acumen. Discuss the ways in which your responses have been congruent or not with your pastoral vision, your primary theoretical approach, the context of your internship site and the cultural-contextual issues relevant to this client. Are there incongruences? Challenges?

1. What do you like about what you have been doing, and what would you change?
2. What reactions have you had to the counselee during this session and what transference/countertransference dynamics are you aware of that might be operating in this interaction?
3. Why did you choose the interventions that you made? How does what you did fit the counseling approach you have chosen?
4. What additional training would it be beneficial to have in responding to this situation?

**Chapter 7: Professional ethical considerations****4 pages**

Drawing upon your work in the Professional Ethics course, discuss an ethical issue which has arisen for consideration as a part of this counseling relationship. Describe the actual or potential ethical dilemma(s), the values in conflict, the relevant sections in the AAPC and ACA codes of ethics which set forth appropriate professional conduct, and how these inform your own professional actions. Are there issues that require further consideration/consultation?

**Chapter 8: Theological reflection****4 pages**

Finally, as you step back to reflect on your practice, address *at least two* of the following questions, and include ideas from the theological dialogue partner you have chosen as you explore theological themes and connections:

- Where and how has your faith been clarified and where challenged?
- Has this experience informed/transformed your image of God in any way? How does your image/understanding of God interface/correlate with the client's image/understanding of God? What are the implications for your work together?
- What themes have emerged that draw upon the wisdom of your faith tradition? What insights have you gained through pastorally/theological conversations with classmates? How has this shaped your response to your client?
- What pastoral questions emerge for further exploration?

**Conclusion: Future Professional Directions****1-2 pages**

As you complete your internship, how has your pastoral and professional identity been clarified? How clear are the next steps of your professional journey? What professional associations will you participate in for collegiality and accountability?

**References:**

Works cited in your paper (use APA style)

**Bibliography:**

In addition to references used, include at least 10 sources which have been significant in your MA learning, drawn from clinical, intercultural, and pastoral theological literature.

**Appendices:**

A compilation of any additional pertinent materials for the case presentation, i.e., transcript of session, genogram, psychological reports, client art work, etc.