

# SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

**“Where Faith and Tradition meet  
Experience and Action”**

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**Mary Carter Waren, Interim Dean**

Faculty: B. Froehle, M. Iannone, M. Carter Waren, T. Whapham, B. Stovell

**Vision:** Rooted in the Catholic tradition, the School of Theology and Ministry calls forth the many and diverse gifts from the People of God for proclaiming and promoting the Reign of God on Earth.

**Mission:** Anchored in its Catholic tradition and its commitment to the methods of practical theology and religious studies, the School of Theology and Ministry prepares women and men to engage in experiential reflection, transformative action, and servant leadership required for the flourishing of both civil and ecclesial life.

## **DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (Ph.D.)**

**Program Coordinator:** Bryan Froehle

**Academic Credentials:** Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI); B.S. in Foreign Service (Georgetown University, Washington, DC);

**Contact Information:** Office phone, 305-628-6636; e-mail, [bfroehle@stu.edu](mailto:bfroehle@stu.edu).

**Program Advisor:** As assigned

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **Vision Statement**

In response to the “joys and hopes, the grief and anxieties of the people of our time,” this Ph.D. fosters a creative and critical conversation between the Christian tradition and the “signs of the times” so that faith and tradition meet contemporary experience in action throughout the arenas of culture and eco-social systems for personal and communal transformation.

### **Mission Statement**

To educate and inspire practical theologians who value the diversity and integrity of creation in the context of the faith tradition and who draw on the valuable resources in Miami as the crossroads of the hemisphere in the third millennium.

### **The Nature of Practical Theology**

Practical Theology is a way of doing theology. It begins with a practical concern that comes out of experience, engages that concern in dialogue with the religious tradition and the culture, and through that dialogue discerns wisdom that leads to transformative action. Practical theology fosters a creative and critical correlation between the Christian faith tradition and the “signs of the times” in the contemporary arenas of society and culture.

Practical theology engages scholarship in the practice of theology as:

- Scholarly theological reflection
- Prophetic and liberating activity

- Rooted in contemporary experience
- Honoring scripture and tradition
- Culturally diverse and contextually aware
- Communal and interdisciplinary
- Critical and constructive
- Spiritually artistic and imaginative
- Skillful and innovative

The Ph.D. in practical theology integrates sound theological research, the skills of social analysis, and the lived experience of oppression and liberation in the contemporary world. It employs a collaborative educational approach among a community of learners engaging an interdisciplinary faculty. The student in this program is expected to produce original research that is creative and liberative; the goal of the research is to put in creative tension the relationships of culture, religious heritage, and experience as they shape the theological question at hand. Many degrees require competence in one or the other of these three areas; this degree requires a fundamental understanding and articulation of the tension and dynamics of all three in the contemporary world.

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Master of Arts degree in theology or ministry, M.Div, or the equivalent. From time to time, graduate degrees from accredited institutions in other fields may be considered if the applicant has also successfully completed 15 graduate credits in theology. Exceptional students will be considered on a case by case basis. Students may be required to take certain courses prior to full admission to the doctoral program.

1. Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework.
2. Master of Arts degree in theology or ministry, M.Div, or the equivalent. From
3. GRE scores. Applicants may schedule an examination specifically for their application or submit test results from within the past five years of application date.
4. All graduate international students whose native language is not English, including transferring students from U.S. institutions, are required to submit the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language TOEFL. Applicants holding an undergraduate or graduate degree from an academic institution within the United States or other English speaking country are not required to take the TOEFL examination.
5. Three academic letters of recommendation that give evidence of scholarly potential, and of the personal skills to be both a self-motivated and peer learner.
6. Submission of a 3-5 page statement of purpose in which the applicant articulates their own academic and professional interests and why St. Thomas University and this program is the best place for them to study.
7. A writing sample in theology or allied field of approximately twenty pages in length.
8. Resume.
9. Application Fee, as required by the Office of Admission of St. Thomas University.
10. Personal interview with the faculty program director and/or faculty committee.

#### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

A terminal degree in practical theology requires an in-depth examination of theological topics through the lens of practical theology. This is therefore a full-time program of 8-12 credits per semester, with a minimum residency of two years. The ordinary load is 8 credits per semester during pre-candidacy and 3 credits during post-candidacy. The program is designed to take between four and five years. The program requires a total of 54 credits.

A total of 42 credits are required in pre-candidacy. Of these 42 credits, 9 are core courses of 4 credits each, for a total of 36 credits, following a prescribed sequence. The other 6 credits are comprised of electives.

Candidacy examinations can only be taken by those who have completed the prescribed 36 credits of core courses and 6 credits of elective coursework.

Successful completion of candidacy examinations is required before a dissertation proposal may be submitted.

Candidacy consists of a 12 credit course sequence plus the dissertation. No candidate may officially commence dissertation research and writing until a dissertation proposal has been submitted and successfully defended before an officially constituted dissertation committee.

The Ph.D. is received upon completion of post-candidacy coursework and successful defense of the dissertation before the dissertation committee, which partially fulfills the requirements for the Ph.D.

**Course Requirements** **54 credits**

The program has a specific sequence of courses that are to be taken in pre-candidacy and candidacy. A total of 54 academic credit hours in the prescribed courses and following the sequence intended is required in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.

**Core Pre-Candidacy Courses** **36 credits**

**Fall I**

STM 811	Contemporary Practical Theology	4
STM 911	Formation and Spirituality in Practical Theology	4

**Spring I**

STM 821	Hermeneutics and Methodology in Practical Theology	4
STM 921	Community Life and Pastoral Practice for Practical Theology	4

**Fall II**

STM 831	Sources of Practical Theology	4
STM 931	Public Theology as Practical Theology	4

**Spring II**

STM 841	Social Science for Practical Theology	4
STM 941	Culture and Ritual in Practical Theology	4

**Summer II**

STM 851	Advanced Practical Theology	4
Elective Pre-Candidacy Courses		6

**Summer I (or at other times during pre-candidacy, as approved)**

STM 861-899		1-4 each
	Or other pre-approved courses within the University	
	Or transfer credits from other institutions, as approved	

<b>Candidacy Course Sequence</b>		<b>12 credits</b>
STM 961	Prospectus Seminar	3
STM 971	Dissertation Seminar I	3
STM 981	Dissertation Seminar II	3
STM 991	Dissertation Seminar III	3

**Program Student Learning Outcomes:** The Ph.D. program is designed to accomplish the following five outcomes:

1. Develop advanced competency in practical theology that appropriates biblical, historical, and contemporary sources.
2. Apply practical theological method and analytical skills in a manner that critically incorporates insights from philosophy, psychology, and social scientific theory and research.
3. Advance the work of practical theology within culture, society, religious formation, and the life of the faith community.
4. Cultivate practical theological skills critical for transformative leadership and advocacy within society, church, and the contemporary theological conversation.
5. Acquire skills necessary to research and teach practical theology at an advanced level.

**Program Learning Outcomes Assessment.** As with all educational endeavors, St. Thomas University's School of Theology and Ministry seeks to assess its Ph.D. program in practical theology on a regular basis. The five numbered program outcomes listed above may be correlated with one or more of the following forms of program assessment. Each assessment named below is followed by the number corresponding to the program outcome or outcomes numbered above. The number of the outcome that appears first is that which is to be primarily assessed. In turn, it is followed by the numbers of two of the outcomes given above for which the assessment will be of a complementary nature.

Successful admission to candidacy status (Outcome 1; also 2 and 5).

Successful completion of the dissertation (Outcome 2; also 3 and 5).

Alumni survey (Outcome 3; also 4 and 5).

Exit interviews for graduates (Outcome 4; also 3 and 5).

Exit interviews are regularly conducted of all program graduates. Those in the program are regularly consulted through the Program Advisory Committee. In the spring of each year, there is a survey of all alumni. The exit interview and the alumni survey are conducted by the director of the Ph.D. program in Practical Theology, and the director convenes the Program Advisory Committee.

#### **Major Advisor**

Upon acceptance into the doctoral program, the student meets with the faculty director. The student is assigned a major advisor, who may be the director of the program or another faculty member as appropriate. The major advisor is responsible for guiding the student through the doctoral program, from the selection of courses through the dissertation project.

#### **Pre-Candidacy**

Pre-candidacy extends from the student's commencement in the program through the successful completion of candidacy examination. During this time, 42 credit hours of doctoral coursework is completed. This period of study is designed to engage the student with the length and breadth of the literature necessary for joining the scholarly conversation and commencing the student's doctoral dissertation. These courses enter into a dialogue with the works that help define contemporary practical theology, its engagement with philosophy and the social sciences, and critical methodological issues, including the relationship with social science methods. The program of study will also examine specific arenas of practical theology while relating them to the student's practice and experience in a way that builds on and advances practical theological method.

#### **Pre-Candidacy Core Courses**

There are 9 pre-candidacy core courses, all of which are four credits. Two each are taken in the fall and spring semesters of the first two years of study. The final such core course is taken in the summer after all other core courses are completed. Students are required to have a minimum of 36 hours in core required pre-candidacy courses.

#### **Pre-Candidacy Elective Courses**

The electives provide the student with the opportunity to take courses of particular relevance to their research interests. Provided that the student has received approval of the faculty director, or dean where relevant, electives may be taken in other departments of the university or transferred from other accredited institutions.

#### **Candidacy Examinations**

Students are required to compile three bibliographies as they conduct their coursework and in preparation for their candidacy examination. These bibliographies consist of critical texts in the following, (I), foundations of practical theology; (II), practical theological methodology, including hermeneutics and empirical research methods; and (III), the student's particular field(s) of specialization, ordinarily understood as that area of theological inquiry most related to a student's dissertation. Doctoral candidacy examinations are based on these bibliographies. The first two bibliographies are ordinarily the same for an entire cohort and all three bibliographies must be approved by the examining faculty.

#### **Doctoral Candidacy**

Students sit for their doctoral candidacy examinations upon the successful completion of the required coursework, ordinarily at the beginning of the fall semester. These examinations are both written and oral, typically taken over the course of three days. Evaluation of student performance is undertaken by multiple faculty members acting as a committee. Successful performance on the doctoral candidacy exams leads to candidacy status. Only candidates may complete the post-candidacy course sequence, which begins with the Prospectus Seminar. Only candidates whose committees have fully and unconditionally approved their dissertation proposal may register in Dissertation Seminar II and III.

#### **Dissertation Committee**

The dissertation committee consists of a chair, lead reader, and at least one other member. The chair must be drawn from St. Thomas University faculty. The chair provides a coordinating function and the lead reader provides a primary review

function. Decision-making follows on a consensus model. Candidates must formally and successfully defend their dissertation proposal before their dissertation committee before their dissertation writing may officially begin.

### **Dissertation Evaluation**

Dissertations must be successfully defended before the writer's dissertation committee. Only after the committee has fully approved the dissertation may the candidate be recommended to receive the Ph.D. in practical theology.

### **Academic Standing**

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. All requirements of the doctorate must be completed within eight consecutive years from the commencement of doctoral studies. Extensions beyond the eight year limit may be granted upon application to and approval from the Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry.

### **Leave of Absence**

Students who need to interrupt their program of studies for one or more semesters must seek and obtain approval from the Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry. Students who pursue their dissertation writing in a semester past the completion of STM 991, Dissertation Seminar III, are expected to enroll in a dissertation writing course of between one and three credit hours, as recommended by their advisor.

### **Administrative Oversight**

The faculty director of the Ph.D. program serves as the program coordinator and is responsible for administrating the program. All full-time faculty of the School of Theology and Ministry serve on the admissions committee and are responsible for reviewing any proposed changes in the design of the program. The Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry is ordinarily responsible for academic petitions as related to the doctoral program.

### **Course Requirements**

**54 credits**

The program has a specific sequence of courses that are to be taken in pre-candidacy and candidacy. A total of 54 academic credit hours in the prescribed courses and following the sequence intended is required in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.

### **Core Pre-Candidacy Courses**

**36 credits**

#### **Fall I**

STM 811	Contemporary Practical Theology	4
STM 911	Formation and Spirituality in Practical Theology	4

#### **Spring I**

STM 821	Hermeneutics and Methodology in Practical Theology	4
STM 921	Community Life and Pastoral Practice for Practical Theology	4

#### **Fall II**

STM 831	Sources of Practical Theology	4
STM 931	Public Theology as Practical Theology	4

#### **Spring II**

STM 841	Social Science for Practical Theology	4
STM 941	Culture and Ritual in Practical Theology	4

#### **Summer II**

STM 851	Advanced Practical Theology	4
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Elective Pre-Candidacy Courses	6 credits
<b>Summer I (or at other times during pre-candidacy, as approved)</b>	
STM 861-899	1-4 each
Or other pre-approved courses within the University	
Or transfer credits from other institutions, as approved	
<b>Candidacy Course Sequence</b>	<b>12 credits</b>
STM 961 Prospectus Seminar	3
STM 971 Dissertation Seminar I	3
STM 981 Dissertation Seminar II	3
STM 991 Dissertation Seminar III	3

## **SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY COURSES**

**All courses three credits unless otherwise noted.**

**All courses may be taught as on-campus or blended online courses.**

### **STM 511 Human and Faith Development**

Compares theories of human development as focused by adult and family lifecycle theories of the social sciences and theories of faith development as sources for pastoral practice.

### **STM 512 Method in Ministry**

Designed to acquaint the student with the basic research methods used in pastoral action and reflection. Naming the problem, gathering data, analysis and discernment and evaluation will be studied as components that lead to pastoral practice. Each student chooses an area of research from which to develop a pastoral project of action and reflection.

### **STM 515 Deaf Studies**

Addresses the concepts and issues particular to the Deaf community in the disciplines of history, anthropology, linguistics (American Sign Language), creative arts and literature, community and Deaf Culture. Participants will explore the relationship of the Church to Deaf Studies and Culture. ASL required.

### **STM 521 Hebrew Scriptures**

Surveys the formation and literature of the Old Testament scriptures as well as providing practice of the tools of Old Testament interpretation commonly used by pastoral ministers.

### **STM 522 Christian Scriptures**

Surveys the formation and literature of the New Testament. Included is an introduction to Scriptural interpretation and practice in the exegesis of texts.

### **STM 531 Christian Thought I**

Surveys Christian theology in a systematic and historical framework. Students will receive a strong background in basic Christian theology in a manner that enables them to consider current theological questions and applications of Christian theology to contemporary ministry. This course is the first of a two-course series and will explore the time of intense doctrinal development during the first five centuries up to the late fifteenth century.

### **STM 532 Christian Thought II**

Surveys Christian theology in a systematic and historical framework. Students will receive a strong background in basic Christian theology in a manner that enables them to consider current theological questions and applications of Christian theology to contemporary

ministry. This course is the second of a two-course series and will explore major theological developments from the time of the Reformation to the present day.

**STM 541 Theological Ethics**

Surveys contemporary moral theologies, their historical origin and development. And outlines methods of applying these theologies in making moral decisions in a Christian context.

**STM 551 Religious Education and Spiritual Formation**

Examines the church's ways of calling and forming Christians in their faith as they emerge through history and are analyzed by contemporary research. Emphasis on practical skills in educating faith communities.

**STM 562 Justice Advocacy and Social Transformation**

Examines the role of the church as servant in mission to the world and as prophetic community. Students will study means by which ministry responds to contemporary social issues in a prophetic and reconciling manner.

**STM 571 Pastoral Care and Counseling**

Provides pastoral ministers with the basic principles and human relations skills for counseling in a faith-based setting, including spirituality and value orientation in the counselor/counselee relationship.

**STM 581 Spiritual Practices in/for Ministry**

Explores the ways people of faith have sustained their spirits through the centuries. Students will be encouraged to experiment with some of the traditional disciplines, and also to establish modes of spirituality which are genuinely their own. This seminar recognizes the importance of spiritual formation in the maturing of one's Christian vocation and provides students with multiple sources for exploring and claiming spiritual practices during graduate theological education and in preparation for ministry.

**STM 591 Supervised Ministry I**

**1-3 credits**

Develops ministerial skills by placing students in an appropriate ministerial setting under the direction of an approved supervisor. Students practice setting and implementing goals and critiquing ministerial performance. Both student and supervisor report to the Practicum Director.

**STM 596 Directed Readings**

Designed for students who have already demonstrated excellence in their chosen area of study. Submission and approval of a proposed course of study is required. Tutorial only.

**STM 611 Ministerial Roles**

Surveys the history of the church beginning with its scriptural and theological foundations. Provides a context for matching individual talents, experience and goals with the reality of ministry within the church today. Suggests trajectories for the future of ministry.

**STM 621 Language and Culture in Biblical Exegesis**

Presents an overview of the foundation of the Scriptures. A consideration of the forces involved in the formation of the various components of the Scriptures will be given. Included in the course will be an introduction to Scriptural interpretation. Ordinarily offered during the summer.

**STM 641 Ministerial Ethics**

Examines personal, congregational, ecclesial, and other ministerial ethical issues facing today's professional ministers, such as conflicts of interest, handling of money, sexual

harassment and misconduct, the necessity for confidentiality, and legal issues pertaining to staff conduct.

**STM 654 Theories and Practice of Youth Ministry**

Investigates the human and faith development needs of adolescents within the context of contemporary culture and the Christian Tradition for the purpose of providing appropriate ministerial responses to them.

**STM 661 Ministering in a Multicultural Church**

Enables pastoral ministers to study, reflect on and share the issues facing a church that must speak to all cultures using experience-based curriculum

**STM 665 Pastoral Ministries in the Deaf Community**

Aims to provide students the pastoral skills necessary to work in the Deaf community. Both maintenance and outreach aspects will be considered including communication, leadership and conflict resolution skills. ASL required.

**STM 667 Models of Campus Ministry**

Focuses on formation for ministry within a university setting, especially in acquiring the skills needed in ministering to the psychological, social and spiritual needs of young adults as they negotiate the tasks of discerning questions of vocation and life style.

**STM 671 Advanced Pastoral Care and Counseling**

Provides pastoral ministers with advanced study of theoretical approaches to counseling in a faith-based setting, including working with groups and families, pathologies, intercultural issues, and theological reflection.

**STM 673 Spirituality, Death, Dying and Healing**

Studies the spiritual attitudes, beliefs and practices of several major religious traditions from the perspective of the pastoral care of those involved. Special attention will be given to developing pastoral skills including leading rituals and preaching at funerals and memorial services and healing strategies for the bereaved.

**STM 674 Special Issues in Grieving and Loss**

Examines the process and many facets of grief in the context of death and non-death related loss including grieving across the lifespan and complications in the grieving process. Practical strategies for healing will be explored.

**STM 681 Preaching and Presiding**

Explores the nature of Christian worship with attention to the ministry of preaching and presiding. This course is designed to provide students with experience in preaching as well as the art of presiding in worship. Students will be encouraged to integrate and show the relevance of biblical texts to contemporary social issues and concerns.

**STM 685 Spirituality and Prayer in the Deaf Community**

Prepares students to take leadership roles in developing spirituality resources and appropriate prayer forms including liturgical rituals for the Deaf community, ASL required.

**STM 691 Supervised Ministry II**

**1-3 credits**

Develops ministerial skills by placing students in an appropriate ministerial setting under the direction of an approved supervisor. Students practice setting and implementing goals and critiquing ministerial performance. Both student and supervisor report to the Practicum Director.

**STM 696 Directed Research I**

Designed for students who have already demonstrated excellence in their chosen area of study. Submission and approval of a proposed course of study is required. Tutorial only.

**STM 711 Western Cosmology and the Human Experience**

Students will identify, dialogue with and celebrate cosmologies, including an emerging Western cosmology. The role of cosmology and how it shapes our Christian relationship to God, the earth and one another will be explored.

**STM 713 Psychology and Spirituality**

Aims at helping the students understand their personality types; to explore their own current psychological/spiritual frame of reference and to discern areas that may have been preventing true psychological/spiritual response.

**STM 732 Christology**

Integrates the study of historical developments in Christology as well as some recent Christologies with the faith response of discipleship.

**STM 736 Ecclesiology**

Surveys the scriptural and theological foundations for an understanding of the nature and life of the church. Provides a context for examining contemporary models of church.

**STM 737 Sacrament and Symbol**

Examines the sources of God's self communication through revelation and focuses on the mediation of God's presence and the human responses in symbol and sacrament.

**STM 743 Human Consciousness and Ecotheology**

Provides an overview of the human experience in social and ecological global trends and crisis. The evolution of paradigms will be explored and social and ecological analysis will be used to identify the "signs of the times" including new understandings of time and space. Christian responses to these trends and crisis will be explored.

**STM 744 Bioregionalism and Sustainability in Christian Ethics**

Explores bioregionalism and sustainability as concepts and values that impact Christian self understanding, ministry and community. Sensitizing ourselves to the "earth as primary context" impacts how we understand and carry out our ministry. Pastoral problems are understood in our local ecological and social context and ways to deal with them sustainably will be explored. The historical Christian concept of "place" with localized church roots will be developed also.

**STM 771 Clinical Pastoral Education I**

Provides supervised experience in a clinical setting appropriate to ministry. This course provides an essential element for ministry formation, providing the student an opportunity to develop pastoral care and counseling skills while advancing in formation and preparation for ministry.

**STM 772 Clinical Pastoral Education II**

Provides further supervised experience in a clinical setting appropriate to ministry. This advanced course provides an essential element for ministry formation, providing the student an opportunity to develop pastoral care and counseling skills while advancing in formation and preparation for ministry.

**STM 791 Ministry Integration Seminar**

**1-3 credits**

Develops ministerial skills by placing students in an appropriate ministerial setting under the direction of an approved supervisor. Students practice setting and implementing goals

and critiquing ministerial performance. Both student and supervisor report to the Practicum Director.

**STM 796 Directed Research II**

Designed for students who are ready for advanced work in their chosen area of study. Submission and approval of a proposed course of study is required. Tutorial only.

**STM 801 Propadeutic Doctoral Course in Christian Theology** **1-4 credits**

Presents seminal works within Christian theology. This course provides theological background necessary for approaching doctoral work in practical theology. It will be made available for beginning doctoral students as faculty determines necessary.

**STM 811 Contemporary Practical Theology** **4 credits**

Introduces major works within practical theology worldwide since the 1960s together with an exploration of practical theological method. Relates developments within practical theology to those within the larger discipline of theology. Students will develop a synthesis of contemporary practical theology suitable for work toward an eventual dissertation topic.

**STM 821 Hermeneutics and Methodology in Practical Theology** **4 credits**

Presents hermeneutical philosophy and related interpretive fields central to contemporary practical theology, integrating methodological topics with a diversity of perspectives including deconstructionist, critical and postmodern theory. Students will develop philosophical and methodological criticism necessary to advance the contemporary construction of theology in a direction that restores focus on *phronesis* and recovers the primacy of praxis.

**STM 831 Sources of Contemporary Practical Theology** **4 credits**

Explores practical theological sources in the Old and New Testament as well as the experience of Second Temple Judaism and the first Christian communities. Focuses on the practical theological conversation throughout Christian history, with emphasis on the formal development of practical theology in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and subsequent advances through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will acquire an understanding of how scripture, practice, and theological reflection over the centuries provide the foundation on which contemporary practical theology rests.

**STM 841 Social Science for Practical Theology** **4 credits**

Examines social research methods and theory as related to the work of practical theology. Includes strong emphasis on social scientific research method and the social scientific study of religion. Students will learn to critically appropriate the resources social science offers contemporary practical theology.

**STM 851 Advanced Practical Theology** **4 credits**

Integrates major contemporary topics across all practical theology, including method, related religious studies topics, and major fields of Christian practice. Serves as a capstone course that brings together previous study of the practical theological literature in a single advanced course. This course is designed for students preparing for the candidacy examination and is to be taken just before candidacy examinations.

**STM 861 Special Topics in Practical Theology** **2-4 credits**

Offered on an occasional basis for special topics within particular subfields and specializations of practical theology. May include such topics as scriptural basis of practical theology; pneumatology and practical theology; religious studies theory and method; empirical theology as practical theology; advanced studies in religious education; a practical theological exploration of theological education.

**STM 891 Supervised Teaching for Practical Theologians** 1 credit  
Required of all Ph.D. in practical theology students formally assigned to teach or mentor St. Thomas University undergraduate or master's level students. Provides supervision in teaching; addresses pedagogical issues in theological education and university teaching in general. The course is designated as 891a for the first semester in which a student is registered for the course, with the course number assigned sequentially on an alphabetical basis for each subsequent semester.

**STM 892-895 Directed Doctoral Reading in Practical Theology** 1-3 credits  
Students will pursue readings in advanced topics of particular interest in practical theology on a tutorial basis. To be arranged between the professor and student or students in advance. Course numbers 892-895 are used sequentially for each time a student registers for a directed doctoral reading course.

**STM 896-899 Directed Doctoral Research in Practical Theology** 1-3 credits  
Students will pursue pre-dissertation research in practical theology on a tutorial basis. To be arranged between the professor and student or students in advance. Course numbers 896-899 are used sequentially for each time a student registers for a directed doctoral research course.

**STM 901 Propaedeutic Doctoral Course in Christian Practice** 1-4 credits  
Presents seminal works in Christian practice, including pastoral practice and public witness. This course provides background necessary for approaching doctoral work in practical theology. It will be made available for beginning doctoral students as faculty determines necessary.

**STM 911 Formation and Spirituality in Practical Theology** 4 credits  
Examines critical areas of Christian formational practice, including religious education and proclamation, including preaching (*didache, kerygma*); spiritual theology; theological reflection; spiritual direction; and theological education. Students will be trained to collectively undertake a practical theological examination of their experience of formational practice.

**STM 921 Community Life & Pastoral Practice for Practical Theology** 4 credits  
Presents congregational studies and Christian community life (*koinonia*) in light of a practical ecclesiology, including organizational theory, leadership styles, and pastoral care practices. Students will be trained to collectively undertake a practical theological examination of their experience of such practices.

**STM 931 Public Theology as Practical Theology** 4 credits  
Explores forms of public theology, including contemporary political and liberation theologies, in the context of theological ethics and moral theology; social teaching; and service (*diakonia*). Students will be trained to collectively undertake a practical theological examination of their experience of public theological practice.

**STM 941 Culture and Ritual in Practical Theology** 4 credits  
Examines contextual theologies and the theology of culture, including intercultural and postcolonial studies, with particular attention to ritual studies in light of the praxis of worship (*leiturgia*) and the role of symbol in practical theology. Students will be trained to collectively undertake a practical theological examination of their experience of such practices.

**STM 961 Prospectus Seminar**  
Trains doctoral candidates to undertake and complete the writing of a dissertation prospectus in practical theology, including the creation of an appropriate literature review

for their intended dissertation topic. Supports the process of integrating theological, philosophical social scientific, and other appropriate methods within a unified practical theological method suitable for dissertation work in practical theology. The goal of the course is a successfully defended prospectus.

**STM 971 Dissertation Seminar I**

Trains dissertation writers in the art of practical theological writing and presentation while providing a collegial environment to facilitate and advance work on the dissertation. This course is designed to be the sole course taken during the second semester of candidacy.

**STM 981 Dissertation Seminar II**

Trains dissertation writers in the art of practical theological writing and presentation while providing a collegial environment to facilitate and advance work on the dissertation. This course is designed to be the sole course taken during the third semester of candidacy.

**STM 991 Dissertation Seminar III**

Trains dissertation writers in the art of practical theological writing and presentation while providing a collegial environment to facilitate and advance work on the dissertation. This course is designed to be the sole course taken during the fourth semester of candidacy.