

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

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

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.

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES (M.A.P.M.)

Program Coordinator: Theodore James Whapham

Academic Credentials: Ph.D. Historical and Systematic Theology (Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.); M.A. Theology (Catholic University of America); B.A. Religious Studies (University of Dayton).

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Program Advisor: Theodore James Whapham

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Vision: Graduates of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries will have competence in theological foundations and excellent pastoral skills, equipping them to lead the church of the twenty-first century

Mission: To educate men and women with theological expertise and pastoral skills within a community of faith and scholarship for use in church service.

The mission is modeled in the following ways:

- Formal classroom experiences that ground the student in the Christian Tradition.
- Frequent opportunities for interaction among faculty and students beyond the classroom.
- Online instruction, use of multiple media, and new research technologies.
- Individual advisement as an integral element of students' educational program.
- A rich multicultural experience provided by a diverse student body and learning opportunities.
- An ecumenical and interfaith appreciation grounded in the Catholic intellectual and artistic tradition.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with standard Graduate Program admissions requirements, including satisfactory letters of recommendation, transcripts, and test scores, as stated in the Procedures for Admissions section of this catalog.

A minimum of 15 undergraduate credits in Religious Studies or the equivalent in life experience and personal study. Applicants with proof of the equivalency in personal study and life experience may be considered for probationary admission by the program coordinator.

1. The graduate writing assessment test.
2. A cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0.
3. A third letter of recommendation by a Church representative attesting to the candidate's service to the community whether informal or professional in addition to the two required letters of recommendation.
4. A two-page autobiography that includes background, experiences, involvement in ministry and current ministerial objectives.
5. An admissions interview with a member of the Pastoral Ministries faculty.
6. Competence in American Sign Language (For admission to Deaf program).

St. Thomas University's M.A. programs utilize a selective admissions process to insure compatibility of applicant's needs with the program.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

36 credits

Pastoral Foundations

24 credits

The foundational courses provide a theological base for understanding, exploring, and reflecting on the truths and richness of the Christian Faith experience as these apply to concrete ministerial situations.

STM 511	Human and Faith Development	3
STM 512	Method in Ministry	3
STM 521	Hebrew Scriptures	3
STM 522	Christian Scriptures	3
STM 541	Theological Ethics	3
STM 611	Ministerial Roles	3
STM 732	Christology	3
STM 737	Sacrament and Symbol	3

Pastoral Skills

9 credits

These courses enable the student to develop competence in specific areas of ministry. Students may choose courses according to their needs. The program also includes a number of specializations and certificates. A student who wishes to specialize may do so by developing, with the advisor's approval, a course of studies to delineate the specialization. Such students must utilize practicum and major project related work to gain facility in the area of their specialization.

Courses may be chosen from the following:

STM 551	Religious Education and Spiritual Formation	3
STM 562	Justice Advocacy and Social Transformation	3
STM 571	Pastoral Care and Counseling	3
STM 581	Spiritual Practices in/for Ministry	3
STM 641	Ministerial Ethics	3
STM 671	Advanced Pastoral Care and Counseling	3

STM 681	Preaching and Presiding	3
STM 771	Clinical Pastoral Education I	4

In addition, the following courses also satisfy the requirement, although they are offered only occasionally or, in the case of directed readings, by special arrangement.

STM 515	Deaf Studies	3
STM 596	Directed Readings	3
STM 654	Theories and Practice of Youth Ministry	3
STM 661	Ministering in a Multicultural Church	3
STM 665	Pastoral Ministries in the Deaf Community	3
STM 667	Models of Campus Ministry	3
STM 673	Spirituality, Death, Dying & Healing	3
STM 674	(CPS 757) Special Issues in Grieving and Loss	3
STM 685	Spirituality and Prayer in the Deaf Community	3
STM 696	Directed Research I	3
STM 711	Western Cosmology and the Human Experience	3
STM 713	Psychology and Spirituality	3
STM 743	Human Consciousness and Ecology	3
STM 744	Bioregionalism and Sustainability	3
STM 796	Directed Research II	3

Pastoral Integration **3 credits**

This level enables students to integrate their learning through field experience and theological reflection. Those specializing in a particular ministry must follow that field of study through their work in Practicum and Major Ministerial Project.

STM 591	Supervised Ministry I	1
STM 691	Supervised Ministry II	1
STM 791	Ministry Integration Seminar	1

Major Ministerial Project **Required for Graduation**

A Pastoral Project is the exit requirement for the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries. Through it students demonstrate their competence in integrating the cognitive, affective and practical aspects of the program in the form of a concrete project. Using the methodology of practical theology students identify a need, research it appropriately, implement a pastoral response and evaluate it. They then reflect on their experience in the light of the courses they have taken and develop an integrative statement. Students present their work for evaluation to a panel consisting of at least two peers and two faculty.

Program Student Learning Outcomes: Program student learning outcomes of the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries are rooted in the three core aspects of the curriculum. These three core areas are integrated throughout the program in order to more effectively form graduates ready for ministry. They are as follows:

1. Theological Foundations, which includes knowledge of Biblical, systematic, ethical, and other sources critical for effective ministry.
2. Pastoral Skills, which include the method of practical theology to analyze and apply relevant ministerial skills within a pastoral context.
3. Practical Engagement, which includes competence in personal and interpersonal skills needed for pastoral practice and ministry within a church community.

Program Learning Outcomes Assessment. The three program learning outcomes are correlated with the following forms of program assessment. These assessments have been identified in order to develop a means of regularly testing and refining the program of study. Each assessment named below is followed by the number corresponding to the program outcome or outcomes named above.

Exit interview (Outcomes 1 through 3).

Faculty evaluation (Outcome 1 and 2).

Successful completion of supervised ministry including on-site supervisor evaluation (Outcomes 2 and 3).

Transfer of Credit

In consultation with the Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Pastoral Ministries, graduate courses from other schools within and beyond the University may be accepted for credit toward the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries. The maximum number of credits that can be transferred in this manner is six (6) credit hours.

Course Sequence

There is no required course sequence, and no prerequisites are mandatory for any student admitted to the program. In general, there is a certain logic, however, in the construction of the curriculum and the ordinary rotation cycle of course offerings. Students should consult their advisor as they plan their studies.

Foundational courses follow a two year cycle with two of these required courses offered each fall and spring. While the School does not in any way guarantee that certain courses will be offered at certain times, the ordinary sequence for the required coursework is based on a two-year rotation.

SPECIALIZATION IN DEAF MINISTRY

This program makes a Master of Arts in ministry fully accessible to the Deaf and ensures that graduates are competent to work in Deaf communities.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries, prospective students must have the following competencies:

1. Proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL) as determined by a test given by the School of Theology and Ministry. Students should be at the Intermediate level in order to be able to communicate in class.
2. Basic computer skills.

Features of the Program

1. Classes are taught in ASL or are fully interpreted.
2. Classes are computer enhanced.
3. Intensive courses are offered on campus each year: one week in January and two weeks in the summer. Students continue learning on-line for the remainder of the semester.

Language

The language of communication is American Sign Language (ASL).

Course Requirements **39 credits**

Pastoral Foundations (as in the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries program) **24 credits**

Pastoral Skills		12 credits
STM 515	Deaf Studies	3
STM 551	Religious Education and Spiritual Formation	3
STM 665	Pastoral Ministries in the Deaf Community	3
STM 685	Spirituality and Prayer with the Deaf Community	3

Pastoral Integration		3 credits
STM 591	Supervised Ministry I	1
STM 691	Supervised Ministry II	1
STM 791	Ministry Integration Seminar	1

Major Ministerial Project in Deaf Ministry Required for Graduation

Additional Details

In general, this program corresponds in broad outline to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries. Any specific questions regarding course sequences or other issues should be directed to the coordinator of the M.A. program in Pastoral Ministries.

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 19th century and subsequent advances through the mid-20th 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.