

# Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology – 42 Unit Program

All students must complete **42 semester hours**, maintaining a minimum grade point average of “B” (3.0). All courses are 3 semester hours, unless otherwise noted.

## **Core Courses (8 courses- 24 semester hours)**

THST 6010 Foundations of New Testament Theology **OR**  
THST 6000 Foundations of Old Testament Theology  
THST 6030 Introduction to Systematic Theology  
THST 6060 Foundations of Theological Ethics **OR**  
Any one course from the Historical Theology area THST 6020s  
THST 6070 Foundations of Pastoral Theology  
THST 6074 Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry  
THST 6078 Supervised Pastoral Field Education  
THST 6090 Graduate Pro-Seminar (usually taken in the first semester)  
THST 6091 Pastoral Synthesis Project (student must have completed at least 36 semester hours in order to take this capstone course)

## **Pastoral Theology Electives (18 semester hours)**

Pastoral Theology students are required to take **one** three- semester- hour course in either Liturgy, Religious Education, or Spirituality and select **other elective** courses offered by the Department of Theological Studies after consultation with their advisor. The program is designed to allow students to pursue general interests or a particular concentration. Concentrations are offered in two areas: (1) Pastoral Leadership and (2) Spiritual Direction. Under special circumstances, students may take up to two courses (six semester hours) outside the department.

### **Spiritual Direction Concentration**

This concentration is designed for anyone in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology who would like to acquire the art of Spiritual Direction, a ministry of accompanying others in their spiritual journey. The purpose of the concentration is twofold: 1) to provide a course of studies that integrates Theology, Scripture, Psychology, Spirituality, skills acquisition and supervision in the art of spiritual direction and 2) to assist participants to discern whether they are being called to ministry of spiritual direction.

Students who wish to concentrate their **elective** in a spiritual direction would take the following courses in sequence:

THST 6051 The Theory and Practice of Spiritual Direction  
THST 6052 Ignatian Spirituality and Discernment  
THST 6053 Psychological Foundations of Spiritual Direction  
THST 6054 Practicum and Supervision in Spiritual Direction

### **Concentration in Pastoral Leadership**

This concentration is designed to educate those who will serve (or who currently serve) as leaders in pastoral settings, either as leaders in specialized ministries or as leaders in general ministry positions. Examples of leaders in specialized ministry: Directors of Religious Education, Directors of Youth Ministry or Campus Ministry, Directors of Catechumenate/RCIA. The concentration is deliberately open to the students to design under the guidance of the academic advisor. In this way, students who find themselves actively engaged in, or aspiring to, leadership ministries within schools or parishes will choose courses for the concentration that fit their current or aspired ministry commitments. Students who choose to do this Concentration are required to take: THST 6073 Theory and Practice of Pastoral Leadership.

In addition, students are required to take two (2) of the following (or other courses approved by the academic advisor):

THST 6040 Liturgical Theology: History and Interpretation  
THST 6041 The Rites  
THST 6071 Pastoral Approaches to Religious Education  
THST 6043 Faith and Culture: Catechesis in Southern California  
THST 6075 Pastoral Liturgy  
THST 6076 The Theology of the Parish  
THST 6077 Special Topics in Pastoral Theology  
THST 6053 Psychological Foundations of Spiritual Direction