

# Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies

Offered online  
“synchronously”  
with our on  
campus classes!

Aquinas Institute of Theology’s **Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies** program is designed to prepare students for service to the church in a wide variety of Christian ministries. Through coursework in: Biblical studies, systematic and pastoral theology, integrative seminars, supervised practice of ministry, and lay spiritual formation, this 48-credit hour program integrates theology and the practice of ministry with the development of a personal pastoral identity.

## Who should pursue this program?

The MA in Pastoral Studies is recommended for those who wish to gain a basic foundation in theology while being trained to serve in a variety of pastoral and ministerial settings. It is preferred that applicants have adequate undergraduate preparation in the liberal arts, including the social and behavioral sciences, as well as some background in Scripture, theology, and philosophy.

## What types of careers or ministries will this program prepare me to engage in?

Graduates of the program are prepared to serve in a number of ministerial careers and in a wide variety of settings. Graduates serve as catechists, parish pastoral associates, liturgy directors, campus ministers, hospital chaplains, and in many other ministries.

## How long will it take me to complete this program?

Full-time students (12+ credit hours per semester) can complete the MA in Pastoral Studies degree in two years, while part-time students can take up to six years to complete the program.

## If I take classes online, what technology requirements will I need?

Aquinas Institute uses an Internet platform called Adobe Connect 9.2 for our synchronous classes (occasionally Skype or Google Hangouts). You will need:

- A computer with minimum 4 GB RAM; (iOS and Android app are *not reliable* for class participation.)
- A wired DSL/cable broadband connection with minimum 15-30 mbps download speed and 5-10 mbps upload speed. A wireless connection is unacceptable for a quality experience.
- Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, or Mac OS 10.6, or higher operating system.
- Current versions of IE 8 or higher, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome or Apple Safari.
- HD quality-webcam/microphone and speakers. If using an onboard laptop webcam, a headset-style microphone is required to avoid feedback.

## What courses will I be required to take to complete this program?

The 48 credit hours (+ 4 units of spiritual formation) are distributed as follows:

Course Title	Credit Hours
Proseminar	3
Bible Interpretation	3
Scripture Elective	3
Introduction to Theology & Theological Method	3
Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) I	3
Ecclesiology	3
Christology	3
Foundations of Pastoral and Ethical Care	3
Sacramental & Theological Foundations of Ministry	3
Theology of Worship	3
Church History I or Church History II	3
SPM II or Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)	3-4
Foundations of Catholic Morality	3
Integrative Seminar	1
Electives	8
Lay Spiritual Formation I-IV	4 units