



## Theologically Formed Ministers for the 21st Century Church

Aquinas Institute of Theology's 48 credit hour Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) program prepares students with the knowledge and competencies to be effective ministers and lay leaders in a variety of ecclesial settings. The MAPS curriculum offers a learning experience that seamlessly integrates a strong theological foundation with ministerial formation. Recognizing that the complex demands of ministerial work require ministers who are personally and spiritually mature, an important component of the MAPS program is an emphasis on personal and spiritual growth.

Aquinas Institute is part of the world-wide Order of Preachers, founded by St. Dominic over 800 years ago. For Dominicans, academic life is grounded in study and prayer and pursued for the benefit of the communities in which we work, worship, and live. At Aquinas, students pursue their study as a contemplative and prayerful activity integrating faith and spiritual life with the work of ministry in many contexts.

The MAPS curriculum incorporates coursework in Biblical studies, liturgy and sacraments, systematic, historical, moral, and pastoral theology, and pastoral care. MAPS students gain professional ministerial formation through Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) or Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), as well as four units of human and spiritual formation. Nine credits of electives afford students the flexibility to tailor the program to their ministerial interests.

“For Christians, God is not just a spiritual issue. Our faith and spirituality is an orientation: self-actualization for us is related to what God has created us to be.”

HSIN-HSIN HUANG, PHD  
MAPS PROGRAM DIRECTOR





## Admission Information

### Admission Criteria

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

### Application Deadlines

#### Fall Semester:

- Priority: January 28
- Final: August 1

#### Spring Semester:

- Priority: October 15
- Final: December 1

### Admission Requirements

- Official transcripts
- Resume/CV
- Personal assessment
- Reflection paper
- Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Three letters of recommendation
- \$50 application fee
- Interview

### Program Length

Full-time students (12 credit hours per semester) can complete the MAPS degree in two years, while part-time students can take up to five years to complete the program.

### Curriculum and Credit Hours

48 Credit Hours + 4 Units of Spiritual Formation

#### INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Proseminar (3 credits)

#### BIBLICAL STUDIES

Biblical Interpretation (3 credits)

Scripture Elective (3 credits)

#### SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Introduction to Theology & Theological Method (3 credits)

Christology (3 credits)

Ecclesiology (3 credits)

#### MORAL THEOLOGY

Foundations of Catholic Morality (3 credits)

#### HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Church History I or II (3 credits)

#### PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Foundations of Pastoral & Ethical Care (3 credits)  
Foundations of Pastoral Counseling (3 credits)

#### LITURGICAL & SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

Theology of Worship (3 credits)

#### PROFESSIONAL MINISTERIAL FORMATION

Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) I (3 credits)  
SPM II or Clinical Pastoral Education (3-4 credits)\*

#### SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Human & Spiritual Formation I (2 units)  
Human & Spiritual Formation II (1 unit)  
Human & Spiritual Formation III (1 unit)

#### ELECTIVES

Three general electives of the student's choice (9 credits)

#### NON-CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Integrative Project

\* If a student chooses to take CPE instead of SPM II, 1 hour of credit will be applied to the General Electives requirement.