

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES



Grounded in Faith, Intellectually Rigorous

Aquinas Institute of Theology's Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) offers students a solid academic foundation in the Dominican tradition of study and provides them with the knowledge and competencies for a successful future ministry in teaching, chaplaincy, and pastoral care.

The 48 credit-hour MAPS curriculum incorporates coursework in Biblical and pastoral studies, as well as systematic, historical, moral, and sacramental theology. In addition to their course work, our MAPS students have multiple opportunities for professional ministerial formation. Through Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM), they work "in the field" for five hours a week of active ministry and then participate in theological reflection back in the classroom; our MAPS students can also register for a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) where they further hone their skills for pastoral ministry in a clinical context like hospital chaplaincy. Nine credits of electives allow our students to tailor their program according to ministerial and academic interests, including a concentration in Spiritual Direction. Because service to God's people require ministers who are personally mature, an important component of the MAPS program is the four units of human and spiritual formation that our students receive. They learn to integrate theology with their prayer and personal experience and in the process strengthen their ministerial identity and enhance their own self-awareness.

Students with a MAPS degree from Aquinas serve as high school and college campus ministers, catechists, directors of adult faith formation, parish pastoral associates, liturgy directors, directors of religious education, and chaplains in hospitals or hospices, among a variety of other ministries.

“At Aquinas Institute, we shape Christians into intelligent and discerning ministers who accompany those in need by serving from the heart.”

MICHAEL ANTHONY ABRIL, 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
- 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 + 3 Units of Spiritual Formation

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Theological Research and Writing
Integrative Project

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)

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Church History I (3 credits)

Church History II (3 credits)

MORAL THEOLOGY

Foundations of Catholic
Morality (3 credits)

LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

Theology of Worship (3 credits)

PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Foundations of Pastoral & Ethical Care (3 credits)

Foundations of Pastoral Counseling (3 credits)

GENERAL ELECTIVES

General electives chosen in consultation with
student's advisor (9 credits)

PROFESSIONAL MINISTERIAL FORMATION

Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) I (3 credits)

SPM II or Clinical Pastoral Education (3-4 credits)*

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

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (FOR LAY STUDENTS)

Human & Spiritual Formation I, II & III (4 units)

