

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Pastoral Theology program offers professional and personal growth and academic rigor to those who wish to be more fully prepared to serve in a variety of pastoral responsibilities and ministries within the Church. Currently offered in conjunction with the Deacon Formation Program of the Davenport Diocese, the program is also open to other qualified applicants.

Although the focus of the program is on those who intend to minister in the communities and institutions of the Roman Catholic tradition, members of other religious traditions will find the program broadly ecumenical and careful to respect and build upon religious, cultural and gender diversity.

Courses and workshops in theology, scripture, ministry, spirituality, counseling, and human and behavioral social systems will be taught with special concern for pastoral applications.

mission and goals The mission of the Master of Pastoral Theology program is to offer women and men involved in active ministry a program of professional and personal growth to enable them to participate more fully in a variety of pastoral responsibilities and ministries within the church.

The goals of the Master of Pastoral Theology program are to enable Master of Pastoral Theology candidates to:

- > Acquire a basic understanding of theology and sacred scripture so they can draw upon these disciplines confidently in their area of pastoral ministry, be it instruction, catechesis or evangelization, spiritual guidance or formation, liturgy, worship, social justice or parish life administration.
- > Develop those practical and professional ministerial skills necessary to function well in their area of pastoral ministry.
- > Grow in their own spiritual life and ministerial identity through their readings, discussions and frequent written theological reflections on topics explored in the classroom.

program structure The Master of Pastoral Theology program is designed to be completed in four years. It is a cohort program with classes offered in intensive format with one weekend meeting per month August through May. Each weekend includes 12 contact hours of instruction. Students must be prepared to complete significant reading and writing assignments between the monthly meetings.

curriculum To earn the Master of Pastoral Theology degree, students must complete 37 credit hours including: 12 credits in pastoral theology; 6 credits each in the four foundational areas of biblical, moral, doctrinal, and spiritual and sacramental theology; and complete an integration thesis at the conclusion of their coursework. If needed, students also take an Introduction to Scriptural Studies prior to enrolling in any scripture courses.

admission requirements

- > Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
- > Undergraduate grade point average of no less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- > Post-baccalaureate ministry experience.

application procedure Before registering for courses, students must seek admission to the university either as a degree candidate or as a special student. Individuals meeting the admission requirements may apply for admission to the Master in Pastoral Theology program. To apply:

- > Submit a St. Ambrose University graduate application online at www.sau.edu/apply, along with a \$25 non-refundable application fee. A paper application is also available upon request, with the application fee payable by check to St. Ambrose University.
- > Request an official copy of the complete transcript from the institution granting the bachelor's degree be sent directly to the program director. Also request transcripts of any graduate coursework be sent to the university.
- > Request that two letters of recommendation, written by persons who have either supervised or worked with the prospective student in ministry, be sent to the program director.
- > Application and transcripts should be on file at least one month before registering for classes.

After the application materials have been received and reviewed by the Admissions Committee, the student will be asked to interview with a member of the Admissions Committee and/or with the counselor advisor to the Admissions Committee. The student will then be notified of the admission decision.

special student admission procedure An individual may take courses in the Master of Pastoral Theology program as a special student, non-credit, for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Contact the program director for details.

financial assistance The university grants a one-third tuition remission for Master of Pastoral Theology students who are active in ministry. Students are also encouraged to seek matching aid from employers. The St. Ambrose University Office for Financial Aid provides information on loans for graduate studies.

for further information

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The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.

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