

## **Concentration Program Descriptions**

### ***Catechetics***

This concentration prepares catechetical leaders to oversee diocesan, parish, and school-based programs for evangelizing and educating adults, teens, children and families in the Catholic faith. Grounded in the pedagogical models of family-centered and adult learning, the program prepares graduates to apply theory to practice in complex cultural settings. The courses draw from the rich array of the Church's documents on evangelization, catechesis, culture, and Hispanic ministry. The overall goal is to enable the graduate to design and implement a comprehensive approach to catechesis that begins with the family, builds on the assets of the community and culture being served, and is centered in the sacramental life of the Church. The catechetics concentration has 12 hours of coursework beyond the core requirements for a total of 36 hours:

#### *Required:*

- PSTR 7350 Foundations of Evangelization and Catechesis (3 hrs)
- PSTR 7352 Catechetical Content, Methods and Curriculum (3 hrs)
- PSTR 7254 The Baptismal Catechumenate (RCIA) and Catholic Formation (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7256 Family, Culture, and Catechesis (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7258 Youth and Young Adult Ministry (2 hrs)

### ***Catholic Leadership***

This concentration is for those seeking to serve the Church in key leadership positions in diocesan offices, Catholic schools and organizations, and as parish administrators, according to the guidelines outlined in "Co-Workers in the Vineyard." Along with the theological core, the student will take several courses specifically aimed at building skills for competent leadership. The overall goal is to provide the student with an in-depth knowledge of the Church's teachings and a pastoral plan for implementing best practices for church management, ethical pastoral care, and faithful leadership in today's complex cultural settings. This concentration requires a minimum of 12 hours past the core requirements for a total of 36 hours. There are four required courses and two electives:

#### *Required:*

- PSTR 7273 Hispanic Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7262 Canon Law and Civil Law for Ministry (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7270 Ethics and Accountability for Catholic Leaders (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7271 Cross Cultural Competencies for Pastoral Ministry (2 hrs)

#### *Electives:*

- THEO 7232 Bioethics, Healthcare and Catholic Teaching (2 hrs)
- THEO 7242 Marriage and the Family in the Catholic Tradition (2 hrs)
- PSTR 7272 Stewardship and Financial Management for Catholic Leaders (2 hrs)

### ***Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry***

This concentration is a response to the Church's call to defend and strengthen marriages and provide integral approaches to the pastoral care of families and youth. The program provides the student with the theological foundation of the Church's counter-cultural teaching on marriage and sexuality. The student will also acquire practical skills needed to develop and administer programs at the diocesan and parish levels to address the needs of marriage and families at all stages, including marriage preparation, marriage and family nurturing, marriage crises and youth ministry. The graduate will not be a qualified marriage and family counselor, but will be able to recognize when professional assistance should be recommended. The program will emphasize pastoral considerations in Hispanic and multi-cultural settings to contextualize the heart of the Church's teachings faithfully. This program concentration requires 15 credit hours\*\* beyond the core requirements (21 hours for this concentration) for a total of 36 hours. Courses include:

#### *Required:*

- THEO 7242 Marriage and Family in the Catholic Tradition (2 hrs)

THEO 7232 Bioethics, Healthcare and Catholic Teaching (2 hrs)  
THEO 7334 Theology of the Body (3 hrs) \*\* (THEO 7334 will substitute for core req. THEO 7331)  
PSTR 7280 Introduction to Pastoral Care for Family Life Ministry (2 hrs)  
PSTR 7281 Preparation for Christian Marriage (2 hrs)  
PSTR 7282 Pastoral Care of the Married Couple and the Family (2 hrs)  
PSTR 7258 Youth and Young Adult Ministry (2 hrs)

### **Internship**

The internship may begin after five hours of concentration coursework have been completed, including at least one pastoral studies course. Internships are required as follows:

Catholic Leadership – one practicum  
Catechetics – one practicum  
Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry – two practicums

Assignments will be agreed upon between the student and academic advisor. Students will be responsible for identifying an internship position; however, MACC will make every effort to assist students needing placement. The student must be under the direction of a MACC faculty advisor and must arrange for a midterm and final assessment from a fulltime, qualified employee of the internship institution. The internship semester is not a credited class, but there will be a fee assessed equivalent to one semester hour for faculty advising and evaluation during the internship.

PSTR 8090 – Supervised Practicum for Catholic Leadership  
PSTR 8091 – Supervised Practicum for Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry I – Marriage Preparation  
PSTR 8092 – Supervised Practicum for Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry II – Pastoral Care of Married Couples, Youth and Families  
PSTR 8093 – Supervised Practicum for Catechetics

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **THEO 6301 The Trinity and Jesus Christ (3 hrs)**

This course will study the development and content of Trinitarian and Christological theology in both the Eastern and Western traditions from the Patristic age up until the contemporary period drawing upon the writings of biblical, Patristic, Scholastic, and contemporary authors. Major themes to be discussed include those associated with the early Trinitarian and Christological heresies (including consubstantiation and the hypostatic union) creation, Providence, the Incarnation, atonement, the Resurrection, and justification and grace.

#### **THEO 6302 Ecclesiology and Eschatology (3 hrs)**

This course will study the Church as a sign and instrument of God's universal self-giving to humanity. It will examine the Church's self-understanding as it emerges from such scriptural images as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Bride of Christ. It will further explore the development of this self understanding in the theological tradition and as it is reflected in various contemporary models with particular focus on ontological models of Covenant and Communion and the missionary and evangelizing models of the Church presented in recent documents for Hispanic Ministry and in Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, "Ecclesia in America." The course will also highlight the Church's teachings and guidelines for ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

#### **THEO 6310 Old Testament (OT) Studies Survey (3 hrs)**

This course includes a study of the presentation of Israel's history within the OT. It compares this recounting of salvation history with modern scholarly reconstructions that involve questions of dating and authorship. Students are introduced to literary analysis of various OT texts after acquiring a knowledge of their historical contexts. This combination of literary and historical perspectives illumine the covenantal structure of the OT as preparation for the NT. In addition, students become familiar with the magisterial documents of the Catholic Church on biblical interpretation as grounded in the history of patristic

approaches. Students also learn practical tools for interpretation such as the Hebrew alphabet and scholarly resources for exegesis.

**THEO 6311 New Testament (NT) Studies Survey (3 hrs)**

This course studies the Judaic and Hellenistic backgrounds of the NT literature. Such contextual background allows the student to understand more thoroughly the teaching on the kingdom of God as presented in the Synoptics. Then the course investigates the Johannine writings, beginning with the presentation of the life of Jesus as a culminating theological perspective and ending with his Revelation. After a brief survey of first century history in *Acts*, the course delves into Pauline theology and the Catholic epistles and their varying interpretations through the history of Christianity. Students also learn practical tools for interpretation such as the Greek alphabet and scholarly resources for exegesis.

**THEO 6320 Church History (3 hrs)**

This course will survey the history of the New Testament Church from Pentecost up to Benedict XVI. This course will follow the theme of crisis and renewal with a focus on significant events for the life and faith of the Church, such as the early Ecumenical Councils, the relationship between Church and state, the schism between East and West, the Protestant Reformation, the Council of Trent, and the first Vatican Council. While apostolic succession will serve as the point of departure for this survey, the course will also contextualize these events from the diverse perspectives of other major protagonists. The course will culminate with a careful examination of the legacy of Vatican II and a review of the contemporary issues and trends of the Church in the U.S. While taking the courses in sequence is not required (though highly recommended), students without at least some background in the developments of Trinitarian and Christological teachings of the first seven Ecumenical Councils should take THEO 6301 before registering for this course.

**THEO 6330 Moral Theology (3 hrs)**

This course will begin with a study of the development of moral thought starting with Scripture. It will continue through the Patristic and Scholastic periods to focus on the Church's counter-cultural teachings in the modern age. Particular focus will be taken of the impact of philosophical schools and traditions and their effects on theological and popular treatment of morality. The course will focus on the Church's view of the human person as moral agent who is made for greatness. The temporal progression and anthropological focus will provide the foundation for a discussion of the challenging, contemporary situation and the increasing reality of relativism and secularity. The course will provide students with a new synthesis of moral thought emphasizing the need to restore an understanding of freedom for excellence in all aspects of social and personal development, rather than a morality based on freedom of indifference.

**THEO 6340 Sacramental and Liturgical Theology (3 hrs)**

This course will provide an integrated understanding of the liturgy and the Sacraments for the Christian life in terms of a journey toward holiness. The course will study the meaning and structure of the liturgy and the Sacraments in Catholic life through a survey of various theologies of liturgy and the Sacraments. Major themes to be addressed include justification and grace, the liturgy as the work of the Holy Trinity, the liturgical year, and the seven sacraments. The student will have a firm understanding of the recent teachings and guidelines of the Church on the inculturation of the liturgy, and the role of popular religiosity in evangelization, catechesis and the celebration of the liturgy and sacraments, especially in Hispanic settings.

**THEO 7331 Anthropology of Person and Culture (3 hrs)**

This course will look at the intimate connection between faith and culture. Firmly rooted in the Church's view of the meaning and significance of the human person, the course will explore the meaning of culture and its role in mediating faith and human fulfillment. It will begin with a study of the human person, reflecting on the basic "questions that pervade human life" (*Fides et ratio*, 1). It will build upon this anthropology to look at the manner in which family, community, Church and larger society comprise essential aspects for faith and human flourishing. Finally, it will investigate culture's role in shaping communal and personal identity, making use of contemporary theorists in the light of Scripture and the Church's teachings. The overarching goal of the course is to provide the student with a firm grasp of an

authentic anthropology that can guide the pastoral application of the Church's teachings in a culturally diverse society, especially in Hispanic communities.

**THEO 7232 Bioethics, Healthcare and Catholic Teaching (2 hrs)**

This course investigates contemporary bioethical and healthcare issues in the context of Catholic teaching. The course will also evaluate other ethics models used in today's diverse society. The Catholic vision will be based on an adequate anthropology reflecting sacredness of life in all of its stages. Issues to be discussed include reproductive technologies, embryo transfer, abortion, medical treatment decisions in the face of death, palliative care, death and euthanasia, cloning, and stem cell research. The approach will include close attention to cultural dynamics and pastoral considerations in ministry and care of patients from Hispanic and other culturally diverse communities. THEO 6330 is a prerequisite for this course.

**THEO 7334 Theology of the Body (3 hrs)**

This course will apply John Paul II's Theology of the Body in an investigation of the meaning and structure of the human person, as made in the image of God. The course looks at the person's relationship to the cosmos, to history, and to the liturgy all arising from their archetype in Trinitarian Communion. With this communion as its source, the course will also study such issues as the Eucharistic and nuptial structure of the cosmos and of the anthropological order. It will also explore the meaning of the Eucharistic Liturgy and integrate the major elements of Trinitarian theology, Christology/Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Mariology, and Eschatology into a seamless whole.

**THEO 7242 Marriage and the Family in the Catholic Tradition (2 hrs)**

This course presents a systematic investigation into the meaning of marriage and family through a study of authoritative authors, especially relevant magisterial documents. The course begins with an examination the main elements needed for an elaboration of nuptial sacramental theology. Next, the history of the doctrine of marriage, its sacramentality, and marriage will be studied in relation to this nuptial sacramental theology through readings taken from Tertullian, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, the Council of Trent, Vatican II and the writings of Leo XIII, Pius XI, and John Paul II. Finally, the maturation of this theology in the context of marriage and its fulfillment in family life will be explored in light of the theology of gift presented in the Second Vatican Council and developed by John Paul II. John Paul II's articulation of the practical implications of this theology will be emphasized.

**THEO 9X00 Special Topics in Systematic Theology (1-3 hrs)**

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of systematic theology in more depth under the guidance of a faculty member.

**THEO 9X10 Special Topics in Biblical Studies (1-3 hrs)**

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of biblical studies in more depth under the guidance of a faculty member.

**THEO 9X20 Special Topics in Church History (1-3 hrs)**

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of Church history in more depth under the guidance of a faculty member.

**THEO 9X30 Special Topics in Moral Theology (1-3 hrs)**

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of moral theology in more depth under the guidance of a faculty member.

**THEO 9X40 Special Topics in Sacraments and Liturgy (1-3 hrs)**

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of liturgy and the Sacraments in more depth under the guidance of a faculty member.

**PSTR 7350 Foundations of Evangelization and Catechesis (3 hrs)**

This class will provide an extensive survey of the Church's evangelical and catechetical tradition by examining the numerous national and universal ecclesial documents. Emphasis will be given to both the

National Directory for Catechesis and the General Directory for Catechesis. Special attention will be paid to considerations for Hispanic and multicultural communities.

**PSTR 7352 Catechetical Content, Methods and Curriculum (3 hrs)**

This course explores the essential Trinitarian Christ-centricity of an adequate catechesis. It examines the deposit of faith, as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as the foundation for a comprehensive, integral, and complete content of the Christian catechesis. The content of faith will be examined in relationship to diverse catechetical pedagogical methods, practices and pastoral circumstances. Attention will be given to cultural considerations for the culture(s) to be evangelized and catechized.

**PSTR 7254 The Baptismal Catechumenate (RCIA) and Catholic Formation (2 hrs)**

This course will explore the RCIA in light of the General Directory for Catechesis's assertion that the "Baptismal Catechumenate is the model for all catechesis" (GDC 59, 90-91). It will entail an in depth study of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) while at the same time attending to catechumenal style formation as an effective model for comprehensive Christian formation. Considerations for RCIA in Hispanic and multicultural communities will be emphasized. THEO 6340 is a prerequisite for this course.

**PSTR 7256 Family, Culture and Catechesis (2 hrs)**

This course will examine, from a pastoral-theological perspective, many contemporary formational themes addressed in the universal and national catechetical directories. These critical themes will be examined in relationship to the successful implementation of diverse parish formational activities. Issues addressed will include: catechesis in Hispanic and multicultural communities, media and catechesis, contemporary ideologies and social trends influencing the Church's mission, catechesis in a pluralistic and religiously diverse society, family based and whole community catechesis, home schooling and the role of the parish in preparation for the Sacraments of Infant Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Marriage.

**PSTR 7258 Youth and Young Adult Ministry (2 hrs)**

This course looks at the special needs and challenges for catechizing youth and young adults, especially Hispanics who are now the majority of Catholics under the age of 18. Rooted in the Church's framework for a comprehensive ministry to youth ("Renewing the Vision"), the course introduces models and methods for age appropriate catechesis, leadership formation, and pastoral care. The course helps students evaluate various initiatives, programs, and movements for youth and young adult ministry in light of the Church's teachings and guidelines for integral faith formation and vocational discernment. The challenges and opportunities articulated in the Church's documents on Hispanic Ministry help guide the student to formulate pastoral plans that are timely and relevant to the realities of Latino youths and young adults living in an era of great technological and social change. The course provides concrete strategies that recognize the challenges without subsidizing the problems or harming the completeness and fidelity of the Gospel.

**PSTR 7262 Canon Law and Civil Law for Ministry (2 hrs)**

This course will provide an overview of the current Code of Canon Law, a summary of its historical development, and the reforms of Vatican II. Specific topics may include the following: the corporate status of the parish; church property; contracts, marriage; divorce; child abuse matters; clergy and parish staff malpractice; and confidentiality issues. Students will analyze these legal issues in the context of multicultural settings where differences in perceptions of authority and communication styles can create challenges for effective pastoral action. Students will learn strategies for intercultural communication and conflict resolution.

**PSTR 7270 Ethics and Accountability for Catholic Leaders (2 hrs)**

This course will teach ethical principles for accountability and responsibility in all areas of ministerial leadership. These can guide discernment and action for effective leadership in Catholic institutions. Students will learn the methodology of Christian ethical discernment and the historical development of ethical teachings in the Roman Catholic tradition. The course will also focus on how secularism and diverse cultural norms can create ethical dilemmas for Catholic leaders. The course will define

fundamental standards and contextual variables that influence ethical decision making. THEO 6330 is a prerequisite for this course.

**PSTR 7271 Cross Cultural Competencies for Pastoral Ministry (2 hrs)**

This course explores differences in cultural values, attitudes, perceptions of power, and communication dynamics. Students identify and evaluate the conscious and unconscious values and attitudes that affect their ability to relate to and work with people of various cultures. This course will also help leaders to develop a better understanding of racism and how it can be instituted in systems that give privilege to certain cultural groups at the expense of others. The course uses both theoretical and experiential methods for students to examine how racism has affected them personally and how communities can work for systematic change.

**PSTR 7272 Stewardship and Financial Management for Catholic Leaders (2 hrs)**

This course will teach the essential skills for being a good steward of financial resources in Church and other nonprofit organizations. Catholic principles for stewardship will help to guide students in developing skills for strategic planning, budgeting, basic financial management, and resource development. The course will provide a framework for developing policies and procedures for financial accountability to congregations and other stakeholders. Students will also learn about different cultural beliefs and norms regarding finances and how to create a plan for stewardship that is culturally sensitive, especially in Hispanic settings.

**PSTR 7273 Hispanic Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2 hrs)**

This is an introduction to Hispanic Ministry. It provides a sweeping overview of the culture, history, and faith expressions of Mexican Americans. The course's specific focus on the Mexican American experience is not exclusive; rather, it provides a comprehensive framework that can be used as a pattern for understanding other cultures, especially other Hispanic cultures. The course deepens appreciation of the multicultural diversity in society and guides students through a process of understanding the opportunities, challenges, priorities, and complexities of Hispanic Ministry today and its future directions.

**PSTR 7280 Introduction to Pastoral Care for Family Life Ministry (2 hrs)**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the field of pastoral care of married couples and families. The field's historical development will also be surveyed. A theology of pastoral care will be developed in light of a complete Catholic anthropology and understanding of marriage and family. The student will develop essential leadership skills for lay ecclesial ministry and the apostolate, and an understanding of family systems theory and group ministry models. Particular consideration will be given to Hispanic culture in the US.

**PSTR 7281 Preparation for Christian Marriage (2 hrs)**

This course will study the magisterial documents on marriage preparation, especially the Pontifical Council for the Family's 1996 document, *Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage*. It will evaluate various Catholic marriage preparation programs and evaluate them in light of this document assessing their perceived effectiveness and limitations. Educational components of preparation will be addressed, to include evangelization, natural family planning, pastoral consultations, the rite of marriage, administering premarital inventories, and development of communication skills. THEO 6340 is a prerequisite for this course. Particular consideration will be given to Hispanic culture in the US.

**PSTR 7282 Pastoral Care of the Married Couple and the Family (2 hrs)**

This course will analyze theories and programs of marriage enrichment, support and healing across all stages of married life, integrating contemporary research with Church teaching to develop strategies for strengthening marital intimacy and friendship, educating couples in problem solving skills, and fostering marital emotional and spiritual flourishing. The student will become familiar with resources available for pastoral care of married couples. In addition, the course will prepare the student to help families to flourish in all stages of life. It will focus on a study of the magisterial document, *Familiaris consortio* and its exhortation to families to form a communion of persons, serve life, participate in the development of society, and share in the life and mission of the Church. Parent-child relationships and models of discipline will be examined through the lens of Catholic anthropology and theology of the "domestic

church.” The student will also develop skills for ministering to families in difficult cases and creating pastoral environments that are sensitive to the needs of families. Particular consideration will be given to Hispanic culture in the US.

**PSTR 8090 – Supervised Practicum for Catholic Leadership** (non-credit requirement)

The student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will choose a pastoral setting in which to apply selected skills in the program of study. Possibilities include parish level internships, archdiocesan level internships, internships at Catholic apostolate or other approved organizations.

**PSTR 8091 – Supervised Practicum for Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry I – Marriage Preparation** (non-credit requirement)

The student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will develop additional ministry skills and theological reflection in the area of marriage preparation. Possibilities include facilitation of marriage inventories, rite of marriage classes, retreats for engaged couples, and certification in a model of natural family planning.

**PSTR 8092 – Supervised Practicum for Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry II – Pastoral Care of Married Couples, Youth and Families** (non-credit requirement)

The student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will develop additional ministry skills and theological reflection in the areas of marriage, family and youth ministry. Possibilities include couples enrichment, parenting classes, youth ministry, and bereavement ministries.

**PSTR 8093 – Supervised Practicum for Catechetics** (non-credit requirement)

The student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will develop additional ministry skills and theological reflection in the areas of catechetics. Possibilities include diocesan catechetical offices, parish religious education offices, Catholic schools, and campus ministry offices.

**PSTR 9X50 Special Topics in Catechetics** (1-3 hrs)

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of catechesis in more depth with the guidance of a faculty member.

**PSTR 9X70 Special Topics in Pastoral Ministry** (1-3 hrs)

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of pastoral ministry in more depth with the guidance of a faculty member.

**PSTR 9X80 Special Topics in Marriage, Family and Youth Ministry** (1-3 hrs)

This course allows the student to investigate a specific area of marriage and family life in more depth with the guidance of a faculty member.