

Pastoral Leadership

Service to God & Community

Pastoral leadership prepares young women and men to serve in various roles and positions in the Christian community and to be co-collaborators with ordained and lay people working in ministry, education, and secular not-for-profit organizations.

Opportunities Abound

There are numerous opportunities with a baccalaureate degree in Pastoral Leadership based upon a person's interest and gifts. Some of the ministry positions available upon graduation are:

- Coordinator of Religious Education
- Parish High School Youth Minister
- Parish Middle School Youth Minister
- High School Campus Minister
- Junior High Theology Teacher
- High School Theology Teacher
- Parish Young Adult Minister
- Parish Pastoral Associate
- Adolescent Pastoral Care Worker
- Diocesan Ministry
- Not-for-profit Agencies/Organizations
- Catholic Relief Services
- Mission Work
- Peace Corps

Of course, beyond a traditional undergraduate education in Pastoral Leadership there is always graduate school in theology or ministry, seminary formation, which traditionally leads to ordination, and other graduate programs such as social work, pastoral care and counseling, marriage and family counseling, and law school.

Educational Formation

Pastoral Leadership education *equips* and *empowers* undergraduate college students with the necessary and appropriate formation on four fronts: (1) human formation (2) theological formation, (3) spiritual formation, and (4) pastoral formation.

- **Human formation** seeks to develop the human qualities and attributes of a person by helping to foster a healthy and holistic personality and lifestyle for the sake of personal growth and ministry.
- **Theological formation** proposes to foster the intellectual capacities, to sharpen critical-thinking skills, and to primarily expand the breadth and depth of the study of the sacred sciences: theology, church history, ecumenism Scripture, liturgy, sacraments, stewardship, and morality as well as other academic disciplines such as philosophy, history, psychology, sociology, culture, and languages.

- *Spiritual formation* aims to arouse the call to holiness and Christian discipleship through coursework, community involvement and interactions, and personal encounters with ongoing relationships.
- *Pastoral formation* intends to cultivate the practical application of doing ministry with others through coursework, internships, and theological reflection.

These four areas of pastoral leadership formation provide an important framework for the practice and application for young women and men to enter the ministry workforce with credentials and confidence.

Mentoring

Pastoral Leadership students are required to engage in ministry mentoring with a skilled Faculty Mentor who actively listens and fruitfully guides the student on their journey as a discerning and growing pastoral minister. Students are also encouraged to seek out opportunities for spiritual direction and pastoral counseling through the resources of the university.

3 Programs to Choose From

There are three programs that a person might choose: **Bachelor of Arts degree** (120 credits), **Associate of Arts degree** (66 credits), or **Certificate in Ministry** 36-credit with ministry-specific project). The typical course of study is a four-year baccalaureate degree which encompasses 120 credit hours and at least 36-credits in theology and 12 credits in Pastoral Leadership, internships, and a senior ministry project.

Theological Formation	Human Formation	Pastoral Formation
Introduction to Theology	Human Nature & Person	Theology & Spirituality of Ministry
Old/New Testament	Human Growth & Development	Catechesis: Theory & Practice
Morality	Introduction to Psychology	Youth Ministry: Theological Foundations & Pastoral Perspectives
Liturgy & Spirituality	Abnormal Psychology	Church Administration: Policies & Procedures
Jesus and the Trinity	Introduction to Sociology	Internships in Ministry
Church	Family Systems	Ministry-Specific Senior Project
God and Philosophy	Introduction to Social Work	

Pastoral Leadership prepares young women and men to meet the world's needs in ministry. Pastoral leadership students are prepared to serve the People of God at the crossroads between culture and faith and church and society.