

MPS	
Overall Learning Objectives	Degree-Level Expectations
<p><b>Foundational objectives.</b> The first phase of the program introduces students to the foundational principles and methods of theological studies.</p> <p><b>Advanced and specialized objectives.</b> Students learn the importance of contextual skills and the centrality of diversity in the church's life. They specialize in a stream of their choice from the following options: Social Ministry, Pastoral Care, Worship and Preaching. Through a final project under faculty supervision, they integrate theory and practice in an area related to their program stream. Students develop their strengths through processes of faculty evaluations, peer feedback, and self-evaluation. They participate in colloquia focused on subjects of relevance to the contemporary contexts and work of the church.</p> <p><b>Values of the program.</b> Students graduating from the M.P.S. demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills for rigorous theological enquiry.</li> <li>• Skills in contextual analysis.</li> <li>• Commitment to justice.</li> <li>• Commitment to inclusive practice.</li> <li>• Appreciation of social and cultural diversity.</li> <li>• Appreciation of ecumenical and interreligious relationships.</li> <li>• The integration of the theoretical and the practical, within analytical and transformational activities.</li> <li>• Excellence in teaching and research.</li> <li>• Spiritual and professional formation.</li> <li>• Ability to form partnerships with communities focused on faith and education</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge</b></p> <p><i>Breadth.</i> Students will develop a systematic and discriminating understanding of the Christian heritage, including its scriptures; history; theological themes, issues, and disputes; cultural and multi-faith contexts; and practice of ministry. They will be aware of current issues in global Christian thought, life, and practice and will be able to articulate clearly their own theological positions as related to pastoral practices. Students will be able to interpret scripture and religious texts using a variety of methods, sources, and norms.</p> <p><i>Depth.</i> Students will develop a more comprehensive and discriminating familiarity with at least one particular Christian tradition and will identify and respect the diversity of theological viewpoints and pastoral practices within that religious tradition, such as varieties of Christian worship, competencies for intercultural spiritual care, or appropriate preaching.</p> <p><b>2. Research and Scholarship.</b></p> <p>Students will be able to use library and information resources in order to identify authoritative primary sources and relevant secondary sources for the study of the Christian religious heritage and the practice of <i>pastoral</i> ministry. They will be able to apply techniques of enquiry, interpretation, analysis, and construction to these sources in order to test premises and perspectives and to acquire knowledge. They will be able to evaluate current research and interpretation in the study of Scripture, theology, and the history of Christianity, and compare it with established understandings in social ministry, pastoral care, or worship and preaching. They will be able to report research systematically and intelligibly, and develop and support a sustained argument in written form, or in application to specialized pastoral practice such as worship practice, preaching, or pastoral care. Students will demonstrate critical understanding of their area of specialization of the relationship between faith practices, cultural contexts, and pastoral practices.</p> <p><b>3. Level of application of knowledge.</b></p> <p>In supervised experiences in ministry, students will apply classroom learning and skills in research, theological reflection, and communication. They will gain critical perspective on, and practical expertise in, the tasks of ministerial leadership <i>as applied to pastoral practice</i>. They will be able to identify an issue in the practice of ministry in a field setting, reflect on it critically, situate it theologically, historically, and culturally, and consider and compare alternative pastoral approaches to it whether in social ministry, pastoral care or worship and preaching. Diverse methods will be applied to the cultural contexts of the student's specialization. Students will give evidence of critical self-awareness with regard to their own and other faith perspectives and practices of pastoral ministry in a variety of contexts.</p> <p><b>4. Professional Capacity/Autonomy</b></p> <p>Students will develop the intellectual, affective, and professional capacities required for a life of pastoral leadership. They will demonstrate emotional maturity, moral integrity, social skills, personal responsibility and discipline, initiative, academic integrity, spiritual sensibilities, and social concern in both school and field situations. They will be able to give a reasonable account of the premises, character and commitments of a Christian tradition and to situate it theologically. They will seek to develop capacities of leadership as construed in a faith tradition, and competence in tasks required in <i>pastoral settings</i>. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the variety of callings and spiritual practices within their religious tradition, and an ability to reflect critically on their own sense of call to pastoral leadership and service. Students will attend to the spiritual development and well-being of self and others and will display the capacity for self-reflexive and spiritual practices within communities of faith.</p> <p><b>5. Level of Communication Skills</b></p> <p>Students will function effectively and collegially in their school community both inside and outside the classroom. They will be able both to appreciate the differing views of others and to convey and support their own views clearly both verbally and in writing. The M.P.S. will support the development of communication skills that include the demonstration of growth in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Students will display the capacity for spiritual practices requisite to pastoral leadership in church and community. Students will demonstrate initiative, responsibility, and accountability in personal relationships and group contexts.</p>

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6. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

Students will be able to make use of insights of the humanities, the social sciences, the arts, and the natural sciences in their study of the several disciplines included within theological education and in the practice of ministry. They will recognize ways in which varied expressions of Christian belief and practice are shaped by cultural contexts and the experience of other faith traditions. They will recognize the uncertainties inherent in both faith-based and non-confessional academic interpretations of Scripture and Christian teaching, worship, preaching or pastoral practice. Students will demonstrate critical self-awareness as they develop the pastoral capacities—intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public—that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership.