

KNOX COLLEGE

MASTER OF PASTORAL STUDIES

Program Purpose – What is it?

The Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) is a twenty-credit second-level entry (post-baccalaureate) degree that equips persons for leadership in specialized areas of pastoral ministries, spiritual care/therapy, and social service. Graduates of the MPS program are prepared to be leaders in lay and diaconal ministries in faith communities, pursue careers in the non-profit sector, and work as institutional chaplains, spiritual care practitioners, psycho-spiritual therapists, and community workers.

Students pursue the program by choosing one of three foci below as a pathway or, with the permission of the faculty and the direction of an adviser, by developing their own focus in an area of pastoral studies and practice:

- **Spiritual Care**, for providing spiritual care in faith communities or public institutions;
- **Social Service**, for providing leadership in faith-based organizations or secular social agencies;
- **Congregational Leadership**, for providing lay leadership in Christian congregations by focusing on worship, preaching, or other areas of congregational life and mission.

In the Spiritual Care focus, students may complete requirements for a conjunct Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (SCP Cert.) for providing spiritual care and psychotherapy as a spiritual care practitioner (chaplain) or as a psycho-spiritual therapist (pastoral counsellor) in counselling centres or other contexts. This certificate program (taken concurrently with and as part of the MPS program) prepares students to apply for entry into advanced training toward Specialist certification in the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) and for qualifying membership in the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO), pending approval by the CRPO.

Program Overview – What does it require?

The MPS requires 20 semester credits (1 course = 1 credit). The program can be completed in 2 academic years of full-time study (5 courses per term for 4 terms) or can be completed part-time over a period of up to 8 years. The option to combine the MPS concurrently or sequentially with the M.Div. degree allows students to obtain the MPS by doing an extra 10 semester credits and provides specialized preparation for ordained and other ministries. The program is designed to meet the following designated learning expectations: gain depth and breadth of knowledge; be able to engage in research and scholarship; be able to apply knowledge to pastoral practice; develop a capacity in an area of pastoral practice adequate for competent leadership and accountable autonomous practice; communicate effectively; and be aware of the limits of knowledge.

Admission Requirements – How can I get in?

Entrance to the MPS program normally requires a previous baccalaureate degree with at least an average of 70% (B-, 2.7) from a university or college recognized by the University of Toronto. Use the online application to begin the admissions process.

Curriculum – What will I study?

The programs consists of three groups of courses:

1. General Requirement Courses: 8

Six Courses in the following four general areas:

Interpretation of Sacred Texts:

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| (1) Reading the Old Testament | KNB1006 |
| (2) Understanding the New Testament | KNB1501 |

Teaching and Tenets of Theological Religious Disciplines:

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| (3) Reformed Theology in Dialogue | KNT1101 |
| (4) Theology of Religions | KNT2608 |

Historical Studies of Faith Tradition:

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| (5) Global Christian History | KNH1015 |
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Moral Tenets and Faith-Based Ethics:

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| (6) Christian Ethics and Context | KNT2964 |
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One Course in Leadership Practice or Spiritual Formation:

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| (7) Theology and Practice of Ministry | KNP1601 |
| OR Human Growth and Spiritual Journey | KNP1443 |

One Capstone Course:

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| (8) A culminating Integrative Seminar OR Reading and Research Course on reflexive praxis, normally taken in the final term of the program. |
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2. Focus Designated Courses: 7

These courses allow students to focus on one area of pastoral theology and practice such as congregational pastoral care, preaching and worship, or social service. In these courses students go into greater depth with specialized objectives. Within the seven courses, students are required to complete at least two courses in supervised experiential learning (SPE/CPE/TFE).

3. Open Elective Courses: 5

The MPS allows for five open electives. Students may choose these courses from across the basic degree curriculum at Knox College and the colleges of the Toronto School of Theology to complement their focus (breadth) or deepen their focus (depth) or strengthen their foundational knowledge (breadth and depth).

4. Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (SCP Cert.)

Students who wish to fulfill requirements for the Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy as part of the MPS degree program are required to complete the 13 courses in designated areas as prescribed by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) and the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC). In these courses students go into greater depth with specialized objectives. Within the 13 courses, students are normally required to complete 9 specialized classroom courses (including Human Growth and Spiritual Journey and the Capstone Course) and four supervised experiential learning (CPS/SPE). The Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy permits designated electives within specialized areas of study but few open electives (normally only one course) in order to meet the courses and hours required by CRPO and CASC. The SCP Certificate is pending approval by the CRPO.

Program Outcomes – What will I be able to do?

The MPS degree program as a whole and the individual courses within it work on the model of degree-level expectations and learning outcomes. Upon completion, graduates will:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Reformed Protestant religious tradition as a basis for pastoral/spiritual practice
- Read and interpret Scripture and religious texts using a variety of critical and constructive methods as a basis for pastoral/spiritual practice;
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of theological, psychological and theoretical foundations of spiritual/pastoral practice;
- Demonstrate ability for critical assessment in a variety of contexts and situations of pastoral/spiritual practice;
- Demonstrate an ability to effectively to engage in spiritual/pastoral practice in intercultural, inter-religious, and ecumenical contexts;
- Demonstrate skills in administration and leadership in relation to pastoral/spiritual practice, including ethical practice in ministry relationships;
- Demonstrate an ability to research and communicate effectively, including public speaking, teaching and leading small groups and workshops.