

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
Office of Pastoral Formation
Faculty of Theology
81 St. Mary Street
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M.DIV. STUDENTS: PASTORAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

Program Goal and Objectives: The Faculty of Theology shall provide the opportunity for the M. Div. students to identify their personal strengths and also lacks in relationship to their having the knowledge and skills needed for pastoral ministry. For the most part, such knowledge and skills will be acquired through course work, theological field education, and other activities that are part of theological education for ministry. In some cases, however, some needed particular skills may not be so provided. To address such a need, the M. Div. students, in consultation with the Director of Pastoral Formation, shall engage in self-directed Pastoral Skills Development Experiences equivalent to one course in their program.

Guidelines for the Pastoral Skills Development Experiences

After the completion of five courses, the M. Div. students will meet with the Pastoral Formation Director to discuss their goals for ministry preparation and their sense of the strengths and gaps in their knowledge and skills for pastoral ministry. Examples of such knowledge and skill sets include the following:

Self-Care, to include:

proper grooming, a healthy and developing self image, time for prayer and personal reflection, seeking help and advice from competent peers and professionals as needed, balancing personal and ministerial responsibilities with good time management, commitment to ongoing educational experiences.

Communication, to include:

public speaking, active listening, and writing skills; preaching, teaching, liturgical, and retreat leadership in varying contexts, such as parish, schools.

Interpersonal Relationships, to include:

facilitating group work, managing conflict, relating with diverse personalities, proper delegating of responsibilities.

Spiritual and Pastoral Care, to include:

basic counseling and spiritual direction knowledge and skills; awareness of life cycle needs and development; ministering to the poor, socially marginalized, culturally displaced persons; ministering to persons who have been hurt by the church or who are otherwise disaffected with it.

Administrative Leadership, to include:

clear ministry position descriptions, proper understanding and functioning of collaborative ministry, appropriate delegation of authority and responsibilities, strategic planning, time management, budgeting and accounting responsibilities as applicable.

Media Skills, to include:

computer literacy, social networking, use of audio and visual materials, power point presentations, etc.

Others as Identified by the Student, to include:

With the Pastoral Formation Director, the students will identify the knowledge and skill sets they need to acquire or to develop. They will then locate appropriate learning opportunities to achieve them, whether in course work or in other types of learning experiences. Such Pastoral Skills Development Experiences (PSDE) may be found both within and outside the U of T and the TST Colleges learning context. They may include workshops, leadership training sessions, public speaking sessions, liturgical workshops, parish based skills development sessions, brief supervised work contexts where the knowledge and skills may be acquired, etc.

The students must complete successfully at least thirty-five (35) clock hours in PSDE's that are outside of TST course-based learning to achieve the course credit. These PSDE's can be spread throughout the M. Div. program, but they should be completed by the time the students have finished their 25th course. It is suggested that at least one PSDE be completed each year, one of which should be done after the students have completed their Theological Field Education.

Planning and Certifying the Pastoral Skills Development Experiences

Normally, the students will engage in at least four different PSDE's. The number of clock hours for each experience can range from two to twenty (2-20) hours, depending on the nature of the learning experience. All together the students shall complete at least 40 (forty) clock hours of PSDE's. Each of the PSDE's shall be recorded and certified on the appropriate PSDE form.

The PSDE'S will emphasize active participation, acquisition of the skills designated, and any accompanying theory. Normally, the provider(s) or sponsoring agency will have a public profile and be able to present the students with appropriate certification of successful completion. The students are responsible to pay for the PSDE's when payment is required

Upon finishing each PSDE, the students shall submit a copy of the completed PSDE form to the Director of Pastoral Formation. This form shall be placed in the students' portfolios. Credit for the PSDE's, when all are completed, will be arranged on ROSI by the Students Services Officer. There will be no charge by the Faculty of Theology for this credit.