

Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership

Introduction and History

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership (MAPL) is composed of Theology courses in addition to the completion of the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM). ILEM is committed to educating and forming men and women in the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral aspects of lay ecclesial ministry. Through the ILEM formation process, candidates will continue to discern their call to ministry in service to God and his Church, cultivate a Catholic understanding of lay ecclesial ministry, be formed in the life of Christian virtues and deepen their grasp of the Catholic Faith through theological studies.

Candidates who successfully complete ILEM will be commissioned by their bishop as lay ecclesial ministers. The MAPL degree program is available to those participants, who by taking on additional courses and assignments, who wish to receive such a degree. This degree would then serve to provide additional graduate-level competence for future lay ecclesial ministers.

Mission Statement of the Institute of Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM)

Inspired by the vision of lay ecclesial ministry found in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, the ILEM, which is congruent with the mission of Notre Dame Seminary, seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

- ◇ To provide a community of well-integrated, educated and informed lay ecclesial ministers who are commissioned to assist the Archbishop, his fellow bishops, priests and deacons as they shepherd God's people.
- ◇ To provide a holistic formation which includes retreats, workshops, and formation days, while drawing on the resources of Notre Dame Seminary as a place of academic and ministry formation.
- ◇ To cultivate in each "class" an environment of faith where candidates can offer each other appropriate challenges and support.
- ◇ To educate and form lay men and women, theologically preparing them for the New Evangelization.
- ◇ To promote the truth, beauty and the pastoral goodness of Catholicism.
- ◇ To provide, for those ILEM participants who are interested, the opportunity to earn graduate credit for ILEM courses and to take additional graduate courses in Theology in order to receive a Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership.

Additional information can be found in the ILEM Handbook available online at www.nds.edu.

Admissions Guidelines

Admissions to the ILEM Program

All applicants to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership program must *first* be participants of ILEM. All admissions materials must then be sent to the Office of the Registrar, Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School of Theology, 2901 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118. The admission requirements include the following:

1. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college/university. (Exceptions are subject to approval by the ILEM Director.)
2. All applicants must have resided within the Archdiocese of New Orleans for at least one year prior to applying for admission to ILEM. (Exceptions are subject to approval by the ILEM Director.)
3. The applicant must prayerfully discern the call to lay ecclesial ministry. If married, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are in a canonically valid marriage prior to application.
4. The applicant must discuss the call with their pastor and ministry supervisor, if applicable, and request required recommendations.
5. The applicant should complete and submit an ILEM application form to the Director, including a non-refundable check for \$60, payable to Notre Dame Seminary.
6. The applicant should prepare and submit all components of the application process to the Director. These include
7. The applicant should schedule a pre-admission interview with the Director.

Please note: Acceptance into ILEM does not imply acceptance into any theological program. In a similar way, acceptance into the MA program does not imply acceptance into ILEM.

Admission Guidelines to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership Program

In addition to being admitted to the ILEM program, the admission requirements for the MAPL degree program include the following:

1. Completed admission application
2. Payment of an admission fee (a one-time, non-refundable application fee)
3. Receipt by Registrar of all official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate study from granting institutions
4. Receipt by Registrar of three letters of recommendation from the Director of CLI with the appropriate accompanying assessments.
5. Completion of the *Self-Assessment of Theological Knowledge and Performance Skills (Pre-Assessment)*. This requirement is usually administered in the first course taken by the student.

Deadlines to complete the application package for admission to the Graduate School of Theology (minus the Self-Assessment) are:

August 1st
December 1st
May 1st

for Fall Registration
for Spring Registration
for Summer Registration

Applicants who submit application packages after these dates will not be eligible for admission until the following semester.

General Admission Policy

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Director of the MAPL program accepts applications for admission from students without regard to ethnicity, creed, age, gender, disability status, or national origin.

Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership (MAPL) degree program seeks to ensure that lay ecclesial ministers serving in all Catholic institutions have access to a solid human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation out of which to exercise their ministry. To do so, the faculty and staff of ILEM have developed program goals and student learning outcomes for the MAPL program.

The program goals for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership degree program are as follows:

- ◇ Provide a framework for the formation and education of lay ecclesial ministers that includes the four pillars of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. (Knowledge – *Religious Heritage*)
- ◇ Promote a fuller understanding of the practical implications of Catholic theological teaching, in light of Vatican II, on lay ecclesial ministry. (Skills – *Cultural context and Specialization*)
- ◇ Cultivate the human development of candidates by fostering greater self-knowledge and an awareness that the call to ministry requires the development of one's personality, natural virtues, and gifts. (Disposition – *Personal and spiritual formation*)

The faculty of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership degree program has developed student learning outcomes to ensure that the program goals are being met.

The student learning outcomes of the program are as follows:

- ◇ Acquire theological knowledge (from the required Theology and Pastoral Studies Courses) and practical skills (from the required lay ecclesial training) in all four areas of formation.
- ◇ Apply Catholic theological principles and pastoral studies to her/his immediate ministry setting.
- ◇ Integrate into her/his ministry elements of the four pillars of formation (as seen in the Supervised Ministry Practicum).
- ◇ Experience growth in spiritual formation through ongoing spiritual direction and participation in annual retreats.

Program of Studies

The program of studies for the MAPL (42 credit hours) includes the following four components: theological studies, pastoral studies, lay ecclesial training and a supervised ministry practicum. A final project (composed of both oral and written requirements) will be required to complete this program and will provide the final three credit hours for this degree. All courses will be taken at Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School of Theology, and the ministry practicum and pastoral leadership experiences will take place at approved Roman Catholic ministry sites where the candidates are currently employed or serving in a recognized ministry. In addition, the candidates will receive on-site supervision from a designated ministry supervisor (Pastor, Principal, DRE, Department Chair, etc.) who will receive training from the Director of the ILEM. Following the completion of this graduate level program, the graduates will receive a Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership.

Curriculum Guide

The students in the MAPL degree program would be required to complete the following courses (42 credit hours).

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Required Courses (30 hours)

Course Number	Course Name	Credit hours
SS 511	Old Testament	3
SS 512	New Testament	3
SL 511	Liturgy and Sacraments	3
MT 501	Principles of Moral Theology	3
PS 500 (A-D)	Pastoral Studies	4
PS 525 (A-D)	Pastoral Training	4
PS 550 (A-B)	Pastoral Immersion	7
PS 575	Pastoral Capstone Project	3

Elective Courses (choose 12 hours from the following)

DT 501	Fundamental Theology and Protology	3
DT 504	Ecclesiology and Ecumenism	3
DT 506	Christology and Mariology	3
HT 502	The Patristic Period	3

HT 503	The Medieval Period	3
HT 511	Special Topics in History	3
MT 506	Catholic Social Teaching	3
MT 511	Person and Morality	3
PT 501	Pastoral Theology	3
PT 504	Pastoral Counseling	3
SS 513	Special Topics in Spirituality	3
	<u>Total</u>	<u>42 hours</u>

Transfer Credit

A maximum of nine applicable credit hours may be transferred from other accredited institutions toward completion of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership. Approval of all transfer credits must be obtained from the Director of the Master of Arts Programs, who may exercise discretion concerning the relevance of any credits in question. These courses must be verified by an official transcript from the institution at which the courses were taken.

Probation Policy

Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry

Passing grades for ILEM students are A, B+, B, B-, C+, C and C-. A student who obtains a D+ or lower in any course is automatically placed on probationary status and must repeat the course. Students will be allowed to repeat a course only once and the course must be repeated at Notre Dame Seminary. Student status is then subject to review by the Master of Arts Faculty.

A student whose semester average in coursework is below a 2.0 at any time after the completion of six semester hours is placed on probationary status and is not allowed to register for more than three semester hours the following semester. To be removed from probationary status, the student must complete six semester hours with a GPA of 2.0 or higher for those six semester hours. If the graduate student on probation for falling below a 2.0 overall GPA is unable to achieve this by the end of the six semester hours of the probationary period, the student will be dismissed from ILEM.

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Passing grades for graduate students are A, B+, B, B-, C+, C and C-. A graduate student who obtains a D+ or lower in any course is automatically placed on probationary status and must repeat the course. Students will be allowed to repeat a course only once and the course must be repeated at Notre Dame Seminary. Student status is then subject to review by the Master of Arts Faculty.

A student whose semester average in coursework is below a 2.7 at any time after the completion of nine semester hours is placed on probationary status and is not allowed to register for more

than three semester hours the following semester. To be removed from probationary status, the student must complete six semester hours with a GPA of 2.7 or higher for those six semester hours. If the graduate student on probation for falling below a 2.7 overall GPA is unable to achieve this by the end of the six semester hours of the probationary period, the student will be dismissed from the graduate program.

Subject to review of the Master of Arts Faculty, students may be dropped from programs for factors other than GPA without having a probationary period. The student may then appeal decisions of the Master of Arts Faculty by submitting a written appeal to the Academic Dean.