Through the Institute of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, persons of exemplary Christian commitment and character that have answered the call to lay ministry now have the opportunity to participate in human, spiritual and pastoral formation necessary for their ministry. — Archbishop Gregory Aymond

The Institute of Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM) of Notre Dame Seminary is a full-fledged formation program for lay ecclesial ministers in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. ILEM includes the same four dimensions of formation that are integral to diaconate and priestly formation programs, including human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation as detailed in the USCCB document Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. After successful completion of the program, candidates are commissioned as Lay Ecclesial Ministers for the Archdiocese of New Orleans by Archbishop Gregory Aymond.

The 2 year formation process includes annual retreats, monthly Saturdays of formation, ongoing spiritual direction, academic coursework, a pastoral practicum and regular individual mentoring by members of the ILEM team.

12 credit hours of academic coursework are required to fulfill the requirements for ILEM. The six 2 hour courses are offered in convenient Saturday and week night formats.

- SS 601 Sacred Scripture I: The Old Testament
- SS 602 Sacred Scripture II: The New Testament
- DT 601 Principles and Methods of Theology
- DT 602 Credo: Dogma and Doctrine I
- SL 601 The Liturgy and the Mass
- SL 602 The Liturgy and the Sacraments

These courses are provided through the curriculum of Notre Dame Seminary’s Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership program. Those not eligible for graduate credit will have the opportunity to complete academic requirements at an undergraduate level. Applicable credit hours from other accredited Catholic institutions will be accepted, subject to the Director's approval.

Upon completion of all ILEM requirements, 23 graduate hours credit will have been earned which can be applied toward the Notre Dame Seminary’s Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership degree program.

The most important thing about ILEM was the sense of community we built. As we learned more about our faith and grew as a family, it strengthened how I work and everything I do. As Archbishop Aymond said at our commissioning, it’s ‘not just what we do but who we are.’ — Karen Baker

Recently commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister

Requirements for Admissions

- A period of prayerful discernment of the call to lay ecclesial ministry.
- Residency for a year in the Archdiocese of New Orleans (or commissioning diocese.)
- If married, demonstration of a canonically valid marriage prior to application.
- Nomination by an applicant’s pastor and ministry supervisor.
- Completed application package.

Costs for ILEM requirements are based on current NDS tuition rates. All candidates are eligible for tuition remission through the Handing on the Faith Program. Sponsoring institutions are asked to contribute a portion of candidate’s tuition. The ILEM Handbook and application forms are available on the NDS website at nds.edu.

For more information or to submit a nomination please contact Susie Veters, ILEM Director, at sveters@nds.edu or 504-866-7426 x741
The Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership (MAPL) builds on the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM), adding 12 hours of theological coursework, an additional pastoral internship and a capstone project in which students develop new strategies and programs for the ministries in which they serve.

Lay ecclesial ministers who pursue and complete the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership degree program will receive the following:

- A thorough preparation for ecclesial leadership appropriate to the laity.
- A fuller understanding of the practical implications of Catholic teaching on the apostolate of the laity in light of Vatican II and the teaching of the post-Vatican II magisterium.
- Greater self-knowledge and an awareness that the call to ministry requires the development of one’s personality, natural virtues, and gifts.
- Supervised ministry experiences that help strengthen natural gifts and charisms in effective ministry and evangelization.
- Fellowship with other lay ecclesial ministers, candidates for the diaconate and seminarians within a culture of mutual understanding and collaboration.
- Opportunities to research the best practices of lay ecclesial ministry and apply them through capstone projects.

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**Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership**

**Required Courses (42 hours)**

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>SL 601 and SL 602</td>
<td>Liturgy: Mass and Sacraments</td>
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<tr>
<td>DT 601</td>
<td>Principles and Methods of Theology</td>
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<td>DT 602</td>
<td>Credo: Dogma and Doctrine I</td>
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<td>PS 500</td>
<td>Pastoral Studies</td>
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<td>PS 525</td>
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* Requirement of ILEM

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“The laity can also feel called, or in fact be called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life. This can be done through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them.”

Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, #73

“Let us set out on the way of love together and advance toward Him of whom it is said, ‘Seek his face always’ (Psalm 105:4)”

St. Augustine, On the Trinity, I.3.5