

KNOX COLLEGE

MASTER OF PASTORAL STUDIES

Program Purpose – What is it?

The Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) is a twenty-credit (post-baccalaureate) degree that equips persons for leadership in the helping professions. Students may take courses to specialize in spiritual care and psychotherapy or take courses to support skill and leadership in pastoral counselling and care, congregational leadership, and social service. Graduates of the MPS program are prepared to be helping professionals in a wide variety of contexts, including faith communities, institutional chaplains/spiritual care practitioners, private practice as psycho-spiritual therapists, the non-profit sector, and community or social service agencies.

Each course provides a strong academic foundation with experiential learning (scenario training, case studies, journaling, reflection papers, and direct client contact hours) to integrate theoretical knowledge with skill development. The emphasis is on the development of practitioner skills and knowledge alongside of safe and effective use of self and ethical practice. Students are trained to integrate theological and psychological concepts and apply this learning to their practice in ministry.

At Knox College, MPS students choose one of three foci:

- Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy, for providing spiritual care and therapy in faith communities, private practice, social service agencies, or public institutions (healthcare, prison, education, long-term care, hospice);
- Social Service, for providing leadership in faith-based organizations, non-profits, or secular social agencies;
- Congregational Leadership, for providing leadership in Christian congregations by focusing on worship, preaching, or other areas of congregational life and mission. (Appropriate for either lay or ordained students.)

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 MPS degree values experiential learning, and students will apply their classroom learning in a clinical or congregational context through a TFE (Theological Field Education) or an SPE (Supervised Pastoral Education) placement. The degree also fosters theological and spiritual reflection of practice and the development of a spiritually-integrated form of counselling or therapy. 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 professional and/or 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?

Students choosing to focus on congregational leadership, social service, or pastoral care will fulfill the requirements under #1, #2 and #3 (see below).

Students choosing to specialize in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy will fulfill the requirements under #1 and #4 (see below). The program consists of three groups of courses:

#1 General Requirement Courses for all MPS students, including those in the SCP Certificate): 8 courses

Interpretation of Sacred Texts:

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

Teaching and Tenets of Theological Religious Disciplines:

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

Historical Studies of Faith Tradition:

- (5) Global Christian History KNH1015

Moral Tenets and Faith-Based Ethics:

- (6) Christian Ethics and Context KNT2964

Leadership Practice or Spiritual Formation:

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

Capstone Course:

(8) Integrating Theory and Practice: EMP3541 for the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy stream students OR A culminating Integrative Seminar OR Reading and Research Course on reflexive praxis, normally taken in the final term of the program for students in the congregational leadership, social service or pastoral care stream.

#2 Focus Designated MPS Students: 7 courses

These courses allow students to focus on one area of pastoral theology and practice such as congregational leadership, preaching and worship, social service, or pastoral care. In these courses students go into greater depth with specialized objectives. Within the seven courses, students are required to complete one course in supervised experiential learning (SPE/CPE/TFE) for two credits. Please note: Students may take any or even all courses required in the MPS SCP Certificate but are not in the program unless they are admitted into the SCP Certificate.

#3 Open Electives for MPS Students: 5 courses

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 MPS with the Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (SCP Cert.)

The MPS, SCP Cert. prepares psychotherapists to excel in complex work settings across Canada. The comprehensive program offers over 400 classroom hours in the theory and practice of psychotherapy. The twenty-course degree requires twelve courses in the following categories: Foundations for psychotherapy; Human development/growth; Professional ethics; Psychopathologies/Assessment; Psychotherapeutic theories; Practica; and a Capstone course that ensures students demonstrate all entry-to-practice competencies of CRPO. Students also take seven theological courses and one course from a list of special topics (see Handbook p 12-15). The course requirements are identified below. Each course provides academic foundations (texts, research, case studies) and experiential learning (scenario training, role plays, journaling, reflection papers) to integrate theoretical knowledge with skills development. This program integrates psychological and spiritual conceptualizations to treat the whole person.

Students complete two Practicum courses that each include 120 hours of direct client contact plus group/individual supervision and professional practice training (SEUS, seminars). Each Practicum is worth two credits. Therefore, four credit of the twenty credit degree involve site placement and direct experience with supervision. At present the practicums are Supervised Pastoral Education units (CPE or PCE) and in 2019 we will be adding a Knox College Practicum alternative for students with unique circumstances.

This program is offered conjointly by University of Toronto and two degree-granting Colleges: Emmanuel and Knox. Both are affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology (TST), an ecumenical consortium of theological colleges. All syllabi indicate the member College and TST. Students register at Knox or Emmanuel but may take required courses from either institution. Some courses are offered at other TST-affiliated Colleges.

Course Structure for the MPS SCP Certificate – See Requirements for the MPS SCP Certificate attachment.

Admission into the MPS SCP Certificate:

Students apply to the SCP Certificate after they have completed a minimum of five courses and have secured a practicum. Application is done through the Toronto School of Theology once a year. The application is posted in February and due in April.

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
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of psychological, theological, and theoretical foundations of spiritual/pastoral practice and psychotherapy
- Read and interpret Scripture and religious texts using a variety of critical and constructive methods as a basis for pastoral/spiritual practice
- Demonstrate ability for critical assessment in a variety of contexts and situations of spiritual practice and psychotherapy (knowing the limits of one's role)
- Demonstrate the ability to assess, plan, and intervene according to one's scope of practice in spiritual practice or psychotherapy (and when to refer)
- Demonstrate an ability to effectively engage in spiritual/pastoral practice in intercultural, inter-religious, and ecumenical contexts
- Demonstrate skills in administration, documentation, and leadership in relation to pastoral/spiritual practice, or psychotherapy, including ethical professional practice
- Demonstrate an ability to research and communicate effectively, including public speaking, teaching, and leading small groups and workshops