

DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES

This 24 credit hour program is designed for lay people who may study part-time or take one year full-time. All courses may subsequently be applied to any North Park Theological Seminary degree program, pending approval and completion of regular application procedures. The units are divided as follows:

- 6 hours of biblical studies
- 6 hours of history and theology
- 6 hours of Christian ministry
- 6 hours of electives

CERTIFICATES

Certificate programs are typically 12 to 15 credit hours in length. Certificates are somewhat flexible and students are encouraged to work with an advisor to tailor course requirements if desired and where possible. All courses taken as part of a certificate can be applied to a degree program where applicable.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

This 8 credit hour (plus 1 field education credit) certificate is a basic orientation to Christian thought, spirituality, and practice at the masters level.

Required course (1 credit hour):

MNST 6105 Academic Writing

One of the following (3 credit hours):

BIBL 5240 New Testament 1: the Texts and Their World
 BIBL 5210 Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Interpretation
 HSTY 5210 Christian History 1:
 The Early Church to the Early Reformation (1-16c)
 THEO 5110 Christian Theology

One of the following (3 credit hours):

MNST Ministry Elective
 OR
 CEDF Christian Education and Formation Elective
Student may take any 3-credit-hour course in the ministry or Christian education field that does not have a pre-requisite.

One of the following (1 credit hour):

SPFM 5201 Journey: The Story of Our Lives
 SPFM 5211 Intercultural Spirituality: Praying Together

Required Field Education Course (1 field education hour):

FLDC 5300 Vocational Excellence

CHURCH PLANTING

The 12 credit hour Certificate in Church Planting is offered in

collaboration with the Start and Strengthen Churches Team of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The Certificate is designed for current and future church planters who would benefit from theological education and a supervised learning experience. Upon acceptance into the certificate program, participants will be assigned a church planting coach who will work with the student throughout the program. Approval for church planting with the ECC is not guaranteed based upon enrollment in this certificate program. An assessment process will be employed by the ECC to determine candidacy for church planting. Other denominations may also use a separate assessment process. Not receiving clearance from the ECC does not eliminate the student from completing the church planting certificate.

Required courses (9 credit hours)

MNST 6266 Church Planting Ecclesiology
 MNST 6285 Church Planting Leadership
 MNST 6286 Church Planting Pathways

One elective in consultation with church planting coach (3 credit hours)

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

The 12 credit hour Certificate in Congregational Vitality is offered in collaboration with the Start & Strengthen Churches Team of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The certificate is designed to develop a biblical, theological, and historical perspective on congregational development as well as the skills to analyze congregational culture, identify factors that foster health or decay, and lead churches in their development..

Required courses (9 credit hours)

MNST 6150 Foundations of Congregational Vitality
 MNST 6165 Leading Healthy Missional Change
 MNST 6170 Strategic Ministry Planning

One of the following determined in consultation with the NPTS faculty coordinator (3 credit hours)

MNST 5115 Preaching the Word
 MNST 5120 Gospel Communication in Context
 MNST 5125 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling
 MNST 6151 Cultural Dimensions of Mission
 MNST 6225 Evangelism and Discipleship
 MNST 6350 Foundations of Urban Ministry
 MNST 6440 Mobilizing for Justice

FAITH AND HEALTH

The 12 credit hour certificate in Faith and Health offered by the Seminary in collaboration with the North Park University School of Nursing is designed to provide core concepts for ministries of health. This program is taught by faculty from multiple

disciplines, including health ministries, nursing, theology, ethics, Bible, and pastoral care, providing a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary learning for health professionals and clergy to explore the connections between faith and health in clinical and congregational settings. Options in course format allow for distance learning. In addition to the courses listed below, periodically, mission trips/classes to Latin America, Africa, and Asia will be offered with a community-health focus.

Two of the following (6 credit hours):

BIBL 6263 Biblical Perspectives on Health and Healing
 MNST 6121 Religion, Spirituality and Health in Professional Practice
 THEO 6440 Theological Perspectives of Caring and Health

Two of the following (6 credit hours):

MNST 6110 Engaging Congregations in Ministries of Health
 MNST 6115 Spiritual Issues in Chronic Illness and Disability
 MNST 6120 Community Health and the Church
 MNST 7195 Special Topics in Faith and Health

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

This 12 credit-hour certificate is designed for those involved in ECC credentialing who are starting seminary studies. This certificate may help the participant determine whether to continue, or to fulfill credentialing requirements after earning advanced degrees in other fields (e.g., a PhD in some specialization).

Required courses (12 credit hours):

BIBL 5210 Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Interpretation
 BIBL 5240 New Testament 1: The Texts and Their World
 HSTY 5210 Christian History 1: The Early Church to the Early Reformation (1-16c)
 THEO 5110 Christian Theology

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

In conjunction with the Evangelical Covenant Church's priority of Serving Globally, North Park Theological Seminary's Center for World Christian Studies offers the 12 credit hour Certificate in Intercultural Ministry. Designed for current and future leaders – chaplains, missionaries, clergy or laity - it provides a missiological foundation and a supervised learning experience to facilitate intercultural ministry wherever God calls one to serve.

Required courses (3 credit hours)

MNST 6151 Cultural Dimensions of Mission

One of the following travel courses (3 credit hours)

MNST 6125 Issues of Christian Faith in the Americas
 MNST 6130 The Gospel in Asian Context

MNST 6135 Experiencing African Christianity
 MNST 6140 Experiencing Global Christianity
 MNST 6352 Journey to Mosaic
 MNST 6401 Sankofa: Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation
To participate in a travel course, students must first apply.

Two of the following (6 credit hours)

MNST 5110 Religions and Cultures
 MNST 6150 God's Global Vision: Mission As Biblical Theme
 MNST 6152 Rethinking Mission: Lessons From Christian Art, History & Practice
 MNST 7190 Topic: Global Partnership: Practicing Biblical Koinonia
 MNST 7190 Topic: Developing Intercultural Ministries

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

The 12 credit hour certificate provides a foundational basis for doing justice ministries rooted in a biblical and theological understanding. The course combinations give skills and methods to approach specific areas of justice, depending on the interests and focus of the student. The range of areas that the certificate can focus on includes: ecology, race, economy and gender. The certificate will give both a theoretical and practical approach to the student who wants to do ministry in this area.

Required courses (9 credit hours)

MNST 6400 Mobilizing for Justice: Methods and Practice of Justice
 THEO 6334 Peace, Justice and Restorative Practices

One of the following (3 credit hours)

BIBL 5220 Old Testament 2: Prophets and Preaching Legacy
 BIBL 6240 The Ten Commandments for Today
 MNST 6120 Community Health and the Church
 MNST 6352 Journey to Mosaic
 MNST 6401 Sankofa: Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation
 THEO 5130 Christian Ethics
 THEO 6410 Wilderness and Faith

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

This program is offered through the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction and is designed for mature Christian leaders and ministers who would benefit from training and supervised experience in the ministry of spiritual direction.

Admission to the Certificate in Spiritual Direction means joining a creative learning community. A maximum of 20 students are admitted to the program each summer and continue to work together in a cohort for the duration of the program. The certificate has special admission requirements, and admission to

a degree program does not guarantee admission to the certificate.

While students may be enrolled in a degree program and this certificate concurrently, not all certificate courses may apply toward degree requirements. CSD courses will first apply to spiritual formation requirements and then general electives not already fulfilled. In cases where the degree program is the MACF or MACM, CSD courses may then apply toward available MNST (but not CEDF) electives.

Learning Outcomes for the Certificate in Spiritual Direction:

- Identify the history and cultural distinctives of spiritual direction in the Christian tradition.
- Recognize the movement of God in one's own life (discernment) with a growing capacity to listen deeply for the same in others.
- Embrace the call and commitment to the ministry of spiritual direction prepared to engage the church and the world with its gifts.

The Certificate in Spiritual Direction is anchored in three intensive summer courses taken over two years. During the intervening two years, students take two practicum courses, for a total of 15 semester hours of academic credit.

Year One:

SPFM 7501 (3 credit hours) Foundations of Listening and Discerning (intensive)

SPFM 7502 (3 credit hours) Listening and Discerning Practicum I (online)

Year Two:

SPFM 7503 (3 credit hours) Spiritual Directing: Listening to the Movement of God with Another (intensive)

SPFM 7504 (3 credit hours) Spiritual Directing Practicum II (online)

Year Three:

SPFM 7505 (3 credit hours) The Ministry of Spiritual Direction: Listening to God in the Church and World (intensive)

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

In this 12 credit hour graduate level program, a foundation will be laid for transformative justice ministries and practices in the context of the Christian faith. This unique certificate is being offered at Stateville Correctional Center, where students will learn in an integrated classroom of free and incarcerated students. All students will deepen their knowledge of biblical,

theological, and practical contexts for the gospel in action. This program is especially intended for those whose vocation has prophetic and social dimensions.

Required courses (12 credit hours)

THEO 6334 Peace, Justice and Restorative Practices

MNST 6400 Mobilizing for Justice: Methods and Practice of Justice

MNST 6150 God's Global Vision: Mission As Biblical Theme

THEO 6420 Saints, Radicals, and Heretics: Critical Voices in Christian Theology

URBAN MINISTRY

This 12 credit hour program is designed for Christian ministers and lay leaders who would benefit from education and a supervised learning experience in the complex and rapidly changing context of urban ministry.

Required courses (9 credit hours)

MNST 6400 Mobilizing for Justice: Methods and Practice of Justice

MNST 6351 Spiritual Formation in the Urban Context (online)

MNST 6352 Journey to Mosaic (hybrid intensive)

One elective in consultation with advisor (3 credit hours)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Supported by the Center for Youth Ministry Studies, this 12 credit hour certificate provides basic theoretical and practical training for those who intend on ministering with youth in church or parachurch organizations. The certificate can provide a concentration within a degree or be taken as a stand-alone program for non-degree seeking students.

Required courses (6 credit hours)

CEDF 5100 Christian Education and Formation

CEDF 6300 Foundations of Youth Ministry

Two of the following (6 credit hours)

CEDF 6228 Management Issues in Youth Ministry

CEDF 6240 Intergenerational Communities: Families and Children in Congregations

CEDF 6273 Camping and Retreat Ministry

CEDF 7180 Special Topics in Youth Ministry (3 credit hours)