

Pastoral Leadership in Spiritual Formation

In the “Pastoral Leadership in Spiritual Formation” (PLSF) specialization, spiritual formation is understood as the intentional activity of attending, discerning, and responding to the initiative of God in ways accountable to Christian communities, scriptures, and traditions. Students will retrieve, re-imagine, and critically re-appropriate Christian spiritual traditions and practices as resources for leading various communities that participate in the praxis of God in the world. The curriculum is designed for pastoral leaders who want to integrate critical reflection with spiritual practice through a holistic lens, honoring the rich complexity of human ways of knowing and relating to the divine. Students will participate in an ongoing conversation among experience, Christian spiritual traditions and diverse cultures which leads to reflective action. Dr. Sandra Costen Kunz, Assistant Professor of Educational Ministries, is the specialization coordinator.

In addition to regular coursework, students will be required to participate throughout the Specialization phase in an ongoing “rule of life” which they write for themselves in the first Specialization course. They will also be required to select and engage in a continuing relationship with a spiritual director/friend/companion. The fulfillment of these requirements will be transcribed as a series of non-credit, non-tuition courses. The fulfillment of the requirements will be monitored through self-reporting procedures.