



## **Doctor of Ministry**

### **Pastoral Care and Counseling**

The Doctor of Ministry concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling (PCC) prepares religious professionals to practice care and counseling at a high degree of competency and professionalism by:

- Integrating spirituality and counseling
- Improving the skills of effective counseling
- Sharpening research and reflective skills
- Facilitating personal growth
- Providing seasoned professional teachers in an atmosphere of dialogue between theory and practice.

The PCC concentration is designed for professionals who serve or plan to serve in a context of specialized ministry such as chaplain, pastoral care specialist, pastoral counselor or pastors with a special focus on pastoral care. While rooted in the Christian tradition, this program is open to religious professionals across the spectrum of spiritual traditions. This program defines “religious professionals” broadly, as including those ordained, commissioned, endorsed or otherwise set aside by their faith group as authorized to do ministry on their behalf. This program may also be appropriate to persons already established as a licensed mental health professional, who wish to deepen their understanding of the integration of spirituality and psychotherapy. Some courses offered in this concentration require a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education as a prerequisite.

#### **Required Courses:**

The Doctor of Ministry degree at SFTS requires six seminars (3 units each), the Dissertation/Project Seminar, and the completion of a Dissertation/Project.

All DMin students take the two Foundational Seminars:

- Pastor as Person  
*(Board Certified Chaplains and students eligible for certification may waive this course requirement.)*
- Theology, Culture and Mission

Students in the Pastoral Care and Counseling concentration take three required PCC courses:

- Dynamics of Loss, Grief and Trauma
- Interfaith/Intercultural Care and Counseling
- Theology and Theories of Pastoral Care and Counseling

#### Elective Seminars:

Students may select from elective seminars in the PCC concentration or other concentrations within the DMin program based on their interests and research focus.

#### Dissertation/Project Seminar:

This not-for credit workshop is designed to introduce basic research methods for social analysis, help students to define their area of interest D/P topic, and prepare for the D/P process. It is offered in two levels,

1. D/P Seminar I, normally taken in the first year of course work
2. D/P Seminar II, normally taken as the student is completing course work and is beginning work on their D/P topic proposal and D/P design proposal.

#### **Dissertation/Project**

The Dissertation/ Project is the signature assignment for the DMin. degree. The purpose of the D/P is to give the student the opportunity to explore one aspect of their practice of ministry in depth. The dissertation aspect of the D/P will involve the student in using the combined resources of psychology and theology to study a particular subject. The project aspect of the D/P will engage the student in designing, implementing and evaluating a pilot project that may lead to developing an innovative resource or practice in ministry.

#### **Admissions Requirements**

In addition to the basic admission requirements for the DMin program, students in this concentration are required to have at least one unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE) or its equivalent.