

**BOSTON
COLLEGE**

**SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY
& MINISTRY**

**MA/MA IN
COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

MA/MA IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

The dual MA in Pastoral Ministry/MA in Counseling Psychology program was developed by the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM), now part of the School of Theology and Ministry (STM), and the Lynch School of Education (LSOE) for individuals who wish to pursue graduate studies that combine theories and practice in counseling and psychology with studies in religion and exploration of the pastoral dimensions of caregiving. It combines the foundational studies and faculty resources of the existing MA in Pastoral Ministry with the MA in Counseling Psychology (Mental Health Counselor). It prepares students to seek licensing as professional mental health counselors, while providing them with theoretical foundations for integrating pastoral ministry and counseling techniques. Such licensed counselors will be well equipped to seek positions in mental health agencies, especially those that are church-sponsored, as well as to practice the art of spiritual direction. For pastoral ministers committed to work in settings such as parishes, campus chaplaincy programs, youth ministry and related areas, the dual degree will enhance their foundations in psychological training.

Students pursuing the dual degree may do so in one of two concentrations within the MA in Pastoral Ministry degree: Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Spirituality. Both concentrations enable the student to bring pastoral and spiritual dimensions into a counseling setting and/or to practice as a pastoral counselor. The Spirituality concentration also prepares the student to practice the art of spiritual direction.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must apply and be accepted independently to the STM for the MA in Pastoral Ministry and to the LSOE for the MA in Counseling Psychology (Mental Health Counselor track).
2. Students may begin their studies in either the STM or LSOE. LSOE requirements are sequenced (as detailed in the *MA Handbook*) but STM requirements need not be.
3. The entire dual program must be completed within 6 years.
4. Students must be enrolled for one full-time year in LSOE for their internship.
5. The integrity of both degrees is to be maintained:
LSOE requires 60 credits for the MA degree, 6 of which are taken in selected STM courses. This 60-credit degree satisfies academic requirements for licensure in the state of Massachusetts. If a student does not wish to pursue licensure, 48 credits are required, 6 of which are taken in selected STM courses.
STM requires 44 credits (with Option A: 35 credits), 7 (with Option A: 6) of which are taken in selected LSOE courses.
A dual degree student completes the requirements for both degrees with a total of 91 credits (with Option A: 83 credits), rather than the 104 (with Option A: 95 credits) entailed if taken independently.
6. Students are to develop an appropriate course of study by working with a designated faculty advisor in each of their two degree programs.

7. Students must follow the relevant policies of each program in academic requirements, financial aid, registration and all other matters. For further details, refer to the MA in Counseling Psychology *Handbook*, *STM Student Guide*, and/or website www.bc.edu/stm
8. All students enroll in a Holistic Formation group, TM730, during their first academic year.
Part-time and Full-time Options:

Under a full-time study plan (Option B), dual degree students are registered for one year in STM and two years and one summer in LSOE and complete all course requirements in that period. Under a part-time academic year study plan, students complete the first-year requirements of either school over a period of one summer and two years instead of one; or of both schools over a four year period, followed by the LSOE full-time internship year. Under Option A, a combined STM summer option and academic year study plan (see details on worksheet below), students complete most STM requirements during three full-time summers, and LSOE requirements and remaining STM requirements in either of two LSOE full-time years or two LSOE part-time years and one LSOE full-time year. Students should consult with their counseling psychology program advisor for LSOE summer options.

Students are registered as members of the school in which they take courses in a given year. The tuition payments in a given year go to the school in which the student is enrolled that year. For students pursuing Option A, the required STM course in the Psychology of Religious Development must be taken in a LSOE year. Students taking the STM Summer Option will complete two further STM 3-credit courses during their LSOE studies in the academic year. Requests for exceptions to this policy should be made in writing to the STM Associate Dean, with a copy sent to the LSOE Liaison.

LSOE and STM have different tuition rates during the academic year. However, because the payment for all courses taken by a student in a given year is made to the school in which the student is currently enrolled, students are eligible for financial aid only from the school in which they are currently enrolled. Therefore, students are eligible to apply for STM financial aid only during their STM enrollment year(s) and summer(s).

For Academic Advisement, students should contact:

- **STM:**
John Shea, MSW, PhD, Dual Degree Liaison and Adjunct Professor of
Pastoral Care and Counseling, 617-552-1315, john.shea.3@bc.edu, 9 Lake St.
Jennifer Bader, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, 617-552-4478,
baderje@bc.edu, 9 Lake St.
- **LSOE:**
Mary Walsh, PhD, Professor of Counseling,
Developmental and Educational Psychology, Campion Hall 305,
617-552-8973, mary.walsh.1@bc.edu.

For LSOE field placements, students should contact:

- **LSOE:**
Sandra Morse, PhD, Director for Counseling Practicum Experiences,
Campion Hall 135, 617-552-4764, sandra.morse.1@bc.edu.