

Master of Arts in Health Care Mission

The Master of Arts in Health Care Mission is designed to cultivate and nurture in Catholic health care leaders the theological depth and spiritual maturity necessary to ensure the vitality and integrity of the healing ministry of the Church into the future. Meeting this challenge requires Catholic health care leaders who not only grasp the complexities of health care, but who also have a sound knowledge of - and ability to- communicate the Church's theological tradition. In order to better serve our students, this program was redesigned as an executive, accelerated two-year degree program in 2016

Upon completion of the two year internet-enhanced program, the E.M.A.H.C.M. graduate will be equipped to:

- Communicate an understanding of Catholic theological tradition as it relates to the Church's mission of healing
- Exercise the ability to work with others in identifying and implementing organizational activities that sustain a robust Catholic identity capable of bringing about systemic change
- Actively engage the Catholic social teachings to address the realities of health care today
- Demonstrate the ability to grapple with complex ethical issues in the legal, organizational, and policy arenas experienced in the health care ministry
- Enter into meaningful and productive discourse with other church leaders (bishops, sponsors, etc.) in promoting and extending the healing ministry of Jesus
- Function effectively in health care's highly pluralistic ethical and religious context
- Demonstrate the qualities and competencies of transformational leadership (e.g. exercises prophetic voice, servant leadership, transformational change) in service of the healing ministry.

The Executive Master of Arts in Health Care Mission degree combines a strong core of theological studies with ministry experience, integration, and spiritual formation. It is offered in an accelerated cohort model: adult learners enroll together and proceed through the entire program as a community, both online and during intensive weekend sessions in St. Louis. Each academic course is offered over ten weeks and consists of the following:

A. Interactive online pre- and post-study periods: Coursework involves assigned readings, study guides, video lectures and posted online threaded discussion of questions or cases. Students are expected to complete the assignments as directed and participate in the online discussions each week.

B. Intensive Weekend: This experience brings students and faculty together for three-and-a-half days of lecture, discussions, casework, and spiritual and leadership formation.

Spirituality for Ministry Leadership

Over the course of the entire program, significant time and attention is paid to developing a Spirituality for Ministry Leadership. Students are invited to integrate the theological content of coursework with a deepening awareness of the need for and commitment to action on behalf of the transformational agenda of Catholic health care. Spirituality for Ministry Leadership builds on the formational quality of the entire curriculum, and attends to four dimensions of a leader's experience:

- Internal dimension of personal meaning and spirituality (spiritual formation)
- External dimension of individual actions as a leader (personal/human formation)
- Culture and shared values of Catholic health care as a ministry (intellectual formation)
- Business systems and processes through which Catholic health care is conducted (professional leadership formation)

Understanding the essential interrelation of the four dimensions of leadership, Spirituality for Ministry Leadership emphasizes integration of these dimensions within the person of the leader. Personal transformation is the essential starting point for organizational transformation. Growth in spiritual depth, personal maturity, knowledge and ownership of the mission of Catholic health care, and leadership capabilities will enable ministry leaders to be agents of transformation within Catholic health care and beyond.

Program Content: (31 academic credits)

• **Biblical Studies (3 hrs)**

Interpreting Sacred Texts for the Healing Ministry (3)

• **Systematic Theology (6 hrs)**

Practical Theology for Ministry Leaders (3)

Jesus, the Church, and the Healing Ministry (3)

• **Moral Theology (9 hrs)**

Catholic Social Teaching: Foundations and Applications for the Healing Ministry (3)

Health Care Ethics (3)

Organizational Ethics (3)

• **Liturgical Theology (3 hrs)**

Sacraments for the Healing Ministry (3)

• **Professional Ministerial Formation (6 hrs)**

Leadership Competencies for Ministry Leaders (3)

Advocacy, Ethics, and Public Policy (3)

• **Integrative Studies (4 hrs)**

Theology of Ministry/Integrative Seminar (4)

• **Spirituality for Ministry Leadership (5 units)**

Master of Arts in Health Care Mission Courses

HCM-T500 Practical Theology for Ministry Leaders

This course introduces incoming EMAHCM students to a set of practices that are essential for theological study and ministerial formation at Aquinas Institute of Theology: written and oral communication, collaboration, close reading of texts, analysis of social context, and theological reflection. Students will engage these practices as they examine fundamental issues of theology such as faith, revelation, scripture, tradition, doctrine and dogma, and theological method, especially as these are encountered and relate to the healing ministry of the Church. The course aims to create a foundation for further course work in systematic theology, and to assist the student in developing a basic theoretical framework essential for grappling with theological issues in the context of Catholic health care. *3 hours.*

HCM-T512 Interpreting Sacred Texts for the Healing Ministry

This course is an exploration of the dynamic interaction between God, human persons, and the universe captured specifically in the Bible and in other sacred texts. Examining a number of

contemporary approaches to biblical interpretation sets the context for studying the meaning behind the text, of/in the text, and in front of the text. The study of text interpretation opens to an examination of how different world views provide various responses to the mystery of suffering and healing. **3 hours.**

HCM-T526 Jesus, the Church and the Healing Ministry

This course explores the Christian understanding of what God has done, is doing and promises to do in Jesus through the community called Church. As a people called and sent to bear witness to the mystery of salvation revealed for all people in Jesus the Christ, the Church is the privileged place where reflection on the Christ and the enactment of his proclamation of the Reign of God continues in time and space. Drawing on multiple sources (Scripture, magisterial teachings, theological writings and Christian praxis) we will examine the Church's faith in Jesus, the Christ, and how this faith structures the Christian community's mission to the world, specifically in the ongoing work of the healing ministry of Jesus. **3 hours.**

HCM-T536 Catholic Social Teaching: Foundations and Applications for the Healing Ministry

This course examines basic themes of the Catholic moral tradition and of modern Catholic social teaching as they relate to the ministry of Catholic health care. Some of these core concepts include the human person as moral agent, human freedom, the role of conscience, the use of Scripture and natural law in moral theology, the common good, human rights, principles of justice, and the importance of critically and prayerfully reflecting on human experience in developing practical wisdom. As we examine and explore this tradition we will continually ask the "so what" question with regard to our obligations as leaders in a public ministry of the Church, and to the role of Christian moral arguments in an increasingly pluralistic, secular, and interdependent culture and global community.

HCM-T540 Health Care Ethics

This course examines a number of important ethical issues encountered in health care today. While the primary context for considering the issues is Roman Catholic teaching, this perspective is contrasted with secular, philosophical approaches that are prevalent in discussion of these issues. **3 hours.**

HCM-T550 Sacraments for the Healing Ministry

This course explores Catholic health care institutions as sacraments of God's compassion from a theological perspective, and it will help them to perceive themselves as participants in this broadly sacramental ministry of the Church.

The course will begin with an introduction to some of the ways that Christians might differ in their religious sensibility. An overview of the contemporary Catholic understanding of sacraments will be followed by a brief study of Catholic Sunday worship, formally called the eucharistic liturgy but informally known as the mass. The sacraments will then be looked at from the perspectives of psychology, sociology, morality and spirituality. After treating the sacrament called Anointing of the Sick, the course will conclude with an overview of spiritual care as an essential component of health care in an institutional setting. **3 hours.**

HCM-T560 Advocacy, Ethics, and Public Policy (*former title: Ethical Issues in Health Care and Public Policy*)

This course is intended to familiarize the student with a variety of issues raised by the development and implementation of health policy in the United States. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to describe the main elements of American health care policy, (Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, health reform, the Affordable Care Act) and explore some of the ethical challenges raised by US health care policy. In addition, the student will be able to evaluate aspects of American health care policy in light of Catholic Social Teaching and know how to use mission to help Catholic healthcare organizations respond strategically to health policy, establish positions on health policy, and influence policy through advocacy. **3 hours.**

HCM-T565 Organizational Ethics

This course will examine the methods, principles, and practical ways to address organizational ethics (OE) in Catholic healthcare organizations. OE, relatively new to applied and health care ethics is the source of intrigue to most serious students of ethics. OE must be seen in the context of clinical bioethics issues within Catholic health care and Catholic Social thought. With the use of a case study method, this seminar will offer an opportunity to explore what is unique to OE; how to distinguish OE from other areas of applied ethics; and how to study and address OE in Catholic healthcare organizations. The participant will understand how the method for OE requires significantly different skills than those found in clinical bioethics. Most importantly, the participants will reflect on whether organizational ethics in health care has any special considerations when applied to Catholic healthcare organizations. **3 hours.**

HCM-T566 Leadership Competencies for Ministry Leadership

This course explores the principles and practices of exercising leadership within one's ministry in healthcare by integrating knowledge of self/identities and one's roles within the context of the organization's culture and structure. The course examines the history of the discipline called leadership, the various discourses leading in the healthcare arena today, and encourages students to find their voices as they lead from both formal positional authority as ministry leaders and through their informal authority as people of faith. Leading today requires growth and development in emotional intelligence and the cognitive abilities to articulate and practice within the complexity of multi-professional work. The ability to exercise leadership requires a deepening spiritual presence that allows leaders to co-create a holding environment in which to work within healthcare. The course utilizes various methods and tools integrating Ken Wilber's four-quadrant approach: the internal and external of ourselves and organizations or collectives. **3 hours.**

HCM-T570 Theology of Ministry/Integrative Seminar

A seminar designed to aid graduating ministry students in articulating, integrating, and evaluating core themes in their operative theology. This course involves a critical exploration of the theologies of ministry. A core task in this course is to examine the character and nature of ministry, with a keen eye toward understanding the designation of the term "ministry." Significant attention is given to the character and nature of health care ministry, especially to the question of lay ministry in correlation with institutional mission and identity. Of distinct interest is the question of how mission and identity gets handed on from sponsoring congregations to largely lay-run health care organizations. **3 hours.**

Revised September 2016

HCM-F501 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership I
HCM-F502 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership II
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership III
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership IV
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership V
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership VI
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership VII
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership VIII
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership IX
HCM-F503 Spirituality for Ministry Leadership X

These formation courses address foundational practices and skills employed by successful ministry leaders. Through prayer, readings, theological reflection, and facilitated discussions around case studies students engage real situations and share the practices that support their personal integration of virtues, authentic spirituality and leadership competencies. 5 units