

HYBRID COURSE “INTENSIVES” (In-Class, Real-time, Face-to-face Course Interaction)

WHAT IS AN INTENSIVE?

Typical of most Aquinas Institute online degree programs and all online “hybrid” courses in those degree programs, is the personal, Saint Louis, in-class session called the course “Intensive.” Held ordinarily at Aquinas Institute itself, all Intensives for online hybrid courses are mandatory, and involve an event happening once per course that consists of two-and-a-half days of in-class interaction with the professor. The term “hybrid” refers to dual student course delivery and participation: predominantly online, but also involving a face-to-face, classroom event in St. Louis: the Intensive itself.

WHEN DOES THE INTENSIVE TAKE PLACE DURING THE COURSE?

Most Intensives occur near the middle of the online course, some a bit earlier, and others a bit later. Those Intensives scheduled a bit earlier than the middle of the semester might emphasize setting the stage for important course content to come, satisfying the need for early hands-on experience with important Aquinas and St. Louis University library and technological facilities, getting to know each other in person as early as possible, and so on. Courses offered a bit later in the semester can more readily emphasize the review, summary, and integration of course content, a more in-depth level of content already covered in the course, the use of student oral presentations based on written papers or other completed coursework, and so on.

INTENSIVE CONTENT & ACTIVITY

The course syllabus received during the first week of online courses spells out the specific dates and schedule, along with any Intensive content and activities the professor wishes to submit.

Intensive content and approaches always vary according to the preference of the professor and their preferred face-to-face delivery, as well as the type of content handled in the course—for example: systematic theology courses are more academic; pastoral theology courses are more ministerial. Some professors make greater use of lecture; others use a more interactive discussion dynamic. Certain professors tend to incorporate small group activities; others prefer a more traditional large group dynamic. Assigned required readings are characteristic of some Intensives, while other Intensives focus on previously assigned course readings and materials. Most professors utilize a combination of approaches.

As degree programs progress from course to course, many students look forward to touching base with old friends from previous course Intensives by making plans for activities and meals outside the official scheduled course activities. This is especially true of our Cohort programs.



(Pictured Above: Dr. Randy Rosenberg teaching Christology Intensive)

THE BASIC COURSE INTENSIVE SCHEDULE

Online hybrid Intensives ordinarily meet in St. Louis over a three-day period during the semester as follows:

- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – noon

TRANSPORTATION, MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS DURING INTENSIVES

All online hybrid students are expected to make their own transportation arrangements to and from St. Louis, and to provide their own meals and accommodations. The following links offer more information to help the student to make suitable choices for food and accommodations while in St. Louis.

Where to eat in St. Louis: The following link will give you a good idea of restaurants and other eateries within walking distance of Aquinas Institute—example: Humphrey’s, Sixth Row Brewery, Pickelman’s, Diabolitos, The Shack, Jimmy John’s, Nadoz, Crazy Bowls and Wraps, and the SLU Fusz Food Court—or further away by car. Meals during Intensives are ordinarily the responsibility of the students.

<http://www.ai.edu/Resources/StudentGuidetoStLouis.aspx>

Where to stay in St. Louis: The three most popular overnight accommodations choices for out-of-town students are:

1. The Water Tower Inn of St. Louis University

Modest and economical:

Amenities: free parking, free continental breakfast, call-a-ride and free St. Louis University Shuttle to Aquinas campus; 25 minutes from airport; 5 minutes from Aquinas.

Water Tower Inn
3545 Lafayette Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63104
314.977.7500
Fax: 314.977.7505

<http://www.watertowerinnstl.com/>

2. The Parkway Hotel

More upscale and in the heart of St. Louis’ lively West End restaurants, cafes and shops:

Amenities: parking \$5.00 per night; free shuttle to Aquinas; free hot breakfast and snacks during the day; 20 minutes from airport; 5 minutes from Aquinas.

The Parkway Hotel
4550 Forest Park Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 256-7777
(866) 314-7700

info@theparkwayhotel.com

<http://www.theparkwayhotel.com/>

OTHER INTENSIVE SCHEDULES (EXCEPTIONS TO THE BASIC SCHEDULE)

All Cohort Intensives mentioned below convene in St. Louis except the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) Intensive, which is held in Oklahoma City:

a) Doctor of Ministry: D.Min.

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon; 1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

(1:00 – 4:15 p.m.: Core Homiletic Seminar II Course only)

Saturday: (9:00 a.m. – noon: Core Homiletic Seminar II Course only)

Monday: 9:00 a.m. – noon; 1:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

b) Master of Arts in Health Care Mission: MAHCM

Wednesday: 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Lay Spiritual Formation)

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Lay Spiritual Formation)



(Pictured Above: Cohort 8 / Master of Arts in Health Care Mission)

c) Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: MAPS-CGS

Wednesday: 9:00 – noon (Spiritual Formation); 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.



(Pictured Above: Cohort 6 – MAPS-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

d) Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry in Oklahoma City: MAPM-OKC

Friday: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., with breaks at noon for lunch, and
5:00 -7:00 p.m. for mass and meal

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 or 2:00 p.m., with an 11:00 a.m. for brunch

Formative Spirituality takes place 3 weeks after the Intensive on:
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

e) Certificate in Spiritual Direction

The Intensive occurs only twice in the program, the first at the beginning of what is called the “practicum year” of two semesters (Fall/Spring) and the other at the end of the practicum year, usually during a week in June, scheduled as follows:

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – noon

f) Lay Spiritual Formation (required of everyone in M.Div. and MAPS)

The Intensives involve four 3-day retreats, one per semester, taken over four sequential semesters (two consecutive years) beginning in the fall. Retreat days and times are to be determined in consultation with the group.