

**Course Description:** Offered every Fall, this course places students in a field education setting aligned with their professional ministerial interest, for five hours a week, in partnership with a qualified field education supervisor. The SPM student and supervisor jointly structure and evaluate the student's ministry experience and meet bi-weekly (six-eight times/semester) for theological reflection. In addition, the student participates in a weekly seminar with a member of the field education faculty and other SPM I students. In the seminar, students reflect upon and develop their pastoral leadership abilities through case presentations and discussion on selected readings. An emphasis is placed on basic knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter professional ministry including an awareness of professional ethics and legal concerns, an understanding of community development and dynamics, conflict management, and helping skills. Pass/fail. No audit.

**Course Objectives:** Supervised Practice of Ministry I aides the student in developing his/her pastoral leadership through offering opportunities:

- to assess one's own strengths and weaknesses as a pastoral leader
- to set goals for one's growth in pastoral leadership
- to work in a ministerial learning environment that will help him/her meet the determined goals
- to theologically reflect on one's experience in ministry with a local supervisor, peers, and field education personnel
- to preach, in the broadest sense of the word
- to receive feedback from others about one's pastoral leadership and, where applicable, one's readiness for professional ministry

**Course Format:** practicum, case study using theological reflection model, lecture and discussion

**Course Requirements:**

- negotiation of a ministry site and supervisor before the semester begins
- faithful and active participation in ministry approximately five hrs. per week w/ bi-weekly supervisory appointments
- timely negotiation of the learning contract and evaluation with supervisor
- faithful and active participation in weekly seminars, reflecting understanding of assigned reading
- satisfactory completion and presentation of a theological case study

**Required Reading:**

Briggs, Lauren Littauer. *The Art of Helping*. Colorado Springs, CO: RiverOak Publishing, 2003.

Gula, Richard. *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry*. NY: Paulist Press, 1996.

Shaughnessy, Mary Angela. *Ministry and the Law*. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.

Sofield, Loughlan, et al. *Building Community*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1998.

Stone, Douglas, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen. *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*. NY: Penguin Books, 1999.

*n.b. It is assumed that students taking SPM I have already completed the Proseminar and are familiar with the following two books. If this is not the case, please also purchase and read in advance:*

Killen, Patricia and John de Beer. *The Art of Theological Reflection*. NY: Crossroads, 1994.

Whitehead, James and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead. *Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry*. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1995.

**Important Note:** Students are required to attend an orientation session with the Director of Field Education before registering for this course. A criminal background screening needs to be completed before the start of the class.