



SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Doctor of Theology Degree in Spiritual Direction (DTH-SD)

66 Credits

The School of Spiritual Direction provides students with the skill set and knowledge to serve as Spiritual Directors in a variety of settings.

The Spiritual Direction program uses Program Standards to outline competencies ensuring a broad knowledge base for future work in Spiritual Direction. By successful academic study, critical thinking, research, and completion of clinical work, students will have the foundational competencies for spiritual direction and increase their current level of spiritual care for individuals.

Spiritual Direction Program Objectives:

- The body of knowledge in the field of Spiritual Direction, including the related cultural, technological, ethical, and professional competencies.
- Skills of critical thinking and analysis by investigating, generating, and synthesizing complex ideas and concepts at an abstract and/or applied level, critically evaluating contemporary debates and literature in their field of study, analyzing problems or issues, articulating appropriate solutions, and justifying propositions and/or professional decisions.
- Oral and written communication skills, including the academic and technical writing skills appropriate to the field of Spiritual Direction and applying inquiry-based learning and ways of thinking to new disciplinary and/or professional contexts, and communicating complex ideas in a variety of formats to diverse audiences.
- Effective collaboration with peers, colleagues, and communities by demonstrating a high level of personal autonomy and accountability in the acquisition or application of knowledge or skills and an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the principles of teamwork and collaboration.
- Equity and diversity as these apply to effective practice in the field of Spiritual Direction.
- Knowledge and skills of leadership and advocacy as these apply to the field of Spiritual Direction.
- The organization, implementation, interpretation, and analysis of research appropriate to the field of Spiritual Direction.

Doctor of Theology Degree in Spiritual Direction (DTH-SD)

The Doctor of Theology degree in Spiritual Direction is a professional doctorate for experienced professionals who want to translate their expertise into a higher position of credibility, leadership, and influence within the profession.

The doctoral program in Spiritual Direction combines taught components with independent research in a student's area of expertise. This is achieved with the use of advanced research skills and specialist knowledge in their area of expertise. The fundamental difference between a PhD and a professional



doctorate is that while PhDs teach students how to conduct research to create new knowledge that improves the understanding of a field, a professional doctorate teaches a student how to evaluate, synthesize and apply existing knowledge in novel ways to a field.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Student will demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions associated with:

- Assessing the current state of knowledge and practices within the profession of Spiritual Direction
- Develop expertise in Spiritual Direction
- Learn about and use research methods.
- Advocate for changes that support clients, organizations, and/or communities through an action research project. This project enables a focused approach on an everyday problem or unmet need and development of a plan for remediating the issue.
- Expanding the body of knowledge within Spiritual Direction through their research findings.
- Conduct effective analyses of Spiritual Direction processes and policies.
- Gain skills for designing and implementing programs for Spiritual Direction

Students will participate in courses, assignments with deadlines, and the opportunity to learn with like-minded professionals. The Program ends with the student writing a dissertation that identifies a topic within Spiritual Direction, investigates it through research, and proposes practical solutions. In addition, general suggestions are made as to how others in their field can practically use the research findings, and other problem areas may be identified for future investigation.

Doctoral level courses combine taught components with independent research in a student's area of expertise. Students will be challenged and encouraged to utilize specialist knowledge and advanced research skills in each course to evaluate, synthesize, and apply their learning to the field of Spiritual Direction.

Prerequisite: Master's degree

Academic Requirements: 66 credits total

8 required core program courses (8 x 3 credits)	24 credits
4 required CPE units (1600 hours CPE each) (4 x 6 credits)	24 credits
1 required Dissertation Writing Course	3 credits
1 required capstone dissertation paper	15 credits

Required Core Courses: 8 courses / 24 Credits

- SD421 Multifaith Spiritual Direction Foundations /3 credits
- SD422 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives, Ecology, & Embodiment /3 credits
- SD423 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives Justice and Liberation /3 credits
- SD424 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives: Deeping the Practice, Learning from the Mystics /3 credits
- SD425 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives: Creativity and Expression, Methods and Tools /3 credits



SD426 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives: Monitoring the Self in Spiritual Direction and Companionship work-Ethics, Boundaries, and Self Care/3 credits

SD427 Multifaith Spiritual Perspectives: Making a Career of Spiritual Direction, Companionship, and the Spiritual Arts /3 credits

SD428 Multifaith Spiritual Direction and Setting up Your Own Practice /3 credits

Required Clinical Pastoral Education units: 4 units /24 credits

CPE521 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE522 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE523 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

CPE524 Clinical Pastoral Education / 6 Credits

Required Dissertation Writing Course: 1 course /3 credits

DD422 Doctoral Project and Dissertation Writing/3 credits

Required Capstone Dissertation Paper: 15 credits

Optional WL421 Doctoral Thesis Writing Lab (not for credit)

Course Modality: Asynchronous Online and Hybrid Practicum Clinicals