HIGHER INSTITUTE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (ISSR)

MASTER IN PASTORAL MANAGEMENT

Main Language of Instruction:

French **⊘** English **O** Arabic **O**

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

This program trains pastoral agents to:

- Align effectively with diverse ministries and community gifts through cultivating ethical commitment, discernment skills, and the ability to analyze and evaluate missions in context.
- Foster a spirit of partnership, communication artistry, message conveyance, and conflict management using proficient pedagogical tools and communication channels
- Champion, guide, and oversee collaborative projects across administrative, legal, social, and ecclesiastical dimensions by formulating coherent strategic plans, implementing procedures, and securing requisite human and financial resources.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Explore and integrate the theological and anthropological underpinnings of the Christian faith within a framework of salvation and end-times dynamics.
- Articulate faith through a prophetic emphasis on proclamation and dialogue.
- Develop initiatives that incorporate ecclesial and religious diversity across various domains of engagement.
- Generate scholarly output using both theoretical and practical methodologies.
- Foster effective communication to serve communion and mission goals.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must hold:

- A Lebanese Baccalaureate or its equivalent
- A Bachelor in Theology (canonical Baccalaureate), Religious Studies, or other disciplines (with 100 credits of theological studies).

COURSES/CREDITS GRANTED BY EQUIVALENCE

- Up to 12 credits (from the Bachelor in theology -canonical Baccalaureate)
- A course in management, if the candidate holds a degree in Management and Business Administration.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

120 credits: Required Courses (108 credits), Institution's Elective Courses (12 credits) specifically from MSR concentration of *Theologica*.

Required Courses (108 Cr.)

Practical Theology Level 1 (4 Cr.). Practical Theology Level 2 (4 Cr.). Managing Pastoral Complexity (5 Cr.). Theological Hermeneutics Seminar (4 Cr.). The Role of the Magisterium in forming Conscience (4 Cr.). Entrepreneurship and Partnership 1: Project Diagnosis and Design (4 Cr.). Entrepreneurship and Partnership 2: Management and Evaluation Tools (4 Cr.). Observation Internship and Practice Analysis (6 Cr.). Project Design and Implementation Internship (6 Cr.). Marketing and Public Relations (4 Cr.). Leadership, Communication, and Group Dynamics (4 Cr.). Financial Management and Accounting (4 Cr.). Management and Organization (4 Cr.). Behavior of Religious Institutions (4 Cr.). Human Resources Management (4 Cr.). Research Methodology Seminar (A1) (6 Cr.). Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Methodological tools in Social Sciences (A1) (5 Cr.). Problem Analysis and Research Project (A2) (5 Cr.). Thesis Project (5 Cr.). Thesis (20 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (12 Cr.)

Bible Seminar (4 Cr.). Fundamental and Dogmatic Theology Seminar (4 Cr.). Ecclesiology Seminar (4 Cr.).

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
o18TPRAM1	Practical Theology Level 1	4
o18ENTPM2	Entrepreneurship and Partnership 1: Project Diagnosis and Design	4
o18SOAPM2	Observation Internship and Practice Analysis	6
o18IMSHM2	Methodological tools in Social Sciences (A1)	5
o18SEMKM1	Research Methodology Seminar (A1)	5
	Fundamental and Dogmatic Theology Seminar (Select from the Master in Theologica)	4
	Total	28

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
	Ecclesiology Seminar (Select from the Master in Theologica)	4
018GCPAM1	Managing Pastoral Complexity	5
018MANAM1	Management and Organization	4
018CDIRM2	Behavior of Religious Institutions	4
o18GFCOM4	Financial Management and Accounting	4
o18RMFCM2	The Role of the Magisterium in forming Conscience	4
	Total	25

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
018TPN2M1	Practical Theology Level 2	4
	Bible Seminar (Select from the Master in Theologica)	4
o18SCEPM4	Project Design and Implementation Internship	6
018GRHUI2	Human Resources Management	4
018STATM2	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies	3
o18EPOGM3	Entrepreneurship and Partnership 2: Management and Evaluation Tools	4
	Total	25

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
o18MARPM4	Marketing and Public Relations	4
018LCDGM2	Leadership, Communication, and Group Dynamics	4
o18SDHTM1	Theological Hermeneutics Seminar	4
018ANALM4	Problem Analysis and Research Project (A2)	5
o18PROMM4	Thesis Project	5
	Total	22

Semesters 5 and 6

o18MEMOM5	Thesis	20
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

018TPRAM1 Practical Theology

4 Cr.

This course offers pastoral workers a reflective and critical approach to pastoral practice. It involves using methodological and conceptual tools to develop pastoral projects that are suitable for the appropriate context.

o18ENTPM2 Entrepreneurship and Partnership 1: Project Diagnosis and Design

4 Cr.

This course pertains to managerial competence within an entrepreneurial and strategic vision of pastoral development and change. It is divided into two parts:

- A- Diagnostic and strategic analysis of pastoral dynamics
- B- Strategic planning and design of pastoral projects.

018SOAPM2 Observation Internship and Practice Analysis

6 Cr.

The internship in practical theology is an experiential learning method that occurs within a designated pastoral setting. It provides a platform for practical application, enabling interns to refine their pastoral approach. This experience integrates theological understanding with hands-on practice to foster creativity in nurturing the Christian community. Interns will receive guidance and supervision to support their growth and development as pastoral practitioners.

o18IMSHM2 Methodological tools in Social Sciences

5 Cr.

This seminar is part of the three methodology seminars offered in the Master's program. It aims to initiate students into reading their field of study using methods from the social sciences, notably the quantitative method specific to sociology and the qualitative method specific to anthropology. The aim is to approach a pastoral or socioreligious reality in order to understand it from within. This approach exemplifies the inductive method, which facilitates questioning theory and, consequently, the core principles of practical theology.

This seminar is offered to Master students in Pastoral Management (MAGP), as well as those registered in the Master in Muslim-Christian Studies (MRIC). In both masters, the final thesis largely relies on the practical approach to the studied reality.

018SEMKM1 Research Methodology Seminar

5 Cr.

This seminar provides the basic elements for research and writing of a Master's thesis (all the data can be applied to PhD research).

It aims to develop the following competency: "Developing scholarly output using speculative and operational tools."

018RMFCM2 The Role of the Magisterium in forming Conscience

4 Cr.

If one of the tasks of Christian ethics is to articulate the profession of faith (dogmatic) with its sanctifying celebration (liturgy), then it continually invites the believing community at large, and each individual person specifically, to live out, in the present moment, this faith and call to holiness.

However, to remain faithful in following Christ, Catholic Christians are deeply called to heed the "Living" *Magisterium* of the Church as the authority responsible for interpreting Scripture. In matters of morality, this entails the individual's obligation to conscientiously integrate a body of norms proclaimed by this *Magisterium*. With this in mind, our workshop aims to:

Clarify the role of the Magisterium in shaping moral norms.

Establish objective criteria for the accurate interpretation and faithful transmission of the moral teachings of the *Magisterium*.

018GCPAM1 Managing Pastoral Complexity

5 Cr.

The evolution of our world presents the Church with new pastoral challenges. In fulfilling its mission, it increasingly realizes the influence of everything happening around it. Thus, society impacts the Church, compelling it to deepen its role and the meaning of its existence in its various dimensions. Pastoral agents are thus led to question not

only the implementation of the religious activities of their Church but also to consider many aspects of pastoral management today, including relationships, exercise of power, asset management, and conflicts.

Being the Church in our world for the Good News is a significant challenge in which the Holy Spirit engages us to discern the multiple opportunities to implement it. This seminar aims to shed light on this situation by proposing some tools and reflections to understand the complexity of pastoral leadership in a continually evolving context.

o18MARPM4 Marketing and Public Relations

4 Cr.

This course explains the main concepts related to marketing in general, and nonprofit marketing in particular. It aims to use strategic marketing concepts as a necessary tool for religious marketing.

o18LCDGM2 Leadership, Communication, and Group Dynamics

4 Cr.

This course raises criteria for assessing and evaluating leaders. Students will grasp the essence of leadership and how to utilize it to forge a markedly improved future that would otherwise be unattainable.

18GFCOM4 Financial Management and Accounting

4 Cr.

This course covers accounting and financial management concepts as follows:

- Understanding the foundational principles of financial accounting and the process of translating significant ongoing operations into financial statements.
- Evaluating investment choices using financial and economic criteria and developing financial forecasts.

018TPN2M1 Practical Theology II

4 Cr.

This course empowers students to understand cultural, social, and ecclesial contexts, critically analyze contemporary issues in light of theology, and reflect on the enculturation and contextualization of the Christian message.

018SCEPM4 Project Design and Implementation Internship

6 Cr.

The internship in practical theology is an experiential learning method conducted within a designated pastoral setting. It serves as a platform where interns can actively shape their pastoral approach through practical application and reflection. This experience integrates theological knowledge with pastoral practice, fostering creativity for the growth of the Christian community. Interns will receive guidance and supervision to support their development and approach as pastoral agents.

018MANAM1 Management and Organization

4 Cr.

This course presents various management functions as well as the decisions and responsibilities of decision-makers operating in a turbulent environment.

o18EPOGM3 Entrepreneurship and Partnership 2: Management and Evaluation Tools

4 Cr.

This course focuses on managerial skills for pastoral development and change within an entrepreneurial vision. It is divided into two parts:

- A. Planning the actions of the pastoral project
- B. Managing and evaluating the pastoral project.

018CDIRM2 Behavior of Religious Institutions

4 Cr.

This course explores religious communities' institutions (religious, educational, medical, etc.) of various sizes and categories, which can vary based on population size, geographical area, and profit orientation (for-profit, semi-profit, or non-profit).

These institutions are analyzed through the behavior of actors (clergy, laity, etc.) with different characteristics (age, gender, family structure, marital status, social class, race, ethnicity, and geography).

The result of this behavior is the provision of services or goods offered to the community or individuals to satisfy various needs (spiritual, psychological, emotional, physiological, etc.), which can vary from person to person.

The study of the behavior of actors in religious institutions is multidisciplinary and analyzes three main elements: the individual, the group, and the institution.

The effectiveness of the institution is measured by the effectiveness of the outcome of its operations offered to the community. Institutions generally aim for the efficient allocation and optimization of their resources to improve their effectiveness and consequently the outcome of operations performed.

The objective of this course is to develop learners' competencies in human aspects to address managerial and institutional problems and challenges in the current societal environment.

018GRHUI2 Human Resources Management

4 Cr.

This course provides a strategic vision for organizational management (ecclesiastical institutions including parishes, chaplaincies, movements, committees, or others). It emphasizes the essential role of human resources in achieving the objectives set by these organizations, ensuring their survival and development. Students will be familiarized with key concepts, basic practices, and tools of human resources management, enabling them to understand and manage the human capital with which they are currently or will be interacting.

018STATM2 Applied Statistics in Religious Studies

3 Cr.

This course familiarizes students with designing and organizing quantitative surveys using questionnaires, as well as analyzing and interpreting the results with SPSS software.

018SDHTM1 Theological Hermeneutics Seminar

4 Cr.

This seminar aims to provide the foundations of hermeneutical thinking in contextual theology. Theology as hermeneutics revolves around three axes: God, humanity, and society. This approach enables pastoral discourse and action to consider both God's view of the world and humanity's relationships within society. Pastoral action is conducted within ecclesial context, thus relying on both verbal and non-verbal rules of hermeneutics. The seminar trains students to understand the hermeneutical nature of theology, to reflect on the relationship between theological hermeneutics and phenomenology, and finally, to interpret the content of Revelation for the historical context in which they are engaged.

018ANALM4 Analysis of Problematics and Research Project

5 Cr.

This thesis entails conducting personal research that showcases analytical skills, critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to conceptualize and/or design projects. It serves as the culmination of original research, culminating in a defense before an academic jury. However, before commencing the thesis, students must develop a research proposal. This proposal aims to define the research topic, establish the theoretical framework, outline various research objectives, and select appropriate techniques and methodologies.

This seminar focuses on the practical application of the methodology acquired by students. They are guided, starting from a conceptual framework and operational tools, to successfully complete their own research project.

You can choose from the following seminars as part of the program of MSR option Theologica:

Bible Seminar (4 Cr.)

Ecclesiology Seminar (4 Cr.).

Fundamental and Dogmatic Theology Seminar (4 Cr.).