

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO  
INSTITUTE OF PASTORAL STUDIES**

**INTEGRATION PROJECT GUIDELINES**

**MA in Pastoral Studies  
MA in Christian Spirituality  
MA in Social Justice  
MA in Counseling for Ministry**

The following Integration Project Guidelines are designed for students in the 36-credit MA degrees at the IPS (MAPS, MACS, MASJ, and MACM).<sup>1</sup> The Integration Project involves the *personal integration* of one's *course of studies* at IPS and one's *practice (praxis) or craft of ministry/service* into one's *vocational/ministerial identity*, as well as the application of one's IPS study to one's *vocational/ ministerial plans* moving forward. The Integration Project typically takes the form of a written paper, approximately 35-40 pages in length (excluding sections I-III and VIII). Projects should use Times New Roman, 12-point font and be double-spaced (with the exception of indented quotes and bibliographic entries, which are always single-spaced).

Students ready to embark on the Integration Project should register for IPS 593, a zero-credit seminar that will meet four times over the course of the semester. Students should register for IPS 593 in their final semester of coursework, or after completing at least 27 credit hours.

Students must secure a faculty reader for their Integration Project. Students must prepare an Integration Project Proposal (for guidelines, see below). Once the faculty reader has approved the proposal, the student must complete the Integration Project Registration Form, and follow the process to obtain the appropriate approvals. Students will not be registered for the course until a signed form is on file with the Coordinator of Student Services. **The signed Form must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester.**

Integration Projects will be evaluated using a rubric specific to each program (MA or MDIV). Integration Projects and IPS 593 will be graded on a Pass/Not-Pass basis. It is expected that students will complete the integration project during the semester in which they take IPS 593. Incompletes will only be granted in cases of serious illness or life events. The policy on Incomplete Grades will apply. The grade for IPS 593 will be calculated based on both the final written paper as well as participation in the course. Participation in both the asynchronous and synchronous components of the course is expected. Students who do not participate in the course activities will receive a grade of NP and will be required to re-take IPS 593 the following semester.

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<sup>1</sup> Students in the MAPS-Health Care Chaplaincy degree program complete their Integration Project by registering for IPS 493. Masters of Divinity students register for IPS 593, but they should consult the Integration Project Guidelines for the MDiv degree program.

## INTEGRATION PROJECT GUIDELINES

- I. **TITLE PAGE**
- II. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (if any)**
- III. **TABLE OF CONTENTS**
- IV. **INTRODUCTION (1 page)**

Written last, this section briefly orients the reader to the situation and theme(s) that the reader will encounter in this paper.

### V. **PRAXIS ONE: CONTEXTUAL FOUNDATIONS (5-7 pages)**

This section of the paper introduces your focal point in *ministry/service/profession*—be that in a parish setting, spirituality, health care, or social engagement. The focal point (praxis one) should be a delimited case or question that serves as both a point of entry into discussing how your studies inform your practice and vision of ministry/service/profession and as a place of where these studies and practice converge. Your focal point might be a specific issue or question that arose within your contextual education experience, your practice of ministry, your health care environment, or a more general question related to your field of study and career trajectory.

Describe in depth the history, context, setting and essential facts about your focal point. Identify the essential needs of the populations served, whether these be pastoral, social, individual, spiritual, clinical, or political. Describe the primary approach currently employed to engage these needs, who collaborates in the care of those being served. Detail the sociocultural context of the setting, how power, privilege and bias impact the participants, and your own experience there as an IPS student. This should be fairly straightforward if your focal point is an issue-based case.

If you are working with a more hypothetical question, develop a presentation of your focal point, delimiting and situating your central question.

- How did this focal point emerge for you? What central pastoral, spiritual, missional, or justice concerns coalesce in this focal point and how are you defining your key terms? What are some of the major dimensions of this focal point in your field of study, and where does your approach/inquiry fit with regard to these dimensions?

- Why is this focal point significant for society, church, health care, world, others, and for yourself?

## **VI. RESEARCH (10 pages)**

Section VI explores your IPS coursework and additional research relative to your focal point.

### **A. Theological/Theoretical Framework from IPS Coursework (5 pages)**

Describe the theological/theoretical framework that informs your vision of ministry, spirituality, mission, and/or social action relative to your focal point. As part of your bibliography in section IX, you will compile a comprehensive list of sources from your IPS coursework. Using these resources, articulate your own overarching framework for understanding what is occurring relative to your focal point, particularly attending to how God and humans relate to one another and to the world. Drawing on the relevant discourses, this framework might include, while not being limited to, your understanding of God as Trinity (including Christology and Pneumatology), grace, soteriology, ecclesiology and sacramental theology (to the extent relevant in your tradition), missiology and service. If your focus is on issues or questions of justice, then your theological/theoretical framework should include your understanding of justice and how it fits within this larger framework.

### **B. Additional Research and Resources (5 pages)**

Identify scholarly resources from texts or peer-reviewed journals that address your focal point. Briefly summarize the basic argument of each of these sources with respect to your focal point. Do they offer a different perspective on your issue/question than that provided by your IPS coursework? If so, how? Do they resituate your question or issue by providing an alternative view of central themes and ideas or by relating the central concern in a different way to a larger (possibly different) framework? Do they offer new information about your focal point? Do they challenge or support the theories and concepts you have learned at IPS? If so, how?

## **VII. REVISED PRAXIS: INTEGRATE AND EVALUATE (5-7 pages)**

Critique and reflect on the resources discussed in parts A and B in relationship to each other and to the ministerial context/focal point under discussion. Given this research, would you change anything about your actions or work in addressing the focal point? If so, *how* would you improve or adjust your actions? This section may point out how the new perspectives that the resources bring to the focal point itself reconfigure your question, or it may note elements of ambiguity or problems in the resources themselves or in ways they approach your central concern. It may

elaborate on points of complementarity or highlight elements where they have helped to expand or develop your focal point. What further research might be necessary to inform your effective response to this situation in the future?

## **VIII. PASTORAL INTEGRATION (12 pages)**

This section of the paper should integrate the research material and IPS coursework into your own **vocational identity** and **personal spirituality**, as well as apply the research to your *specific vocational/ministerial or life context and goals*. In this concluding section, you also will address the larger *social-contextual* implications of your context/focal point for society, church, and world.

### **A. Vocational Identity, Vision, and Practice (3 pages)**

Given that you bring your own history and emerging vision of ministry/service to your context and focus, narrate the following components to describe your own personal identity as a minister or professional.

**1. Vocational Identity:** Discuss your sense of ministry/service/professional vocation. Out of what faith/spiritual/philosophical tradition did your call to ministry/spirituality/social action/profession emerge? What current ecclesial/professional/justice community nurtures you as a minister/servant/professional leader in your field? How do your tradition and community shape your sense of ministry/service? Describe your leadership role in your current ministerial/professional context and its connection to your vocation? How do you see your role as a minister/professional contributing to your larger work and communal context?

**2. Vocation and Vision:** As you reflect on your specific role within your ministerial/professional context or relative to your focal point, articulate your own theology of vocation. What image or guiding vision shapes your sense of vocation? Do you have a vision of spirituality that will shape you as you move forward? What specific resources from your coursework at IPS inform this vision?

**3. Vocational Practices:** What ongoing formative practices orient, shape, nourish and sustain your pastoral ministry/service/professional work?

### **B. Reflection on Individual Growth and Theological Development (4 pages)**

As you step back to reflect on your practice, address the following questions as related to your vocational context/focal point:

- In what ways have your studies at the IPS clarified and challenged your faith and understanding of key concepts?
- In what ways have your studies at the IPS solidified or changed your career path?
- In what ways have your studies at the IPS provided you with the skills and proficiencies necessary for your ministry or profession?
- What areas do you need to develop further and/or what questions emerge for you that require further exploration?

**C. Professional Ethical Considerations (2 pages)**

Drawing upon your coursework, discuss any ethical dimensions encountered in your ministerial context, raised by your focal point, or prompted by your leadership style. Describe the actual or potential ethical dilemma(s), the values in conflict, and how these inform your own professional/ministerial actions. Are there issues that require further consideration/consultation?

**D. Reflections on Mission, Discipleship, and Leadership (3 pages)**

How do the above sections on research and ministerial/contextual strategy shape your understanding of the integration of mission, discipleship, and leadership? How does this holistic understanding shape your leadership on behalf of church, society and world? How does it shape the way you work to form people and transform social structures/institutions? How does it shape the vision you cast for those you are leading and working with and, consequently, how does it inform your methods of implementation of your objective and mobilization toward your goals? What methods of assessment do you intend to employ to discern how or if you're actually moving toward these objectives and goals?

**IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND APPENDICES**

**A. Bibliography (use MLA or *The Chicago Manual of Style*)**

List all of your source materials (books, articles, essays, online sources) under the following *sub-headings*: (1) IPS Course Resources: in alphabetical order (by author) list the academic resources that you have engaged with in your IPS courses; mark the ones used in the Integration Project with an asterisk; (2) Additional Research: in alphabetical order (by author) list your new research sources; and, (3) Online Sources: list web pages, URLs, etc., if you used them (heading #3 may not apply if you did not use online sources).

**B. Appendices**

Append any additional materials pertinent for the presentation of your context/focal point.