



MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUALITY

Merrimack's Master of Arts in Spirituality program prepares candidates for a life of spiritual exploration, engagement and service. As a degree candidate, you will acquire the theological knowledge and ministerial experience you need to enrich your own faith, and to support others in their spiritual journey.

In today's complex world, there is a growing need for lay ministers who are equipped to help others connect more deeply with their spiritual lives. Whether serving as pastoral ministers or chaplains, social workers or mental health providers, spiritual leaders help people better navigate personal and societal challenges. To help people enhance their spiritual life, lay ministers must have a strong foundation of interfaith knowledge, along with outstanding interpersonal and counseling skills. Our advanced degree in Spirituality will provide you with these vital capabilities—and more.

Degrees You Can Put into Practice

Featuring a combination of dynamic coursework and applied experience, our curriculum will provide you with the ideal mix of theoretical knowledge and applied ministry experience so that you emerge ready to practice in your chosen field.

Our Spirituality programs offer four tracks based on your professional goals and interests:

Master of Arts in Spirituality (32 credit hours) **Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction** (32 credit hours)

Certificate in Spiritual Direction (20 credit hours) **Certificate in Interfaith Spirituality** (16 credit hours)

To enhance your learning, courses are taught by expert faculty who bring decades of religious scholarship and real-world experience to each discussion. Through core courses in spirituality, our Seminar in the Spiritual Life, and hands-on practicum experience, you'll be immersed in the analytical study of religion and spirituality while developing the basic skills needed to lead yourself and others in a spiritual life.

Meet the demand for lay ministers and spiritual directors

Our programs meet the growing need for lay and ordained spiritual leaders in the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. As churches evolve to meet the changing needs of parishioners and communities, there is tremendous opportunity for religiously educated lay ecclesial ministers in a variety of staff roles. The Catholic Church alone is adding 790 new lay ecclesial ministers to their staffs every year (National Association

Spirituality (continued)

for Lay Ministry), who join the 38,000 lay ministers already engaged in full or part-time work. Equipped with the theological foundation and compassionate care skills you develop through our degree or certificate program, you'll emerge ready to enhance the church and community through ministry.

Four pathways, endless possibilities

Whether you wish to enhance your personal and faith development, build an intellectual foundation in theology, or begin a career in social justice and ministry, with an MA or certificate in Spirituality from Merrimack you'll be prepared for a wide range of roles, including:

- Pastoral or spiritual care provider
- Lay minister
- Spiritual director or guide
- Retreat center director
- Christian mindfulness practitioner

In addition, your MA degree or Certificate in Spirituality may support your work in complementary fields such as health care, social work and mental health, art therapy, and human resources.

Admission Requirements for Master's and Certificate Programs

You must choose one of the Master's tracks or certificate programs by the time you have completed two of the core courses and/or the year-long seminar or practicum.

Program Pre-requisites:

You must have a Bachelor's degree to apply for this program.

Application Requirements:

Submission of the completed application, a writing sample/personal statement, and two letters of recommendation will be required with the application. The GRE is not required. Applicants deemed appropriate for the program based on their admissions materials will be granted an interview. To enter the program, applicants must complete the required interview to complete the application process. Final decisions will be made after the committee reviews the applications and the interview results of all applicants.

A total of 4 credits from another accredited program in theology or spirituality may be imported and count as an elective, but not as a core course.

For more information on the programs, curriculum and application requirements, visit Merrimack.edu/graduate or contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 978-837-3563 or graduate@merrimack.edu.