

Moody Bible Institute (Chicago Campus)

Pastoral Studies

Department Purpose

The Pastoral Studies department offers programs that equip students to engage in pastoral ministry, women's ministries, and biblical exposition.

Department Majors

The Pastoral Studies Department offers five majors: Pastoral Ministry, Pastoral/Pre-Seminary, Biblical Exposition, Church Planting and Renewal, and Women's Ministries.

Programs of Study

Pastoral Ministry

A program for male students who plan to serve the local church as pastors or associate pastors.

Pre-Seminary

An interdisciplinary major for male students that combines the foundational courses in the Pastoral major with nine hours of electives in other majors.

Biblical Exposition

A major for male and female students that focuses on the development and delivery of relevant expository messages. Students take advanced courses in the theory and practices of biblical exposition as well as courses in biblical languages and exegesis.

Church Planting and Renewal

The major in Church Planting and Renewal will equip students to plant new churches and revitalize existing congregations in a variety of cultural contexts. Students in the Church Planting major will complete the final year of their program in a full-time ministry immersion under the supervision of an approved organization. The final year combines online or modular instruction with practical experience under the guidance of a mentor.

Ministry to Victims of Sexual Exploitation

This major prepares graduates to minister to people who suffer from sexual exploitation in the United States and around the world. Special topics focused on in this major are Sexual Exploitation, Race, Poverty & Social Justice, and more. During their senior year, students intern with a selected organization that ministers to victims of trafficking.

- Theology & Philosophy of Ministry to Women
- Race, Poverty & Social Justice
- Intercultural Communication
- Sexual Exploitation
- Ministry to Women in Pain



Women's Ministries

This program is designed to equip female students to organize and lead church and parachurch ministries that disciple, counsel, and teach women.

New! 5-Year BA/MA in Pastoral Ministry

This program integrates undergraduate curriculum with seminary requirements, so students can earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in as little as five years. Students can choose the BA/MA in Pastoral Ministry and Congregational Leadership or the BA/MA in Pastoral Ministry and Preaching.

Distinctives of Department Majors

The programs of the Pastoral Studies department are designed to

- Equip students to communicate the Scriptures with clarity and relevance
- Guide students in the development of a coherent philosophy of ministry
- Train students to provide effective ministry leadership and compassionate pastoral care
- Provide hands-on ministry experience by engaging students in an internship experience under the guidance of an experienced ministry mentor

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Programmatic Core Courses

Pastoral Theology

This course is designed to introduce students to the nature and practice of pastoral ministry. Provides a scriptural understanding of the call, qualifications, and work of the minister.

Ministry Leadership and Staff Relationships

This course includes a study of the principles of effective leadership and administration in the local church. It integrates biblical principles of servant leadership with organizational communication and management. It discusses the techniques and the dynamics of successful ministry in a congregational setting with multiple staff members.

Development and Delivery of Narrative Messages

This course teaches students how to prepare and deliver an expository message to a specific audience. Special emphasis is placed upon preaching from a biblical narrative. Messages presented in class are evaluated by both professor and classmates.

Structure and Style in Biblical Exposition

In this course students learn advanced homiletic theory. Attention is given to message structure, personal style, and the use of imagination and creativity in the development and delivery of expository messages. Students will prepare and deliver messages in class.

Cultural Dynamics for Congregational Ministry

This course examines the human and religious dynamics that affect congregational ministry. It will explore the difference in thinking and values that affect ministry. Special attention will be given to the differences between ministry in the smaller church and the larger congregation and to the nature and importance of congregational culture.

Contemporary Strategies of Ministry to Women

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of contemporary models and current programs of ministry to women. Students will study principles of team building, ministry management, techniques for planning special events, and develop strategies for implementing a ministry to women in the local church.

Ministry to Women in Pain

This course concentrates on those whose special needs are a particular challenge within the context of women's ministry. Special attention will be given to those who have experienced physical and sexual abuse, single women, and mothers.

Discipling and Mentoring Women

In this course students will study the practice of discipleship and mentoring as it relates to women. As a part of this course, students will meet in peer groups to practice mentoring and discipleship.

PCM and Internship

All students engage in Practical Christian Ministry each semester through the PCM Department and select from a variety of ministry opportunities in church and parachurch organizations. These can include ministries of preaching, teaching, and discipleship. In addition, all students participate in a directed internship experience in their senior year under the guidance of an experienced ministry mentor.

Careers Available Following Graduation

Students in the Pastoral and Pre-Seminary majors will gain the foundational skills that will enable them to serve as senior and associate pastors in the local church. Students in the Biblical Exposition major will be well equipped to deliver expository messages in a variety of church and parachurch contexts. Students in the major Church Planting and Renewal plant new churches and revitalize existing congregations in a variety of cultural contexts. Those in the Women's Ministries major will be prepared for ministry to women in the local church and in parachurch organizations (such as: Crisis Pregnancy Center, discipleship oriented ministries, campus ministries) or in mission organizations that have ministry directed to women.

Contact Us

For academic program questions, contact:
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