M.A. Degree in Pastoral Ministries with a Concentration in Restorative Justice

Why Restorative Justice?
The world needs awareness, compassion, creativity and education to establish restorative practices in families and communities. The cries are great for chaplains and ministers to pray with people of diverse faith traditions, to help bring healing to broken relationships, to accompany and listen to families who are separated from loved ones, to teach resilience techniques to caregivers and youth who have undergone adverse childhood experiences which can lead to violence, depression, illness, homelessness and incarceration, and to lead newly released persons into re-entry of healthy communities.

What Makes This Program Unique?
In addition to offering classes on the SCU campus, the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM) goes on location to the dioceses. Through the “blended learning” approach our classes are taught with both face-to-face and online collaborative methods. The classes are taught within a ten-week quarter; three of these face-to-face classes are held on Saturdays throughout the quarter from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a lunch break. In Oakland classes are held in Cathedral of Christ the Light Parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe Room, 2121 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA. During the other seven weeks in the quarter the classes are taught online as a web conference where the class and professor meet together from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on a designated weeknight. In addition to integration of academic, theological and ministerial competence, this program encourages all students to be in spiritual direction as they seek to understand their encounters with God through their ministry experiences.

Empowering a community of pastoral ministers of competence, conscience, compassion, and creativity in restorative practices.

The Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministries with a concentration in Restorative Justice from Santa Clara University prepares ministers to engage the community with justice initiatives that heal and emphasize the restoration of right relationship. This entails a paradigm shift from retributive systems to initiatives that seek to restore individuals, families and communities to health and wholeness. Our program enhances the gifts and skills that students bring through academic, theological and spiritual training to focus their ministerial practices on restoring relationships.

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Students in this concentration will:
♦ Gain a broad theological foundation in restorative justice that is foundational to pastoral ministries;
♦ Develop pastoral skills, enhance ministerial praxis, and explore intercultural dialogue for restorative justice ministries;
♦ Recover the incarnational roots of kinship to restore balance to the beloved community in diverse global settings;
♦ Identify a critically informed approach to faith that promotes social justice for the benefit of those in greatest need.

Academic Requirements for the Degree
The M.A. in Pastoral Ministries consists of 60 quarter units which are made up of fifteen four-unit classes. Seven of the fifteen are required foundational courses taught through a restorative justice lens. Five core courses in restorative justice issues fill out the concentration along with three additional electives. In addition, students are required to create a capstone project demonstrating what they have learned in the restorative justice concentration and the impact this has on their ministries. The seven required courses are as follows:

- Fundamental Theology/Practical Theology
- Christology
- Ethics
- Ecclesiology
- Hebrew Bible
- The New Testament
- Sacraments & Liturgy

The five core courses include:

- Restorative Justice
- Chaplaincy
- Trauma and Healing in a Broken World
- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Intercultural and Interreligious Competencies
What Can I Do With This Degree?

♦ Chaplaincy
♦ Re-entry programs
♦ Work with families of incarcerated persons
♦ Victim-Offender dialogues
♦ Mediation
♦ Advocacy
♦ Restorative circles in schools
♦ Non-violence education
♦ Survivor support groups
♦ Accompany people through loss
♦ Interfaith prayer
♦ Repairing community workshops
♦ Community service programs
♦ Resilience programs

Admission Requirements
♦ Completion of Online Application
♦ Baccalaureate from an Accredited Institution
♦ GPA of 3.0 Preferred
♦ Statement of Purpose
♦ Official Transcripts of Undergraduate Degree
♦ Two Letters of Recommendation

Please visit our website for more information at https://www.scu.edu/cas/academics/graduate-program-in-pastoral-ministries/academics/

Scholarships are available for all qualified students. For more information contact
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