

Xavier University of Louisiana

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The Institute for Black Catholic Studies

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Master's of Theology An Interdisciplinary Degree in Pastoral Studies

Handbook



(Policies, Procedures, and
Information)
Summer 2011-2012
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MASTER OF THEOLOGY DESCRIPTION OF MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE

The Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences of Xavier University offers a Master of Theology, Th.M., degree through the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS). The Th.M. degree is an interdisciplinary degree in pastoral theology. The master's degree program is designed to provide graduate-level professional education in systematic and pastoral theologies, pastoral ministry, preaching, catechetics, ethics, aesthetics, history and the social sciences with a focus that reflects the Black religious, cultural and Catholic experience. The program brings together theory and practice in an interdisciplinary context of

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rigorous academic study to provide students with knowledge, skills and values needed for professional ministry in the Black community. The program has a diverse set of goals that are sensitive to the professional and pastoral interest of the students. The focus of the graduate studies is lay ministers, vowed religious and deacons, as well as clergy who are engaged in or preparing for ministry in Catholic parishes and diocesan offices in the areas of parish leadership, religious education, liturgical leadership, campus ministry and education.

The master's degree focuses on the religious, cultural, and historical contributions of Black Catholics to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. To that end, the program engages students in the theological traditions, pastoral methods and approaches that reflect the Black religious and cultural experiences of Black Catholics and the Black community. The IBCS graduate degree program develops the student's competencies in contemporary pastoral and theological practices.

Graduates from the IBCS degree program will be able to:

- *recognize the ministry needs in the Black community*
- *draw on sound pastoral and inter-disciplinary theological theory to respond to those needs*
- *understand the culture, tradition and faith experiences of Blacks in the Catholic Church.*

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PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM

The Institute for Black Catholic Studies provides a resource and research center for the study of the Black Catholic community in the United States. The Master of pastoral Theology Program (Th.M.) began at Xavier in 1980. It is the only graduate program in pastoral theology taught primarily from a Black Catholic perspective in the United States. Like the other educational components of the Institute, the Th.M. degree program offers courses that focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributes to history, philosophy, systematic and pastoral theologies, preaching, catechetics, aesthetics, and pastoral ministry.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

The graduate degree program blends rigorous academic and personal learning. It equips students with methodological tools for critical understanding, analysis, and evaluation. At the same time, the program helps students integrate theory and praxis, theology and pastoral ministry. An integration of this nature should result in sound personal growth, continual building of the faith community life, and an effective ministry.

As an integral part of its programs, the Institute expects the graduate students to participate fully in all aspects of IBCS community life. Liturgical experiences, social engagements, shared meals, and collaborative study groups are all part of the IBCS “experience”. To facilitate this, all IBCS participants are strongly encouraged to live on campus during the summer session.

APPLICATION PROCESS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution who demonstrate successful academic and professional potential for ministry will be considered. Admission to the Graduate Degree Program depends on admission to the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences of Xavier University. *Applicants for admission must:*

1. Submission of the completed Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences application form accompanied by the application fee.
2. Possession of baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
3. Submission of an official transcript(s) of all undergraduate and, where applicable, of all post-baccalaureate course work. Full admission requires an overall minimum average of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0). An applicant with a master's degree must submit both official graduate transcripts to the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences.
4. Submission of letters of recommendation
5. Submission of scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller

Analogies Test (*MAT*). Minimum acceptance is 800 on the *GRE* (*verbal and Quantitative*) or 30 on the *MAT*. Scores must be within five years of application to the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. The testing agency must submit those scores directly to the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. An applicant possessing a master's degree from an accredited institution is not required to take the *GRE or MAT*.

6. Evidence of proficiency in written English. International applicants must present the results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (*TOEFL*).
7. Complete the University Health Clearance.

NOTE: Students requesting scholarship assistance must submit the scholarship application form before the deadline of March 15, 2012. Applications can be obtained from the IBCS office or the website.

TRANSCRIPT POLICY

The transcripts for admission purpose must be official copies sent directly from the originating school or college to the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Unofficial transcripts submitted by applicants are not acceptable for admission purposes.

ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM

FULL ACCEPTANCE

An applicant is granted full acceptance provided all admissions requirements have been completed: GRE or MAT score, official transcript & baccalaureate degree with a minimum overall average of 2.5 (based on a 4.0 grade point scale), letters of recommendation, personal interview, and approval by the Admissions officer of the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Associate Director of the Th.M. Degree program.

CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

An applicant with a minor deficiency in these requirements may be admitted conditionally, contingent upon removal of the deficiency in the time and manner prescribed by the Associate Director of the Th.M. Degree Program.

LATE REGISTRATION AND ORIENTATION

In 2012, **late registration** will be held April 17th - June 21st. Students will be charged \$100.00 late fee. Orientation will be held on June 24th.

REGISTRATION

Advisors and Program Directors assist the students with registration. Registration includes providing the registrar's office with a completed course schedule approved by the Associate Director of the Degree Program, satisfying tuition payments with the Office of Student Accounts, purchasing books and receiving a student ID card.

Students are encouraged to send in their completed health clearance forms by May 31st. Students with prior health clearances from Health Services will be given permission to begin registration at Xavier South. Students may obtain health clearance on the day of registration by presenting necessary documentation, because without health clearance, students will not be allowed to register for courses.

ORIENTATION

Community Life staff: is available to welcome, assist and direct students as they arrive on campus.

Orientation is held on Sunday evening immediately following registration. The orientation is an opportunity for the IBCS administration and faculty to welcome new and returning students to the IBCS program. During the orientation students receive information that will assist them throughout the summer session. Students and faculty meet the program's staff and are informed of the University's and the Graduate Division of the College of Arts and Sciences' policies and procedures, the location of key buildings on campus and activities schedules. Continuing students serve as mentors and facilitators in small group discussions.

Ordinarily non-local students are encouraged to stay on campus and to share housing (double occupancy) to facilitate community and to encourage collaborative study



**INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES
2012 SUMMER FEE SCHEDULE**

(Master's Degree Program ONLY)

APPLICATION FEES

(Required of ALL students – New/Transient & Returning, Degree and C&E Students. They are non-refundable and due at the time of registration with completed application)

\$30 – Application Fee

\$50 – Housing Reservation Fee *(For on-campus residents)*

\$100 – Late Fee *(For late registration ONLY)*

ADDITIONAL FEES

(Due May 15, 2012. Non-receipt of payment at this time could result in deregistration. Returned checks will result in deregistration and a charge of \$30.00.)

\$10 – Student I.D. Processing Fee

\$15 – Laundry Fee *(Required of ALL On-Campus Residents)*

\$135 – Activity Fee *(covers general program and Community Life costs)*

(Required of ALL New/Transient & Returning DEGREE Students)

\$50 for 1-4 semester hours Technology Fee (i.e. One course = 3 semester hrs.)

\$100 for 5-8 semester hours Technology Fee (i.e. Two courses = 6 semester hrs.)

(Housing Rates are subject to change)

\$220 per person – Room & Board – for **double occupancy** (2 week = \$ 440); (3 weeks = \$660)*

\$330 per person – Room & Board - for **single occupancy**

(2 week = \$660); (3 weeks = \$990)**

\$15 – Laundry Fee (Required of ALL On-Campus Residents)

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM FEES

\$250 – Tuition per Semester Hour *(i.e. 3 Semester Hours = \$750 per course)*

* *Ordinarily non-local students are encouraged to stay on campus and to share housing (double occupancy) to facilitate community and to encourage collaborative study.*

** *(Requested by some seminarian formation directors in compliance with Episcopal guidelines as well as some of our older adult students who have special needs.)*

PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. All Registration Fees are due by May 15, 2012, for early and regular applications ONLY. For late applications, registration fees are due no later than June 21, 2012. Non-receipt of payment at these times may result in automatic deregistration. Returned checks will result in immediate deregistration and a charge of \$30.00.
2. If the student's tuition and required fees are included in a check issued by a joint sponsoring agent or group, be sure to supply accompanying documentation that **clearly identifies** the name of student, his/her program of study, and any **itemized monetary disbursements**.
3. **Do not include** money for the student's textbooks, class materials, supplies, copying, etc. in the tuition and fee check.
4. **Make and bring** a documentation file containing copies of **all** application information with you: correspondence, application, health clearance, checks and related data, etc.

Send all correspondence and/or payment by registered mail to the following address:

**Xavier University of Louisiana
Institute for Black Catholic Studies
1 Drexel Drive – Box 49
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125**

**Please make all checks payable to:
Xavier University of Louisiana/IBCS**

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

A graduate student does not become an actual candidate for a degree until granted formal admission to candidacy. To be admitted to candidacy, the student must complete a qualifying examination on at least three Core and Area requirements and the semester hours required as cited in Requirements for Completion of the Th.M. degree. The student must, also, have removed all deficiencies, obtained written approval of his/her advisor, signed the Application for Candidacy form, and received approval from the Graduate Council.

DEGREE PROGRAM TIMELINE

The following recommended “time line” may assist students in successfully completing the course of study and requirements for the Th.M. Degree Program.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I. | Assignment of Academic Advisor | First Summer |
| II. | Qualifying Examination | Third Summer |
| III. | Major Paper Presented | Fourth Summer |
| IV. | Practicum Project (Proposed) | Fourth Summer |
| | Practicum Project (Presented) | Between the Fourth/Fifth Summers |
| V. | Comprehensive Examination | Fifth Summer |

I. ASSIGNMENT OF ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Advising responsibilities are assumed by the graduate faculty in the following capacities: *Academic Advisor, Research Advisor, and Practicum Advisors.*

A. Academic Advisor

Although the Associate Director of the Degree Program gives final approval to all project and program requirements, each student is assigned an Academic Advisor at the time of entrance into the Degree Program. The Academic Advisor will assist the student in the design of her or his individualized course of study. Thus, the Academic Advisor is the primary contact for discussing the fulfillment of all degree requirements and gives initial approval to the Practicum project and to the topic of the Major Research Paper.

B. Research Advisor

A faculty member whose training and/or expertise lie in the student's major area of concentration serves as the Research Advisor. The Research Advisor also may or may not be the student's Academic advisor. The Research Advisor assumes the role of primary advisor for the Major Paper.

C. Practicum Advisor

Depending upon the topic for the Practicum Project, the Practicum Advisor may or may not be the student's Academic Advisor. The Practicum Advisor assumes the role principal consultant for the Practicum. The student is expected to choose an advisor working within her/his area of concentration or interest.

D. Student Participation in Advisement

It is the joint responsibility of the student and the Academic Advisor to plan the student's program and to consult as necessary with the Associate Director for the Degree Program. The student should feel free to communicate with the Academic Advisor outside the period of the summer session. *The student must assume the primary responsibility fulfilling all degree requirements and meeting all deadlines.*

E. Change of Advisor

Students may request a change of Research or Practicum Advisor, but are expected to consult with the Academic Advisor. *In all cases, the permission of the Associate Director for the Degree Program is required.* A Student is expected to choose a Research or Practicum Advisor whose scholarly field is within or attends to the student's area of concentration.

II. QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

This examination serves as an opportunity for a detailed review of the material encountered in those courses designed as the *Core* and *Area Requirements* for the Th. M. Degree Program. A qualifying examination, which is written, is required of every candidate for the Master's Degree.

A. Prerequisite for the Qualifying Examination

At least three (3) Core courses (and appropriate courses from the Area Requirements) and the Qualifying Examination must be completed successfully in order to apply for candidacy of the Degree Program.

B. Application for the Qualifying Examination

The written Qualifying Examination is given on the first Saturday of the summer session. The student is required to take the Qualifying Examination on three (3) of the six (6) Core courses (or from among the appropriate Area Requirements). The Qualifying Examination may be retaken.

The student is expected to notify the Associate Director of the Degree Program of his or her intentions to take the examination by letter *no later than February 1st* of the year in which he or she proposes to sit for the examination.

The Associate Director for the Degree Program will send an application form, which must be returned before the Study Questions can be distributed? The form will require a listing of the Core and other required courses taken by the applicant. In addition, all of the student's academic records must be in order.

In February, the Study Questions in the respective areas will be sent to applicants. These questions should be viewed as guidelines for study. *The Study Questions are not the questions that will compose the examination.*

C. Procedure for the Examination

1. The examination may be written in any appropriate medium (i.e., script, typewriter, and computer).
2. Primary sources may be used (e.g., the Bible), but no secondary sources are to be used (i.e., works of interpretation, commentaries, class notes, etc).
3. The examinations should be completed within allotted time (3hrs.) and returned to the faculty member administering the examination.
4. The written examinations and the grades will be deposited in the Graduate Degree Office files of the Associate Director for the Degree Program.

Upon successful completion of the Qualifying Examination, the students are expected to begin development of the Major Research paper. *Students are required to participate in: IBTH 5997 Integrative Colloquium*, which specifically aids the students in the development of their research and practicum proposals.

III. THE MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER

The major research paper should be an in-depth study by the student on a topic agreed upon with the Research Advisor. It is an independent project, but the Degree Faculty strongly that, whenever possible, it be related to the Practicum. **The Degree Faculty believes quite firmly that the Major Research Paper and the Practicum Project ought to complement one another.** Thus, Th.M. Degree students are strongly encouraged to design and prepare the Major Research Paper in such a way that it provides the theological and theoretical foundation for the Practicum. The following guidelines detail the planning and completion of the Major Research Paper:

A. Procedures for Preparing and Submitting the Major Research Paper

The student should submit a proposal to the Research Advisor that includes a statement of the focus or major thesis of the paper, an outline, and a bibliography. A first draft of the research paper should be turned in to the Research Advisor the year *before the formal submission is required*. This ensures that any difficulties or improvements concerning the paper can be addressed in a timely and effective manner. The completed paper should be no less than twenty-five (25) page in length. The format (footnotes, bibliography, quotations, spacing, etc.) is to conform *either* to Kate Turabian, *4 Manual of Writers of Term Papers, Thesis, and Dissertations* or to the *Modern Language Association (MLA)* format. Within **three (3) days** following the successful completion of the Oral Comprehensive Examination, the student is required to present **three (3) bound copies of the Major Research Paper and Practicum Report** to the Associate Director for the Degree program who passes the copies on the Director of the Institute for the Xavier Archives and Institute files.

B. Evaluation of the Major Research Paper

The paper will be evaluated on the quality and value of the research and method as well as evidence of theological integration. The Research Advisor and one other Reader, who is chosen from the IBCS faculty by the Research Advisor in consultation with the student, judge the paper. Two (2) factors are determinative of the evaluation of the Major Research Paper:

1. the Quality of the Research, i.e.,

- significance of the research topic or subject;
- the clarity and intellectual creativity in defining the problem or question;
- the depth and scope of theological understanding and integration relative to the problem or question or topic;
- the appropriateness and quality resources used; and the validity conclusions.

2. Method

- clear and distinct understanding and statement of the research or interpretative methods used, along with clear understanding of the relation of those methods to African derived cultures; and
- rigor and intellectual creativity in application of the methods.

DEPOSIT OF GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPERS The bound copies and signed comments of the two (2) readers awarding the grade are to be filed in the Office of the Director of Institute for Black Catholic Studies. Copies of the bond copies of the research papers are also deposited in Xavier Institute for Black Catholic Studies Archives.

VI. THE PRACTICUM

Upon successful completion of the Major Research Paper, the students are expected to develop a topic for the Practicum Project. The purpose of the Practicum Project is to demonstrate the student's serious and critical integration of course work and pastoral ministry, whether in the parish or in the classroom or through social ministries. The Major Research Paper identifies, elucidates, and develops the theological and theoretical foundation for the Practicum Project. The Practicum is to develop pastoral programs or engage-in-research projects that will make a contribution to the larger ecclesial and social community

The following guidelines detail the planning and completion of the Practicum:

A. PRACTICUM PLAN A: WORK IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

1. Specific Guidelines and Procedures for Practicum Plan A:

- a.** The degree student contacts the Academic Advisor with tentative proposal or ideas for the Major Research Paper and the Practicum.
- b.** The Academic Advisor recommends appropriate Research and Practicum Advisors. The student then submits the proposal and the names of the suggested Advisors to the Practicum Committee for review, consultation, and approval.
- c.** Once the Practicum Project has been approved by the practicum Committee and after the Major Research and Practicum Advisors have been selected, the research on the major paper should be deepened and the proposal for the Practicum should be developed and refined by the student and the Practicum Advisor.
- d.** After final review, the Practicum Proposal is submitted in accord with the approved format to the Practicum Committee, which will present the Proposal to the Associate Director for the Degree Program for final approval. A copy of the practicum Proposal is kept in the student's file at all times.
- e.** Upon approval and in consultation with the Practicum Advisor,
 - I.** An Observer of the Practicum is designated. If the Observers are someone (in rare cases) other than the Practicum Advisor, the Observer is designated by the Practicum Advisor in consultation with the student.
 - II.** The student's Academic Advisor and the Associate Director for the Degree Program will be informed of this designation.
 - III.** The dates for the Practicum Review are established in consultation with the designated Observer.

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- IV. The actual implementation of the Practicum is to be recorded on videotape. If this is impossible, a significant portion of the Practicum is to be tape-recorded. A ten (10) minute summary tape should be prepared for the Oral Comprehensive Examination.
- V. The Academic Advisor and the Associate Director of the Degree Program should be kept informed of the development of the Practicum (dates of the Practicum, etc).
 - a. The observer of the Practicum submits a written report to the Associate Director of the Degree Program. Four (4) copies of the report will be made and distributed to the members of the Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee (see the Practicum Evaluation Form and Guidelines of page 19).
 - b. The student prepares the written report to the Practicum Committee.
 - c. The students provide four (4) bound copies of the report to the Associate Director of the Degree Program. These copies will be distributed to the members of the Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee.
 - d. The Oral Comprehensive Examination of the Practicum and Major Research Paper is scheduled according to guideline detailed in this **Program Book** (see suggested schedules for Practicum Plans **A** and **B** on page 18).

2. PROPOSAL FORMAT (PLAN A)

COVER SHEET

Titles; Subtitles;
Submitted in partial fulfillment
of requirements for the Th.M. Degree Program,
Institute for Black Catholic Studies,
Xavier University, New Orleans, LA;
Student's Name;
Date submitted;
Blank line for date approved;
Blank line for signature of instructor.

PHILOSOPHY - Statement of student's understanding of ministry in the Black community.

RATIONALE - Statement of need; include supporting material, e.g., demographics of the area of concern.

GOALS - Statement of mission: What you want to accomplish with your Practicum.

OBJECTIVES - Participant-centered tasks that will achieve your goals

PARTICIPANTS - Who will be participating (adults, youth, families, etc.)

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM - Components of program; details of program (step by step process).

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION - Theological, pastoral, ethical, or moral issues; implications for ministry.

RESOURCES - Bibliography (books, articles, journals, charts, interviews, etc.)

EVALUATION - Summary of Practicum: Was it a success or does it need revising?

APPENDIX - Samples of fliers, handouts, etc.

B. PRACTICUM PLAN B: THE HISTORICAL ESSAY

Students who choose this plan in order to fulfill the Practicum Project requirements are expected to conduct historical research and prepare an essay that approaches originality of investigation and makes a contribution to the retrieval and reclamation of Black religious history.

1. Specific Guidelines and procedures for practicum Plan B:

- a. The subject of essay should be able to be summarized in a basic question: for example, What were the circumstances that led to the establishment of this black parish? There may be a subsequent or minor question: for example, What circumstances led to the growth and development of this black parish?
- b. The proposal should be submitted to the student's Academic Advisor. After Advisor's approval the proposal will then be submitted to the Practicum Committee, which will offer the proposal for review to one or more members of the faculty.
- c. Upon completion of this review process, with the initial approval of the Practicum Committee and the faculty consultant, the student will submit the revised proposal and the name of the Practicum Advisor to the Associate Director of the Degree Program.
- d. Upon completion of the Historical Essay, and after a review by the Practicum Advisor, the student will submit four (4) bound copies of the essay to the Associate Director of the Degree Program. The copies will be submitted to the designated members of the Oral Comprehensive Examination Panel.
- e. The Oral Comprehensive Examination on the Historical Essay is scheduled according to the guidelines found elsewhere in this edition of the IBCS Program Book (*see suggested schedules for practicum Plans A and B on page 18*).

2. Formal Elements of the Historical Essay:

- a. The historical essay ought to engage questions of genuine interest to the student and relate to the study of Black Catholic history. The subject of the Historical Essay should treat a historical event, personage, or institution that is related to the history of Africa or African Americans and the Catholic community.
- b. The manuscript format in all its parts should follow that prescribed in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. In particular, the bibliography should distinguish between the **primary sources** which are researched and those **secondary sources** utilized in historical interpretation. The completed manuscript should contain maps, tables, and appendices as dictated by the subject matter (e.g., a parish history might well contain historical maps of the geographic area in which the parish was founded).

3. PROPOSAL FORMAT (PLAN B)

COVER SHEET

Titles; Subtitles;
Submitted in partial fulfillment
of requirements for the Th.M. Degree Program,
Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University, New Orleans, LA
Student's Name; Date submitted;
Blank line for date approved;
Blank line for signature of instructor.

RATIONALE - Why research this person or event or institution? Why important?

RESEARCH PLAN - Statement of how you will go about your research: archival, oral histories, etc.

RESOURCES - Bibliography: distinguish between primary and secondary sources.

APPENDIX - Photocopies of documents, maps, etc.

C. SUGGESTED SCHEDULES FOR PRACTICUM PLANS A AND B

The Qualifying Examination, ordinarily, is taken either in the third or fourth summer of matriculation. The proposals for the Major Research Paper and for the Practicum Projects are to be submitted to the Academic Advisor in the *Fall following the successful completion* of the Qualifying Examination.

Here is the suggested schedule:

Summer Session after Qualifying Examination - Preliminary discussion with Academic Advisor and, as needed, with the Chair of the Practicum Administrator.

November - Proposal ideas or tentative proposal discussions with Academic Advisor. Selection of Practicum Advisor. Discussion of ideas with and/or submission of tentative to Practicum Advisor. Discussion, critiques, revision.

January - Revised proposal is sent to the practicum Committee.

Fourth Summer - At the beginning of the fourth *IBCS Summer Session*, or following the successful completion of the Qualifying Examination, students must submit the written proposal for the Practicum, so that the Practicum Committee can review and grant final approval of the proposal by the end of the summer session.

August- April – Practicum Project [Plan A] begins. In consultation with the Practicum Advisor, dates and travel arrangements for observance etc. are established.

May - Faculty submits written report of Practicum Observance to Associate Director for the Degree Program.

July - Oral Comprehensive Examination (First weekend of July).

Summary Report prepared by the student should be sent to the Associate Degree Program. The members of the Oral Comprehensive Committee are designated to receive their copies of the pertinent material.

D. PRACTICUM EVALUATION FORM AND GUIDELINES

(Practicum Observers *are strongly encouraged* to use this for the evaluation of Practicum, especially those following **Plan A**. It is provided here for the benefit of the student).

Observers please complete this form and attach additional sheets as needed.

Student's Name: _____

Title of Practicum: _____

Date/Place of Observation: _____

Observer's Evaluation Report:

The Practicum must demonstrate the following:

- an integration of course work and practical ministry.
- the project must be used in a parish or classroom or other appropriate site in the African American community.
- enables the development of pastoral programs or stimulates further research that will make a contribution to the larger African American community
- the Practicum Project is grounded in the Major Research Paper
- the Practicum Project fulfills the requirements set by the guidelines found in this Program Book.

Signature of Practicum Observer _____

Signature of Student _____

Date: _____

V. THE ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The Oral Comprehensive Examination, ordinarily, is scheduled for the second Saturday of the summer session. The candidate will be examined by a panel of IBCS faculty who either are specialist or competent and conversant in the candidate's area. This panel is appointed by the Associate Director of the Degree Program.

The purpose of the oral Comprehensive Examination is to provide a structured opportunity for the students to demonstrate her or his integration of learning and insights from course work, the Practicum Project, and the Major Research Paper. More broadly, the goal of the examination is to allow the student to illustrate how the Practicum experience is related to the educational work of IBCS. At the same time, the student must be prepared to demonstrate the practical effect and benefits of the project for the larger Black community, and for other ministries serving the Black community.

The student should bring to the Comprehensive Examination any summary materials concerning the Practicum Project. These materials may include a text, a tape recording, a videotape, a publication; a model, photographs, slides, etc. The demonstration the student will make should last no more than fifteen (15) minutes. In addition, the student is expected to present a formal evaluation of the Practicum Project and her or his particular role in the Project.

The Oral Comprehensive Examination may be retaken.
Graduation follows successful completion of the Oral Comprehensive Examination.

THE DUTIES OF FACULTY PANEL

Since the purpose of the Oral Comprehensive Examination is to provide the student with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery and competence in the area of pastoral theology (whether in a practical ministerial or research format, the IBCS faculty consider the Examination as a most significant **moment of passage**).

1. The Faculty Panel will ask the student questions for information, clarification, understanding and evaluation.
2. The Faculty Panel will evaluate and grade the student's written reports and materials regarding the Practicum Project as well as the student's oral presentation and discussion.
3. If the Faculty Panel decides that the student's Practicum Project is not of sufficient quality, the student can be asked to resubmit a revised or another Practicum Project.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE (Th. M.) CURRICULUM

Required Courses & Introductory Courses

INTRODUCTORY COURSES: CREDIT HOURS

(Required of all first year students)

IBTH 5000 Pro-seminar (Methodology) 1

IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology 3

CORE COURSES:

IBTH 5020 History of Black Catholicism (3 Credit Hours Each)

IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture

IBTH 5060 Black Psychology

IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community

OTHER REQUIRED COURSES:

One Course from Aesthetics: Either IBTH 5425, 5430, or 5440

One Course from Systematics: Either IBTH 5081 or 5095

ELECTIVES (3 Credit Hours Each)

Area: Systematics, Moral and Historical Theology

Systematics

IBTH 5081 Christology

IBTH 5095 Church: The Mission

IBTH 5100 African Black Liberation Theologies

IBTH 5115 African Theology

IBTH 5220 History of Black Spirituality

Area: History

IBTH 5025 Black Saints

IBTH 5200 History of the Black Catholic Church: USA

IBTH 5210 History of Black Catholic Organizations/Movements

IBTH 5224 African Middle Ages

Area: Aesthetics

IBTH 5425 Slave Narratives

IBTH 5430 Spirituality of Black Literature

IBTH 5440 The Spirituals

Area: Pastoral Theology

IBTH 5050 Catechetics

IBTH 5063 Pastoral Counseling: A Black Perspective

IBTH 5070 Black Preaching I

IBTH 5071 Black Preaching II

IBTH 5080 Black Approaches to Sacraments

IBTH 5120 Principles of Liturgy/Black Celebration

IBTH 5130 Black Religious Music

IBTH 5430 Black Spirituality

IBTH 5670 Spiritual Direction and Formation

IBTH 5669 Black Youth Ministry

Area: Philosophy/Social Science/Education

IBTH 5110 Black Philosophy
IBTH 5400 Religion and Culture
IBTH 5620 Urban Education in the Black Community
IBTH 5625 Catholic Education in the Black Community
IBTH 5664 Leadership Styles in Ministry
IBTH 5665 Issues in the Black Family

ADVANCED COURSES Credit Hours Each

IBTH 5997 Integrative Seminar 3
IBTH 5998 Directed Readings 3
IBTH 5999 Qualifying Examination 0
IBTH 6000 Practicum (Major Paper and Project) 6
IBTH 7000 Comprehensive Examination 0

Th. M. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

IBTH 5000: Pro-Seminar: Methodology. This course introduces students to Black Catholic Studies as a constituent component of African American Religious Studies. It presents the methods of the disciplines that form the core of the degree curriculum and, in particular, assists students to become familiar with pertinent theological issues, vocabulary, and traditions.

(Required for all new students)

IBTH 5010: Black Approaches to Theology. Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. **Required for all new students.**

IBTH 5020: History of Black Catholicism. Explores the role played by Blacks in Catholicism from the beginning of the Church, with special emphasis on the presence and contributions of Blacks to Roman Catholicism in the United States. **Core Course.**

IBTH 5025: Black Saints. The history of the Church is full of many black / African Catholic saints, who received recognition for great deeds or meritorious conduct. Many lost their lives in defense of the faith. Many were also honored for their contributions to the Church and their community. This course will review the lives, spirituality and significance of these saints within their historical context.

IBTH 5030: Black Approaches to Scripture. Black history, culture, and experience are presented as a locus for responding to the Word of Scripture. Methods and tools of biblical exegesis are introduced; similarities between biblical mentality and Black mentality, and problem texts are also discussed. **Core Course.**

IBTH 5050: Catechetics. Discusses particular problems and approaches for catechetics in the Black community. **Core Course.**

IBTH 5060: Black Psychology. Constructs effective pastoral communication with Black congregations by review of major interpersonal, social, and systematic issues from a perspective based upon sound analysis stemming from recognition of cultural differences.

CORE COURSES

IBTH 5063: Pastoral Counseling. This course will explore a variety of counseling theories and methods as these are correlate to and strengthen the client’s spiritual journey, religious beliefs and faith community.

IBTH 5070/5071: Preaching I, II. These are courses in Black preaching traditions that include both a survey of the sermonic literature and practical exercises in preaching oriented toward a Black congregation.

IBTH 5080: Black Approach to Sacraments. Introduces ritual and symbol in the African and African American traditions and their relationship to the seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church.

IBTH 5081: Christology. Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. **Area Requirement.**

IBTH 5090: Church - The Mission. Explores the nature and mission of the Church in contemporary society with particular emphasis of its significance, the evangelization and social justice ministries within and on behalf of the Black Community. **Area Requirement.**

IBTH 5100: African, Black and Liberation Theologies. This is a comparative study of the major issues of global theologies as these influence and are influenced by political, sociological, cultural and gender conflicts in various societies.

IBTH 5110: Black Philosophy. Discusses the African and African American outlook on reality; similarities and differences of this analysis from the philosophies of the West. Implications for understanding and articulating Black religious experiences are also treated.

IBTH 5115: African Theology. African theology is that theology which reflects on the gospel, the Christian tradition, and the total African reality from the perspectives of the African worldview. This course will explore the history and major themes of African Theology.

IBTH 5120: Principles of Liturgy/Black Celebration. This course surveys the history and principles of “African,” “Black Church,” and “Roman Catholic” liturgical celebrations.

IBTH 5200: History of the Black Catholic Church: USA. This course reviews the history of the contributions and challenges of Black Catholics to the Catholic Church from its origins in Africa to its contemporary manifestations in the United States.

IBTH 5210: History of Black Religious Movements. Studies Blacks in the Christian Churches from the 17th century to the present; the independent Black church; Blacks and the Catholic Church; the Black Church come of age.

IBTH 5220: History of Black Spirituality. This course is a historical, anthropological, phenomenological, and theological study of the evolution of the core elements of the African American religious experience, with emphasis on the retention of Africanisms.

IBTH 5224: African Middle Age. The history course will explore the history of Africa from 642- 1500. Focus will be on the role of Africa in the later Roman Empire (303-642); the subsequent Arab Conquest(642-1500 and the emergence of the West African Empires, Eastern African and Southern traditional societies until the arrival of the Portuguese in the 15th Century.

IBTH 5400: Religion and Culture. This interdisciplinary course (sociology, anthropology and religion) will explore the way African and African American cultures [manner of using things, of laboring, of expressing oneself, of forming customs, of establishing laws and juridical institutions of cultivating the sciences, the arts and beauty] influence Religious belief and customs and how American Religious belief and customs influence contemporary African and African American culture.

IBTH 5425: Slave Narratives. The course begins with the earliest documents, tracing most especially the themes of transcendence, self-determination and cultural transmissions outside the ordinary avenues of traditional culture. From the classic slave narratives to the more recent manifestations of African American imaginative work, there is an unbroken thread of cultural awareness and human dignity that serves as the guide to understanding African American culture and religious sensibilities. *Area Requirement.*

IBTH 5430: Spirituality of Black Literature. Uses selected works of African American literature as a resource for the study of the spirituality of a people. It attempts to understand and articulate the spirituality expressed in the words, songs, prayers, relationships, and daily lives of Black people, as they are found in imaginative works. *Area Requirement.*

IBTH 5430: Black Spirituality: Black spirituality is rooted in the history and experience of African American peoples in the United States. This course will engage students in a critical examination of the roots, development and characteristics of the spirituality of Black peoples in the United States as well as a participative experience of Black spirituality as found in the religious expression of the community.

IBTH 5440: The Spirituals. Studies a broad range of the black sacred songs known as the “*Spirituals.*” Focus is placed upon a study of their origins, meanings, and purposes. Emphasis is also given to understanding their importance in the foundation of African American culture and Christianity; and their possible uses in Catholic worship, and pastoral ministry. *Area Requirement.*

IBTH 5445: Black Religious Music. Surveys the history and development of aesthetic expression of African Americans in music; emphasizes slave moans, chants; the Spirituals; blues; classic gospel; and contemporary gospel.

IBTH 5600: Moral Questions in the Black Community. This course intends to establish a dialogue (a mutual critique and enrichment) between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans.

IBTH 5620: Urban Education in the Black Community. This course explores the cultural, historical, socioeconomic, and political factors that influence urban education as foundational to developing effective instructional and organizational practices for urban schools. Participants will focus on the processes and values necessary for the development of a partnership between school, church, and community necessary for the emergence of a positive school culture that is essential to close the achievement gap of urban children.

IBTH 5625: Catholic Education in the Black Community. This course looks at learning styles among Black children and provides methodologies for a culturally inclusive curriculum.

IBTH 5640: Leadership Styles of Ministry. Explores ministry in the Black community, including similarities and differences with the white community, especially regarding issues of congregational responsibility, participation and leadership.

IBTH 5660: Issues in Black Family. This course investigates the myths, realities, facts, strengths and weaknesses of the African American community in a way that will assist those who minister in the Black community. Various structures and forms of African American family life are studied to learn how these forms affect ministry in the community and in the church.

IBTH 5669: Black Youth Ministry- Using the **U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*** and other interdisciplinary resources will explore ways “to empower [black youth] to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today...; to draw [black youth] to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community...” and “to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each [black youth].” (*adaptation of RTV 9, 11 and 15*).

IBTH 5670: Spiritual Direction and Formation in The Black Community This course will explore the unique characters of Christian spiritual and faith formation specifically addressing issues of culture, family, personal and communal history, social location and discipleship in the context of the Black community.

DESCRIPTIONS OF ADVANCED COURSES

IBTH 5997: Integrative Colloquium. Helps students in the third or fourth summer of study to enter more deeply into the *habitués* of pastoral theology, that is, a way of thinking, reflecting, conversing, and writing about questions and issues that emerge from their ministry and ministerial research. The Colloquium provides students with structured and interdisciplinary engagement and opportunities for refining research, theological analysis and reflection, and writing. Specifically, the Colloquium assists students to meet the goal of preparing successful drafts of (a) the major theological research paper and (b) the Practicum proposal.

IBTH 5998: Directed Readings. This advanced course in theology provides students with the structured opportunity for supervised reading, research, and writing in selected scholarly areas that comprise the curriculum of the IBCS.

IBTH 5999: Qualifying Examination.

IBTH 6000: Practicum (Major Research Paper and Project).

IBTH 7000: Comprehensive.

ADDITIONAL COURSES APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY

In addition to those listed above, Xavier University of Louisiana has approved the following courses that may be taught as student need and faculty availability dictate:

IBTH 5065: Pastoral Self-Psychology

IBTH 5111: African Philosophical Theology

IBTH 5410: Seminar: Black Literature and Religion

IBTH 5420: Seminar: Black Literary Criticism

IBTH 5450: Liturgical Planning and Development

IBTH 5610: Socio-Theology

ADDITIONAL COURSES APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY-CON'T.

IBTH 5625: Issues: White Minister /Black Church

IBTH 5650: Urban / Rural Ministry

IBTH 5669: African American Youth Ministry

IBTH 5670: Spiritual Direction / Formation

CURRENT MASTER'S DEGREE FACULTY

Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, Ph.D.
Professor of Church History
D. Hist. Science Catholic University of Louvain
Belgium

Fr. Charles Payne, OFM, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology
Northwestern University

Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min.
Assistant Professor of Liturgical Studies
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, OP, Ph.D.
Professor of Systematic & Doc. Theology
The Catholic University of America
Washington, DC

Dr. Kirk Gaddy
Assistant Professor of Education
Nova Southeastern University

Stephen Breck Reid, Ph.D.
Professor of Christian Scriptures
George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Cecilia A. Moore, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, American Religious History
University of Virginia

Sr. Shawnee Daniel Sykes, SSND, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Theology
Marquette University

Fr. Maurice J. Nutt, CSsR, D.Min.
Assistant Professor of Preaching
Aquinas School of Theology

Fr. Freddy Washington, CSSp, D.Min.
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
United Theological Seminary

Modeste Malu Nyimi, MA, Ph.D.
Professor of Black Theology (and)
Introduction to Theological Research
Decatur, GA

C. Vanessa White, D.Min.
Assistant Professor of Spirituality
The Catholic Theological Union

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

ADMINISTRATION

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INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES

ADMINISTRATION

Pamela R. Franco, Ph.D.
Acting Director

Cecilia A. Moore, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Master of Theology Degree Program

Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D Min.
Associate Director, Certificate and Enrichment Programs
(on leave summer 2011)

C. Vanessa White, D. Min.
Acting Associate Director, Certificate and Enrichment Programs

Father Roy Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Director of Community Life

Xavier's Institute for Black Catholic Studies Office Staff

Mrs. Loretta D. Salomon, Administrative Assistant & Master Degree Program Assistant

Ms. Glenda A. Brown, M.S., Program Specialist & C and E Program Assistant

AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Policy Committee

The Policy Committees of the Degree Program is responsible for the general oversight of the respective IBCS Graduate Degree Program and assist with the overall development of the Institute. The Degree Program Policy Committee consists of the Director of the IBCS, the Associate Director for the Degree Program, faculty and student representatives, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Graduate Division).

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is comprised of national Black Catholic leadership and representatives of major organizations closely allied with IBCS endeavors and Black Catholics of affluence, influence and/or knowledge of the fields of study which comprise the Institute. The Advisory Committee assists the Director and the Policy Committee in representing the Institute to the larger Black community, serves as liaison with respective organizations, and offers advice and counsel on matters such as fundraising, student and faculty recruitment, and the development of new programs.

Xavier University

ACCREDITATION

Xavier University of Louisiana is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Xavier University of Louisiana.

Communications regarding admission to the Master of Theology Graduate Degree Program should be addressed to:

Institute for Black Catholic Studies

Xavier University of Louisiana

1 Drexel Drive-Box 49

New Orleans, LA 70125

For direct contact call or e-mail:

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