

MTh IN CLINICAL PASTORATE (50806:889)
With a specific focus on Dialogical Intergenerational Pastoral Process (DIPP)
2025 – 2026

The Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University offers a two-year modular MTh in Clinical Pastorate.

The program aims to guide students to develop pastoral knowledge and clinical skills through the integration of theory and practice as well as clinical supervision in pastoral practice. The closing date for applications is **31 October**.

Unique learning experience

This course presents a unique learning experience for all the students. The course is structured to develop the ability of students to become pastoral caregivers by reading academic literature, reflecting in a learning community, skills training and articulation as well as the integration of theory through assignments and/or book summaries, and a mini thesis. A key aspect of the learning experience in this course is situated within the ecumenical community created by the students in the course. Therefore, it is compulsory to attend all modules.

The second year of this program will focus on clinical training and skills development within the pastoral context. The clinical training will be under the guidance of pastoral supervisors.

Focus

The focus is to understand a person within the network of relationships (context) they are in and especially between different generations. Nobody exists alone by him/herself. We are always connected to an significant 'other' and significant others are connected to us. In the first instance, it is usually our family.

The DIPP is especially of interest to family pastoral care, but it truly cannot be limited to families as it is also applicable to individuals as well as communities. It is also of great significance for resolving conflict and facilitating greater understanding between people and cultures in general. The DIPP approach aims to endeavour to restore trust in human relations damaged by hurt and separation caused by conflict. Within this approach, trust, responsibility, accountability, justice and hope are some of the challenging keywords.

Key objectives

- To integrate pastoral theory, theology, and practice
- To motivate a trans-disciplinary approach between pastoral care & counselling and other relevant disciplines
- To develop clinical counselling and listening skills in different pastoral contexts following this dialogical approach
- To establish a multi-directed pastoral sensitivity in care and counselling
- To develop a sensitivity for people's suffering and enjoyment of life, in awareness of their relational entanglements
- To cultivate an attentive acceptance of the richness of cultural diversity
- To read and interpret the Bible text from an ethical relational perspective.

Core modules & Credits

This is a 180-credit master's degree. The clinical master's program in pastoral care consists of four modules in year one, one module in Systematic Theology and three modules in Practical Theology.

First-year	
Dogmatic questions	873(10)
General pastoral care	872(10)
Theological Ethics	872(10)
Marriage and family pastorate	873(10)
Group work	872(5)
Second year	
Research assignment	874(60)
Pastoral communication	873(16)
Personal and development psychology	871(16)
Practical: Clinical pastoral care	873(15)
Applied clinical pastoral care	874(28)

Structure

- The course is structured in four contact weeks (modules), which take place, during the first year (February, May, and October and November).
- It is compulsory to attend all contact weeks. Each of the modules focuses on a specific core area of the DIPP.
- Students need to prepare for the contact weeks by reading the prescribed material. All the contact weeks will have assessments.
- The contact weeks will take place at the Faculty of Theology in Stellenbosch.
- The program for the second year, the clinical year, will entail two block weeks and practical exposure in a pastoral context supported by supervision sessions.

Applications

- All students need to apply at Stellenbosch University via www.sun.ac.za.
- Any application is subject to the admission requirements of Stellenbosch University.
- You will be notified by the first week of November 2024 if you need to attend an interview.

Bursaries

There are bursaries available.

Please note that this master's programme asks for an intensive, academic, and personal commitment. It requires an attitude for critical engagement and transformation.

For more information

Please contact:

Prof Christo Thesnaar: cht@sun.ac.za; 021 808 3257

Ms Bonita Robyn: brobyn@sun.ac.za; 021 808 3577