



Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies Integrating Paper Instructions

General. The MAPS paper is intended to integrate the student's theological studies and ministerial experiences, both past and ongoing, in the chosen area of ministerial focus and may take one of several forms: a written pastoral project (e.g. the development of a pastoral program with supporting theological rationale), a case study in ministry (e.g. the identification of theological, scriptural and pastoral issues in an actual situation and the articulation of alternative pastoral responses or courses of action), or a research paper within the area of ministerial focus.

Requirements. The paper should be about fifty (50) pages in length, using one of the following models and the applicable format guidance:

- Theological Reflection on Ministerial experience, to include: 1) Introduction: model of theological reflection; 2) Ministerial experience: description and analysis; 3) Reflection using theological sources; 4) Conclusion/implications
- Development of a Pastoral Plan or Program, to include: 1) Introduction: methodology; 2) Description of the ministry: parameters and goals; 3) Theological foundations and considerations; 4) Pastoral plan or program; 5) Conclusion
- Exploration of a Ministerial or Theological Issue, to include: 1) Introduction: methodological issues; 2) Ministerial Context for the issue; 3) Theological research chapters; 4) conclusions and implications
- Use of the MAPS Paper Guide (**see below**) and the **latest edition** of the Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press).

Process

- Check calendar due dates for registration and submission of approvals and completion of the integrating paper in time for the May graduation.
- Consult with the academic advisor and Chair of the Pastoral Studies Department for selection of topic and model
- Contact/select two regular faculty members who will serve as director of paper and reader.
- Prepare the special Topic Approval/Registration form and obtain the approval signatures of the director, reader and Department Chair. **After signatures, submit form directly to the Registrar.** Form is available on the Forms and Instructions webpage. NOTE: Registrar will notify student of topic approval by email.
- Prepare the special Paper Approval form and obtain the signatures of the director and reader and the Department Chair. Form is available on the Forms and Instructions webpage.
- Submit the following to the Academic Dean's office no later than the date established in the Official Academic calendar: 1) an electronic copy of the paper, 2) a printed and completely unbound copy (no hard cover or plastic binding combs); 3) the signed paper approval form.

Official Record of Approval. Upon approval of thesis or research papers, the approval will be posted by the Registrar on the student's official academic record and a copy will be stored electronically in WTU library. **Note:** Students desiring a hard cover copy should obtain it from a commercial source.

Registration Fee. At the time of registration for topic approval, a non-refundable fee will be charged to the student's account for the completion and approval of the paper; this fee will be valid for one academic year. If the paper is not completed at the end of one year, a renewal of one year may be obtained for which another fee will be assessed. Only one renewal will be granted. Renewal request should be submitted by email to the Registrar

MAPS Integrative Paper Guide and Project Proposal

The MAPS Integrative Paper has traditionally allowed for three distinct ways of writing the paper, the first regards a particular ministerial topic, the second concerns a pastoral project, the third a theological/ministerial project. The examples below reflect those three ways. Your MAPS proposal will incorporate the use of this guide.

Title Page

1. Title page should have the name of the MAPS Project Proposal,
 - a. Aim for a title that clearly indicates what the integrative paper will cover without excessive length. Frequently there is a title and a subtitle, separated by a colon.
2. Name of Student,
3. Date submitted,
4. Four lines that are for signatures: Director, Second Reader, Pastoral Studies Chair, and Dean.

Part One - Statement of the Problem: This paragraph indicates the context of your research. Imagine you are writing for an intelligent reader who is not a specialist. Use a minimum of jargon or technical language.

Example 1: I am writing about the role of spirituality in a youth ministry program for inner city youths. This topic deserves attention due to... (then I will explain why this is a topic that deserves attention).

Example 2: I am writing about developing a pastoral plan to address domestic violence at the parish level. This topic deserves attention due to... (then I will explain why this is a topic that deserves attention).

Example 3: I am writing about the role of language in liturgical practices at the parish level. This topic deserves attention due to... (then I will explain why this is a topic that deserves attention).

Part Two - Present Status of the Problem: Describe what other scholars/researchers have said about the topic you are covering. Be careful to include the full range of scholarly opinions on your topic, but be selective rather than exhaustive. If no one else has treated this problem, which is unlikely, then explain the related problems that have distracted people from your topic or prevented them from seeing it.

Example 1: I will point out the development of Spirituality using Fowler and Kohlberg and consider the research out of the Center for Spiritual Development for Children and Adolescents. Then I will consider the implications for social and emotional competence for inner city families and youths, and the role of the congregation for inner city families. I will point out the evolution of religious involvement and the influences of the consumer culture on today's youth that addresses why such a concept may be difficult to internalize for youth.

Example 2: I will consider the history of the treatment of women and children since the time of Romulus and the Laws of Chastisement through the institution of the Rule of Thumb and its implications for modern U.S. law. I will discuss research on the four categories of domestic violence and address the myths associated with religiously supported male entitlement and battered woman syndrome. I will discuss in detail the significance of the Bishop's statement, "When I cry for help," on the issue of marriage, separation and divorce.

Example 3: I will address research that lays the groundwork for the use of inclusive language and its implication for liturgical practices. I will look at the history of language from the Church's perspective and the meaning associated with the use of terms like "man," that are experienced as sexist for some and reflective of humanity for others.

Part Three - Statement of Materials: Provide a brief bibliography of your sources.

It might be appropriate to break them down into primary and secondary sources. Consider fifteen to twenty sources as adequate. If you cannot find that many sources, then you need to rethink your project.

Example 1: I will look at the International Journal for Children's Spirituality, Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality, International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion, Pastoral Psychology.

Example 2: I will look at Family and Community Ministries, The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Christian Social Action. I would look at Lisa Goodman's work on breaking the silence of domestic violence and Michael Johnson's work out of Penn State on Domestic Violence and the categories of domestic Violence.

Example 3: I will search ATLA and CPLI for 'sexist language AND liturgy' as considered in scholarly journals and books since the Second Vatican Council (1965) to the present.

Part Four - Statement of Method: Describe your central thesis, if you have one. Which approaches characterize your work: historical, feminist, rhetorical criticism, philological, liberation theology, Jungian, etc. How do you justify the method you have chosen? Is there a logical order to the various parts of your research? To whom are you indebted for your approach? If there are crucial questions that will come up, list them.

Example 1: I will begin by exploring contemporary research on the issue of the spirituality of the adolescent and narrow my focus on the demands associated with inner city adolescents in maintaining and valuing their spiritual development utilizing a parish/pastoral framework.

Example 2: I will explore contemporary research on the issue of domestic violence and take a critical view toward the influence of religion in maintaining domestic violence and ultimately consider a scriptural/pastoral approach to implementing a program to address domestic violence in a parish setting.

Example 3: I will (1) explore scholarly research that has named the use of language such as "man/mankind" as false generics, (2) note the reasons indicated by those who consider such language to reference humanity, and (3) demonstrate the potential harm false generics in liturgy can do to the meaning of the liturgy and to both men and women.

Part Five - Outline: Provide an outline including the introduction and each of the chapters you intend to write. For the integrative paper, it should be about a page in length. The more detailed the outline is, the easier it will be to write the project.