**Loyola University Chicago**

**Institute of Pastoral Studies**

**IPS 593**

**INTEGRATION PROJECT GUIDELINES**

**for the**

**MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE**

The following Integration Project Guidelines are designed for students in the Master of Divinity degree program at IPS. The Integration Project involves the *personal integration* of one’s *course of studies* at IPS and one’s *practice (praxis) or craft of ministry/service* into one’s *vocational/ministerial identity*, as well as the application of one’s IPS study to one’s *vocational/ ministerial plans* moving forward. The Integration Project typically takes the form of a written paper, approximately, approximately 50 pages in length (excluding sections I-III and VIII). Projects should use Times New Roman, 12-point font and be double-spaced (with the exception of indented quotes and bibliographic entries, which are always single-spaced).

Students ready to embark on the Integration Project should register for IPS 593, a zero-credit seminar that will meet four times over the course of the semester. Students should register for IPS 593 in their final semester of coursework, or after completing at least 66 credit hours.

Students must secure a faculty reader for their Integration Project. Students must prepare an Integration Project Proposal. Once the faculty reader has approved the proposal, the student must complete the Integration Project Registration Form, and follow the process to obtain the appropriate approvals. Students will not be registered for the course until a signed form is on file with the Coordinator of Student Services. The signed Form must be submitted **at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester**.

Integration Projects will be evaluated using a rubric specific to the Masters of Divinity program. Integration Projects and IPS 593 will be graded on a Pass/Not-Pass basis. It is expected that students will complete the integration project during the semester in which they take IPS 593. Incompletes will only be granted in cases of serious illness or life events. The policy on Incomplete Grades will apply. The grade for IPS 593 will be calculated based on both the final written paper as well as participation in the course.  Participation in both the asynchronous and synchronous components of the course is expected.  Students who do not participate in the course activities will receive a grade of NP and will be required to re-take IPS 593 the following semester.

**M.DIV. INTEGRATION PROJECT GUIDELINES**

**I. TITLE PAGE**

**II. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (if any)**

**III. TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**IV. INTRODUCTION (1 page)**

Written last, this section briefly orients the reader to the situation and theme(s) that the reader will encounter in this paper.

**V. PRAXIS ONE: CONTEXTUAL FOUNDATIONS (9 pages total)**

This section of the paper introduces your context in *ministerial setting.* The focal point (praxis one) should be a delimited case that serves as both a point of entry into discussing how your studies inform your practice and vision of ministry and as a place of where these studies and practice converge. Your focal point should be a specific issue or question that arose within your contextual education experience, your practice of ministry, or your health care environment.

**Section 1: Contextual Analysis of Ministry Site (2-3 pages)**

Briefly summarize the history, vision and mission of your ministry site (in your own words, not copied from site materials). Use both site literature (e.g., mission statement) and interviews with key personnel. Identify the essential needs of the populations served, whether these be pastoral, social, individual, spiritual, or political. Describe the primary approach currently employed to engage these needs by those who collaborate in the care of the populations being served, the sociocultural context of the setting, how power and privilege impact the participants, and your own experience there as an IPS student.

**Section 2: Case Study: Assessment of the Ministerial Situation (6 pages)**

**A. Identifying information/Demographic data**: **Presenting Situation and Preliminary Assessment**

Describe people involved in the encounter, especially first impressions. Provide pseudonym or initials for individual(s), age, race or ethnicity, gender identity, relational status, socioeconomic status, immigrant status (if relevant), physical appearance, and any other relevant identifying information.) Describe situation and people involved as you first encountered them. What situation(s) occurred that led to the encounter? What were key precipitating events? Describe the pastoral encounter itself, including your own thoughts and feelings during the encounter. Identify key questions the case study raises that call for investigation and ministerial response. Then thematize these questions into 3-4 topics that will form the basis of the research (Section 4 of the project) which this particular case study raises.  **B.** **Brief Psychosocial and socio-cultural assessment:** Summarize any psychological and socio-cultural issues at play in this situation. Were there key psychological or developmental factors involved for the individual(s) in this encounter? What socio-cultural factors have been at play in the situation, and in the individual’s primary relationships; how has the individual’s cultural background interrelated with your background, and how has this informed your response? What further understanding about the intercultural contexts of the individual(s) and situation would contribute to your ability to be of assistance.   
  
**C. Pastoral theological assessment**: How have you gone about gaining a pastoral/spiritual understanding of what this situation asked of you? Are there any relevant religious/spiritual frameworks or practices that impacted your work and how has this informed your response? What further understanding did you need to gain about the spiritual/religious beliefs, practices, relationships of those involved?

**VI. THEORY: IPS COURSEWORK AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH 25 pages)**

**Section 3: Theological Framework from IPS Coursework (8-10 pages)**

Describe the theological/theoretical framework that informs your vision of ministry, spirituality, mission and/or social action. As part of your bibliography in section VIII, you will compile a comprehensive list of sources from your IPS coursework. Using these resources, articulate your own overarching framework for what is going on in the world, particularly attending to how God and humans are situated in relation to one another and to the world as a whole. Drawing on the relevant discourses, this framework should include, while not being limited to, your understanding of God as Trinity (including Christology and Pneumatology), grace, soteriology, ecclesiology and sacramental theology (to the extent relevant in your tradition), and missiology. If your focus is on issues or questions of justice, then your theological/theoretical framework should also include your understanding of justice and how it fits within this larger framework.

Bring this larger framework to bear on your case. What core ideas/themes does it emphasize and how does it shape your work in ministry, growth in spirituality, participation in mission, or active engagement in social justice? How does it interface with your vision of ministry/service? Identify areas of fit and areas of tension.

**Section 4: Additional Research and Resources (15 pages)**

Given your assessment, identify a significant issue relevant to this pastoral situation for which you sought further research. What research have you undertaken, and what further research would be relevant to inform your effective response to this situation? Identify an issue intrinsic to your work in this ministry, and identify scholarly resources from texts or peer-reviewed journals that addressed this issue.

In your research address the identified questions and themes outlined in Chapter 3 of the project, drawing on sources from the Christian traditions and the human sciences. This section includes three subsections.

1. **The Christian Traditions**

Select relevant resources from the Scriptures, the theological traditions, ethics, liturgy, and/or spirituality. This examination of the Christian traditions ought to reflect a breadth of resources and yet a selection that specifically offers insight into and help for understanding the ministerial situation presented in Part 1.

1. **The Human Sciences**

To the extent that it is relevant, include resources from other field(s) of learning which offer insight into and help for understanding the ministerial situation presented in Part 1. (e.g.: Psychology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, etc.)

1. **A Critical Correlation of the Resources**

Critique and reflect on these resources in relationship to each other and to the ministerial situation under discussion. This section may point out new perspectives which the resources bring to the ministerial situation itself or it may note elements of ambiguity or outright problems in the resources themselves or in ways they approach the ministerial situation. It may provide points of complementarities in a pastoral response to the ministerial situation.

**VII. REVISED PRAXIS: INTEGRATE AND EVALUATE (11 pages)**

**Chapter 5: Integrate and Evaluate (5-7 pages)**

Critique and reflect on the resources discussed in parts A and B from the previous section in relationship to each other and to the ministerial context/focal point under discussion. Given this research, would you change anything about your actions or work in addressing the focal point? If so, *how* would you improve or adjust your actions? This section may point out how the new perspectives that the resources bring to the focal point itself reconfigure your question, or it may note elements of ambiguity or problems in the resources themselves or in ways they approach your central concern. It may elaborate on points of complementarity or highlight elements where they have helped to expand or develop your focal point. What further research might be necessary to inform your effective response to this situation in the future?

**Chapter 6: Pastoral Plan (4 pages)**

Based upon your analysis of the presenting problem/situation and your socio-cultural and pastoral theological assessment, and research, develop concrete and particular strategies which describe what the ministerial response would be like, or what the minister would do in the concrete and particular situation. These strategies must reflect the critical understanding of Chapter 4 and the vision of ministry above.

What would be your plan to address the ministerial situation outlined in your case?

* Immediate goals – what needed to be addressed first?
* Longer term strategy for ministry in light of the issues raised by the case
* Prognosis – considering all circumstances, what do you envision would be possible as an outcome of this pastoral process?

Reviewing the contextual and theological foundations you articulated in your paper, reflect on your assessment of this particular situation. Now address the question *of how your theological framework fits and/or doesn’t fit the particular needs of this situation.*  Discuss the ways in which your ministerial plan has been congruent with your pastoral vision. Are there ways you have been challenged in this particular circumstance to adapt/expand/modify your understanding and response?

**VIII. PASTORAL INTEGRATION (15 pages)**

This section of the paper should integrate the research material and IPS coursework into your own ***ministerial identity*** and ***personal spirituality***, as well as apply the research to your ***specific vocational/ministerial/* or *life context and goals***. In this concluding section, you also will address the larger ***social-contextual***implications of your pastoral vision.

**A. Vocational Identity, Vision and Practice (4 pages)**

Given that you bring your own history and emerging vision of ministry/service to your context and focus, narrate the following components to describe your own personal identity as a minister or professional.

**1. Vocational Identity:** Discuss your sense of ministry/service/professional vocation. Out of what faith/spiritual/philosophical tradition did your call to ministry/spirituality/social action/profession emerge? What current ecclesial/professional/justice community nurtures you as a minister/servant/professional leader in your field? How do your tradition and community shape your sense of ministry/service? Describe your leadership role in your current ministerial/professional context and its connection to your vocation? How do you see your role as a minister/professional contributing to your larger work and communal context?

**2. Vocation and Vision:** As you reflect on your specific role within your ministerial/professional context or relative to your focal point, articulate your own theology of vocation. What image or guiding vision shapes your sense of vocation? Do you have a vision of spirituality that will shape you as you move forward? What specific resources from your coursework at IPS inform this vision?

**3. Vocational Practices:** What ongoing formative practices orient, shape, nourish and sustain your pastoral ministry/service/professional work?

**B. Reflection on Individual Growth and Theological Development (5 pages)**

As you step back to reflect on your practice, addressthe following questions as related to your vocational context/focal point:

* In what ways have your studies at the IPS clarified and challenged your faith and understanding of key concepts?  
  In what ways have your studies at the IPS solidified or changed your career path?   
    
  In what ways have your studies at the IPS provided you with the skills and proficiencies necessary for your ministry or profession?
* What areas do you need to develop further and/or what questions emerge for you that require further exploration?

**C. Professional Ethical Considerations (2 pages)**

Drawing upon your coursework, discuss any ethical dimensions encountered in your ministerial context. Describe the actual or potential ethical dilemma(s), the values in conflict, and how these inform your own professional/ministerial actions. Are there issues that require further consideration/consultation?

**D. Reflections on Mission, Discipleship, and Leadership (4 pages)**

How do the above sections on research and ministerial/contextual strategy shape your understanding of the integration of mission, discipleship, and leadership? How does this holistic understanding shape your leadership on behalf of church, society and world? How does it shape the way you work to form people and transform social structures/institutions? How does it shape the vision you cast for those you are leading and working with and, consequently, how does it inform your methods of implementation of your objective and mobilization toward your goals? What methods of assessment do you intend to employ to discern how or if you’re actually moving toward these objectives and goals?

**IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND APPENDICES**

**A. Bibliography** (use MLA or *The Chicago Manual of Style*)

List all of your source materials (books, articles, essays, online sources) under the following *sub-headings*: (1) IPS Course Resources: in alphabetical order (by author) list the academic resources that you have engaged with in your IPS courses; mark the ones used in the Integration Project with an asterisk; (2) Additional Research: in alphabetical order (by author) list your new research sources; and, (3) Online Sources: list web pages, URLs, etc., if you used them (heading #3 may not apply if you did not use online sources).

**B. Appendices**

Append any additional materials pertinent for the presentation of your case.