

FE 601: Essential Functions of the Pastor (1 credit)

Prerequisites for All Field Education (FE) Courses: Completion of first seminary year or permission. Course is required for Master of Divinity degree.

Assessment: Credit/No Credit

Faculty Information:

Rev. Emily Blue, Director of Student Life, Van Vliet 205, ebblue@dbq.edu;
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Overview/Course Description:

This integrative practicum focuses on the essential functions of the offices of pastor, chaplain, and ministry leader. Topics covered include worship leadership, celebration of sacraments, wedding and funeral preparation, pastoral visits and observing proper etiquette. Each day of class includes reflection, discussion, and the practice of pastoral functions.

Course Objectives:

By the completion of the course the student will have explored and gained practice in:

1. The preparation and leading of worship services, including public prayer and the celebration of sacraments.
2. The conduct of wedding rehearsals and services, funerals, memorials, and graveside services.
3. The art of pastoral calling in homes, hospitals, and other institutional settings.
4. The care of people and families at the end of life and in the journey of grief.
5. Theological reflection on all of the above.

M.Div. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course: (ref. *UDTS Catalog 2020-2021*)

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase students' love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
2. Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God.
3. Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
4. Provide pastoral care for individuals and congregations in daily life and moments of transition and crisis.
5. Prayerfully integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Required Texts:

- Post, JoAnn A., *Steward of Stories: Reflecting on Tensions in Daily Discipleship* (Resource Publications, 2014).
- Your denomination's book of worship (online/downloadable is acceptable).

Course Requirements

1. Be present in class, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Because of the short duration of the class, no more than **one absence** will be allowed.
2. Be prepared for class and faithfully participate in all class discussions.
3. Complete all reading and written assignments and presentations on or before due date in a manner appropriate to graduate level work. Please submit written assignments through Moodle. Assignments will include selections from your denominational resources, memorized class presentations, reflections on the readings, and one (2-3 page) final reflection paper.