

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

IN722 Disciple Formation 4: Immersed in the Story

Spring 2025

.5 credit; letter grade

Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey; sforshey@dbq.edu



Course Description

In Disciple Formation 4, students will define and discuss strategies and challenges to the role of vocational holiness, in light of their formation as Christian disciples and ministers. Students will demonstrate their application of course content in their own lives and ministry through established methods of theological reflection, such as journaling; inquiry-based learning; and open and guided discussion in small groups facilitated by the instructor, either online or residentially.

Students will formulate a rule of life incorporating practices of discipleship and self-care. **Disciple Formation 4 is required for Master of Divinity students.** Prerequisites include IN521 and IN522, the August Residential retreat (or suitable equivalent approved by the instructor), and IN721.

Course Learning Outcomes

Through active participation in the Disciple Formation series, students will develop the capacity to:

- List, describe, and explain examples of Christian practices used within the Christian traditions for the formation of disciples toward loving others and loving God. (Remember, Understand)
- Describe role of self-care in the life of a disciple and minister. (Understand)
- Demonstrate specific practices, such as journaling, theological reflection, scripture study, prayer, art and music reflection, self-reflection. (Apply)
- Experiment with practices and evaluate their formative impact on their love of God and love of others. (Analyze, Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates specific discipling practices regularly into their lives. (Create)

In addition, through active participation in IN722, students will develop the capacity to:

- Define the role of holiness within their specific Christian tradition and practice. (Remember)
- List, describe, and explain God's work of holiness in the life of a disciple and minister. (Remember, Understand).
- Evaluate their own activities, practices, and behaviors in light of God's work of grace. (Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates practices to nurture the work of God's grace and self-care. (Create)

Master of Divinity Program Learning Outcomes

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MA in Mission & Discipleship Program Learning Outcome

- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.

MA in Ministry Program Learning Outcomes

- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

Required Texts

Susan R. Pitchford. *The Sacred Gaze: Contemplation and the Healing of the Self*. ISBN: 978-0814635681