

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Faculty

Director: Francis Berna, OFM, Ph.D.

Professors: Efroymson (*emeritus*), Kelly, McGuinness, Ramshaw

Associate Professor: Pastis

Assistant Professors: Copeland, Crawford, Devlin, Dougherty, McDougall

Lecturers: Bartle, Dix, Dolan, Hallahan, Raphael

Description of Program

La Salle's Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry provides a solid theological education, preparing students for lay ministry in the church, as well as providing a foundation for more advanced studies. Roman Catholic in its orientation, the program seeks to foster a truly ecumenical spirit with a faculty and student body representing various Christian churches and faith traditions.

Most students pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Classes are held in the evenings and on Saturdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and in the morning, afternoon, and evening during the Summer sessions.

Concentrations are available in three distinct areas: Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and Liturgical Practice. Each is characterized by a distinct Lasallian methodology combining academic excellence, theological reflection, and practical application.

The Theological Studies track concentrates on research and the systematic study of biblical, dogmatic, and spiritual theology. Graduates are able to articulate a sound contemporary theology that takes into account the cultural and socio-economic context of people's lives.

The Pastoral Ministry track helps students investigate the issues and develop the skills that will enable them to become effective in the work of religious education and youth ministry. The concentration in pastoral care prepares the graduate for lay parish ministry and chaplaincy.

The concentration in Liturgical Practice provides for the needs of those whose ministry intersects with liturgical planning for diocesan, parish, and school ministries. Within a theological, theoretical, and historical framework, the program focuses on the practical concerns of the liturgical life and worship in a Christian community.

In partnership with the Diocese of Trenton, the program offers a concentration in Church Ministry. Students who successfully complete the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry or a similar program as determined by the director, are required to complete only 30 credits for the master's degree. Other students can complete this concentration for the degree with the addition of six hours of practicum or elective courses.

Post-Master's Certificate in Pastoral Counseling

Individuals holding a graduate degree in Counseling Psychology or Social Work with an emphasis on Counseling can pursue a post-Master's certificate in Pastoral Counseling. The program requires the completion of 18 credits at La Salle. The certificate can be pursued while seeking the M.A. in Clinical-Counseling Psychology at La Salle University.

Admission Requirements

To be accepted for admission, an applicant must present:

1. Evidence of successful academic achievement in completing a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education. The transcript should be sent directly from the institution to the Graduate Religion Office at La Salle.
2. Unless a waiver is granted, a minimum of 26 credits in a combination of religion, theology, humanistic subjects, or ministry-related work.
3. The Application for Admission can be completed online at www.lasalle.edu. Alternatively, a paper application can be submitted with the stipulated fee and an accompanying essay describing one's educational and professional goals.
4. Two letters of recommendation.

The Application for Admission and further information may be obtained by contacting:

Theology and Ministry Program
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199
215.951.1335
E-mail: religion@lasalle.edu

Tuition and Fees 2009-2010

Application Fee	\$35
Online Application	free
Tuition, per credit hour	\$370
General University Fee, per semester	\$85

Tuition Assistance

Information about financial aid and application forms may be obtained from the Director of Financial Aid, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215.951.1070.

Progression Through the Program

Students need to maintain a cumulative scholastic average of "B" (3.0). Only two courses of "B-" or lower can be used to fulfill degree requirements. With the exception of students who complete the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry of the Diocese of Trenton, or a similar program approved by the director, are required to complete 36 credit hours (12 courses) for the degree. ILEM and other similarly approved students need to complete 30 credit hours (10 courses) for the degree with a concentration in Church Ministry. The *Curriculum Guide* published by the office of the graduate program in Theology and Ministry details the specific courses for each concentration. Students can obtain the guide by contacting the office at 215.951.1335.

Course Descriptions

Foundation Courses

RLE 500 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

This course will employ an intensive online format introducing students to fundamental philosophical concepts, an overview of church history, the historical-critical method of biblical scholarship, and key concepts in systematic theology. The course requires the students to employ online and traditional research skills to complete a short research paper for each of the four main topics.

RLE 501

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

This course introduces students to the theory and application of biblical interpretation methods. Students will come to understand and learn to use historical-critical method: form, redaction, source, feminist, and post-modern criticism, along with other recent approaches. Internet resources for biblical studies and biblical studies software will be introduced and evaluated.

RLE 503

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

This course offers the fundamental methods that will enable students to engage in the lifelong process of articulating a theology rooted in a developing personal and communal experience that continually dialogues with Scriptures, with diverse historical, religious, philosophical, and theological traditions, and with the physical and social sciences.

RLE 505

RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY, AND CULTURE

Mindful of the recommendation of Vatican II to “read the signs of the times,” this course examines the place of religious imagination in a world vastly changed by recent scientific, sociopolitical, and economic revolutions. Particular attention is given to the impact of modern psychology. The accompanying global shift in human consciousness and understanding not only affects the secular context of people’s lives, but has far-reaching implications for the theological and pastoral enterprises as well. The course will examine the rise of modernism and the modern self, religious imagination, questions of social justice, and a global ethics.

RLE 507

CHURCH AND MINISTRY

This course will critically examine the identity and praxis of the community called Church. Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which the church has understood and expressed itself in the past, to the issue of leadership structures and their relation to the ministry of all the baptized, to the initiatives for ecumenical unity, and to the scope of the mission of a “world church” acting as a critical dialogue partner with the pluralist and secular world of our time.

RLE 509

CHRISTOLOGY

Using the contributions of critical biblical scholarship, this course will first reconstruct, from the various Gospel accounts, the traces of what Jesus said and did during his ministry. The way Jesus seems to have faced death will be compared with the way his death and resurrection were interpreted by the early church. Moving through the Christological developments of the second to the eighth centuries, the course will finally consider how contemporary human experience impacts on current theological interpretations of Jesus and his meaning for our times.

RLE 511

RITUAL AND SACRAMENTS

After exploring the social and psychological foundations for human ritual, the course will consider the sacramental character of creation and incarnation. Particular attention will be given to developing an understanding of Jesus as the primordial sacrament, and on Church as the continuing sacrament of Jesus. Consideration of the sacraments as actualizations of the Church will be complemented with a study of the historical development of the sacraments in the different Christian traditions. Students will apply theology to sound liturgical practice in parish, school, and family.

RLE 513

PRINCIPLES OF MORAL THEOLOGY

Participants will explore the foundation of Christian ethics, with a concentration on these and similar questions: On what basis do people decide how to make moral choices? Why do we take the moral stands we do on issues facing the churches and society? Do Christians have different ways of making decisions than people from other religious or secular traditions? The course examines philosophical, sociological, and theological perspectives to these questions.

Advanced Courses – Biblical and Theological Studies**RLE 600**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

In this course students will be provided with an overview of the canon of Scripture commonly referred to as the “Old Testament.” Students will explore the general history of Ancient Israel as well as employ the historical-critical method for the interpretation of the text.

RLE 601

TORAH AND EARLY ISRAEL

The history and faith of Israel are examined from the earliest beginnings through the reign of Solomon. The text is interpreted with regard to the cultural context of the Ancient Near East. The early prophetic tradition is explored in light of Torah and the historical writings of the Hebrew Scriptures. Special attention is given to the theological significance for Christian faith.

RLE 602

THE PROPHETS

This course studies the prophets of Israel and the world in which they lived, from the division of the Israelite kingdom to the Maccabean period, to understand their message as well as the nature of the prophetic tradition and its relevance for the church today.

RLE 603

THE WRITINGS

While giving special emphasis to the book of Psalms, the Five Scrolls, Job and other wisdom materials, this course offers a study of the cultic and wisdom traditions in Israel. Special attention is given to the significance of the Psalms and Wisdom for Christian theology and devotion.

RLE 610

THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES

This course includes an introduction to Gospel literature, the writings of Paul, the text of Revelation, and other writings forming the Christian canon of Scripture. Students will gain a knowledge of the origin of the texts, their historical context, and their interpretation through the use of the historical-critical method.

RLE 615

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

This course explores the origins, structure, and general character of Matthew, Mark, and Luke with special emphasis on the theological thrusts of each gospel. Select pericopes, chosen to create an awareness of the difficulties and problems of New Testament interpretation, are taken for extensive exegesis.

RLE 616
JOHANNINE WRITINGS

With consideration of the context of the historical situation of the community in which and for which the Johannine texts were written, this course offers an examination of the Gospel and Letters of John. Emphasis is given to the theology (Christology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Ethics) of the texts and their significance for contemporary Christian faith.

RLE 617
THE LETTERS AND THEOLOGY OF PAUL

The central topic of this course is an analysis of the authentic Pauline letters, the situation and conflicts that provoked them, and the theology in and behind them. Other letters attributed to Paul (the “deutero-Pauline” literature) will also be considered.

RLE 631
THE DOCUMENTS AND THEOLOGY OF VATICAN II

Students will review the historical context that gave rise to the Council as well as the most important documents produced by Vatican II. After a thorough consideration of the theologies present in conciliar texts, students will explore the implementation and development of the Council’s teachings in the contemporary Church.

RLE 632
THEOLOGIES OF LIBERATION

While offering an in-depth consideration of the Liberation theology developed in Central and South America, the course will also provide an overview of feminist and Black theologies. Some attention will be given to the foundation of liberation theologies in the political theology of Western Europe and the general struggle for human freedom as an essential component of Gospel faith.

RLE 633
WOMEN AND RELIGION

Students will explore questions of method and concepts of gender, patriarchy, feminism, and liberation as they appear in studies of women and religion. Emphasis will be given to the perspectives that feminist theologians contribute to the theological enterprise based on a critical analysis of established feminist authors. Consideration will be given to the ways in which feminist thought provide renewed understandings of male and female identity.

RLE 641
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This course investigates the sacramental dimensions of Christian Initiation in the Early Church and the historical factors that contributed to the dissolution of the rite in the West. The biblical foundations and theology of Baptism, particularly as developed in the letters of Paul, will be complemented with a study of the development of Confirmation. A consideration of the New Testament theology of the Eucharist and an exploration of the implications of restoring the process of the rites in the contemporary Church will complete the course.

RLE 643
THE EUCHARIST

This course has two aims. The first is to offer a solid historical and theological understanding of Eucharist as a sacrament of the Christian community. The second aim is to apply the insights offered by a historical perspective and the work of contemporary theologians to the work of celebrating the Eucharist in today’s parish. Consideration will also be

given to topics such as Eucharistic devotion and the Sunday gathering of the Catholic community in the absence of a priest.

RLE 645
SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND VOCATION

Attentive to the historical development of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick, the course will also highlight the particular theology operative in the contemporary practice of the rites. The themes of relationship, commitment, forgiveness, service, and leadership will be explored as dimensions of Christian living in faith and hope.

RLE 647
HUMAN SEXUALITY AND CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Drawing on the contributions of contemporary natural and social sciences, the course will provide a critical investigation of the historical and ideological understandings of human sexuality. Building upon the notion of human sexuality and love as dimensions of human holiness, attention will be given to considering Christian marriage as a sacramental event in contemporary theological reflection as well as in historical expression.

RLE 651
MORAL ISSUES IN TODAY’S HEALTH CARE

Although health care began as a ministry of the Church, it is now secularized and commercialized, especially in the United States. Ethical questions arise as a result of this shift and the course will examine them. Topics, among others, include patient autonomy, the right to life, euthanasia, reproductive technologies, abortion, genetic engineering, research ethics, and the cost of health care. Secular as well as religious approaches will be studied.

RLE 653
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ETHICS

Catholic social teaching in general and the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter on the economy, in particular, provide a perspective for the practice of corporate business in the present culture of the United States. This course intends to explore the ethical implications of social teaching that upholds the rights of labor, insists on the dignity of the worker, and advocates a responsible distribution and use of the world’s goods. While the major emphasis is on responsibility in corporate enterprise the course also gives perspective to other professionals who provide service through profit and not-for-profit structures.

RLE 661
THE TRADITION OF THE MYSTICS

This course includes both a study of the nature of mysticism in the Judeo-Christian tradition and the study of selected writings from representatives of that tradition. Consideration will be given to the physical, psychological, and social dimensions of mystical experience as well as a theological understanding of the mystic’s encounter with the Holy.

RLE 663
THE SPIRITUAL CLASSICS

The human search for God takes a variety of forms in the Christian tradition. This course explores the path of holiness given in the writings of significant men and women from the early and Medieval periods of Christianity through the Reformation.

RLE 665

CONTEMPORARY SPIRITUALITY

This course focuses on the dynamics and authors on the spiritual life in post-Reformation Christianity. Consideration will be given to European spiritualities of the 17th through 20th centuries and to American movements. Beyond what is generally deemed traditional Christian spirituality, the course will propose some examination of Creation and New Age spiritualities, modern Evangelical Christianity, and feminist and liberation spiritualities.

RLE 670-671

SPECIAL TOPICS: BIBLICAL STUDIES

RLE 675-676

SPECIAL TOPICS: THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Advanced Courses: Pastoral Studies**RLE 701**

SERVING AND ADMINISTERING FAITH COMMUNITIES

This inter-disciplinary course provides insights from the secular disciplines on administration and management of groups of people as well as pastoral principles on the nature and function of leadership in Christian communities. It will address the various types and goals of communities of faith, the diversity of interactive and relational dynamics, the multiplicity of human needs and services, and, correspondingly, the various ways in which the ministry of leadership can be implemented.

RLE 703

MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON MINISTRY

Major cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious traditions co-existing in contemporary American communities are challenging Church and ministry. The purpose of this course is to appreciate their potential reciprocal contribution to the development of a global, interdependent Christian community. Emerging leadership insights as to how to create and empower a multicultural Christian community around issues and interests will be explored.

RLE 705

CHURCH ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

This course reviews some fundamental principles of accounting and finance with a particular emphasis on not-for-profit regulations. In addition, the course helps the manager of church finances to understand his or her contribution to church ministry. Attention will be given to dealing effectively with voluntary and compensated church ministers, church structures, and canon law.

RLE 707

CANON LAW FOR PARISH MINISTRY

After reviewing the basic principles of the Revised Code of Canon Law, students will examine the sections of the Code that pertain most directly to parish ministry. These sections include regulations concerning the celebration of the sacraments, parish administration, pre-marriage requirements, and procedures for nullity.

RLE 710

RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION AND MODELS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dynamic images, metaphors, and visions guide the theory and practice of church life. This course seeks to explore the development of appropriate models of religious education relative to the distinct visions of the Church

in contemporary culture. Various models will be explored in terms of their conceptual framework, operating principles, strengths, and limitations.

RLE 711

LEADERSHIP AND THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The communication, decision-making, and evaluative skills needed by educational leadership to meet the challenges of personal and community conversion are the central themes of this course. Participants will examine contemporary spirituality and leadership skills that promote community advancement. Strands of spirituality and systems of reflective group process will be examined for their underlying energizing principles that nurture shared responsibility, curricular interdependence, creative problem-solving, and the empowerment of people. Participants will articulate a personal and community vision reflecting transforming spirituality and enlightened leadership.

RLE 713

THE TEACHING AND HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS

This course is designed to offer a theological examination of the most recent developments in contemporary Christology. Emphasis will be given to his most characteristic title "Teacher" and to the most attractive feature of his ministry, his power to heal spiritual and physical ills. Throughout the course there will be a constant reference to the implications of a lived, prayerful relationship with Jesus the Christ for personal commitment and for one's ministry in parish, classroom, and home.

RLE 715

SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS

The course examines the process called "catechesis," its functions and dynamics, and applies the conclusions to sacramental preparation and formation programs for all ages throughout a lifetime. Its primary purpose is to help students develop programs by which the sacramental preparation of Christians of all ages is made more effective personally, and more conducive to the emergence of community.

RLE 717

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

Parish youth ministry is moving beyond youth group and religious education models. The ministry requires a comprehensive approach. This course will provide a renewed vision for youth ministry and practical programmatic approaches and strategies for proclaiming the Gospel, connecting young people to the faith community, and calling youth to discipleship.

RLE 719

PASTORAL CARE OF THE ADOLESCENT

An exploration of the developmental stage called Youth from a psychological, behavioral, social, emotional, and moral perspective serves as the foundation for this course to explore the faith and views of young people. Attention will be given to skills needed for youth to develop healthy personal, social, and professional relationships. Practical interventions and guidelines are stressed throughout the course.

RLE 721

INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL COUNSELING

This course will address the issues that make Pastoral Counseling a unique orientation to counseling psychology. The totality of human experience is addressed, the spiritual as well as the psychological, as the basis for therapeutic intervention. The basic dynamics and approaches are reviewed along with a brief history of the model. It challenges students to identify their resources of faith, meaning, and value.

RLE 723
COUNSELING THE ADOLESCENT

After identifying the particular developmental tasks for adolescence and young adulthood, this course introduces various counseling approaches to help young people achieve their desired goals. Attention will be given to individual and systems approaches for the troubled adolescent as well as developing a supportive relationship to assist in the more general patterns of growth.

RLE 725
MINISTRY TO FAMILIES IN THE FACE OF LOSS

The course will address issues of loss and mourning experienced by families as a result of physical and mental disability, job loss, aging, illness, and death. It will present an understanding of the psychological and relational impact of loss with particular reference to those who minister to families in the face of loss.

RLE 730
UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN ENCOUNTER WITH DEATH

This experientially oriented course will explore contemporary psychological approaches to death, dying, and bereavement from a spiritual perspective. Through a variety of learning modalities, including lectures, discussion, guest speakers, videos, personal sharing, journal writing, meditation, and other self-awareness exercises, we will focus on four interrelated areas: 1) personal grief journey; 2) the psychology of death and bereavement; 3) specific skills in ministering to the dying and bereaved, and; 4) human mortality, life after death, and questions of "ultimate concern."

RLE 731
PSYCHE, SPIRIT, AND THE QUEST FOR WHOLENESS

The course explores the meeting of psychology and religion in the works of C.G. Jung, Abraham Maslow, and other contemporary transpersonal psychologists. The course investigates specific methods for actualizing one's spiritual potential. Through lectures, readings, class discussions, and journal writing, students will examine the process of coming to wholeness in their lives, in their ministry, and with the culture as a whole.

Liturgical Studies

RLE 740
PERSONAL, COMMUNAL, AND LITURGICAL PRAYER

This course will investigate the theological foundations of prayer, while studying the biblical roots of prayer, the prayer of Jesus, and the major traditions of personal, communal, and liturgical prayer in the historical Christian communities. It will confront the distinct problems faced by contemporary men and women in their lives of prayer. It will offer guidance to ministers intent on helping people develop personal and communal models of prayer and involving them specifically in the liturgical prayer of the Church.

RLE 743
CELEBRATING THE RITES OF THE CATECHUMENATE

The rites of the process of Christian initiation of adults will be studied from historical, theological, liturgical, and pastoral perspectives. Beginning with the text of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, students will reflect on the order and integrity of each of the rites. Working from this foundation, they will explore appropriate ritual adaptation and will receive guidance for the adapting and enrichment of the rites.

RLE 745
AMERICAN WORSHIP

Students will investigate American worship patterns. The course will be based on regular visiting of Sunday and midweek liturgies. Students will analyze diverse Christian worship patterns in order better to understand the strengths and weakness of their own patterns. Particular attention will be given to worship services in Christian denominations that are usually considered non-liturgical.

RLE 747
EUCCHARIST AND THE JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY

Students will learn to perform the Japanese Tea Ceremony both for its own sake and for comparison with the Christian Eucharist. The philosophy of the tea ceremony will also be studied and compared with a Christian liturgical life.

RLE 749
MULTICULTURAL TRADITIONS ON LITURGY

With the increasing cultural diversity of traditional Christian churches, this course attempts to help the student explore ways to integrate various cultural traditions in the community's worship. Appreciating the directive for inculturation of the liturgical rites in the Roman Church, students will apply the fundamental dynamic to other churches as well. The topic of incorporating different cultural traditions and offering separate worship opportunities will be explored.

RLE 751
LITURGICAL ART AND ENVIRONMENT

Focusing on both church design as well as church art, liturgical objects, and vesture, this course will examine the theology and spirituality suggested by the environment and art of different historical periods. The question will be raised, "What is appropriate art and architecture for 21st-century America?" Issues regarding contemporary church design, the reordering of space, and art appropriate to a particular community will be explored. Visits to local churches and liturgies will afford considerations of historic design and liturgical adaptation.

RLE 753
LITURGICAL MUSIC

This course offers a study of both the history of liturgical music and the practical considerations for the use of music in contemporary worshipping communities. Students will have the opportunity to apply general theory to a variety of liturgical settings.

RLE 770
SPECIAL TOPICS: MINISTRY

RLE 771
SPECIAL TOPICS: MINISTRY

RLE 775
SPECIAL TOPICS: LITURGY

RLE 776
SPECIAL TOPICS: LITURGY

RLE 780**INDEPENDENT STUDY**

In consultation with the program director, a student can contract to study independently a topic not offered in the regular curriculum. The student will propose a topic, develop a tentative bibliography, and identify a faculty member from the University willing to direct the course of study. The course may be for three or six credits.

RLE 785**MINISTRY PRACTICUM**

With the approval of the Program Director, a student can contract for a supervised ministry practicum. The ministry may be the student's regular employment or a temporary position. The student will outline goals for the experience, develop a reading list, and propose a final project. A regular member of the faculty will serve as the practicum supervisor and evaluate the final project. The course may be taken for three or six credits.

RLE 790**INTEGRATIVE PROJECT AND SEMINAR**

Students complete a major project exploring a topic related to their concentration in theology, pastoral ministry, or liturgical studies. The project may take the form of a major research paper, a methodological reflection on supervised experience, or a creative presentation. Students work independently with a faculty mentor and are required to meet with other participating students and mentors for periodic seminars. An initial plan for the project must be approved by the director of the program prior to establishing an agreement with a faculty member for the independent study. Students will have one year from the time of registration to complete the project. The course is for three credits.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)

Faculty

Director: Kathleen E. Czekanski, Ph.D., R.N., CNE

Professors: Beitz, Wolf, Zuzelo

Associate Professors: Breckenridge, Frizzell, Goldberg, Wieland

Assistant Professors: Bicknell, Altmiller, Bailey, Gies, Goldberg, Gurmankin, Harkins, Hoerst, Johnson, Kavanaugh, Kinder, Lowenthal, Matecki, McGroarty, Sipe, Strayer, Suozzo, Wilby

Mission of the Nursing Programs**Mission**

Consistent with Lasallian values, the Mission of the Nursing Programs is to provide excellent nursing education and service-learning opportunities to develop culturally and clinically competent, caring nursing professionals who are prepared for a life of service, continued learning, leadership, and scholarship.

Vision

The Nursing Programs of the La Salle University School of Nursing and Health Sciences develop nursing curricula that are based on the health needs of populations and that mobilize social, political, and health-care resources for the welfare of vulnerable and under-served populations. The Nursing Programs provide nursing education and service-learning opportunities addressing the health-care needs of a diverse urban population through the La Salle Neighborhood Nursing Center, the

greater University community, and in partnerships with local, national, and international agencies. The Nursing faculty engage in collaborative programs of research, scholarship, leadership, and practice that promote the health of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.

Philosophy for Nursing Programs

Nursing is an art, science, and profession in which the relationships between nurses and those cared for are essential. The foundation of basic and advanced nursing education includes the humanities and sciences. Nursing Programs prepare students to become self-aware and sensitive to the complexity and diversity of human systems and their environments. The roles of the nurse include direct and indirect caregiver, advocate, collaborator, teacher, manager, coordinator, researcher, consultant, and administrator.

The nursing community at La Salle respects the shared humanity of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations with appreciation for autonomy, dignity, spirituality, complexity, and diversity of the people they serve. Nurses recognize that the potential for healing within the person integrates mind, body, and spirit. The programs use systems theory that views health as a dynamic state. Nurses' primary interests are human responses to health, illness, and healing.

The nursing community believes that learning is a transformative, life-long process that requires active engagement of learners. Students possess a reservoir of experience that is a continuing resource for learning. The teaching-learning environment reflects scholarship, collegiality, respect, and collaboration among learners and teachers, resulting in informed service to others and the profession.

Students develop as ethical, caring practitioners who promote health in the 21st century. La Salle graduates strengthen the nursing profession and contribute to the health of society.

Purpose of the Graduate Nursing Program

The purpose of the Master in Science in Nursing degree program is to educate baccalaureate-prepared nurses for leadership roles in clinical nursing, advanced practice, nursing education, or administration to meet the health needs of diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across various environments.

Description of Program

The program of study may be completed in any of seven tracks: Adult Health and Illness - Clinical Nurse Specialist, Clinical Nurse Leader, Nursing Administration/MBA (dual degree), Nursing Service Administration (for those with a prior MBA), Nursing Administration, Nurse Anesthetist, Primary Care of Adults - Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care of Families--Nurse Practitioner, and Public Health Nursing. The Adult Health and Illness - Clinical Nurse Specialist track includes an option for preparation as a Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist. The curriculum reflects a balance between liberal and professional education and is designed to foster intellectual inquisitiveness, analytical thinking, critical judgment, creativity, and self-direction under the guidance of quality faculty. Students are adult learners from diverse backgrounds who participate in the development of their own agendas for learning within a planned program of studies.

Learning Goals of the Graduate Nursing Program:

At the completion of the program the student will: