A Training Program in Spiritual Direction

Department of Religious Studies
502 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA  99258-0057

January 2016 - December 2017

Yes! Please send me information on and an application for “Hearing God's Voice: A Training Program in Spiritual Direction.”

If interested in receiving an application, send this section to:

Spiritual Direction Program
Department of Religious Studies
Gonzaga University
502 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA  99258-0057

or email: fulton@gonzaga.edu
or call: (509) 313-6782

Name:____________________________
Address:__________________________
City: _____________________________
State:_______ Zip Code:_____________
Telephone:________________________
Email:____________________________

☐ I would like information on overnight accommodations

Class schedule

January 15-16, 2016
February 12-13, 2016
March 11-12, 2016
April 15-16, 2016
May 13-14, 2016
September 9-10, 2016
October 14-15, 2016
November 11-12, 2016
December 9-10, 2016

The schedule for the second year is yet to be determined.
Program Goals

- To approach the experience of spiritual direction as integrated with aspects of human growth and development
- To develop skills for working with individuals and groups in spiritual direction
- To explore the diversity of spiritual/prayer traditions within Christianity
- To recognize that spiritual growth always takes place within particular cultures and contexts
- To provide sound theological foundations
- To facilitate individual discernment of a call to ministry as a spiritual director
- To foster a contemplative consciousness of God’s presence in all of life

Deadline for completed applications: September 15, 2015
Notification of acceptance: no later than October 30, 2015

Qualifications

We see the following as “ideal” qualifications for this program. Although we realize that not everyone applying will fulfill all of these prerequisites, we will give priority to admitting those who combine most of them.

We are looking for applicants who:

- Currently have a spiritual director (No one will be accepted who is not presently in spiritual direction)
- Are mature and have a depth of life experience
- Have significant experience of personal spiritual direction
- Are committed to an on-going prayer life and value personal reflection, silence and solitude
- Can reflect upon and articulate their search for God
- Are in touch with their own strengths and weaknesses
- Are approachable, compassionate listeners
- Possess a sense of call to minister as spiritual companion and have had others seek them as guides
- Are actively involved and nurtured in a faith community
- Are endorsed by their faith community in their ministry of spiritual direction (this could include individuals or groups such as a local pastor, prayer group, faith sharing group, members of their congregation)
- Are open to learning about other religious traditions
- Have a commitment to life-long learning
- Have some basic biblical/theological background (this could be in formal academic course work or less formal studies in such areas as contemporary theology, biblical studies, Christology, etc.)

Program Fees

$1,900 per year ($3,800 total)

The fee includes:
- Tuition for classes
- All class materials and books
- Lunch and snacks for each weekend
- Mentor fees

Overnight accommodations

For those coming from out of town, a limited number of rooms is available to rent on a first-come, first-serve basis at The Ministry Institute (two blocks from Gonzaga) or St. Joseph’s Center (a few blocks away). Other accommodations can be made with local hotels/motels.

Application Process

To apply please:

1. Complete the application form (available upon request)
2. Submit a spiritual autobiography (4-5 pages, guidelines provided in application)
3. Submit two recommendations stating the applicant’s suitability for such ministry
4. Submit a $25 non-refundable processing fee
5. Have an interview in person or via phone prior to acceptance

Program Format

The program consists of nine weekends per year, January-May, and September-December, both years. Each session will begin Friday night at 6:30 p.m. and run to 9 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. through 3 p.m.

Each weekend will combine prayer experiences, class content in areas of spirituality, human development, communication skills, theological foundations, small and large group processes, and faith sharing groups. Principles of adult education will provide the pedagogical foundation for all presentations.

Each session will have assigned readings related to materials covered in classes. Various approaches to prayer, personal reflection and writing processes, as well as journaling will link sessions and provide content for faith sharing groups.

There are short written assignments at the conclusion of each semester.

Participants

Participants of all Christian denominations who are called to assist others in their spiritual growth are invited to apply. Registration in the program is limited.