

Art and Practice of Spiritual Direction Flow An Internship for the Formation of Spiritual Directors

Format and Sessions

The internship in spiritual direction is taking a different shape for the next cohort. Our formation programs need to flex with changing times and resources at Mercy Center. We have adapted the essentials of over 30 years of formation experience to present Art and Practice Flow in an 18-month period, August 22, 2018—November 8, 2019. This structure combines opportunities for contemplative process, reflective community learning, closely-mentored support, expert supervision, and a deep emphasis on practicum.

Please review all of our information carefully before you begin the application process. It is imperative that you have the time and space in your life to commit to this formation process and all of its requirements—especially in this 18-month format.

Program Schedule

Sessions 1 and 4 are required residential overnight stays. Sessions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 meet Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Optional overnight stays on non-residential sessions can be reserved at an additional cost.

- **Session 1** Wednesday August 22 - Saturday, August 25, 2018
Contemplative immersion, program orientation
- **Session 2** Friday October 5 and Saturday October 6
- **Session 3** Friday November 9 and Saturday November 10
- **Session 4** Thursday January 10 - Saturday January 12, 2019
Retreat experience, Don Bisson presentations
- **Session 5** Friday March 1 and Saturday March 2
- **Session 6** Friday May 10 and Saturday May 11
- **Session 7** Friday September 6 and Saturday September 7
- **Session 8** Friday, November 8 and Saturday November 9

Program Costs

- Total program fee \$4,800, payable in three \$1,600 installments.
- First installment is due and required by August 15, 2018. Second installment is due and required no later than March 15, 2019. Third installment is due and required no later than August 15, 2019.
- Limited financial assistance will be available. You may apply for aid only after acceptance.
- We cannot arrange lower incremental payments. You may pay via MasterCard, Visa, or personal check.

Additional Costs

- Nonrefundable program application fee (\$50)
- Supervision meetings (10 at \$50/meeting, paid directly by you to your supervisor)
- Books and materials, can be purchased at Mercy Center or Amazon (about \$175)
- Optional overnight stays at sessions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (\$75/night, incl. dinner & breakfast)

Application

- March 10 – April 16, 2018 application period open.
- Attendance at all sessions is required. *If you are not able to attend all sessions, do not apply.*
- Space is limited; not all qualified applicants can be accepted for the program.



Essential Admission And Program Information

What are the admissions criteria?

Completion of Sacred Journey or an equivalent contemplative spiritual formation program. Currently in direction; and will be in ongoing spiritual direction for at least two years by August 2018. An active prayer practice and participation in a faith community.

Educational background including: some study of scripture, contemporary theology, spirituality, or psychology that supports a ministry of spiritual direction. Applicants must have access to the Internet and ability to use online communications. Applicants must be able to attend all sessions, without exception.

What are the program requirements?

- This program is a practicum. A significant amount of mentored work beyond the program sessions is required, including papers, reading assignments, supervision and spiritual direction.
- Interns must evidence a commitment to complete all tasks and assignments; and must have enough space in current life obligations to meet these requirements.
- By Session 2, interns must find 3 directees and start seeing those directees. Immediately after Session 2, interns must begin supervision with an assigned supervisor.
- Each intern must complete a total of 30 direction meetings and 10 individual supervision meetings by November 4, 2019.

Please review all program requirements and schedules. Interns must be able to attend all sessions and complete all external practicum work by required deadlines.

What are the topics covered in the Art and Practice Flow program?

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| Contemplative Attitude / Graced History | Generation and Culture in Direction |
| Contemplative Attitude toward our growing edges | Integrating Spirituality and Social Structure |
| Directing Another in Prayer | Sexuality and Spiritual Direction |
| Director's Psychological and Spiritual Growth | Marginalization and Spiritual Direction |
| Human Experience / Religious Experience | Initial Spiritual Direction Session |
| Interior Movements | Finding directees for the practicum component |
| Theological Presuppositions | Supervision and its gifts |
| Directing Another in Discernment | Discernment of call |
| Spiritual Direction and Psychology | Professional ethics of the ministry of Spiritual Direction |

Who will be leading the program?

Our core team will include Maggie Arbino, Suzanne Buckley, William Dohar, and Liz Lawhead. Presenters and mentors will include other very experienced Mercy Center adjunct staff and experts in spiritual direction.

What is the group size for the program?

A cohort of about 24 people is the right size for our experiential program. We aim to be inclusive of diverse communities, and will consider the populations that applicants are called to serve, as a criterion for acceptance to the program.



I completed Sacred Journey. Will I be accepted to Art & Practice Flow?

Sacred Journey is only one requirement. We consider all elements of each person's application, including: completion of Sacred Journey, evidence of call to the ministry, recommendations, theological preparation, and experience in contemplative listening in group settings.

I did not attend Sacred Journey. Can I still apply?

Sometimes we can waive this requirement in consideration of an applicant's ministerial background and experience in contemplative listening.

Do I need to be in spiritual direction?

Being in ongoing spiritual direction is a requirement for application to this program. You must have been in one-on-one spiritual direction for two years prior to August 2018. ***This is a firm requirement.***

I am not a Christian or Catholic, may I still apply?

Of course! We have welcomed people of a variety of denominations and faith traditions for over 30 years. While our program is based in the Judeo-Christian tradition, we welcome people of all faiths who can honor our approach and use the formation to support their specific spiritual practice. Our Mercy charism of hospitality means loving respect and welcome for all.

Who should I ask to provide a recommendation?

We suggest that you ask a mentor, ministry, or work colleague or current or past spiritual director to fill this out for you. It needs to be someone who knows you very well.

Are there any scholarships or financial aid available?

There is very limited financial aid for this program, some partial scholarship grants are available each year. Separate application process after acceptance to the program.

Who do I contact for further information about the program?

Contact Suzanne Buckley: sbuckley@mercywmw.org

Please read and review all of this information carefully. These are the most common questions related to our program. We are always happy to help you if you need more information.