

# SOCIAL JUSTICE (MA)

As disparities along ethnic/racial, economic, gender and religious lines gain prominence in the national conversation, there is a growing need for trained "change agents" to carry out the work of community development, social justice and human rights advocacy.

Faith-based community service programs, service immersion trips, and social justice projects attract high-minded "change agents" of great generosity and courage who want to serve economically disadvantaged communities, underserved and underrepresented populations, and people whose human dignity is under assault by social arrangements and structures. The post-Vatican II emphasis on a Church that sees working for justice as constitutive of the Christian life and that proposes an "option for the poor" as a pastoral standard, has spawned a growing number of talented and educated young adults who want to integrate service, social justice, and advocacy into their life patterns and career choices. With Pope Francis, the social justice movement is gaining even more momentum.

This degree program is designed to serve these change agents, offering a solid grounding in spiritual and theological foundations for this work, information about the key social justice issues today, the skills and tools of assessment and analysis in addressing these issues, best-practice strategies for effective work in advocacy and community development, contextual education at sites where social justice work is exemplary, and the practical tools of successful leadership in addressing social justice issues.

The Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago (IPS), is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. The Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) granted full accreditation to IPS on June 10, 2019.

The Association of Theological Schools  
10 Summit Park Drive  
Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110  
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The following IPS degree programs are approved by the Commission on Accrediting: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality (Professional MA), Master of Arts in Counseling for Ministry (Professional MA), Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling (Professional MA), and the Master of Arts in Social Justice (Professional MA) were also approved, as were our comprehensive online (distance education) programs.

## Related Programs

### Certificate

- Social Justice Certificate (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/institute-pastoral-studies/social-justice/social-justice-certificate/>)
- Social Justice and Social Enterprise Certificate (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/institute-pastoral-studies/social-justice/social-justice-social-enterprise-certificate/>)

### Combined

- Social Justice and Social Work (MA/MSW) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/social-justice-social-work-ma-msw/>)

## Curriculum

The MA in Social Justice is a 36 credit hour degree, including 8 core courses (24 credit hours) and 3 elective courses (9 credit hours) along with a sequence of Contextual Education (<https://www.luc.edu/ips/resources/contextualeducation/>) courses (3 credit hours total) and a capstone Integration Project (<https://www.luc.edu/ips/resources/procedures/#124694>).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
IPS 532	Social Context of Ministry	3
IPS 551	Social Ethics in the Catholic Tradition	3
IPS 610	Foundations of Social Justice	3
IPS 615	Liberation Theology	3
IPS 620	Diversity and Equity	3
IPS 625	Social Ethics: Politics and Global Economics	3
IPS 635	Community Organizing and Community Development	3
IPS 660	Leadership in Social Justice Organizations	3
<b>Electives (p. 1)</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Contextual Education</b>		
IPS 578	Contextual Education Preparation	0
IPS 579	Contextual Education Introduction	1.5
IPS 580	Contextual Education I	1.5
<b>Integration Project</b>		
IPS 593	Integration Project	0
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

## Electives

Electives (9 credit hours) are chosen in consultation with the academic advisor. Electives may be taken in IPS or in many of the other schools, colleges, academic centers and institutes at Loyola University Chicago. See your academic advisor for more details.

The following represents a list of courses across the university that would be appropriate for students in the MA in Social Justice. It is meant to be suggestive rather than exhaustive. This list is to make students aware of "sub-disciplines" within social justice as a way of exploring different career options. This list also emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of the degree and the career field. In this way, students might take multiple electives within a given field.

### Competency Area: International Development

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
PLSC 430	Theories of International Politics	3

### Competency Area: Public Policy

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
MPP 404	Public Policy Process	3
PLSC 410	Urban Politics	3
or MPP 410	Special Topics in Public Policy	

**Competency Area: Politics/Government**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
PHIL 480	Social & Political Philosophy	3
PLSC 447	American Political Thought to Civil War	3
SOWK 509	Social Work Policy and Community Intervention	3

**Competency Area: Education**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
ELPS 412	Urban Education Policy	3
ELPS 432	Multiculturalism for Social Justice in Higher Education	3
ELPS 433	Student Development in Higher Education	3
ELPS 550	Seminar on Globalization and Education	3

**Competency Area: Non-Profit Management/Communication**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
COMM 368	Ethnographic Research Methods in Communication	3
COMM 405	Story Development and Production	3
DIGH 400	Introduction to Digital Humanities Research	3
SOWK 714	Philanthropy, Public Policy, and Community Change	3

**Competency Area: Ministry**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
IPS 403	Spiritual Paths in World Religions	3
IPS 404	Theologies of Suffering	3
IPS 485	Religious Education, Evangelization & Cultures	3
IPS 570	Introduction to Theology and Ministry	3
IPS 572	Ignatian Spirituality	3
IPS 581	Contextual Education II	3

**Competency Area: Healthcare**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
BEHL 402	Justice & Health Care	3
BEHL 411	Systems Ethics Frameworks	3
LAW 761	Health Justice Policy	3

**Competency Area: Individuals and Groups**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
IPS 555	Human Person and Psychological Development	3
PSYC 460	Social Psychological Theory	3
PSYC 473	Social Development	3
SOCL 425	Inequality and Society	3
SOWK 730	Immigration Dynamics and U.S. Social Policy	3
SOWK 732	Migration, Social Justice, and Human Rights	3

## Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

## Learning Outcomes

By completing the Master of Arts in Social Justice, students will be able to demonstrate:

- Examine philosophical and theological approaches to justice with a special focus on the Catholic social tradition as these approaches address global, post-modern contexts.
- Describe a greater awareness and understanding of competing forces at the heart of conflicts over justice in various contexts and one's own location in relation to them. (poverty, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, power, inequality, religion)
- Demonstrate a spiritual maturity that drives one to fully and productively engage in diverse contexts experiencing oppression, marginalization, deprivation and conflict.
- Develop the primary skills of deep listening, dialogue, adaptive leadership, conflict transformation, relationship building, and have basic facility in the secondary skills of community organizing and development, advocacy for policy change, and practical knowledge for organizational management and social entrepreneurship.