

**FOR  
RECOMMENDATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

**SPONSOR:** Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
**CONTACT INFO:** (416) 978-0490, [vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca](mailto:vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca)

**PRESENTER:** Same as above  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** April 30, 2024 for May 8, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Change to degree name: Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS), Toronto School of Theology (TST)

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend to the Academic Board for approval the renaming of degrees. (AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.a.v.i)

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. **Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For Recommendation] (May 8, 2024)**
2. Academic Board [For Approval] (May 23, 2024)
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (June 18, 2024)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The proposal to change the degree name of the Master of Pastoral Studies received approval from the Toronto School of Theology on April 29, 2024.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal to change the degree name of the Master of Pastoral Studies to the Master of Psychospiritual Studies. This degree is offered by Emmanuel College and Knox College, which are both Member Institutions of the Toronto School of Theology (TST). The postnominal will remain as MPS.

Since 1978, U of T, TST and its seven Member Institutions have conjointly offered a series of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in theology. The relationship between U of T and TST is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement which was last renewed effective July 1, 2022.

The Master of Pastoral Studies is a 20-credit (10.0 full-course equivalents [FCE]) professional second-entry undergraduate degree that can be completed through either full-time or part-time registration. The degree has been offered by Emmanuel College since 1998 and its program has two Streams: Spiritual Care and Social Services. Emmanuel College requires MPS students to take one of three Focuses: Christian, Muslim or Buddhist. In 2016, the MPS degree was added to the suite of programs offered by Knox College. The Knox College offering has two focuses: Spiritual Care and Social Services. Students within the Spiritual Care Stream at Emmanuel College and the Spiritual Care Focus at Knox College may apply to complete the Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy as part of the MPS. The certificate is a recognized education program by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO).

The MPS program equips persons to be helping professionals in spiritual care and social services in a variety of settings, including health care, mental health, community and social services, faith-based communities or to work in the non-profit sector. One way to understand “Spiritual Care” is by thinking of it as roughly equivalent to “chaplancy” — still the preferred term in the United States. “Social Services” may be understood as helping professionals who work at the intersection of mental health, community support and facilitation, especially with marginalized groups. MPS requirements and program learning outcomes are not changing as a result of the degree name change.

The degree name is changing to better reflect the academic goals and content of the degree and to better align with the nomenclature in professional fields that many MPS graduates pursue. When TST first offered the MPS, “pastoral care” was the common language used within both the public and ecclesial spheres. Since then, the professionalization of “spiritual care” (including its critique of Christian-centrism), the spiritual-religious diversification of the Canadian population, the development of knowledge and theory in interfaith spiritual care and the need to serve folks from all and no spiritual backgrounds, most publicly funded services in Canada have removed the language of “pastoral” and replaced it with “spiritual.” The proposed degree name will be more recognizable to potential employers seeking those with training in spiritual care-related psychotherapy and social services. As well, the language of “psychospiritual studies” is inclusive of the interfaith/multi-faith content and student body in the degree. At both Emmanuel and Knox, students have been the driving force for the change in nomenclature and have identified this need consistently over the past five years.

The change is effective for all incoming students as of September 1, 2024. In-progress students in 2024-25 will be able to select whether they wish to graduate with the new degree name or graduate with the degree name that was in effect when they started the degree. The first graduation ceremony where the new degree name may be conferred is May 2025.

Consultation outside of the Toronto School of Theology has taken place with the Faculty of Arts and Science, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough. TST received helpful feedback from the Department for the Study of Religion; Department of Philosophy; Department of Psychology; Department of Psychology (FAS); the Graduate

Department of Psychological Clinical Science (UTSC) and OISE. One division pointed out the potential confusion with “psychology” due to the term “psychospiritual;” however this is mitigated by the fact that as a professional theological degree at the undergraduate level it attracts distinct applicants. Otherwise, there were no concerns of objections to the nomenclature change.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The new financial obligations resulting from this program will be met at the divisional level.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Recommended

THAT the degree name of the Master of Pastoral Studies, as described in the proposal from the Toronto School of Theology dated April 23, 2024, be renamed Master of Psychospiritual Studies approved effective September 1, 2024.

### **DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

- University of Toronto Proposal to change Degree Name

# University of Toronto

## Proposal to change Degree Name

This template (last updated by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs on November 9, 2020) is for all proposals for significant modifications to existing graduate and undergraduate programs. It aligns with UTQAP requirements and will help to ensure that all evaluation criteria established by the Quality Council are addressed in bringing forward a proposal. Separate templates have been developed for other types of proposals.

<b>Program being modified:</b> Please specify exactly what program and which components of that are being modified; e.g., BA...specialist, major and minor components.	Master of Pastoral Studies
<b>Proposed major modification:</b>	Change degree name to: Master of Psychospiritual Studies.
<b>Department/unit (if applicable):</b>	Emmanuel College and Knox College
<b>Faculty/academic division:</b>	Toronto School of Theology
<b>Dean's Office contact:</b>	Darren Dias
<b>Proponent:</b>	Darren Dias
<b>Version date:</b> Please change as you edit this proposal.	April 23, 2024

## 1 Summary

---

- Please provide a brief summary of the change(s) being proposed as it relates to the current structure of the program.

This is a proposal to change the name of the Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) degree to Master of Psychospiritual Studies. The postnominal will remain MPS.

The Master of Pastoral Studies is a second-entry undergraduate degree program, also known at TST as a basic degree, that equips persons for competent leadership in specialized areas of service and/or care. Basic degree programs are first theological degree programs following a bachelor's degree. TST and the University of Toronto understand the basic degree programs as second-entry undergraduate programs: second-entry because they presuppose previous university study, and undergraduate because they introduce students to a new academic subject. Programs considered second-entry undergraduate are often considered post-graduate in the United States.. The MPS is a 20 credit (10.0 FCE) two-year full-time program and can be completed through either full-time or part-time registration. The MPS is offered through Emmanuel College and Knox College.

While the degree continues (as it has since its inception) to educate students to serve in the professional practices of spiritual care in institutional bodies and social services, the profession of spiritual care and its titling have changed considerably since the inception of the MPS degree at TST (1998). The language of "pastoral" is no longer considered appropriate in public institutions and non-ecclesial settings. Removing the language of "pastoral" is in line with all major public healthcare institutions across Canada. Replacing "pastoral" with "psychospiritual" will be more inclusive of our interfaith/ multi-religious/diversely-spiritual student body, more descriptive of the learning outcomes of the MPS degree and more recognizable to employers (see the following sections for more details). The language of "psychospiritual" also aligns with changes in the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS), the national professional association that certifies professionals in spiritual care and psychospiritual therapy.

The term "psychospiritual," while not yet common terminology for education programs, is an accurate descriptor of the integration of psychological and spiritual (or theological) knowledge for practices of care and service central to the program. It is also an umbrella term, covering the content of the program for students who seek to become Registered Psychotherapists and those who seek to work in other contexts of care and social service.

Both Emmanuel and Knox Colleges require students to register in one of two pathways through the degree: 1. Spiritual Care; 2. Social Services. At Emmanuel these are Streams, while at Knox these are Focuses. There is also an optional in-program

second admission Category 2 Certificate, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy, available to those in the Spiritual Care Stream/Focus. Completion of the MPS with the SCP Certificate is recognized by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) as meeting the minimum education requirements for registration (licensure).

Emmanuel College furthermore requires students to register in one of three Focuses for the MPS: Christian, Muslim, Buddhist.

## 2 Effective Date

---

September 1, 2024.

## 3 Academic Rationale

---

- What are the academic reasons for the change proposed, and how do they fit with the unit's and division's academic plans?

### Description of the program:

The Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) is a professional master's program with full-time and part-time registration options offered at both Emmanuel College and Knox College. The degree was approved and officially opened at Emmanuel College in 1998 with two Streams – Pastoral Care and Social Services. (A third Stream, Worship and Preaching, was added in 2009; it was closed in 2024 with only two students ever to have completed it.) The "Pastoral Care" stream was renamed "Spiritual Care" in 2016 for reasons explained below. The degree was added to the suite of programs offered by Knox College in 2016 with three focuses corresponding to the three Emmanuel College Streams: Spiritual Care, Social Services, Congregational Leadership (i.e. Worship and Preaching). (The Congregational Leadership Focus was closed in 2024 with only one student ever to have completed it.)

The MPS program equips persons to be helping professionals in spiritual care and social services in a variety of settings, including healthcare, mental health, community and social

services, faith-based communities or to work in the non-profit sector. One way to understand “Spiritual Care” is by thinking of it as roughly equivalent to “chaplaincy” – still the preferred term in the United States. “Social Services” may be understood as helping professionals who work at the intersection of mental health, community support and facilitation especially with marginalized groups. In both streams/foci of the MPS program, the integration of faith-based knowledge combined with theories from psychology, social sciences as well as theories and practices of spirituality are central for professional formation. Students complete twenty semester-length courses to root spiritual understandings in a faith foundation and develop a spiritually-oriented approach to care and social services.

Students within the Spiritual Care Stream/Focus may be eligible to apply to the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate (MPS, SCP Cert.), an offering within the MPS degree program. The certificate is a recognized education program by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO). MPS graduates who have completed the Spiritual Care Stream/Focus will have completed the educational requirements to move toward certification with the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS) as spiritual care practitioners with focus in healthcare, Canadian Armed Forces, prison or community-based spiritual care/chaplaincy. Some graduates of the MPS who have completed the SCP Cert. seek both registration with the CRPO and certification with CASC/ACSS.

The Social Services Stream/Focus is still developing its market. Graduates can move into areas where registration (CRPO) or certification (CASC/ACSS) is not required or expected. Examples include urban faith-based outreach centres, social service agencies, non-profits, prisons, child services.

The current degree program structure at Emmanuel is presented in Appendix C. It consists of 20 courses (10.0 FCE): seven theological foundation courses specific to the faith tradition Focus (Christian, Muslim, Buddhist), four courses pertaining to the Stream (Spiritual Care, Social Services), five courses chosen from lists of designated electives, three open elective courses, and one capstone course.

The current degree program structure at Knox is presented in Appendix C. It consists of 20 courses (10.0 FCE): seven Christian theological foundation courses, seven courses pertaining to the Focus (Spiritual Care, Social Services), five open elective courses, and one capstone course.

Both colleges' degree programs include a two-course (1.0 FCE) mandatory practicum. Certain courses are shared between both colleges; for example, the capstone course for both colleges (EMP3541H) is taught at Emmanuel, while the Psychotherapeutic Theories course for the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy certificate (KNP3521H) is taught at Knox.

**History of the degree:**

When the Master of Pastoral Studies degree was opened at Emmanuel in 1998, the intention was to offer education to those seeking to develop skills in “pastoral care” (i.e. now called “spiritual care”) for congregational and institutional settings (healthcare, corrections, long-term care, hospice care, etc.). Graduates who completed the MPS degree at this time who opted to serve in institutional spiritual care normally proceeded through the certification process of what is now known as the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS) as a pathway for professional recognition. This degree allowed for folks other than those ordained in the church to be educated in the arts and skills of pastoral/spiritual care and to serve in public settings with the certification of a national professional association (which is not a licensing body, but whose certification is broadly recognized in the profession).

At the time, “pastoral care” was the common language used within both the public and ecclesial spheres. Since then, however, with the professionalization of “spiritual care” (including its critique of Christian-centrism), the spiritual-religious diversification of the Canadian population, the development of knowledge and theory in interfaith spiritual care and the need to serve folks from all and no spiritual backgrounds, most publicly funded services in Canada have removed the language of “pastoral” and replaced it with “spiritual.” An example of this is in the changing of the name of “pastoral care” departments to “spiritual care” departments across almost all major health care institutions in Canada. Similarly, it is notable that in 2011 the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC/ACSS) changed its name from the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE) precisely because “Pastoral” no longer represented the multi-spiritual, interfaith, secularly accessible practice its members offered. <https://www.spiritualcare.ca/history.html> . In response to this change in the area’s nomenclature, Emmanuel College renamed the Spiritual Care Stream of the MPS in 2016XX.

After having many non-Christian students study at Emmanuel College in order to access the requisite courses for CASC/ACSS certification, the MPS, Muslim focus (2012) and MPS,



Buddhist focus (2015) were approved, providing interfaith/multifaith education in spiritual care through Emmanuel College.

With the anticipated regulation of psychotherapy in Ontario (2011-2015), most spiritual care professionals serving in healthcare in Ontario recognized their practice of spiritual care fell within the province's regulated definition of psychotherapy and, therefore, opted to be grandparented into the newly formed College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO). Recognizing that the TST had long been the premier site for the education of spiritual care professionals and psychospiritual therapists (formerly called pastoral counsellors) in Ontario (and Canada), it became clear that the TST needed to evolve its offerings to respond to the change in the professional landscape by revising the MPS degree. By doing so, those serving in spiritual care who had developed competence in "spiritually-integrated psychotherapy" would be able to seek recognition by the provincial regulating body in addition to or in place of the long-time CASC/ACSS certification process (depending on desired place of employment). Emmanuel College began the process to revise the MPS, and Knox College opted to also add the MPS degree program in its suite of offerings, which was approved through a major modification in 2016. The two colleges began working together to develop and implement the revised MPS – hence the similar program structures and requirements.

At the same time, Emmanuel and Knox developed a certificate program to be offered in conjunction with the MPS, the academic content of which was approved as a recognized program by the CRPO – the MPS, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate (MPS, SCP Cert.).

**The in-conjunction Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate:**

The certificate is a category 2 certificate under the [Policy on Certificates \(For-Credit and Not-For-Credit\)](#). It prepares people for careers in counselling as psychotherapists; it may only be taken in conjunction with the MPS Spiritual Care Stream/Focus and requires an in-program admission application. This certificate was approved by TST in 2016 and recognized by the CRPO in 2018. Since 2016 the MPS, SCP Cert. has become a very popular program option at both colleges. Students in the MPS Spiritual Care Stream/Focus apply to the Certificate after having completed a minimum of 5 courses and having been accepted into a practicum. Students complete the Certificate through their elective space in the MPS degree by

selecting a curated set of courses from designated lists to achieve coverage of skills and knowledge required for practicing psychotherapists.

The **MPS with SCP Certificate is considered comparable to a master's degree in counselling or clinical psychology**, in that it prepares persons for licensure/registration as therapists. Other theological schools embedded in or related to public universities in Ontario understand their equivalent to the MPS degree as a graduate-level master's degree (see, for example, the direct comparator at Martin Luther University College/Wilfrid Laurier University: Master of Arts (Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy) and the Master in Psychotherapy and Spirituality (MPS) at St. Stephen's, in the University of Alberta). Many MPS students in the Spiritual Care Stream/Focus apply for admission both to the TST colleges and to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Master of Education in Counselling Psychology, especially students in the Buddhist Focus, indicating that potential students see the programs as equivalent in terms of outcomes.

**Rationale for the name change:**

There are a number of reasons why we believe it is essential to change the name of the degree to remove the Christian and ecclesial-associated language of "Pastoral" with the language of "Psychospiritual" for the MPS degree:

As noted above, in public parlance and also now in theological education, the **language of "Pastoral" (Master of "Pastoral" studies) no longer communicates what it used to communicate and therefore does not adequately describe the degree**. At this point in time, this language designates a Christian congregational leadership degree rather than a spiritual care, social services or psychotherapy degree, which was how it was previously understood. In contemporary theological education, the Master of Pastoral Studies is usually used to designate preparation for congregational leadership (often but not always as a lay leader). Spiritual care and/or counselling programs are usually named specifically as such, with nomenclatures such as Master of Counselling, Master of Arts in Counselling, and similar. The new degree name, Master of Psychospiritual Studies, better reflects the academic goals and content of both current Streams/Focuses (Spiritual Care and Social Services) than Master of Pastoral Studies. Spiritual Care, which integrates disciplines of psychology and theology/spirituality in preparing people for caring professions such as hospital or military chaplaincy and spiritually-informed psychotherapeutic practice, is an obvious candidate for the new nomenclature. The Social Services Stream/Focus similarly integrates disciplinary

knowledge of psychology and theology/spirituality in preparing people for employment in agencies or institutions where licensure/certification is not required or expected – especially community-based agencies that serve the general public. The change in nomenclature would also allow for flexibility in terms of future streams that might be contemplated.

**The change in nomenclature also aligns with the change in nomenclature in professional fields that many graduates enter.** Besides the national association changing its name in 2011 (noted above), in 2022, CASC/ACSS also changed the nomenclature of its educational programs. “Supervised Pastoral Education” became “Supervised Psychospiritual Education” (SPE), with two different streams: Clinical Psychospiritual Education (CPE) and Psychospiritual Therapy Education (PTE). See [www.spiritualcare.ca/overview.html](http://www.spiritualcare.ca/overview.html). As part of their practicum requirements for the degree, students in the MPS, SCP Cert. program are required to complete at least one unit of SPE under a dually recognized CASC/ACSS certified and CRPO-recognized Supervisor. This enables students to begin the process toward certification with CASC/ACSS as Certified Spiritual Care Practitioners or Certified Psychospiritual Therapists (as well as CRPO recognition). Many of our graduates seek such certification. Similarly, while there is some flexibility, CPE (clinical psychospiritual education) is the primary practicum option for students in both streams/foci of the MPS.

**The change in nomenclature better equips graduates to explain their degree to potential employers.** Graduates usually seek employment in mental health and health care contexts, in private practice, and community and social services agencies. Currently, students have to be coached to explain how their degree combines psychotherapeutic approaches with spirituality, because “pastoral” does not adequately communicate their competencies. Even graduates seeking employment as a counsellor in faith-based institutions such as congregations have to explain their degree nomenclature, since “pastoral” is now typically understood to mean congregational leadership rather than spiritual care or counselling. The proposed nomenclature better communicates the outcomes of the degree (see below in section 4) and is succinctly descriptive of the content of the degree, which combines psychotherapeutic knowledge and practice with spirituality and spiritual practice. It sends a clearer signal to employers about graduates’ skills and knowledge. Broader terms such as psychology or counselling, while sometimes used in theological education, are not as accurate in conveying the integration of psychology with spirituality.

Graduates of the program who have not sought licensure with the CRPO have secured jobs with employers including: University Health Network (as a Spiritual Care Therapist); Salvation

Army Yorkwoods Community Church (as a community ministry worker; Social Services graduate); Evangel Hall Mission (Social Services graduate). Graduates who have received licensure from CRPO have secured jobs with employers including: Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility; Maplehurst Correctional Facility; Hopewood Counselling Centre; University Health Network; Lakeridge Health Oshawa; Sarnia Hospice; Community Counselling Centre of London; Kelowna General Hospital; and several have set up private practice as a psychotherapist.

**The language of “psychospiritual studies” is inclusive of the interfaith/multi-faith content and student body in the degree.** As noted, “Pastoral” is a Christian theological term, and the program is multi-faith and interfaith with significant Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jewish populations. Students in the Buddhist, Muslim and Christian foci at Emmanuel take faith foundations courses in their own traditions and in interfaith and multifaith spiritual care and psychotherapy practice. Across the MPS student population, especially among those in non-Christian traditions, there is a desire for the name change (as noted below under section 5).

**The Association of Theological Schools Commission on Accrediting (ATS-COA), the major accrediting body for theological education in North America,** does not have a standard nomenclature for spiritual care or counselling degree programs. However, such programs usually have a nomenclature that reflects the content of the program rather than the generic “Master of Pastoral Studies.” **We have consulted with the ATS-COA about the proposed name change** and they have no concerns about it. While the language of “psychospiritual studies” is not normative in the United States, in Canada through the CASC/ACSS professional association the language of “psychospiritual” is becoming normalized. At the moment, there are no other degrees with this titling that we could find. Normally, ATS degrees of this sort are “MA in..” programs, not requiring a prior theological degree but rather a bachelor’s degree in humanities or social sciences. Martin Luther University College (MLUC) at Wilfrid Laurier University has a degree program that is similar but uses the nomenclature “Master of Arts in Theology (Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy)”. Like our MPS program, it admits students without a prior theological degree, and like our MPS, SCP Cert., it is a recognized educational program by the CRPO. Tyndale Seminary at Tyndale University has a Master of Arts in Clinical Counselling program, which is a three-year program with a prerequisite of four undergraduate psychology courses (2.0 FCE). Tyndale, a private University in Ontario, also has a Master of Divinity (Counselling) program – a three-year program. Both are recognized educational programs by the CRPO. In Alberta, St. Stephen’s College (affiliated with the University of Alberta), has a Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality degree program, a two-

year program, while Providence Seminary at Providence University College in Manitoba offers a two-year Master of Arts (Counselling) and a three-year Master of Arts (Counselling Psychology). All of these programs are our direct comparators, and all except the Tyndale MDiv have names directly descriptive of the programs. The change in the degree name from “Pastoral Studies” to “Psychospiritual Studies” reflects an evolution in nomenclature already underway in the theological education landscape in Canada.

Even though there are not other degrees with this title that we could find, since the name aligns with the language used by a Canadian professional association and since TST has the premier program of this kind in Canada, we believe the name change will reflect our leadership in this kind of education. In the North American context, our US comparators use “chaplaincy” rather than “spiritual care” language; and in the US there is a divide between spiritual care (chaplaincy) and psychotherapy in terms of professional regulation. Thus the US comparators will continue to use “MA in ...” language.

**The proposed name change will be more readily identifiable potential for employers** seeking employees in spiritual care, psychotherapy and social services. As noted, in Ontario, psychotherapy is a regulated profession under the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO), including the modality of “spiritually-integrated psychotherapy.” This program prepares students who complete the Category 2 Certificate in “Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy” within the degree to apply to the CRPO for registration. Since the “SCP Certificate” only appears on transcripts but not on parchments, the proposed nomenclature change will be more readily identifiable for employers seeking Registered Psychotherapists as well as those who seek to serve in pluralistic public contexts of spiritual care and social services. In consultations with potential and present employers of MPS graduates, there was overwhelming agreement that the name of the degree should change to better represent its content and the competencies with which students graduate. In our consultations regarding the degree name change we heard from Supervisors and Managers within several healthcare institutions, centres for hospice and long-term care, community outreach centres and shelters, counselling centres and collaboratives, etc. Across the board, they affirmed the need for the name change and agreed that Master of Psychospiritual Studies more aptly represented the education and professional formation of our graduates. Please see below in section 6 on the affirmations from employers, and the appended letters in Appendix D.

**Students have requested the change in nomenclature for years.** The change will allow more effective recruitment into a program that is primed for substantial growth. The change in

nomenclature would signal to students that the colleges have listened to their concerns and are realigning the nomenclature to be consistent with the content of the program and employment opportunities. Please see below in section 5 on the details on consultation with students.

**Finally, changing the name to Master of Psychospiritual Studies will enable the letter designation/short-form – MPS – to continue to be used.** The continuity in degree short-form **allows for continuity** with what has become a highly successful program. Since we seek no changes to the content, competencies and Program Learning Outcomes of the program, we believe it is important to signal the continuity of the program requirements through the continuity of the short-form letter designation, MPS.

## 4 Description of the Proposed Major Modification(s)

---

- Please describe in detail what changes are being proposed. Major modifications include changes to the program requirements that will significantly change what students will know and be able to do when they complete the program.
- Other major modifications that may be included are significant changes to admission requirements, significant changes to faculty engaged in program; and a change to mode of delivery, change to the language of the program and offering the program at another location or institution.
- Please be explicit about how the learning outcomes have changed and include both previous and proposed learning outcomes or one version of the current learning outcomes with the new learning outcome in track changes. You may wish to use Appendices A and B.
- Describe how the modification reflects [universal design principles](#) and/or how the potential need to provide mental or physical health accommodations has been considered in the development of this modification.
- Describe how the program structure and delivery methods promote student well-being and resiliency in the learning and teaching environment.
- Describe any elements that support a sense of community in the program.

- Please provide calendar copy in track changes or changes highlighted in Appendix C.

No changes to the requirements of the degree are proposed other than to the degree nomenclature. All course titles currently use the nomenclature “psychospiritual,” “psychotherapy,” “counselling” or “spiritual care” instead of “pastoral.”

There are no changes to the program learning outcomes (PLOs) as noted above in the Academic Rationale. Program learning outcomes are more accurately reflected by the name change. For example, the content of the following program outcomes: “Provide evidence of critical self-awareness with respect to their own and other faith perspectives and practices of spiritual care/therapeutic practices in a variety of contexts;” “Ability to analyze the insights of the humanities [etc.] in the practice of spiritual leadership/care or therapy;” “Ability to develop strategies to foster spiritual/psycho-spiritual growth ... to promote therapeutic and healing goals...” are more directly connected to the proposed new nomenclature.

As well, course titles in the program will require NO change as they are more accurately reflected by the proposed new program title. For example: KNP3521: Psychotherapeutic Theories for Spiritual Care; EMP3521 Professional Ethics for Spiritual Care & Psychospiritual Therapy; EMP3541 Integrating Theory and Practice: Spiritual Care & psychospiritual Therapy, etc.

## 5 Impact of the Change on Students

---

- Outline the expected impact on continuing students, if any, and how they will be accommodated.
- Please detail any consultation with students.

### **Impact:**

Students registered in the MPS at the time of the proposal’s effective date of September 1, 2024, will be given the option to have their degree conferred with the new name starting with the Emmanuel and Knox once-yearly convocations in May 2025. Students entering the MPS as of September 1, 2024, will be subject to the new

degree nomenclature. Graduates prior to May 2025 will not have the option of changing their parchment to reflect the new nomenclature.

Each college will notify all returning students in Fall 2024, both in writing and in MPS student gatherings, to confirm which degree name they will choose on their parchment. This will be confirmed by students in writing and held in their files in the registrar's office. Graduating students will also be required to confirm in writing their degree titling choice when they apply for graduation.

**Consultation:**

At both colleges, students have been the driving force for the change in nomenclature and have identified this need consistently over the past five years.

Consultation at Emmanuel College involved College-wide Town Hall gatherings, individual and small group consultation with MPS students, MPS student gatherings, written feedback through our graduating Students Questionnaire as well as through student society representation on the EC Basic Degree Committee. Particularly the Emmanuel non-Christian identifying students have raised concerns and confusion about the title of the degree since 2018, with an increased number of students coming from diverse spiritual and religious backgrounds due to recognition of the MPS, SCP Cert. by the CRPO. In November of 2022, the Emmanuel College students and faculty met for a conversation regarding our shared commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (attended by 80 students). One of the primary recommendations emerging from that gathering was that efforts be made to change the name of the MPS degree to communicate more clearly its content and not to privilege Christian discourse in its titling.

Consultation at Knox College involved:

- A post on the discussion board in the Quercus site for the MPS program with invitation for discussion. The original post was on October 2, 2023, with the discussion thread remaining open until November 1.
- A discussion at the MPS student gathering held in combined in-person and Zoom format, on October 31, 2023.
- The results of the consultation were overwhelmingly in favour of the nomenclature change. Students appreciated both the proposed change and the consultation process. Sample comments: "I have asked for this before and



have often wondered if and when this will take place”; “I often have to explain what I’m studying ... to those who are not church-involved or are of a different faith, the term ‘pastoral’ doesn’t hold any meaning, in my experience”; “I have experienced communication difficulties when trying to explain my degree to prospective employers and with banking managers when applying for a student loan.”

## 6 Consultation

---

- Describe the impact of the major modification on other programs and any consultation undertaken with the Dean and chair/director of relevant academic units.

The change in nomenclature will have no impact on any other programs at either Emmanuel or Knox Colleges. Other TST colleges considering offering a spiritual care and/or counselling degree have been consulted through their heads of colleges and their faculty and student representatives on TST Councils. All are unanimous in their agreement that the change in degree title is needed, and they have signified their support of the proposed name change – Master of Psychospiritual Studies.

Both colleges have discussed the name change with their faculties and Basic Degree Committees and have unanimous agreement. As well, both colleges have brought the name change forward to their respective Governing bodies (Victoria University Senate Executive, Knox College Board) and there is unanimous support for the name change.

TST-wide consultation began with the Basic Degree Council (Sept 18, 2023) and through TST Academic Council (Sept 25, 2023), wherein both Councils discussed the name change and the rationale and voted unanimously in favour of the change.

As noted above, potential and present employers of MPS graduates were widely consulted regarding the name change. In the last few years, several employers through the reference checking process, inquired about the degree, curious to understand its content. Clinical Supervisors for our embedded practica have had several opportunities to discuss the potential name change over the last couple of years and offered overwhelmingly positive feedback on the proposed change. As

well, for this proposal we reached out to more present and potential employers. Our consultations included connecting with Managers and Supervisors within several healthcare centres, long-term care and hospice centres, corrections, educational facilities that offer spiritual care/counselling, community-based outreach providers and shelters, counselling collaboratives and community-based mental health initiatives. Across the board, they supported the change of name for the degree, noting the importance of communicating the skills and competencies of our MPS graduates. As a signal of the widespread support, several letters by present and potential employers have been submitted in affirm of our proposed name change (please see appendix D).

The proposal was sent to U of T divisions with offerings in the broader areas of counselling and psychology for consultation on April 8, 2024. It was sent to the Dean's offices of the: Faculty of Arts & Science (FAS); Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE); University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM); and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC). Through the Dean's offices, TST received helpful feedback from the Department for the Study of Religion; Department of Philosophy; Department of Psychology; Department of Psychology (FAS); the Graduate Department of Psychological Clinical Science (UTSC) and OISE. One division pointed out the potential confusion with "psychology" due to the term "psychospiritual;" however this is mitigated by the fact that as a professional theological degree at the undergraduate level it attracts distinct applicants. Otherwise, there were no concerns of objections to the nomenclature change.

## 7 Resources

---

- Describe any resource implications of the change(s) including, but not limited to, faculty complement, space, libraries and enrolment/admissions.
- Describe any resources that enhance the learning and teaching environment, including resources to promote student well-being and resiliency in the learning and teaching environment. *You may also wish to highlight specific aspects of the following resources and supports as appropriate for the proposed program:*
  - ▶ Library
  - ▶ Co-operative Education

- ▶ Academic Advising (including international student advising)
- ▶ Teaching and Learning Office
- ▶ Technology Support for Teaching and Learning
- ▶ Distance/Online Learning
- ▶ Peer Learning Support
- ▶ Disabilities/Accessibility Services
- ▶ Student Academic Support Services
- ▶ Academic Computing Services
- ▶ Other unit- or program-specific supports/services
- Please be specific where this may impact significant enrolment agreements with the Faculty/Provost's Office.
- Indicate if the major modification will affect any existing agreements with other institutions, or will require the creation of a new agreement to facilitate the major modification (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding, Memorandum of Agreement, etc). Please consult with the Provost's Office ([vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca](mailto:vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca)) regarding any implications to existing or new agreements.

Resources will be needed to update websites and promotional material and communicate with existing students, faculty and staff to ensure all are aware of this change. All can be handled through existing channels.

Both Emmanuel and Knox will notify the Association of Theological Schools of the change in nomenclature; no petition is required. As noted above, ATS has been consulted and has indicated the change is minor and acceptable.

The MPS, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate Common Stream Committee, through Emmanuel and Knox, will need to notify the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) of the change in nomenclature, as the SCP Certificate within the MPS is a recognized educational pathway to becoming a Registered Psychotherapist. According to CRPO ([www.crpo.ca](http://www.crpo.ca)), only a letter is required.

## 8 UTQAP Process

---

The UTQAP pathway is summarized in the table below.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Approvals</b>
Development/consultation within unit	Nomenclature change: Emmanuel: April 19, 2023 - faculty motion to proceed; Knox: May 17, 2023 - faculty motion to proceed.
VPAP Sign-off	April 11, 2024
Unit approval	Emmanuel: Victoria Senate Executive approved December 12, 2023. Motion from minutes included here: <i>“Professor Pamela McCarroll moved, seconded by Kacy Lin, that the Emmanuel College Master of Pastoral Studies program modification to change the nomenclature to ‘Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS)’ be approved. The motion CARRIED unanimously.”</i>  Knox: Knox Board of Governors approval March 1, 2024
Faculty/divisional council	April 29, 2024
Committee on Academic Policy and Programs	May 8, 2024
Academic Board (final approval)	May 23, 2024
Executive Committee (confirmation)	June 17, 2024
Ontario Quality Council — reported annually	July 2024

## 9 Appendix A: Current Learning Outcomes and Degree Level Expectations

Address how the design, structure, requirements and delivery of the program support the [program learning outcomes](#) and [degree level expectations \(DLEs\)](#) .

**There is no change to the PLOs and DLEs. They are included here for reference.**

<b>Baccalaureate/Bachelor’s degree: Honours (DLE)</b>	<b>General Degree-Level Expectations (DLE’s) for Basic Degree Programs:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following	<b>Learning Outcomes for Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) Program:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:
<p><b>1. Depth and breadth of knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Developed knowledge and critical understanding of the key concepts, methodologies, current advances, theoretical approaches and assumptions in a discipline overall, as well as in a specialized area of discipline;</li> <li>b) Developed understanding of many of the major fields in a discipline including, where appropriate, from an interdisciplinary perspective, and how the fields may intersect with fields in related disciplines;</li> <li>c) Developed ability to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Gather, review, evaluate and interpret information; and</li> <li>ii. Compare the merits of alternate hypotheses or creative options,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and critical comprehension of the methods, sources, and norms of the faith tradition(s) engaged by the member College, including, a respectful, comparative dialogue with Christian belief(s) or other spiritual tradition(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and critical understanding of their religious or spiritual heritage, including its sacred texts; history; traditions of thought/tenets of the faith; faith- based ethics; cultural and multi- faith contexts; and practice of spiritual-religious leadership;</li> <li>• Developed awareness of current issues in global religious thought, life, and practice;</li> <li>• Developed a thorough understanding of theory and practice of psycho-spiritual therapy and spiritual care- Spiritual Care &amp; Psychotherapy Stream (SCP);</li> <li>• Developed comprehensive and discriminating familiarity with at least one tradition within their faith focus; and</li> <li>• Developed knowledge and familiarity with diverse religious/spiritual traditions.</li> </ul>

Major Modification Proposal: Significant Modifications to Existing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

<b>Baccalaureate/Bachelor’s degree: Honours (DLE)</b>	<b>General Degree-Level Expectations (DLE’s) for Basic Degree Programs:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following	<b>Learning Outcomes for Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) Program:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:
<p>relevant to one or more of the major fields in a discipline;</p> <p>d) Developed, detailed knowledge of and experience in research in an area of the discipline;</p> <p>e) Developed critical thinking and analytical skills inside and outside the discipline; and</p> <p>f) Ability to apply learning from one or more areas outside the discipline.</p>		
<p><b>2. Knowledge of methodologies</b>            An understanding of methods of enquiry or creative activity, or both, in their primary area of study that enables the student to:</p> <p>a) Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems using well established ideas and techniques;</p> <p>b) Devise and sustain arguments or solve problems using these methods; and</p> <p>Describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research or equivalent advanced scholarship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to articulate what the dominant methodologies are in an area of focus (e.g. scriptural, historical, practical, systematic, etc.) and to evaluate their role in developing theological arguments;</li> <li>• Ability to critically engage current scholarship on methods, sources and norms of the faith or spiritual tradition(s) engaged by the member College.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to explain critical distinctions between authoritative primary sources and relevant secondary sources for the study of their respective religious or spiritual heritage and the practice of spiritual leadership;</li> <li>• Ability to apply techniques of enquiry, interpretation, analysis, and construction to primary and secondary sources in order to test premises and perspectives and to acquire knowledge; Critical evaluation of current research and interpretation in the study of sacred texts, theology/ tenets of the faith, the history of their religious or spiritual tradition, and faith-based ethics within their tradition, and integrate this with established understandings in spiritual care/ spiritually integrated psychotherapy, social services, or congregational leadership; and</li> <li>• Ability to conduct library research, develop and support a sustainable argument in written form, or in application to specialized spiritual leadership practices such as spiritual care/ spiritually integrated psychotherapy, social services, or congregational leadership.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Application of Knowledge</b>            The ability to review, present and critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative information to:</p> <p>a) Develop lines of argument;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to employ appropriate methodologies, sources and norms of at least one Christian or spiritual tradition to:</li> </ul>	<p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply classroom learning, research skills, theological/ spiritual reflection and communication under supervised experiences;</li> <li>• Explain critical perspectives on, and practical expertise in, the tasks of spiritual leadership as applied to pastoral practice;</li> <li>• Identify an issue in their practice in a field setting, reflect on it critically, situate it theologically, historically, and culturally, and consider and</li> </ul>

Major Modification Proposal: Significant Modifications to Existing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

<b>Baccalaureate/Bachelor’s degree: Honours (DLE)</b>	<b>General Degree-Level Expectations (DLE’s) for Basic Degree Programs:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following	<b>Learning Outcomes for Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) Program:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:
<p>b) Make sound judgments in accordance with the major theories concepts and methods of the subject(s) of study;</p> <p>c) Apply underlying concepts, principles, and techniques of analysis, both within and outside the discipline;</p> <p>d) Where appropriate use this knowledge in the creative process; and</p> <p>The ability to use a range of established techniques to:</p> <p>a) Initiate and undertake critical evaluation of arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and information;</p> <p>b) Propose solutions;</p> <p>c) Frame appropriate questions for the purpose of solving a problem;</p> <p>d) Solve a problem or create a new work; and</p> <p>e) Make critical use of scholarly review and primary sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engage in respectful dialogue with other disciplines and traditions;</li> <li>○ Interpret cultural contexts;</li> <li>○ Formulate theological arguments;</li> <li>○ Communicate theological concepts;</li> <li>○ Exercise responsible citizenship, and social leadership; and</li> <li>● Critical use of established concepts and techniques to address problems and analyze contextual concerns.</li> </ul>	<p>compare alternative approaches to it whether in spiritual care/spiritually integrated psychotherapy, social services or congregational leadership;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply diverse methods to the cultural contexts of the student’s specialization; and</li> <li>● Provide evidence of critical self- awareness with regard to their own and other faith perspectives and practices of spiritual care/therapeutic practices in a variety of contexts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Communication Skills</b>            The ability to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to foster a safe and respectful environment within which to communicate arguments and analyses effectively and collegially, orally and in writing, to a range of different audiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to plan and carry out effective and collegial communication both verbally and in writing;</li> <li>● Developed communication skills that include the demonstration of growth in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness; and</li> <li>● Ability to plan, design and carry out initiative, responsibility, and accountability in personal relationships and group contexts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge</b>            An understanding of the limits to their own knowledge and ability, and an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits to knowledge and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness of limits of knowledge within the methods, sources, and articulated norms of faith/spirituality.</li> <li>● Respectful engagement with socio-cultural influences, perspectives of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to analyze the insights of the humanities, the social sciences, the arts, and the natural sciences in their study of the several disciplines included within theological education and in the practice of spiritual leadership/care or therapy, respectful of insights from the spectrum of theological traditions and socio-cultural backgrounds;</li> </ul>

Major Modification Proposal: Significant Modifications to Existing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs

<b>Baccalaureate/Bachelor’s degree: Honours (DLE)</b>	<b>General Degree-Level Expectations (DLE’s) for Basic Degree Programs:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following	<b>Learning Outcomes for Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) Program:</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:
<p>how this might influence analyses and interpretations.</p>	<p>Christian or other spiritual traditions, and contributions of other scholarly disciplines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to conduct public spiritual leadership/care or therapy through growing critical self- awareness as informed by diverse knowledge and experience;</li> <li>• Appreciation of the uncertainties inherent in both faith/value- based and non-confessional academic interpretations of religious or spiritual tradition; and</li> <li>• Critical self-awareness of developing pastoral/therapeutic/ healing and professional capacities—intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public— that are requisite to a life of spiritual leadership.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Autonomy and Professional Capacity</b>            Qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and other activities requiring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and accountability in both personal and group contexts;</li> <li>b) Working effectively with others;</li> <li>c) Decision-making in complex contexts;</li> <li>d) Ability to manage their own learning in changing circumstances, both within and outside the discipline and to select an appropriate program of further study; and</li> <li>e) Behaviour consistent with academic integrity and social responsibility.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to develop and evaluate strategies for ongoing professional development to advance the emotional maturity, collaborative teamwork, effective decision-making, moral integrity, academic integrity, and spiritual sensibilities required for specialized leadership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed intellectual, affective, and professional capacities required for a life of spiritual leadership in the helping professions;                Exemplified emotional maturity, moral integrity, social skills, personal responsibility and discipline, initiative, academic integrity, spiritual sensibilities, and social concern in both school and field situations;</li> <li>• Ability to explain an account of the premises, character and commitments of a specific religious tradition (Christian, Muslim or Buddhist) and to situate it theologically, in terms of how it relates to the larger traditions of thought within the given tradition;</li> <li>• Ability to plan, design and carry out spiritual leadership for public and spiritual/religious settings;</li> <li>• Ability to analyze the variety of pathways and spiritual practices within a religious tradition, and an ability to reflect critically on their own sense of vocation to spiritual leadership; and</li> <li>• Ability to develop strategies to foster spiritual/psycho-spiritual growth, well-being of self and others, and demonstrate capacity for self-reflexive and spiritual practices to promote therapeutic and healing goals within communities of faith and/or other professional contexts.</li> </ul>



## 9 Appendix C: Current Calendar Copy with Changes Tracked or Highlighted

---

Please note that the “Learning Outcomes” for both Emmanuel and Knox College are expressed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Association of Theological Schools for the individual colleges. The “Program Learning Outcomes” and “Degree Learning Expectations” in Appendix A are presented in the Toronto School Theology Basic Conjoint Degree Handbook, as they are common to all colleges in the consortium, while the “Learning Outcomes” are reflective of each college’s individual and distinct mission.

### **FULL CALENDAR ENTRY: EMMANUEL COLLEGE**

#### **Master of Psychospiritual Studies Equipping Interreligious Spiritual Leaders**

The MPS program equips individuals with the skills to make a difference in their community, developing knowledge in the areas of ethics, spirituality, faith and inter-religious dialogue. It prepares individuals for competent leadership in their chosen area of specialization.

An MPS degree from Emmanuel College provides the theological and spiritual grounding necessary to become wiser and more effective spiritual leaders.

The Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) is a professional and terminal degree, which means it does not directly lead toward doctoral studies. The 20-credit program allows students to specialize in one of two streams:

#### **Spiritual Care**

This stream prepares students who wish to provide spiritual care and counselling in religious communities or public institutions. Graduates of the MPS who complete basic units in Supervised Psychospiritual Education (SPE) are in compliance with the criteria for associate membership with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC). Those with advanced SPE units may also meet Certified Spiritual Care Practitioners and Certified Psycho-Spiritual Therapist certification requirements with CASC.

Within the *Spiritual Care* stream, students have the option to apply for admission to the MPS, Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (SCP). This certificate provides training for spiritual care and psychotherapy as a spiritual care practitioner (chaplain) in public institutions like hospitals and prisons or as a psycho-spiritual therapist (pastoral counsellor) in counselling centres or other contexts.

This stream prepares students for entry into advanced training toward Specialist certification in the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) and is a recognized educational training program for qualifying membership in the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO). It is strongly recommended that students familiarize themselves with the regulations of the province in which they plan to practice psychotherapy and spiritual care.

Space is limited in the Certificate stream and meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission. Students not formally registered in the Certificate in Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy can still register independently with the CRPO.

### **Social Service**

This stream provides leadership training in religious or secular social service agencies.

### **Multi-religious Foci**

The Christian Focus is available in these streams: *Spiritual Care, Social Service*

The Muslim Focus is available in the *Spiritual Care stream* and the *Social Service Stream*.

The Buddhist focus is offered in the *Spiritual Care stream*.

### **Program Summary**

Ten courses in Levels 1 and 2, for a total of 20, with required Emmanuel College Core Courses, Designated Electives and Open Electives. Full-time coursework can typically be completed in two years. The degree may be completed on a part-time basis, and up to eight years are allowed for completion.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Master of Psychospiritual Studies program will be able to demonstrate

- Knowledge of sacred texts, religious history, religious-based ethics, tenets, and thought of one or more religious tradition(s) in correlation with theories of social sciences that are relevant to professional practice.
- Evidence of sustained reflection on spiritual and professional identity formation in intercultural and interfaith contexts, in relation to specialized practice.
- Development of skills, gifts, and arts of professional practice, grounded in appropriate theories, for leadership in institutional, community and other settings.

**Spiritual Care Stream program requirements:**

**Level 1: Foundational Core Courses**

Buddhist Focus	Christian Focus	Muslim Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 1621H Multi-Religious Theological Education and Leadership		
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 1513H Introduction to Counselling and Spiritual Care		
<i>choose 5 Buddhist Faith Foundation courses</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 1003H Old Testament 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1851H Surat al-Baqara (Qur'an 1)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1620H History of Buddhist Traditions		
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 2629H Classic Buddhist Texts	<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 1501H New Testament 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3610H Religious Thought and Spirituality in Islam
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1631H Foundational Tenets and Practices of Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/> XXH 1010H History of Christianity 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3101H Biography and Thought: Muhammad
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 2011H Buddhist Contemplative Care	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1101H Theology 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3607H Islamic Thought: Classical Age or <input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3608H Islamic Thought: Modern Age
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 2671H Buddhist Meditative Traditions		<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 3020H Intertwined Texts
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 2630H Buddhist Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 2902H Christian Ethics in Context	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3873H Law, Ethics, and Society

**Level 2: Core Courses**

Buddhist Focus	Christian Focus	Muslim Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> EMF 3020HY Contextual Education + <input type="checkbox"/> Open Elective or <input type="checkbox"/> TSP/EMP 355xYY Supervised Psychospiritual Education Basic Unit 1 (total of 2 courses)		
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 3521H Professional Ethics for Spiritual Care and Psycho-Spiritual Therapy		
<input type="checkbox"/> Capstone Course - EMP 3541H Integrating Theory and Practice		

**Designated Elective Courses**

Buddhist Focus	Christian Focus	Muslim Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> Coloniality and Power <i>Any specifically designated courses that variously engage in diverse dimensions of power and privilege, coloniality, and Indigenous relations and experiences, including in relation to the Canadian context.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Stage Spiritual Care <i>Any 2000 or 3000 level course in spiritual care related to life stages and theories of human growth (e.g., youth ministry, death and dying)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Care, Counselling, and Mental Health <i>Any 2000 or 3000 level course in spiritual care or counselling</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Care, Counselling, and Mental Health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Diversity and Pluralism <i>A 1000 to 3000 level course on a religious tradition other than the one(s) with which the student identifies, or one that addresses the topic of religious pluralism and/or challenges related to an intercultural and interfaith global context.</i>		See above EMB 3020H
<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist Spirituality	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Spirituality	See above EMT 3610H
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Open Electives	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Open Electives	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Open Electives

**Social Services Stream program requirements:**

**Level 1: Foundational Core Courses**

Christian Focus	Muslim Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 1621H Multi-Religious Theological Education and Leadership	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 1513H Introduction to Counselling and Spiritual Care Practice	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 1003H Old Testament 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1851H Surat al-Baqara (Qur'an 1)
<input type="checkbox"/> XXH 1010H History of Christianity 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3101H Biography and Thought: Muhammad
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 1101H Theology 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3607H Islamic Thought: Classical Age or <input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3608H Islamic Thought: Modern Age
<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 1501H New Testament 1	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3610H Religious Thought and Spirituality in Islam
<i>Blank Field</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EMB 3020H Intertwined Texts

**Level 2: Core Courses**

Christian Focus	Muslim Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> EMF 3020HY Contextual Education + Open Elective (total of 2 courses) or <input type="checkbox"/> TSP/EMP 355xYY Supervised Psychospiritual Education Basic Unit 1 (total of 2 courses)	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 2902H Christian Ethics in Context	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT 3873H Law, Ethics, and Society
<input type="checkbox"/> EMP 3521H Professional Ethics for Spiritual Care and Psycho-Spiritual Therapy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Required Capstone Project - EMP 3541H Integrating Theory and Practice	
<input type="checkbox"/> Coloniality and Power	
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Ethics or Social Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Care and Counselling	
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Diversity and Pluralism	<i>See above EMB 3020</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Spirituality	<i>See above EMT 3610</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Open Electives	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Open Electives

## **FULL CALENDAR ENTRY: KNOX COLLEGE**

### **Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS)**

#### **Program Overview**

The Master of Psychospiritual Studies program equips persons for leadership in helping professions. At Knox College, MPS students choose one of two foci:

Spiritual Care – Provide spiritual care and therapy in faith communities, private practice offices, social service agencies, or public institutions such as healthcare institutions, long-term care facilities, hospices, prisons, and educational institutions.

Social Services Ministry – Provide leadership in faith-based organizations, non-profits, or secular social agencies.

All MPS students are required to do core courses in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, Ethics, Theology of Religions/Interfaith Leadership, and the History of Christianity. Each of the two foci then focuses in a particular aspect of psychospiritual care.

#### **Admission Requirements**

- An undergraduate degree or equivalent degree from a university, college, or Indigenous Institute recognized by the University of Toronto
- CGPA 2.7/4.0 or greater (70%; B-) for the entire degree
- English-Language Proficiency
- Academic *or* professional reference and pastoral reference

#### **Program Structure**

The MPS program requires 20 semester-long courses. It is 2 academic years of full-time study.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Demonstrates knowledge at a basic level in various theological disciplines, in the Reformed or another tradition. [\* the student may come from another tradition]
- 2) Demonstrates an appropriate spiritual and professional identity formation in relation to specialized practice.

- 3) Demonstrates knowledge and skills in spiritual care and therapy, grounded in appropriate theories, for professional practice and leadership in community and institutional settings.
- 4) Writes and speaks in English sufficiently well to engage in professional practice.

**Social Services Focus program requirements:**

*Theological foundations (seven courses)*

- KNB1006H Reading the Old Testament
- KNB1501H Understanding the New Testament
- KNT1101H Reformed Theology in Dialogue
- KNT2963H Christian Ethics
- KNH1015H A Global History of Christianity
- KNP1651H Interfaith Leadership in a Multi-faith Context
- KNP1601H Theology and Practice of Ministry

*Social Services Focus (seven courses)*

- KNP1512H Foundations in Counselling and Spiritual Care
- KNP2548H Intercultural Family Therapy
- RGP3564H Professional Ethics
- KNB3232H Bible in Context - Amos
- Practicum Clinical Psychospiritual Education (2 course value)  
OR Theological Field Education (2 course value)

One designated social service course

*Electives*

Five elective courses (may include a second practicum)

*MPS Capstone (one course)*

- EMP3541H Integrating Theory and Practice  
OR Reading and Research course with Integrative Paper (requires faculty permission)

**Spiritual Care Focus program requirements:**

*Theological foundations (seven courses)*

- KNB1006H Reading the Old Testament
- KNB1501H Understanding the New Testament
- KNT1101H Reformed Theology in Dialogue
- KNT2963H Christian Ethics
- KNH1015H A Global History of Christianity
- KNP1651H Interfaith Leadership in a Multi-faith Context
- KNP1601H Theology and Practice of Ministry

OR

KNP1443H Human Growth and Spiritual Journey

*Spiritual Care Focus (seven courses)*

KNP1512H Foundations in Counselling and Spiritual Care

KNP2548H Intercultural Family Therapy

RGP3564H Professional Ethics

KNP3521H Psychotherapeutic Theories

KNP3511H Psychospiritual Assessment

Practicum Clinical Psychospiritual Education (2 course value)

OR Theological Field Education (2 course value)

*Electives*

Five elective courses (may include a second practicum)

*MPS Capstone (one course)*

EMP3541H Integrating Theory and Practice

OR Reading and Research course with Integrative Paper (requires faculty permission)

### **MPS Degree with Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate (MPS, SCP Cert.)**

Students within the Spiritual Care stream may apply for the MPS, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy Certificate (MPS, SCP Cert.) after completing five courses and being accepted into a practicum.

This is a recognized education program for the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO). In Summer 2023 we were reapproved by CRPO as an education program training in psychotherapy. Graduates with the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy certificate are eligible to move toward registration in the College of Registered Psychotherapist of Ontario. With two additional CPE units (Advanced), graduates may move towards certification with the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC) as psycho-spiritual therapists or spiritual care practitioners with focus in healthcare, prison, or community-based chaplaincy.

#### **SCP Cert. Requirements:**

Students who wish to fulfill requirements for the Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy as part of the MPS degree program are required to complete the 13 courses in designated areas as prescribed by the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) and the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC). In these courses students go into greater depth with specialized objectives.

Within the 13 courses, students are normally required to complete nine specialized



classroom courses (including Human Growth and Spiritual Journey and the Capstone Course) and four supervised experiential learning (CPS/SPE). The Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy permits designated electives within specialized areas of study but few open electives (normally only one course) in order to meet the courses and hours required by CRPO and CASC. The SCP Certificate has been approved as a recognized education program by the CRPO.

## Appendix D: Letters of Support

---

- Dr David Bruce, Associate Executive Director, St. Michael's Homes, Toronto, Ontario; March 7, 2024
- Omar Khan, Co-Founder & CEO, Ruh, London, Ontario; March 7, 2024
- Ajith Varghese, Registered Psychotherapist, Manager, Spiritual & Religious Care, Scarborough Health Network; March 11, 2024
- John Sendim, Registered Psychotherapist, Founder/Director, Uplift Therapy for Men, Etobicoke, Ontario; March 7, 2024
- Fawad Khan, Founding Partner, Mindful Health, Milton, Ontario, March 7, 2024
- Munsif Mubarak, Registered Psychotherapist, Director, Community Relations, Khalil Center, North York, Ontario; March 7, 2024

**Re.: Name Change of MPS Degree from  
Master of Pastoral Studies to  
Master of Psychospiritual Studies**

07 March 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as a past and current employer of graduates of the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology. In my capacity as Associate Executive Director at St. Michael's Homes, I have been responsible for interviewing and hiring personnel to provide psychotherapy for our residential and remote clients.

I wish to offer my support for the recommended name change for the degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychotherapeutic Studies. The term "pastoral" is clearly an almost-exclusively Christian term, rooted in Christian imagery. Although I currently work in a Catholic agency, I serve—and hire to serve—individuals from a variety of spiritual and religious perspectives and life experiences.

I am a graduate of Emmanuel College (class of '89). I served as an ordained minister in The United Church of Canada for twenty-five years, and now practice as Registered Psychotherapist in the not-for-profit sector. In my private practice I serve Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and unaffiliated clients, all of whom appreciate invocation of the wisdom of the worlds' great religious traditions. Even those clients who identify as having "no religion" understand the use of term "spiritual" as it applies to ethics, values, and the meaning of life. Psychotherapy nearly always invokes the *existential* dimension of holistic health, and this is well-capture in the hybrid term, "Psychospiritual."

I am in favour of replacing the term "pastoral" with the broader term "psychospiritual" in this context because it clearly denotes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to this degree. The term "psychospiritual" better reflects the learning required for the spiritually and religiously diverse practitioners enrolled in this program. I hope that you will give this change your support.

As Always,

*David Bruce*

Dr. David Bruce

Associate Executive Director

david@stmichaelshomes.org

david@soyouneedtherapy.ca



07 March 2024

**Re: Name Change of MPS Degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychospiritual Studies**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a potential employer of graduates from the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology. In my capacity as the Co-Founder & CEO at Ruh, I am responsible for hiring/interviewing personnel to serve in spiritual care/ psychotherapy/psychospiritual therapy. I have hired two MPS graduates over the years since the inception of the program.

I wish to offer my support for the recommended name change for the degree. The term “pastoral” no longer communicates a focus on spiritual care or spiritually-integrated practice in the public realm as it is a strictly Christian term. We almost never use it within our therapy practice with Ruh with our clients. For my context where we seek practitioners from any number of spiritual-religious backgrounds, the term “pastoral” is not appropriate.

I am in favour of the replacement of “psychospiritual” since it more aptly describes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to the degree. The term “psychospiritual” better reflects the learning for spiritually-religiously diverse practitioners.

The Ruh Care Directory now hosts 670+ therapists from over 18 countries, and is the largest global Muslim therapist directory. As someone who has worked with numerous therapists in the field for a while, I am aware of the shift in titling from “pastoral” to “psychospiritual” or terms more inclusive of the many forms of spiritual-religious practice and belonging.

Sincerely,

Omar Khan  
Co-Founder & CEO, Ruh

omar@ruhcare.com | +1 613-862-2417  
615-250 Oakland Avenue, N5W 0C1, London, ON





**Re.: Name Change of MPS Degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychospiritual Studies**

March 11, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a potential employer of graduates from the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology. I am the Manager of Spiritual Care and a certified Supervisor-Educator for Clinical Psychospiritual Care (CPE) at Scarborough Health Network. I am responsible for training, supervising, hiring/interviewing personnel to serve in spiritual care/ psychotherapy/psychospiritual therapy. Since the inception of the MPS program, I have found a visible shift in the quality of the students we receive from the University of Toronto. The students come to the program with a breadth of knowledge. Once they completed the CPE training at Scarborough Health Network, I have hired several MPS graduates over the years since the program's inception.

I am offering the recommended name change for the degree. The term "pastoral" no longer communicates a focus on spiritual care or spiritually integrated practice in the public realm as it is a strictly Christian term. For example, recent data from Statistics Canada shows that nearly fifty percent of the Scarborough population does not have a particular religious affiliation, and another twenty-five percent or more adhere to religious practices other than Christianity. Hence, for my context, where we seek practitioners from any number of spiritual-religious backgrounds, the term "pastoral" is not appropriate.

Besides, as an educator, I receive calls from potential students to inquire about how to become a certified clinical psychospiritual practitioner in Canada. When I informed them about the Master's degree in pastoral studies as a requirement, most of them raised concerns over the term 'pastoral' in the degree program title. Over the years, I have witnessed some of those potential students turn away from considering the MPS program and enroll in other degrees of a similar nature, which do not have the term 'pastoral' on the title at other universities.

I favour the replacement of "psychospiritual" since it more aptly describes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to the degree. The term "psychospiritual" better reflects the learning for spiritually religiously diverse practitioners.

As an educator, practitioner, and manager in the field of psychotherapy and clinical psychospiritual care for over two decades, I am confident of the shift in titling from "pastoral" to "psychospiritual" or terms more inclusive of the many forms of spiritual-religious practice and belonging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Varghese".

**Ajith Varghese, Th.M, RP**

Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner (CASC)  
Certified Psychospiritual Therapist (CASC)  
Certified Supervisor-Educator- CPE (CASC)  
Certified Supervisor- Educator- PTE (CASC)  
Adjunct Faculty, Toronto School of Theology, U of T  
Manager, Spiritual & Religious Care  
Scarborough Health Network  
Office: 416-438-2911, ext. 6425. Mobile: 647-808-4132  
email | [avarghese@SHN.ca](mailto:avarghese@SHN.ca)

Re.: Name Change of MPS Degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychospiritual Studies

Date: March 7th, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a potential employer of graduates from the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology. In my capacity as Founder/Director at Uplift Therapy for Men, I am responsible for hiring/interviewing personnel to serve in psychotherapy/psychospiritual therapy. I have yet to hire MPS graduates from the program but will be looking to do so in the near future. The name change would support candidates in finding meaningful employment in private practice and other institutions.

I wish to offer my support for the recommended name change for the degree. The term "pastoral" no longer communicates a focus on spiritual care or spiritually-integrated practice in the public realm as it is a strictly Christian term. In fact, its use may create a barrier for qualified candidates and clients from diverse backgrounds who hold a variety of spiritual or religious beliefs, or none at all. For my context where we seek practitioners to serve clients from a variety of different backgrounds or any number of spiritual-religious backgrounds, the term "pastoral" is not appropriate.

I am in favour of the replacement of "psychospiritual" since it more aptly describes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to the degree. The term "psychospiritual" better reflects the learning for spiritually-religiously diverse practitioners.

"Psychospiritual" is more inclusive of the many forms of spiritual-religious practice and belonging.

Sincerely,

*John Sendim*

John Sendim MPS, RP  
Founder/Director at Uplift Therapy for Men  
Registered Psychotherapist  
[uplifttherapyformen.com](http://uplifttherapyformen.com)  
[john@uplifttherapyformen.com](mailto:john@uplifttherapyformen.com)  
647-931-9474



**Toronto School of Theology**  
47 Queen's Park Cres E,  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2C3

**Re.: Name Change of MPS Degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychospiritual Studies**

March 7, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a potential employer of graduates from the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology. In my capacity as the Founding Partner at Mindful Health I am responsible for hiring/interviewing personnel to serve in spiritual care/ psychotherapy/psychospiritual therapy. I have engaged with several MPS graduates over the years since the inception of the program.

I wish to offer my support for the recommended name change for the degree. The term "pastoral" no longer communicates a focus on spiritual care or spiritually-integrated practice in the public realm as it is a strictly Christian term. In our rapidly evolving and secular society it is critical for our institutions to be accepted as neutral and unbiased. For my context where we seek practitioners from any number of spiritual-religious backgrounds, the term "pastoral" is no longer appropriate.

I am in favour of the replacement of Pastoral with "psychospiritual" since it more aptly describes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to the degree. The term "psychospiritual" better reflects the learning for spiritually-religiously diverse practitioners.

Best wishes,

Fawad Khan

Mindful Health

fkhan@mindfulhealth.app

Re.: Name Change of MPS Degree from Master of Pastoral Studies to Master of Psychospiritual Studies

Date: Thursday March 7, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a former MPS student of Emmanuel College at the Toronto School of Theology. I currently serve both as the director of community relations and a registered psychotherapist at Khalil Center (Toronto). We have employed a few wonderful graduates from the MPS program at the Toronto School of Theology, and we continue to keep this possibility open in the future. In my capacity as a registered psychotherapist at Khalil Center (Toronto) I am responsible for supervising interns to serve in spiritual care/ psychotherapy/psycho-spiritual therapy. I will also be more involved in potential future hires.

I am fully in support of replacing “pastoral” to “psychospiritual” since it more aptly describes the integration of spiritual and psychological knowledge that has always been central to the degree. Since Khalil Center is a place where psychotherapy through an Islamic framework is emphasised, an applicant's degree which reflects the term “psychospiritual” instead of “pastoral” would definitely be more relevant to us.

Sincerely,  
Munsif Mubarak  
Director, Community Relations | Registered Psychotherapist,  
[munsif@khalilcenter.com](mailto:munsif@khalilcenter.com)