

PASTORAL CARE AND CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

“Pastoral Practice” takes place during the second part of the new undergraduate studies program, in the sixth and seventh semester. They constitute a form of fieldwork in which students participate within the context of the Pastoral and Christian Counseling course under the supervision of fr. Athanasios Gkikas. This fieldwork practice includes some visits (about ten each year) to parishes, churches, monasteries, institutions, hospitals, prisons, and in general places where pastoral work is put in practice. Around one hundred students participate in these visits.

Pastoral practice includes visits to the above mentioned places where the heads of these institutions inform students about the work being carried out there. They also answer the students’ questions and discussions take place on the issues having been brought up. The students have the opportunity to get in touch with Metropolitans and clergymen in general, doctors, social workers, heads of health institutions responsible for people with special needs, and people in general practicing social ministry originating from church ministry.

The aim of pastoral practice is for the students to get in touch with pastoral work in practice. They get the opportunity to be aware of the particularities as they become evident in parishes according to each area’s social identity.

Students also have the opportunity to realize and understand the issues tackled by the Church’s pastoral work and also become motivated to a) further their studies on a postgraduate level in the respective field of pastoral work and b) to get a clearer view of their professional orientation.

During these semesters students have to compose a paper using bibliographical references from the domain of pastoral work, relevant to the issues under discussion and development during the above mentioned visits.

This paper, co-assessed with each student’s presence in the pastoral practice process, along with an oral examination taking place at the end of the semester, produces the final assessment and grading.