



Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction)

Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction



Dayspring Community (WA) Inc. is pleased to announce a new qualification available as credential for practicing as a spiritual director.

The degree of *Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction)* will be issued by Worldwide University (WU) according to its rights in the state of Arizona USA. (<http://worldwideuniversity.org>) As a distance education institution, WU can legally have students outside the US and may have co-assessment arrangements and transfer credit arrangements with other institutions. *Dayspring* acts as a Cohort Coordination Committee.

Dayspring continues to uphold the standards set by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction. In October, 2017, *Dayspring* completed a renewal of the Recognition process for AECSD, keeping this status current for the next five years. This award is in recognition of the standard of excellence maintained by adherence to the AECSD formation guidelines.

The *Dayspring's* training in spiritual direction prepares students to become a knowledgeable, competent and skilled spiritual director. At *Dayspring*, the heart of the program is contemplative, emphasizing the importance of spiritual study, discernment, and prayer. Its focus is on the experience of a person's relationship with God, and on fostering this relationship as the foundation of one's life. Spiritual direction is seen as a contemplative ministry through which spiritual directors help others to notice and respond to God's movement in the personal and communal experiences of their everyday lives, and within all of creation. This approach to spiritual direction requires personal, interpersonal and spiritual maturity. It is understood as a significant, dynamic and potentially transformative process undertaken for the sake of the unfolding all of life.

The process includes:

- theology relevant to the ministry of spiritual direction within the Christian tradition
- an ecumenically based practicum with individual supervision
- significant academic and experiential background in diverse approaches to prayer;
- a holistic understanding of the human person and community with a breadth of exposure to real-life experiences and skills essential to the ministry of spiritual direction.
- a grounded research project at Masters' level

Each course takes carefully selected participants who feel called to deepen their understanding of spiritual guidance and to further their spiritual growth. We expect that applicants will have some experience in giving and receiving spiritual guidance, and will have the maturity and life experience necessary to this ministry. We assume graduates will practice in a variety of ministry contexts.

Objectives

By the completion of the training students will:

- have developed competency in providing spiritual direction from a contemplative stance
- be competent in leading others to integrate the spiritual disciplines into their own contexts
- have a working theology of spiritual direction

- be able to lead others in a variety of prayer and the contemplative traditions
- have the competency to establish a personal practice as a contemplative spiritual director
- comply with Australian national guidelines and code of practice for spiritual direction

Requirements

The program provides training in spiritual direction for Christian ministry. Therefore, applicants will need:

- A commitment to personal and spiritual development in oneself and others.
- Introductory working knowledge of Christian theology. (Prior completion of units in theology or biblical studies relevant to your tradition)
- Significant life experience
- Two professional recommendations.
- Scan of the highest educational qualification received
- Some experience of spiritual accompaniment work.

Course Outline

The *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction* is offered as part of the *Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction)*.

All candidates will be enrolled with *Dayspring* for an initial Discernment Semester. After completion, a Discernment Review with staff will determine whether a candidate enters into full enrolment with Worldwide University.

All tuition during the Discernment Semester will be preparatory to the units required for the MA and is considered part of the content required to complete training as a spiritual director.

Session – Feb/June 2021	Item	Tuition
	Introductory Discernment Semester	
<i>Dayspring</i> Semester	Discernment Semester (including a project proposal)	<i>Dayspring</i> Semester program credited to Semester 1 units on enrolment in WU
End <i>Dayspring</i> Semester	Discernment review options for future enrolment: a) GDSD b) MA c) No longer continue	
July 1, 2021	Close of enrolments in WU	

Enrolment in Worldwide University for Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction)

The Masters' level units shown below include a 25,000-word research thesis.

UNITS		Credit Hours	Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction (GDSD)	Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction (MASD)
Introduction to Christian spiritual direction	SPR501	3*	√	√
Theological perspectives	SPR502	3	√	√
Psychological perspectives	SPR503	3	√	√
Sociological perspectives	SPR504	3	√	√
Professional supervision	SPR505	3	√	√
Practicum 1	SPR506	3	√	√
Practicum 2	SPR507	3	√	√
Supervision Intensive	SPR508	3		√
Research methods	SPR509	3		√
Thesis 1	SPR512	3	√	√
Thesis 2 (25,000 words)	SPR513	3		√
			2 years part-time	Up to 3 years part-time

*To be awarded the *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction* requires completion of all units listed in black.

Course duration : 2 ½ years part time.

- 1) Semesters 1-4 : Tuition contact time, both content and supervision requirements.
- 2) Residential Components
One residential week in each semester
Residentials in Semesters 1-3 will focus on content and supervision
Residential in Semester 4 will also include oral presentations
Supervision Intensive
- 3) One day per month in each semester - content and practicum work
Research Methods SPR509 – or online participation
- 4) Distance Mode – requirements:
 1. Mandatory attendance at ALL RESIDENTIALS.
 2. A video recording of Thursday presentations with reflection essay / written work in lieu of the monthly program attended by local students.
 3. Local supervisor appointed if accessible – or supervision by internet with *Dayspring* staff. It is the student's responsibility to ensure reliable internet capability.
 4. Participation in Perth-based group supervision via the internet when possible.

5. Participation in a local peer support or collegial network if available locally.
6. Regular contact with the Dean of Studies to monitor progress.
7. All assessment requirements remain as stated in the course outline.
8. Regular contact with your thesis supervisor.

Program Structure:

Over 350 Hours of contact tuition and supervision over 2 ½ years:

		HOURS	Total Tuition HOURS
Discernment Semester	Residential <i>February 21-25, 2021</i> Wednesday sessions: <i>February, April, May, June</i>	–	–
Residential	1 Week in each of Semesters 1-4 Semester 1: <i>August 8 – 13, 2021</i> Semester 2: <i>February 20-25, 2022</i> Semester 3: <i>November 20-25, 2022</i>	4 x 40	160
Supervision Intensive	<i>August 22-26, 2021</i>	32	32
Monthly Sessions	1 session per month <i>First Wednesday of each month</i> Semester 1: <i>September, October, November, December</i> Semester 2: <i>February, April, May, June</i> Semester 3: <i>August, September, October</i>	15 x 5	75
Individual Supervision and Practicum	Total 50 sessions - 30 Individually-focused supervised practicums - 20 Group experiences of supervisory learning	30 20	50
External Practicum	Ongoing practice with own directees Semesters 2-4		
Thesis	Research project on spiritual direction in a specific context		150

Fees

Tuition for the full course –

GSDS	\$7,500
MASD	\$10,500

Fees include all tuition and residential costs and need to be paid prior to the commencement of the semester according to the Payment Schedule. (Fees do not include textbooks or prescribed reading texts). Withdrawal after commencement will forfeit all fees for that semester.

	FEE PAYABLE		DUE DATE
	GSDS	MASD	
Semester 1	\$1,500	\$3,500	February 1, 2020
	\$1,000		April 6, 2020
Semester 2	\$1,500	\$3,500	August 1, 2020
	\$1,000		October 5, 2020
Semester 3	\$1,500	\$3,500	February 1, 2021
	\$1,000		April 5, 2021

Assessment

- Assessments include oral participation, practicum reports and observation of the practice of spiritual direction in various contexts during supervision sessions.
- Reflection Journal will be required at the conclusion of each residential in Semesters 1 - 3 focusing on personal experiences and content covered during the residential.
- Thesis 1 SPR512 and Thesis 2 SPR513: Thesis at Masters' level of at least 25,000 words on a research project on spiritual direction in a specific context.

Alternative Assessment of Competence

AAC is available for the GDSD components of the program. All units are presented as an integrated program and need to be taken concurrently.

Application Process

Applicants need to:

- a) Complete the WU Application Form with personal responses and return to the Dean of Studies at *Dayspring*.
- b) Provide a brief reflection on your spiritual journey as it has led you to consider this application
- c) Recommendation Forms from TWO referees. Each referee is then required to return their completed form directly to the Dean of Studies at *Dayspring*, marked 'Confidential'. All referee responses will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to the applicant. These referees may be contacted by phone.
- d) Scan of highest educational qualification awarded.

Once all documents have been processed, an Admission Interview will be scheduled.

At the conclusion of the Discernment Semester, an Integrative Review of the participant's progress will ascertain their acceptance into enrolment in the Worldwide University. **Acceptance into the program is for the Discernment Semester ONLY, and is NOT a guarantee of continued participation in the program.**

NOTE:

1. **Minimum class size for viability of the course is Eight.** Should applications be below this figure the course will not be offered at that time.
2. Dayspring DOES NOT ACCEPT spouses or partners in the same course at the same time.

Closing date for applications – November 27th, 2020.

For further information please contact

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