

Context: In preparation for the seminarian’s future Pastoral Ministry, second or third year theology seminarians are inserted into Hospital Ministry under the direction of a local supervisor. The purpose of Pastoral Care for the Sick in a hospital setting is to give patients and families an experience of a safe, listening environment through which spiritual, emotional and physical healing can occur.

What follows are the learning goals, assignments and the assessment tools St Patrick’s Seminary requires for this Field Education experience.

Learning Goals	Assignments	Assessment
<p>Ability to be with others in time of suffering as a caring *presence</p> <p>Develop comfort level with “being” over “doing”, sitting with questions rather than attempting to resolve or fix them</p> <p>Growth in awareness of your own feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and assumptions and how they affect the pastoral encounter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice being a Minister of *Presence when visiting the patients in the hospital. <p><i>*Presence is an active process requiring self-awareness, active listening, empathy and compassion, discernment and the capacity to sit with questions, conflicts and struggles.</i></p>	<p>Through the two Theological reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a deeper empathy and compassion for others' emotional, spiritual, and moral struggles. Deepen trust in the hidden workings of God's grace in the pastoral encounter
<p>Differentiate and move a hospital encounter along from a Social Visit to a Pastoral Visit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be present and participate at all staff meetings. Be open to learning by allowing your work to be evaluated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the direction of your supervisor, write at least one verbatim of a pastoral Care visit.
<p>Develop the capability to assess, identify and respond to the patient’s spiritual needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn from your supervisor the basic spiritual assessment models used in your particular hospital. Understand how to use various pastoral interventions specific to a patient's spiritual needs. Engage in further study and research of the various assessment models. Allow yourself to be mentored in life review interventions with a patient nearing the end of life and how to ask open-ended questions. <p><i>Be diligent in carrying out any other assignment requested by your supervisor.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your supervisor will assess your ability to carry out Pastoral Care in a hospital setting. This assessment will be reflected in the end of the year evaluation to St. Patrick’s Seminary.

Be able to minister to people of diverse, ethnic, religious, political and lifestyle backgrounds

Develop a greater comfort level and acquire skills for encountering people who may not share in your values, and beliefs.



Seminarians will be assigned to visit patients of all backgrounds, not just those who are Catholic.

Self-Assessment



Compare and contrast encounters with Catholic patients and with those who do not share your faith.