



# OnCourse: Youth Ministry Specialization Certificate (YMSC) Program

## Program Overview

The certificate program is designed to meet the needs of men and women who wish to grow in their knowledge of, and skills for, youth ministry. The certificate program integrates instructional and informational technologies within its coursework and utilizes national competency-based standards in the development of curriculum and assessment.

Courses are taught in a distance-learning format by nationally-recognized youth ministry trainers from [Ministry Training Source](#). The program consists of four courses (consisting of three modules each), addressing the specialized competencies for youth ministry leaders found in the revised *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers*. Participants may take the program for a national certificate, and/or twelve hours of graduate or undergraduate credit (provided at an additional cost through [Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College](#)).

The first cohort session will begin January 2011, and lasts approximately fourteen months. The certificate program fee for members of the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders ([NACYML](#)) is \$1000.00. For non-members, the fee is \$1150.00.

Individual courses also may be taken for the following registration fees

NACYML Members	\$300.00 per course
Non-NACYML Members	\$337.50 per course

Additionally, ALL participants will be assessed a one time technology fee of \$200.00. This is a one time fee regardless of the number of courses taken, and is applicable to both NACYML members and non-members.

Participants taking the courses for undergraduate or graduate credit will incur additional costs associated with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

More information on the [NACYML website](#) and the [Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College website](#).

## Course Descriptions

### **TH 280/580 - Comprehensive Youth Ministry Essentials**

1. **A Vision of Catholic Youth Ministry:** Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the history, vision, goals, themes, and components of Catholic youth ministry and/or *pastoral juvenil* as outlined in the U.S. bishops' pastoral plans and related church documents.

2. **The State of Catholic Adolescents:** Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the developmental needs of youth and young adults within the contexts of popular, ethnic, and family cultures as appropriate to the faith community which is being served.
3. **Organizing for Catholic Youth Ministry:** Participants will be able to utilize theories, models, processes, and methods of Catholic youth ministry and/or *pastoral juvenil* in the ministry setting.

**TH 280/581 - Evangelizing and Catechizing Catholic Youth and Their Families**

4. **The Component of Catechesis:** Participants will be able to utilize the aims, principles, processes, and methods of catechesis with youth in implementing faith formation.
5. **The Dimension of Family and Community:** Participants will be able to facilitate the development of community among youth, their families, and within the church and society, including the development of small faith communities by youth from different cultures, spiritualities, or pastoral models.
6. **The Component of Evangelization:** Participants will be able to invite youth into intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and empower them to live and witness as disciples in today's world.

**TH 480/582 - Engaging Youth through Justice and Service, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Worship**

7. **The Component of Justice and Service:** Participants will be able to engage youth in the social mission of the church in accord with Catholic social teaching.
8. **The Component of Pastoral Care:** Participants will be able to enable healing, and healthy growth and development with youth in their relationships as a vital part of their human and Christian maturity process.
9. **The Component of Prayer and Worship:** Participants will be able to enable youth to celebrate and deepen their relationship with the triune God through individual and communal prayer, and participation in the liturgical and devotional life of the church.

**TH 480/583 - Advocating, Leading, and Synthesizing Youth Ministry**

10. **The Component of Advocacy:** Participants will be able to engage the church and broader community in voicing and addressing the rights, responsibilities, and needs of youth.
11. **The Component of Leadership Development:** Participants will be able to affirm and call forth the unique gifts of youth by providing opportunities for their ongoing spiritual and leadership development.
12. **Program Integration and Reflection:** Participants will synthesize their learning and growth through formation and the practice of youth ministry through the development of a certification portfolio addressing the national standards for lay ecclesial ministers and the youth ministry specialized competencies.



**Offered in association with  
Ministry Training Source and  
Saint Mary-in-the-Woods College**