

# **Saint John's University**

## **Overview and Application for Graduate Assistantships in Campus Ministry**

### **Saint John's University Mission**

The mission of Saint John's University (SJU) is to renew the fabric of community from one generation to the next, ever striving for excellence, ever grounded in Benedictine tradition. Providing education in the liberal arts and graduate theological disciplines within the Catholic university tradition, Saint John's seeks to preserve the well springs of human culture, to deepen understanding of human interdependence, and to prepare students for full, integrated lives of faith and reason, action and love.

Saint John's strives to relate teaching, learning and scholarship to the residential life of the campus, community worship, the practice of the arts, and programs of service. These activities are animated by the Benedictine practices of community life, prayer, hospitality, and the search for wisdom, as well as by Saint John's own historic commitments to the well being of diverse human communities, the formation of leaders in successive generations, and the ongoing renewal of the Church.

Saint John's pursues this mission on the undergraduate level, where it offers residential liberal arts education in coordination with the College of Saint Benedict, as well as through graduate theological education, long-standing programs of cultural preservation and transmission, and a variety of sponsored programs.

### **Charge of Saint John's Campus Ministry**

The SJU Office of Campus Ministry is to operate in accord with the Catholic Benedictine character and mission of Saint John's University. It is to be "an expression of the Church's special desire to be present to all who are involved in higher education" (cf. *Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future [ES], 13*). As such, the SJU Office of Campus Ministry will carry out the Church's mission to "preach the Gospel of Christ and to help the human family achieve its full destiny..," through the "formation of individuals who have a sense of ultimate purpose and are moving toward greater freedom, maturity, and integration" with a "sense of responsibility for the common good" that is supported by the development of skills "for active involvement in community life." (cf. *ES 17*).

In this light, the SJU Office of Campus Ministry is specifically charged with addressing the pastoral and spiritual needs of the undergraduate men who are students of Saint John's University. That is, the SJU Office of Campus Ministry must be attentive to using the lens of gender to recognize the needs and proclivities of students in planning, implementing, and assessing ministry programs for student engagement and growth.

### **Graduate Assistantships in Campus Ministry**

Graduate Assistantships in Campus Ministry fully supports the mission of the university and the charge of Campus Ministry through collaboration with Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary (SOT). Saint John's University is dedicated to teaching and service in the

Benedictine tradition and challenges its students to build a strong Christian community that enables students to meet the challenges of living a vibrant faith in an ever changing world. Campus Ministry strives to lead the university in fostering faith communities by promoting Gospel values and enabling the reign of God through proclamation, witness, and service. Campus Ministry is involved in all aspects of the university with students, faculty and administration. SJU has a long standing tradition of providing well qualified leaders in the church. Through Graduate Assistantships, SJU Campus Ministry supports and continues that tradition. This program is designed to prepare graduate theological students as leaders in professional church ministry. Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants will engage in supervised ministry and academic pursuits which promote ministerial growth and spiritual development as well as offer opportunities to apply theological study to practical ministry experiences. Specifically graduate assistants will participate in individual spiritual direction, group spiritual companionship and theological reflection through the SOT. Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants will serve the campus community through the areas of Residential Life Ministry, Retreats and Faith Development, Liturgy and Music, Spirituality and Social Justice and Ministry to Faculty and Staff. Graduate Assistants are integral members of the Campus Ministry team; collaborating with his/her supervisor to oversee ministry within their particular responsibility.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

This graduate assistantship position is intended to provide an opportunity for 2+ years of ministry immersion for a person who is:

- A professed member of Saint Benedict's Monastery or Saint John's Abbey who has either completed or is pursuing a graduate program of theological/pastoral studies; or,
- A student who is enrolled in the Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary and is making progress toward completion of a program of graduate theological/pastoral studies.

### **Knowledge, abilities and skills:**

- Being in full communion with the Catholic Church, able to minister joyfully and faithfully.
- Committed to regular personal and communal prayer
- Zeal to live a Christian life
- Emotional maturity, including the ability to sustain friendships and professional relationships and the management and appropriate expression of both anger and affection.
- The intellectual gifts needed for the specific ministry.
- A commitment to good communication and conflict resolution skills.
- Computer skills
- Maintain a high level of competence, judgment, and appropriate confidentiality
- Knowledge and appreciation of the Benedictine heritage and character of Saint

John's Abbey and University

- Reliable and dependable
- Able to work collaboratively

### Ongoing Requirements

A Graduate Assistant in Campus Ministry is a registered student in the SOT is in good standing and maintains a 3.0 GPA. Assistantships are granted each year for a maximum of three years. Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants arrive the first week of August and engage in an orientation program in preparation for the academic year. Ministry responsibilities (20 hours/week) continue through the first week of May. Students in these positions must be enrolled in no more than 9 credits per semester.

### Ongoing Support for each Graduate Assistant

- 50% scholarship from the School of Theology-Seminary: \$6,750
- Work award: \$6,800
- Room and board allowance: \$3,200
- Ongoing ministerial formation and training

*The figures above represent the full academic year. The work award is earned on an hourly basis as you work and processed through student payroll on a monthly basis; the room & board allowance is a monthly stipend that is also processed through student payroll. Student payroll gives you the option to have your payments deposited into your personal bank account or applied to your student account.*

### Campus Ministry Positions

- Liturgy and Music
- Residential Life Ministry
- Retreats
- Social Justice
- Faith Formation

## Application Process

### Phase I:

**Submit three letters of reference and completed application for admission to the School of Theology·Seminary:**

Admission Office  
Saint John's School of Theology·Seminary  
P.O. Box 7288  
Collegeville, MN 56321

Please note that you need to be accepted into the SOT prior to applying for the Graduate Assistantship in Campus Ministry.

### Phase II:

**Submit the application for Graduate Assistantships in Campus Ministry, your current resumé, preference for assistantship ministry area and your vocational interest essay electronically to [wshipper@csbsju.edu](mailto:wshipper@csbsju.edu).**

**Direct all questions regarding Graduate Assistantships in Campus Ministry to:**

**Fr. Bill Schipper, OSB**  
Saint John's University  
Director of Campus Ministry  
P.O. Box 2000  
Collegeville, Minnesota 56321  
[wshipper@csbsju.edu](mailto:wshipper@csbsju.edu)

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP IN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank the assistantship positions in the order of your preference. (1 = Most Favored). Your ranking helps give a better sense of your gifts and preferences.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Liturgy and Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retreats
- \_\_\_\_\_ Faith Formation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Justice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Residential Life

Please respond to the following questions in an essay of two (2) to four (4) pages in length.

1. Describe how you hope to use your theological education upon graduation.
2. List three experiences or qualities that you bring to this position and describe how you have used these in ministry or related areas.
3. Describe an area in which you wish to sharpen your skills and ministerial competencies through this position.

Is there any other information you would like to share with the selection committee? What questions do you have regarding the graduate assistantship in campus ministry?

How did you first learn about our graduate assistantships in campus ministry?