

The Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) Degree Program is pleased to share the dates of its upcoming summer session: **June 25-July 14, 2023**.

The only graduate theology program in the USA taught from Black Catholic perspectives, the IBCS Master of Theology (ThM) course of study is interdisciplinary. Students are immersed in professional scholarship focused on systematic and pastoral theologies, pastoral ministry, catechetics, aesthetics, history, and the social sciences. Established in 1980 on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the academic rigor of the Degree Program is balanced by a community life of prayer, worship, social and cultural activities, that makes for a rich immersion experience that forms faculty, staff and students for Christian discipleship in the 21st century.

The IBCS welcomes as degree students, ordained, religious and lay ecclesial ministers who serve the Black community and the church at-large. The ThM student body also includes graduates seeking on-going study, seminarians and scholars enrolled in other graduate programs (transient students) and ministers who want to enrich their general theological knowledge by exploring Roman Catholic traditions and their particular meanings for Black people in the U.S. and beyond.

Attached please find the 2023 Degree program course list and the provisional 2023 IBCS calendar. For more information, check the IBCS website: <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs/> or email ibcs@xula.edu. New or transient applicants should use this link <https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply/> and complete the appropriate New or IBCS transient application. Should you run into issues during the application process, contact the Xavier University Office of Graduate Programs at **504.520.7487** or email ogp@xula.edu. Contact Kathleen Dorsey Bellow at kdbellow@xula.edu if you have questions about the IBCS or the 2023 courses.

[Institute for Black Catholic Studies |](#)
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We commend the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) for its leadership in the establishment of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies in 1980 and the inauguration of Black Catholic History Month in 1990. In the NBCCC spirit of Self-Determination (Kujichagulia) and Purpose (Nia), we invite you to discern the call to graduate theological studies through the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University.

A blessed Black Catholic History Month,

Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow

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P.S. The IBCS also offers a Continuing Education and Enrichment track with three one-week modules - morning and afternoon course options as well as the Elders Retreat. Courses are designed with the faithful in mind: the theological approaches are pastoral, practical and interactive in nature.

C&E programs are ideal for parish ministers, teacher/catechists, administrators, and the people in the pew of all ages who seek to be life-long learners of Catholic tradition from the perspectives of Black community in the U.S. The 2023 course list is currently under construction and will be posted with the online application in December 2022. Please watch for that update on the IBCS website: <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs/>.