



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Institute for Black Catholic Studies

Greetings! Please allow me to introduce you to the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS).

Established in 1980, the IBCS is a three-week immersion program of Xavier University of Louisiana consisting of two tracks: the ThM Degree Program and the Continuing Education and Enrichment (C&E) Programs. Graduate students typically take 6 credit hours during the summer semester. C&E courses are offered in three one-week modules. Students take a morning and afternoon course for one, two or three weeks as their schedules and budget allow.

- During COVID, the IBCS shifted to online learning but as soon as it was safe, we returned to the Institute's traditional face-to-face format that allows us to live and study together supported by a rich community life of prayer, culture and worship (and a little bit of social life).
- The IBCS student body is culturally diverse; the majority are African American men and women who have regular job/ministry commitments. So they have limited time to be away from home, work or ministry. The IBCS semester fits their scheduling needs and offers a holistic adult learning experience. Most persons in the Degree program are regular Xavier graduate students, although the program welcomes transient/visiting students in other Theology programs. IBCS faculty teach in universities or serve in ministry settings across the country. They, too, gather gladly each summer to teach in the unique IBCS learning environment.
- IBCS summer session tuition costs and fees are established by the University and published each year in the Spring. Typically, the increase in fees from year to year is modest. As a gauge, 2023 tuition/ course fees for the Degree Program were \$2250 for 6 credit hours. C&E course fees were \$180 for the summer session, tuition \$375 per week. For both tracks, the housing reservation fee was \$77; room and board \$302/week.
- The IBCS offers limited tuition assistance. Scholarship information and applications will be posted in early 2024 on the website.
- The 2024 IBCS dates are June 30-July 19. The theme from Isaiah: 62:1 reflects the Institute's evangelizing mission - "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent...I will not keep quiet!"
- For additional information, the website address is <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs/>. Feel free to share this info with your community. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me or IBCS Program Specialist Dana Lockett. Many thanks.

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