



FROM THE DIRECTOR...

The late Pope Francis reminded us that “An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this world somehow better than we found it.” It is in this spirit that students, faculty and staff travel each summer to the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), a school of ministry that forms the faithful in Christian discipleship to meet the demands of the 21st century.

During the Institute, participants commit themselves to rigorous Christian formation – intellectual, spiritual, cultural – in a community of co-learners that impacts their respective ministry back home. Courses in the Degree and C&E programs are rooted in Black Catholic theology, ministry, liturgy and the arts that highlight God’s blessing of Blackness to church and society.

The 2026 IBCS will gather on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana in its 47th summer session from **June 28-July 17**. Featured on this website is the list of IBCS Degree Program offerings. In the coming weeks, Returning Degree students will be able to complete their applications and pre-register for classes. New Degree students are invited to apply through the Xavier University Office of Graduate Programs. See here for more information: <https://www.xula.edu/graduateschool/graduate-admissions.html>.

The 2026 Continuing Education and Enrichment course list is currently being built. It will describe the classes offered each of the three weeks of the C&E Programs. New students are welcome!

Students planning to join the 2026 IBCS should check the website frequently for program updates and the activated application links.

Thanking God and the IBCS ancestors in faith who keep us on track, our exceptional faculty, dedicated staff, steadfast graduates and students; Xavier University that faithfully supports the Institute each year,

Amen, Ashe!

Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D. Min.,
IBCS Director

9/6/25



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Institute for Black Catholic Studies

IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2026
JUNE 28 - JULY 17, 2026

2026 Master of Theology Degree Program
Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the one graduate theology program in the USA taught from Black Catholic perspectives. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary. Courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, family and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academic learning, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community, church and community at-large. The Degree program also welcomes scholars seeking on-going religious study, visiting graduate students and ministers who desire to expand, enhance and enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. For more information, new, transient and returning applicants can access the IBCS website at [Institute for Black Catholic Studies | Xavier University of Louisiana](#).

Morning Courses

IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture. Black history, culture, and experience are presented as a locus for responding to the Word of Scripture. Methods and tools of biblical exegesis are introduced; similarities between biblical mentality and Black mentality, and problem texts are also discussed. Mark Enemali, C.S.Sp., Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.) **Core Course.** (3 units).

IBTH 5081 Christology Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood in the African American community from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. Byron Wratee, Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45-11:45 a.m.) **Area Requirement.** (3 units).


IBTH 5430 Spirituality of Black Literature. Uses selected works of African American literature as a resource for the study of the spirituality of a people. It attempts to understand and articulate the spirituality expressed in the words, songs, prayers, relationships, and daily lives of Black people, as they are found in imaginative works. Ernest Gibson, Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.) **Area Requirement.** (3 units).

Afternoon Courses

IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology. Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. Cary W Dabney, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 p.m.) **Introduction.** (3 units).

IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community. Intends to establish a dialogue (a mutual critique and enrichment) between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans. Nicole Symmonds, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 p.m.) **Core Course.** (3 units).

Provisional 2026 IBCS Summer Session Calendar * Academic Meetings & Community Life Activities
"...those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength." Is 40:31

25 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 28 TBA: Adinkra (Ghana): All-IBCS Community Orientation 3-4:30pm TBA All-IBCS 6:30pm Opening Liturgy 13 th Sunday Ordinary Time SKD Chapel Reception Pharmacy Atrium	29 8am Morning Praise SKD Chapel 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes ThM Program Mtg 6pm TBA C&E Student Check-In 6pm TBA	30 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes Faculty Meetings 6pm C&E TBA Degree TBA XU Resident Mtg SMDerPores 8pm 2025 Graduation Meeting TBA	1 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes Theological Reflection 6pm Degree TBA	2 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes C&E Faculty Check-In 6pm TBA Ancestor Commemoration Walk-through TBA	3 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes All-IBCS Ancestor Commemoration ADM Auditorium 6-8pm WEEK 2 Student Arrivals	4 MAATA 7:00am Departure XU Residence
5 IBCS Week Two Sunday Eucharist in New Orleans	6 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes ThM Academic Advisement 6pm TBA C&E Student Check-In 6pm TBA	7 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes Faculty Meetings 6pm C&E UC TBA Degree LIB TBA	8 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes All-IBCS Theological Reflection 6pm Degree LIB TBA	9 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes C&E Faculty Check-In 6pm TBA	10 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes	11 ThM Comprehensive Exams TBA
12 IBCS Week Three IBCS Seminar 3-5pm TBA	13 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes ThM Exams Mtg TBA C&E Student Check-In TBA	14 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes Degree Faculty Mtg 6pm TBA C&E Faculty Mtg 6pm TBA	15 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes All-IBCS Theological Reflection 6pm w/TBA Degree & C&E TBA	16 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes NOON MASS 1:45-4:45pm Classes C&E Faculty Check-In 6pm TBA Commencement Rehearsal SKD Chapel 6pm	17 8am Morning Praise 8:45-11:45am Classes No Noon Mass 1:15-4:15pm Classes All-IBCS Closing Liturgy & Commencement 6:00pm SKD Chapel Reception UC Ballroom	18 Departure IBCS Community  Adinkra: "Fear none but God" 8/31/25



INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES 2026 SUMMER FEE SCHEDULE

Th.M. DEGREE PROGRAM

NOTE: The fees and payment information listed here have been updated to conform with the University's approved and official Summer 2025-6 Fee Schedule.

APPLICATION FEE

\$31 Only first-time IBCS students are required to submit a *non-refundable* application fee that is due at the time of submission of the completed program application. This fee is waived for returning students.

HOUSING RESERVATION FEE

\$62 All students planning to reside on campus are required to submit the *non-refundable* housing reservation fee that is due at the time of submission of the completed housing reservation.

PARKING

TBA Commuter Parking – Valid July 1-August 31.

TBA Residential Parking – Valid July 1-August 31.

COURSE/PROGRAM REGISTRATION:

I. **\$11** STUDENT I.D. Processing Fee – (Annual fee for all students. Returning students who need a replacement Student ID pay an additional fee).

\$160 ACTIVITY FEE (Funds cover general program & Community Life).

II. **TUITION: MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM:**

\$349 – Tuition per Semester Hour (3 Semester Hours = **\$1047 per course**)

III. **TECHNOLOGY FEES (Master's Degree Program ONLY):**

\$245 for 1-8 semester hours Technology Fee (i.e., 1 course = 3 semester hrs.)

\$489 for 9+ semester hours (i.e. 3 courses = 9 semester hours)

IV. STUDENT HOUSING (does not include reservation fee)

\$338 – Room & Board – per week **double occupancy**- per person (\$676 - two weeks, \$1014 - three weeks, \$1352 - four weeks)

\$23 – Laundry Fee (*Required of all On-Campus Residents for maintenance*)

* Ordinarily, commuter students are encouraged to stay on campus. According to XU housing policy, student housing is double occupancy to facilitate community and to encourage collaborative study.

** Application for single room and other housing accommodations must be made through Xavier's Office of Disability Services (ODS). Refer to <https://www.xula.edu/mainexperience/on-campus-housing-accommodations.html> for further information and ODS office contacts. Seminarian, clergy and religious requests for single room occupancy must be arranged in advance in writing through the IBCS Director. Students are advised to apply early for housing accommodation.

*** Commuter students may pay daily for dining hall meals or purchase a meal plan.

V. GRADUATION FEE - \$150 (Applies to 2026 graduating Th.M. students)

PLEASE CAREFULLY NOTE:

1. Besides the Application and Housing Reservation fees, all other **Degree student** fees are due according to the following schedule:

All Registration, Tuition, and Housing fees are due by close of business **Friday, June 19, 2026**. The deadline for payment of all C&E fees, including Graduation, is close of business **Monday, June 22, 2026**.

Non-receipt of payment may result in automatic deregistration. Returned checks will result in immediate deregistration and a charge of \$35.00.

2. If a student's tuition and required fees are included in a check issued by a joint sponsoring agent or group, be sure to supply accompanying documentation that **clearly identifies** the name of the student, his/her program of study, and any **itemized monetary disbursements**.
3. **Do not include** money for the student's textbooks, class materials, supplies, copying, etc. in a tuition and fee check.
4. **Students are well-advised to keep a current IBCS/XULA documentation file** containing copies of **all** application information: correspondence, application, health clearance, checks and related data. Bring this file with you when you arrive on campus.

5. **Options and directions for online payment of IBCS/XULA fees and tuition will be provided through Banner.** Please check frequently for the most updated information.
6. Send general correspondence(s) and /or payment(s) by mail to the following address:

**Xavier University of Louisiana Institute – IBCS
1 Drexel Drive – Box 49
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125**

**Make all checks payable to:
Xavier University of Louisiana – IBCS.**

NOTES:

