Our Purpose

Starr King School for the Ministry educates people for religious leadership, especially Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Theological education at Starr King inspires and empowers religious leaders through:

- student-centered, participatory learning,
- excellence and depth in religious studies,
- understanding and stewardship of our Unitarian Universalist heritage,
- service with congregations, communities and Unitarian Universalist organizations,
- active participation in the ecumenical and interfaith Graduate Theological Union,
- engagement with the critical issues of our time,
- deepened self-awareness,
- knowing we teach by who we are and what we do,
- loving God, others and self.

Our Theological Understanding

Starr King School for the Ministry expresses a theological understanding that includes all in an embrace of mutuality, equality and respect. We seek to foster I-Thou relationships with one another, rooted in authentic presence and the full unfolding of the powers of the soul. Our tradition seeks to communicate not only to the mind, but also to the heart. That tradition leads us to encourage special pastoral concern for those who have been oppressed in body and spirit because of unjust social conditions. Honoring the priesthood and prophethood of all believers, our theological task includes working for just, loving and sustainable community among human beings and with the earth.

We value the integration of academic expertise with lived experience and living spirituality. Our tradition leads us to emphasize ongoing revelation in each culture and in every creature. Our attention is drawn to the concrete, not the abstract, to the particular, not the generic. Time, place, culture, language and history are theologically significant because they help us understand the presence of the holy within time and space, and within diverse expressions of humanness.
In faithfulness to our theological understanding, we educate to counter oppressions and create just community. Intersecting patterns of violence and injustice mark the world. But we believe that abiding resources of beauty, grace, resistance and transformation abound. To teach is to cooperate with revolutionary grace in the healing, transformation and full unfolding of life.

**Our Educational Philosophy and Pedagogical Practice**

Our theological understanding is expressed in our educational philosophy and pedagogical practice. We seek to educate in ways that:

- trust in an empowering and liberating grace larger than ourselves,
- call forth the full, authentic presence of people,
- welcome silenced knowledge, feeling and experience,
- undergird human wholeness, integrity, interdependence and agency,
- foster self-awareness and self-respect,
- strengthen relational capacities and the ethics of community,
- deepen knowledge and wisdom arising from engagement with primary texts and primary experience,
- embody an ongoing practice of inquiry, study, action and reflection.

**Educating to Counter Oppressions and Create Just Community**

The mission, theological vision and educational philosophy of the school support us in educating to counter oppressions. In our work, we strive to embody what we hope to see in the world — a just, loving humanity and community in which people are free to be themselves fully without fear, and no one is exiled, silenced or exploited.

We seek to provide an institutional context that embraces the religious leadership of those who bring experience, knowledge and ethical vision, which the dominant culture has ignored or silenced. We seek to counter white supremacy, resisting the cultural and institutional patterns that confer privilege on the well being of whites over the well being of others. We seek to enable people to gain the knowledge, experience, skill and religious understanding needed to address intersecting oppressions in North America and globally, and to advance liberation, healing, peace and the establishment of a just society.

*At left: Starr King School’s faculty members, 1911.*
THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Individualized and Integrative Learning

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED PROGRAMS

Each person’s path to religious leadership is unique. Starr King School attends to individualized and integrative learning, meeting students where they are and attempting to understand their needs and potential. The school then directs students to resources and offers counsel to help identify and satisfy their development through experience, study, evaluation and growth.

We ask students, as members of our community, to reciprocate. This means participating fully in the community and worship life of the school, from helping to organize events or stuffing fund-raising envelopes to creating a full chapel service. In addition, students assist in shaping school policy and practice through their representation on faculty-student committees and the board of trustees.

HOLISTIC STUDY AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Starr King considers students’ whole life experience during seminary as relevant to their studies.

Significant learning takes place in contexts other than structured courses and formal fieldwork. Independent projects, creative undertakings, learning from workplace challenges, life crises or major events, such as the birth of a child, the death of a friend or national mobilization for war, are all occasions for grappling with fundamental religious questions.

SMALL CLASSES

The school intentionally keeps its classes and seminars small, with emphasis on the active participation of all present.

Our practice is to accept no auditors in courses. We expect each person in the classroom to participate fully.

WRITTEN EVALUATIONS

As a general practice, Starr King employs written evaluations in coursework and fieldwork rather than letter grades. Through written evaluations, students receive regular feedback and counsel regarding the quality of their work and path of preparation for ministry, scholarship or religious leadership in society.

Visit our Web site — www.sksm.edu — for the most up-to-date information about our degrees, programs and courses.
M.A. students receive both written evaluations and letter grades for all courses taken at Starr King. Letter grades will be given to other Starr King students under certain circumstances and with the agreement of both the student and the student’s advisor.

**Ecumenical and Interfaith Engagement: The Graduate Theological Union**

Through the structures of partnership and exchange made possible by the Graduate Theological Union ([www.gtu.edu](http://www.gtu.edu)), students and faculty at Starr King work in close cooperation with people of diverse denominations and faith traditions.

**Degree and Certificate Programs**

Starr King School offers three degrees and one certificate:

- **MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)**
  A three- to four-year program of study that prepares people for religious leadership within congregations and the wider community, especially through Unitarian Universalist ministry.

- **MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (MASC)**
  A two-year program of study that prepares people for religious leadership in society through institutions and/or vocations that serve the common good and work for justice, equity and compassion.

- **MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)**
  A two-year program offered by the Graduate Theological Union, in collaboration with Starr King School, that advances people’s engagement in the scholarly study of religion and prepares them for Ph.D. studies and teaching.
**SEMINARY FOR THE LAITY**

A flexible online program for church and non-profit organization leaders, emphasizing skill training for strategic planning, change management and team building. Participants who complete the program earn a certificate.

M.Div., MASC and M.A. students can draw on resources at Starr King School, the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley. Free and open cross-registration in this array of educational institutions makes possible an individualized course of study, tailored to the student’s professional interests, experience and calling.

For a complete listing of degree, residency and transfer requirements, visit [www.sksm.edu](http://www.sksm.edu).

Starr King also offers:

- An opportunity for individuals not in a degree program to enroll as special students and attend specific courses.
- Continuing education opportunities for ministers.
- Online courses offering graduate-level credit, especially for students outside the Graduate Theological Union who are preparing for or considering Unitarian Universalist ministry. (See pages 8 and 12.)
- Guidance from Starr King faculty, through the school’s membership in the Graduate Theological Union, for students pursuing Ph.D. and Th.D. degrees. Visit [www.gtu.edu](http://www.gtu.edu).

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**Master of Divinity Degree**

**EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

The M.Div. degree at Starr King School is designed to prepare people for ministerial vocations in parish ministry; community ministry; religious education ministry; hospital, prison or hospice chaplaincy; or related forms of religious leadership with congregations and the wider community. The M.Div. meets the basic educational requirement for fellowship as a Unitarian Universalist minister, as well as the basic educational requirement for ordination in a variety of other denominations.

At Starr King, each student’s M.Div. program of study is individually designed to respond to that person’s gifts, challenges, life experience and calling. The program’s overall goal is to prepare each person holistically for ministry through attainment of competency in eight threshold areas (see page 11) that integrate the arts of ministry with the disciplines of theological and religious studies.
• The Program in Christian Spirituality (affiliated with San Francisco Theological Seminary)
• School of Applied Theology
• Evangelical Round Table
• Theological Roundtable on Ecological Ethics and Spirituality

Starr King students enjoy free and open cross-registration at all GTU member institutions, where distinguished faculty offer courses in theology, biblical studies, ethics, interdisciplinary studies, religion and the arts, psychology and religion, church history, spirituality, liturgy, preaching, world religions and more.

Because we regard the GTU’s ecumenical and interfaith scholarly community as a primary context for our educational program, Starr King expects its students to accomplish a significant part of their study at other GTU schools.

This goal also includes the development of personal qualities and habits for a successful ministry, such as mature judgment, self-awareness, spiritual practice, integrity, responsibility, sensitivity and ethical discernment.

See www.sksm.edu for a full listing of degree requirements.

SEEKING FELLOWSHIP AND ORDINATION AS A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTER

Pursuit of the M.Div. degree is only one aspect of preparation for fellowship and ordination as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Information on the full process is available from the Unitarian Universalist Association Director of Ministerial Credentialing and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s Regional Subcommittees on Candidacy. Contact:

Rev. David A. Pettee
MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING DIRECTOR
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2800
617/948-6402, dpettee@uua.org, www.uua.org/programs/ministry

Master of Arts in Religious Leadership for Social Change Degree

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The MASC is a professional degree designed for:
- those who want to concentrate their work on promoting goals of justice, equity and compassion in society, through religious or secular institutions,
- those seeking a grounding in ministerial and theological education to pursue their work,
- those already involved in religious leadership for social change who want to improve their professional competence.

The overall aim of this degree is to establish an appropriate theological foundation and skill base for religious leadership in society, organizations and institutions.

Each student’s program of study is individually designed to integrate theological study, spiritual practice and professional development in a way that responds to the particular interests, gifts and challenges of the student. The program offers both theological knowledge and practical experience in community organizing, media relations, non-profit management, political action and social...
service ministry. The MASC program also fosters personal growth, spiritual practice and deepened commitment to social justice.

See [www.sksm.edu](http://www.sksm.edu) for a full listing of degree requirements.

**SPECIALIZATION**

The MASC student, in consultation with an advisor, will identify an area of specialization for religious leadership, which could include, for example, racial justice work, gender issues, restorative justice, environmental responsibility, queer activism and other areas.

**COMMUNITY PLACEMENT**

In the second year of their program, MASC students participate in a six-month community placement, designed to integrate religious leadership abilities with practical skills required for social change. These placements may be on a local, national or international level and will include supervision from a mentor who is a seasoned progressive activist.

**PROFESSIONAL ROLES GRADUATES MIGHT ASSUME**

Those who have completed the MASC degree will be prepared to assume professional roles in institutions and organizations that work for progressive social change. Depending on the area of specialization and the professional background of MASC graduates, the employment field could include non-profit organizations, social service agencies, political action organizations, administrative and leadership positions in denominational bodies and religious associations, church staffs, educational programs, health organizations, community centers, interfaith organizations and research institutes.

**Master of Arts Degree**

**EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

The M.A., offered by the Graduate Theological Union in collaboration with Starr King School, engages students in the scholarly study of religion. The degree program provides:

- an opportunity to explore theological and ethical issues inherent in life and work,
- an academic structure for personal, sustained inquiry into theological issues or concerns,
- a high level of competence in a specific area of study, preparing students for further study at the doctoral level.

Visit our Web site — [www.sksm.edu](http://www.sksm.edu) — for the most up-to-date information about our degrees, programs and courses.
**CONCENTRATION**

Each M.A. student chooses an area of concentration as the focus of study and the thesis. A Starr King faculty member serves as the student’s primary thesis advisor.

Areas of concentration available through Starr King faculty include:

- Art and Religion
- Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions (including Islamic Studies)
- Ethics and Social Theory/Religion and Society
- History
- Religion and Psychology
- Systematic and Philosophical Theology (including Feminist Theology, Process and Relational Theology, and Religious Humanism)

For more information about Master of Arts degree requirements, see the GTU catalog or visit www.gtu.edu.

**Seminary for the Laity**

**EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

Starr King School’s Seminary for the Laity is a non-residential, online certificate program designed to help congregational and non-profit leaders develop skills that can move organizations toward fulfilling their mission and vision. The program is appropriate for —

- lay leaders
- clergy
- religious educators
- church administrators
- music and volunteer services directors
- Unitarian Universalist congregational leaders
- Unitarian Universalist Association district leaders
- non-profit leaders.
These leaders frequently operate in an environment of constant change and limited resources while struggling to support their communities, further organizational goals and plan strategically for the future. Classes offered as part of the Seminary for the Laity program recognize the realities of this environment and provide students with the necessary tools for organizational sustainability.

Through this online program, leaders will learn to analyze community systems, clarify and expand an organization’s mission, manage shifts and trends, turn conflict into a positive tool for change, and care for themselves to sustain both personal and organizational growth.

Courses include the opportunity to deepen understanding of Unitarian Universalist values, heritage, theology and ethics.

SKSM integrates learning tools, such as podcasts, video segments and CD recordings, into the program, offering them in formats designed for ease of use by the widest number of people. Participants will create a learning community within the program to support their work.

ONLINE COURSEWORK

Seminary for the Laity offers flexible half-semester and semester courses leading to a certificate of completion from Starr King School. Each course is designed to be self-standing (no class is a prerequisite for another) and available in a variety of sequences to fit the needs of participants. (For graduate-level courses, see www.sksm.edu for information about our online and master’s programs.)

Courses include:

- Introduction to Unitarian Universalist theology
- Introduction to Unitarian Universalist history
- Religious leadership:
  - leadership skills and practices
  - systems thinking
  - leading and managing change
  - self-care practices
  - social justice leadership in Unitarian Universalist settings
  - group process skills
  - group life cycles and dynamics
  - conflict management
Luce Project for Multi-religious Theological Education

Starr King School for the Ministry’s Luce Project for Multi-religious Theological Education focuses on the inter-relationships of Islamic, Christian and Jewish spiritual traditions, as well as their interactions with other religious traditions. The project, funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, offers opportunities for multi-faith engagement and a variety of courses, both in Berkeley and online. Those preparing for the ministry or other positions of religious leadership learn to understand not only the interconnectedness of these traditions, but how adherents are influenced by their concepts of bodies, genders, sexualities, class, national and ethnic identities, and aesthetics. This approach reflects Starr King’s commitment to educating to counter oppressions and to creating just and sustainable societies, and it embodies the school’s Unitarian Universalist identity and respect for the world’s multiple religious traditions.

- Study of Unitarian Universalist congregations, districts and the UUA
  - Appreciative Inquiry and Open Space Technology as strategic planning tools
  - gathering information in a congregational setting
  - systems thinking
  - establishing and working within a behavioral covenant
  - congregational polity and governance structures
  - strategic planning.

For the most up-to-date information about the Seminary for the Laity application process, tuition and fees, visit www.sksm.edu, call SKSM Admissions at 510/845-6232 x125, or e-mail admissions@sksm.edu.
### Threshold Areas

#### Offices of Religious Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Disciplines and Fields</th>
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| Pastor | I. Life in Religious Community and Interfaith Engagement  
- Functional and Pastoral Theology  
- Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions |
| Prophet | II. Prophetic Witness and Work  
- Ethics and Social Theory  
- Religion and Society |
| Preacher | III. Sacred Text and Interpretation  
- Biblical Studies and Biblical Languages  
- Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions  
- Homiletics |
| Scholar | IV. History of Dissenting Traditions and the Theological Quest  
- History |
| Counselor | V. Spiritual Practice and Care of the Soul  
- Religion and Psychology  
- Spirituality |
| Theologian | VI. Theology in Culture and Context  
- Systematic and Philosophical Theology  
- Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions |
| Teacher | VII. Educating for Wholeness and Liberation  
- Theology and Education |
| Artist | VIII. Embodied Wisdom and Beauty  
- Liturgical Studies  
- Art and Religion  
- Spirituality |

Visit our Web site — [www.sksm.edu](http://www.sksm.edu) — for the most up-to-date information about our degrees, programs and courses.
CONTINUING AND ONLINE EDUCATION

Seminary for the Laity

This non-resident, online certificate program is open to congregational and non-profit organization leaders, and emphasizes strategic planning, change management, team-building, Unitarian Universalist history as well as personal and organizational sustainability. (See page 8.)

Online Courses

Starr King offers online courses to:

- students outside the Graduate Theological Union who are in non-Unitarian Universalist schools,
- those interested in participating in graduate theological education as non-degree students.

Starr King students must make a special request to faculty to take online courses.

For a complete listing of online courses and registration information, visit www.online.sksm.edu.

Inter session and Summer Session

The Graduate Theological Union offers classes during its January Intersession. These are typically one-week intensive courses scheduled between the fall and spring semesters. The tuition for Starr King degree students includes the cost of these classes. Intersession classes are also open to special students. Visit www.gtu.edu for more information.

Starr King School sometimes offers summer courses available to SKSM students (at no additional cost) or special students. Visit www.sksm.edu for course descriptions.

The Pacific School of Religion also offers summer courses. Visit http://summer.psr.edu for information about courses, fees and housing. Tuition for Starr King students does not include the cost of summer classes offered by other GTU schools.
CONTINUING AND ONLINE EDUCATION / ADMISSIONS, TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Visit our Web site — www.sksm.edu — for the most up-to-date information about our degrees, programs and courses.

Fees

For the current Starr King School fee schedule, visit www.sksm.edu.

For more information about continuing education opportunities at Starr King School, contact online@sksm.edu or visit www.online.sksm.edu.

ADMISSIONS, TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Welcome

If you’re considering applying to one of our programs, we invite you to visit the school to meet our faculty and students, and sit in on classes. To arrange a visit, contact admissions@sksm.edu.

Admission to the M.Div. or MASC Program

To begin the application process for the M.Div. or MASC program, write a preliminary letter (by regular mail or e-mail) introducing yourself and expressing your interest in applying to Starr King School. Address the letter to:

Becky Leyser
DEAN OF STUDENTS
Starr King School for the Ministry
2441 Le Conte Ave.
Berkeley, CA  94709
admissions@sksm.edu

Following your preliminary letter, you’ll be asked to complete an application that includes a form, an autobiography, responses to a set of essay questions, transcripts and five references (one from your minister, one from an employer, one from a teacher and two of your choosing).
Entrance to Starr King master’s programs normally requires a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, or an equivalent degree from a non-U.S. school. An interview with a member of the Admissions and Scholarship Committee is also required as part of the application process. Programs begin in the fall.

The school is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant students.

M.Div. and MASC application deadlines: Dec. 1, Feb. 1 and March 1

Visit www.sksm.edu for current application fees.

**Admission to the M.A. Program**

M.A. students may begin studies at Starr King School in either fall or spring.

- Application deadline for **fall** enrollment: Feb. 15
- Application deadline for **spring** enrollment: Sept. 30

To apply for the M.A. program, begin by contacting:

**Admissions Office**

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION  
2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
gtu-admissions@gtu.edu  
510/649-2465, 510/649-2460 or 800/826-4488

Usually, if your academic interests best match Starr King’s program, the GTU will direct you to our admissions department. Starr King’s admissions staff will then confer with you about the fit between your interests and the expertise of the school’s faculty.

Application requirements include a B.A. from an accredited college or university, an academic statement of purpose, three academic letters of recommendation, transcripts and Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores taken no longer than five years ago. To take the Graduate Record Exam, contact:

**Educational Testing Service**

P.O. Box 6000  
Princeton, NJ 08541  
www.gre.org, 609/771-7670
Sally Hamlin  
STARR KING GRADUATE,  
CLASS OF 2007  

What does it feel like to walk into a place that knows your soul? Can a place hold you in this way? I believe it can. That’s what it meant to come to Starr King School. Sharing, challenging, inviting, learning. It was all there, and more.

Admission to the M.A. program is by joint approval of the GTU admissions committee and the Starr King M.A. Admissions Committee. Visit www.gtu.edu for current application fees.

**Admission to the Seminary for the Laity**

For current application requirements, visit www.sksm.edu.

**Tuition and Fees**


**M.Div. and MASC Tuition**

Starr King charges a lump-sum tuition fee for the M.Div. and MASC programs, normally paid over six semesters (M.Div.) or four semesters (MASC), unless the student makes other arrangements with the Dean of Students.

If a student’s M.Div. program of study extends beyond six semesters, or if a MASC program extends beyond four semesters, the school charges a continuing fee.

Students who choose part-time study in the M.Div. program pay half the total tuition, regardless of the number of units they take. In other words, those who attend quarter time still pay half the tuition. Note that a minimum of 3 units per semester is required to maintain status in the program.

Tuition must be paid in full before graduation.

**M.A. Tuition**

The Graduate Theological Union offers the M.A. degree in collaboration with Starr King School. Because M.A. tuition is set by the GTU, it can change during a student’s course of study. Visit www.gtu.edu for current fees.

Students who choose part-time study (a minimum of 3 units per semester) in the M.A. program pay per course, according to the Graduate Theological Union fee schedule.

Tuition is payable each semester, upon registration, and must be paid in full by graduation.
SEMINARY FOR THE LAITY FEES

For current fees, visit www.sksm.edu.

NON-DEGREE STUDENT FEES

Those who wish to register for a course as a non-degree student ("special student") are welcome at Starr King. Registration in a limited enrollment class is at the discretion of the instructor.

Visit www.sksm.edu for registration information and current fees.

Financial Aid

Starr King awards financial aid to M.Div. and MASC degree students with need who are paying tuition and request assistance. Graduate Theological Union M.A. students affiliated with Starr King are also eligible to receive financial aid.

The school maintains endowed scholarships as well as tuition grants. In awarding tuition grants, the committee takes into account the identified financial need of each applicant as well as the school's commitment to educating to counter oppressions and our desire to manifest a multi-racial, multicultural learning community.

For information about financial aid opportunities, visit www.sksm.edu.