

STEPS IN ACHIEVING THE MA DEGREE IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION (8/09)

The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) uses metrics to assess both knowledge and skill competencies of students who wish to pursue the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Conflict Transformation. Beginning with the entering cohort in the fall of 2009 (as well as those beginning the program through SPI 2009), all students admitted to the MA program will be required to demonstrate competency in core knowledge and skill areas before attaining the degree. The specific steps are described below.

1. Advancement to Candidacy:

Students who are admitted to the Master of Arts program in Conflict Transformation at the CJP must demonstrate that they have successfully understood and incorporated core *knowledge* competencies in the peacebuilding field. All MA students are therefore required to successfully complete a comprehensive exam that incorporates essential knowledge and concepts from the Analysis, Practice and Theory courses. For full-time students beginning the program in the Fall term, the comprehensive exam will be administered at the end of their first academic year (in April). Students will be granted, if needed, the option of taking the exam up to two times. Students who are unable to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of core material will be granted a Graduate Certificate, but will not advance to candidacy for the MA degree.

2. Practice Skills Assessment:

All MA students at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) are expected to demonstrate certain *skill* competencies by the time they graduate from CJP. In the process of taking the required (core) courses, all students will be exposed to the skill competencies listed on the left-hand side (below). Students who also choose a concentration or take certain elective courses will be encouraged to develop some of the specific competencies listed on the right hand side.

Competencies in Core Courses	Competencies in Specialized Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation Skills • Case Analysis • Self-Management • Self-Care • Teambuilding/Role-playing • Interpersonal Relational Skills • Understanding Peacebuilding Theories (CT, RJ, Trauma Healing) • Research and Interview Skills • Reflective Practice • Cultural Competency • Ethical Issues • Social Change Theories • Specific Practice Skills and Concepts (e.g., principled negotiation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation and Mediation • Facilitation and Dialogue Processes • Monitoring and Evaluation • Project Design and Management • Training Design and Delivery • Organizational Management • Advocacy and Activism • Trauma Healing Practices/skills • Leading Circle Processes • Community Development/Organizing • Spiritual Practices/Disciplines for the Peacebuilder • Contemplative Photography • Partnership/Networking Skills

All MA students will be assessed on their mastery of competencies in both core and specialized courses through the “Peacebuilding Practices: Skills Assessment” course (PAX 603) that should be taken the fall of a full-time student’s second year (for students completing degree requirements through SPI, the course will be taken under faculty supervision in the summer as a directed study).

3. Research class: All MA students must pass one of the designated research courses satisfactorily to graduate with an MA in Conflict Transformation.