SAINT GABRIEL INSTITUTE

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS AND DIPLOMACY PROGRAM
2025-2026

Curriculum Outline

The Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the danger it poses to human dignity, civil rights, and religious liberty has sharpened the need for specially trained personnel to represent internationally the needs of the suffering population. The war is a hybrid one in which information is used as a weapon of aggression. Without effective communication, Ukraine and its Churches risk becoming casualties of this brutal, indeed genocidal war.

To address these critical needs, the Department for External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has launched the St. Gabriel Institute where a year-long program is organized consisting of two components. The first is offered online from June to December. The second component will be an intensive, multifaceted graduate-level curriculum for the most dedicated students of the previous online program. Hosted in Washington DC, at St. Josaphat Seminary, it will bring together leading international scholars and professionals to train our participants to be faithful messengers for our church. This is the second year we are running the program; the first iteration, held during the 2024–2025 academic year, was a clear success and confirmed the importance of continuing this initiative.

Syllabus for Online Component June-December

Participants will be expected to read approximately 100 pp. of assigned texts for each class. Supplementary optional readings will be suggested.
All readings will be accessible through our learning management platform, Academy Ocean, unless otherwise noted.

Program Workload

Summer Session Component (8 sessions from June to August, over 13 weeks)

Workload during the summer session:

Workload during the autumn session:

- Session duration - 2 hours
- Reading - 100 pages (5 hours of reading)
- Writing - 1 hour
- Total - 8 hours/session * 8 sessions = 64 hours

64 hours / 13 weeks = 5 hours per week (approximately every 1.5 weeks)

During the summer session program, the workload (time required) will be 5 hours per week.

Autumn Session Component (2 sessions per week from September 1st to December 10th = 28 sessions)

Workload during the autumn session:

- Session duration - 2 hours
- Reading - 100 pages (5 hours of reading)
- Writing - 1 hour per session

Total - 8 hours/session * 2 sessions/week = 16 hours/week.

During the autumn session program, the workload (time required) will be 16 hours per week.

Spring Session Component (a residential program running from January to May, over 15 academic weeks)

Workload during the spring session:

- Two academic courses - One at the Catholic University of America and one at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. 6 credits (252 hours)
- Seminar hours = 2-hour seminars twice a week, 4 hours per week (60 hours)
- Reading - 100 pages per seminar (5 hours of reading), 10 hours per week (150 hours)
- Writing - 1 hour per seminar, 2 hours per week (30 hours)
- Advocacy- 5 hours per week (75 hours)
- Monthly Practicum (see below) - 8 hours preparation, 2 hours execution (50 hours)

Total workload Spring session = 617 hours

During the spring session program, the workload (time required) will be 42 hours per week.

Summer and Fall Lecture Schedule

June 2024 — August 2024 18:00-20:00 Kyiv time | 11:00 - 1:00 pm EST
This year's calendar will follow a similar structure to last year's (see below), with adjustments as needed.

Date	Theme and Readings	Discussion leader
June 4, 2024	Welcome, and Introduction: Goal and outline of the program, the needs of external Church representation.	Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk & Metropolitan Borys Gudziak
June 11, 2024	A History of Ukraine in 240 minutes	Yaroslav Hrytsak
June 25, 2024	A History of Ukraine in 240 minutes	Yaroslav Hrytsak
July 2, 2024	*What is Church History I* Ukrainian Christianity 900-1500 — The Impact of the Christianization of Rus' and the creation of the Kyiv Metropolia; medieval Church life in Rus'	Oleh Turiy
July 16, 2024	*What is Church History II* 1500-1900 early modern church life, the Union of Brest, the modern development of the Greek Catholic Church	Oleh Turiy
July 30, 2024	*What is Church History III* — The UGCC in the 20th and 21st centuries.	Oleh Turiy
August 13, 2024	Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, his social teaching and witness	Myroslav Marynovych
August 20, 2024	*The Catholic Church and the modern world* — the life of the UGCC in light of Vatican II documents	Myroslav Marynovych

September-December Sessions will meet twice weekly.

September 3, 2024	UGCC's pastoral, social, ecumenical documents 1991-present (I)	Myroslav Marynovych

September 5, 2024	UGCC's pastoral, social, ecumenical documents 1991-present (II)	Myroslav Marynovych
September 10, 2024	Main challenges that UGCC will face in the next decades and ideas for their resolution	Myroslav Marynovych
September 12, 2024	The Ethics of Cultural Diplomacy	Marta Kuziy
September 17, 2024	The hope to which the Lord calls us. The Pastoral plan of the UGCC:	Fr. Andrew Onuferko
September 19, 2024	The history of Ukrainian Church life outside of Ukraine	Frank Sysyn
September 24, 2024	The nature, current state and future of the Russo-Ukrainian War.	Andriy Zagorodnyuk
September 26, 2024	Islam in Ukraine and the UGCC	Roman Nazarenko
October 1, 2024	The Role of the Church in Ukraine's Future	Yevhen Hlibovytsky
October 3, 2024	Patriarch Josyf Slipyj: witnessing globally to the life of the Church of the Martyrs	Mitered Archpriest Iwan Dacko
October 8, 2024	National memory in the international context	Anton Drobovych
October 10, 2024	The life of the UGCC where there are no eparchies or exarchates.	Bishop Stepan Sus
October 15, 2024	Pope Francis: Evangelii gaudium and synodality	Christophe Cardinal Pierre
October 17, 2024	Fundraising — the basics	Natalia Klymovska
October 22, 2024	Synthesis and Discussion: Reviewing Church Diplomacy Fundamentals	Metropolitan Borys Gudziak
October 24, 2024	Patriarch Josyf Slipyj: witnessing globally to the life of the Church of the Martyrs	Mitered Archpriest Iwan Dacko

October 29, 2024	The ideologies, movements, and organizations that shaped Ukraine during the 20th and 21st centuries	Alexander Motyl
October 31, 2024	An Introduction to the Concept of Human Rights	Oleksandra Matviichuk
November 5, 2024	Fundraising — the basics	Natalia Klymovska
November 7, 2024	Challenges and Lessons for Ukrainian Cultural Diplomacy During the War	Natalia Popovych
November 12, 2024	A Catholic response to 20th-century ideologies — St. John Paul II	George Weigel
November 14, 2024	Understanding Strategy: Representing a large institution. Interpreting mission goals locally. Understanding local audiences, and matching their goals to your institutional goals.	Dora Chomiak
November 19, 2024	Diverse faith traditions and confessions in Ukraine.	Catherine Wanner
November 21, 2024	Media Relations and Communication — Professional writing How to write press releases, statements, etc.	Mykola Murskyj
November 26, 2024	Conference on Patriarch Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky	Hosted by Mitered Archpriest Iwan Dacko
November 28, 2024	Thanksgiving – No Meeting	Thanksgiving – No Meeting
December 3, 2024	Media Relations and Communication — How to give and request an interview. How to arrange interviews with the press and how to maximize your message on a given platform. Overview of different social media platforms and communication needs for each.	Natalia Popovych
December 5, 2024	The vocation of the UGCC in the 21st century	Fr. Peter Galadza
December 10, 2024	Contemporary Ukrainian Orthodoxy	Archimandrite Kyrylo Hovorun

December 12, 2024	Final Session: Wrap-up Discussion	Metropolitan Borys Gudziak

Spring 2026 Residential Program Outline

The second component of this program, is held at St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, D.C., trains our participants to become effective communicators through instruction from leading international scholars and professionals.

The second component will have five key elements:

1. Life and Prayer Together. Participants will form a vibrant community with daily prayer and fellowship. Together, they will sing the services of the Eastern tradition, prepare meals, and experience life in a service-learning community.
2. Classes at Local Universities. Participants will have the opportunity to attend classes at the Catholic University of America and Georgetown University. The intellectual experience will be enriched by encounters with international faculty and students.
3. In-House Seminars. Leading experts and retired diplomats have committed to conducting seminars and master classes for participants addressing contemporary global challenges.
4. Cultural Diplomacy. During the semester, the students will work together to organize an academic conference on a Ukrainian topic, a press event, a concert, an art exhibit, and a fundraising event.
5. Advocacy and Communication. With support from partners at Razom for Ukraine, a leading Ukrainian advocacy organization in Washington, participants will attend meetings with diplomats at embassies and conferences at think tanks. The students will help organize a House Committee hearing.

Element 1: Life and Prayer Together
Participants will form a vibrant community with daily prayer and fellowship. Together, they will sing the services of the Eastern tradition, prepare meals, and experience life in a service-learning community. This communal life fosters personal and spiritual growth through close observation, love, and interaction with others. By living in fellowship, participants learn to embrace the dignity of every person, cultivating respect and healthy relationships.

For these students, preparing to serve in the field of diplomacy and communication, living in a Christ-centered community is vital. The time spent together in prayer, service, and reflection is not only a way to strengthen personal faith but also to internalize the values they will carry into their future work and service. The love and humility they experience in daily interactions with their peers help them understand that their mission is to bring Christ's teachings of peace, justice, and human dignity into the complex arenas of global diplomacy.

Element 2: University classes

This component would be executed in partnership with Catholic University of America and Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service. Participants will take one of the classes not just to deepen their knowledge but also to immerse themselves in an American Catholic academic environment. Below is a list of courses offered last year; next year's classes will follow a similar trajectory, with some updates and refinements.

Catholic University of America

1. Christian Social Ethics – Joseph E. Capizzi
2. American Catholicism – Maria Cecilia Ulrickson
3. Psychology and Religion – Raymond J. Studzinski

Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service

1. Christian Social Ethics – Sr. Marilyn McMorrow
2. Diplomacy and Culture – Amb. Synthia Schneider
3. Ethical Issues in International Relations - Sr. Marilyn McMorrow

ELEMENT 3: seminars & guest lectures

This element focuses on engaging students on subjects such as human rights, contemporary issues and strategic communication through expert-led seminars. These biweekly seminars, held at St. Josaphat Seminary, will provide opportunities for participants to seriously engage in both academic and practical questions.

Academic Seminars. These would be two-hour sessions that look at books, articles, or case studies that fellows would prepare a reflection for and engage with others about.

- These seminars would be split into different themes:
    - Church history
    - Human dignity
    - Political philosophy
    - Communications and rhetoric
    - Politics and contemporary issues.
- In seminars focussing on media, rhetoric and politics, fellows will be asked to reflect and respond to key issues involving the Church and society broadly.
- Books and other materials would be assigned and purchased by us for the fellows.

Practical Seminars. These two-hour sessions would prepare fellows to successfully execute the practicum of the month (see below).

- Practical seminars would be taught by practitioners of government, media, ecumenical, and community relations.
- Themes would include subjects such as:
    - Media Relations
    - Fundraising
    - Non-profit administration and leadership
    - Professional and mass communication

Spring 2026 List of Lectors

Guest lecturers and seminar leaders who have agreed to participate:

1. Melanne Verveer, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, currently Executive Director, Georgetown University Institute for Women, Peace and Security
2. Oksana Markarova – Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States (since February 2021), Permanent Observer of Ukraine to the Organization of American States, and Ambassador of Ukraine to Antigua and Barbuda
3. David Bonior – Former Majority Whip of the United States House of Representatives
4. Roman Popadiuk, Former United States ambassador to Ukraine
5. William Courtney, Former United States ambassador to Ukraine
6. William B. Taylor, Former United States ambassador to Ukraine
7. John Herbst, Former United States ambassador to Ukraine
8. Marie Yovanovich, Former United States ambassador to Ukraine
9. Prof. Jose Casanova, Senior Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University
10. Thomas Banchoff, Director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University
11. John Bridgeland, Former Director of the Domestic Policy Council of the United States, Cofounder of Welcome.US
12. Daniel Runde, Senior Vice President at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
13. Natalia Jaresko, Former Minister of Finance of Ukraine
14. Tania Chomiak-Salvi – Deputy Coordinator International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State
15. Michael Sawkiw, Jr. President, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
16. Prof. Mark V. Vlasic, KCHS, KCEM, Senior Fellow & Adjunct Professor of Law & Public Policy, Georgetown University, Principal, Madison Law & Strategy Group
17. Fr. Mark Morozovych – Dean of Theology and Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Catholic University of America

18. Mykola Murskyj – Advocacy Director, Razom for Ukraine
19. Michael O'Rourke – Director, Office of Domestic Justice and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Visits to the following organizations

- Ethics and Public Policy Center, meeting with director Ryan T. Anderson
- Catholic Charities
- The Raskob Foundation
- Catholic Mobilizing Network
- The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama
- The Archdiocese of Washington DC, meeting with press officer Paula Gwynn Grant
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN)

Students will also take part in the following advocacy events in Washington

- Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
- Ukrainian Week
- Ukraine Days
- Ukraine Action Summit

Elements 4 & 5: Cultural Diplomacy and Advocacy

The practical component of this program would give participants the opportunity to apply their studies in guided, productive settings in cooperation with partnering organizations.

This last element would focus on three key aspects of external relations work that participants would work on in their home eparchies: ecumenical relations, government relations, and press relations. They will hone their skills in two distinct ways.

First, students will work together to organize events that enhance the presence of our church and Ukraine in Washington, calling attention to emerging challenges. In organizing events, participants would be required to (a) work with local community members, (b) engage clergy and lay people from different denominations, (c) liaise directly with local, Ukrainian, or national press, and (d) engage U.S. or Ukrainian government officials.

Second, every week for approximately 5 hours, participants will attend meetings and events in and around Washington DC, meeting people, building relationships and advocating for Ukraine. This will be done in conjunction with Razom for Ukraine, one of the leading Ukrainian-American advocacy groups in Washington and our other partners. This effort aims to shore up the participants'

communication skills, raise the profile of our church in Washington, and develop a strong network of supporters for our mission.

As part of the residential program, participants will be expected to organize and host events such as these outlined below.

1. **January:** Organize a meeting with the Office of International Religious Freedom at the U.S. Department of State. Difficulty level: easy.
    a. *Community* — Work with local community members to identify connections to this office and to find potentially valuable voices to join the meeting.
    b. *Ecumenism* — Engage clergy from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC USA) to join this meeting.
    c. *Media* — Notify and potentially give an interview to Voice of America Ukrainian Service about this meeting.
    d. *Government* — Work with our advocacy partners to invite key voices to the meeting and to amplify the event.

2. **February:** Organize an ecumenical memorial or prayer service. Difficulty: medium.
    a. *Community* — Work with the D.C. Ukrainian community, community relations staff at the Embassy of Ukraine, and faith organizations to participate.
    b. *Ecumenism* — Identify a politically neutral venue and engage clergy and lay people from other Christian denominations (Ukrainian and potentially non-Ukrainian).
    c. *Media* — Write and distribute a press release to local, Catholic, and Ukrainian media about the event described above. Offer interviews.
    d. *Government* — Invite congressional, executive, and local government officials to participate in the prayer service.

3. **March:** Organize a roundtable on the importance of accountability and sustainable reform after victory. Difficulty: hard.
    a. *Community* — Invite staff from the Embassy, Nova Ukraine, Ukrainian World Congress, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Heritage Foundation, and Transparency International.
    b. *Ecumenism* — Invite local Roman Catholic hierarchs, Orthodox hierarchs, Christian leaders, Jewish leaders, Muslim leaders, and representatives of other faith communities. Liaise with their staff to ensure the leaders are fully engaged and comfortable.
    c. *Media* — Ensure local, Catholic, and Ukrainian media are prepared to cover the event. Distribute press releases to national media, offer interviews. Book two interviews for stakeholders on national or local TV or radio, either in Ukraine or the United States.

d. *Government* — Ensure the participation of 2-3 high-level officials, organizing the opportunity for them to (a) speak at the event and (b) meet privately with Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs before or after the event.

4. **April:** Congressional Staff Briefing on Infrastructure Protection. Organize a congressional staff briefing for government officials, charity directors, and religious clergy from different denominations about Ukraine's efforts to review the impending Russian onslaught on civilian infrastructure.
    a. *Community* — Partner with Christian or non-religious charities providing aid to Ukraine.
    b. *Ecumenism* — In addition to inviting clergy from other denominations, partner with Catholic Charities, Semaritas (Lutheran), LDS Humanitarian Services, etc.
    c. *Media* — Each participant should find 1 media outlet to give an interview to, in which he/she would speak *on behalf of the program* (and not just in their own personal capacities — the idea is to simulate giving interviews to the press in their home eparchies in which they would speak on behalf of those eparchies).
    d. *Government* — Invite staff of commissions on human rights, congressional staff.

5. **May:** Jointly with USCCB Office of International Justice and Peace, organize background briefing for the media on religious persecution in the occupied territories. Difficulty: medium.
    a. *Community* — Partner with religious liberty organizations.
    b. *Ecumenism* — Invite clergy from UOC USA, Ukrainian Jewish Organizations, Christian clergy, and representatives of the Crimean Tatar community in the United States.
    c. *Media* — Each participant should invite two media outlets and there should be a general press release. Each participant is responsible for sharing a summary of the event with their home eparchy and sharing the news on social media.
    d. *Government* — Invite staff of commissions on human rights, religious freedom, international development, embassy staff, and congressional staff.

After each of these events, participants will:

- Write thank-you notes or make thank-you calls to external partners involved
- Write a summary of the event to share with stakeholders
- Engage in a thorough debrief or after-action report

Additional activities in the practicum could include:

- Apply for a grant
- Gain firsthand experience with the protocols and practices in a major ecclesiastical office.

- Work with UCUF to put together 1 fundraiser, 3 donor-relations events, and 3 public messaging campaigns
- Join Razom Advocacy for Hill meetings
- Attend congressional hearing
- Attend the monthly Ukrainian Happy Hour at Ukraine House

Financial Terms of Participation in the 2025–2026 Program

1) Course Fees (covered by the participant's eparchy):

a) First part of the course — $500.00
b) Second part of the course — $1,000.00

2) Student's Personal Expenses:

First part of the course (online):

a) No expenses are required from the student

Second part of the course (in-person):

a) Preparation of travel documents
b) Visa application
c) Purchase of airline tickets
d) Other related expenses associated with travel to the USA
e) Personal expenses during the stay in the USA, excluding items listed in section 3

3) Financial Support Provided by the Institute (for participants in the second part of the course):

a) One-time reimbursement of $500.00 (to assist with travel-related expenses)
b) Monthly stipend — $750.00
c) Full coverage of health insurance, housing, and meals for the entire duration of the stay in the USA