



**GODDARD COLLEGE**

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION FOR CREATIVE MINDS

## **Specialized Work of the MA in Consciousness Studies Concentration**

The MA in Consciousness Studies is an individualized concentration guided by study plans developed by each student in collaboration with program faculty. Students are encouraged to combine theory, content, and practice in ways that they find relevant and meaningful. Throughout each semester, the student and the advisor remain in communication as the student submits packets of materials documenting the semester's studies and the advisor responds to the work. This is a four-semester program of study with 48 credits awarded upon completion. Components of the concentration include:

### **Mini-courses and Workshops**

Short-courses and workshops are offered during the residencies. The courses and workshops explore the core concepts and other appropriate issues, critical skills, and methodologies relevant to CS students.

### **Core Reading**

You are provided with, and help develop, a list of core readings related to the various traditions of Consciousness Studies. Materials selected for the list address the various perspectives on the study of consciousness, from the scientific to the transpersonal, provide approaches for inclusive and integrative thinking, as well as provide strategies for exploring important issues relevant to your area of study.

### **Engaged Practice**

All studies include the application of a specific practice, or fieldwork that brings your learning, beliefs, and experiences into the context of a larger community. This might involve a spiritual or educational practice, or other transformational work available in your own community. This also provides an opportunity for demonstrating an awareness of, and respect for, developing practices that are of relevance and value for society.

**Identity Statement**

While thinking and writing about your personal relationship to the core learning areas should begin in your first semester, it is in the third semester that you finalize a statement that summarizes your personal relationship to and definition of “consciousness.” The statement is meant to reflect both a sense of personal development over the course of the degree and a personal sense of the meaning of “engaged practice.”

**Integrated Thesis**

Work in the concentration concludes with a thesis project that may involve research leading to an extended piece of academic writing, a substantial and well-documented practice that is placed within a larger theoretical context, or some combination of the two approaches.