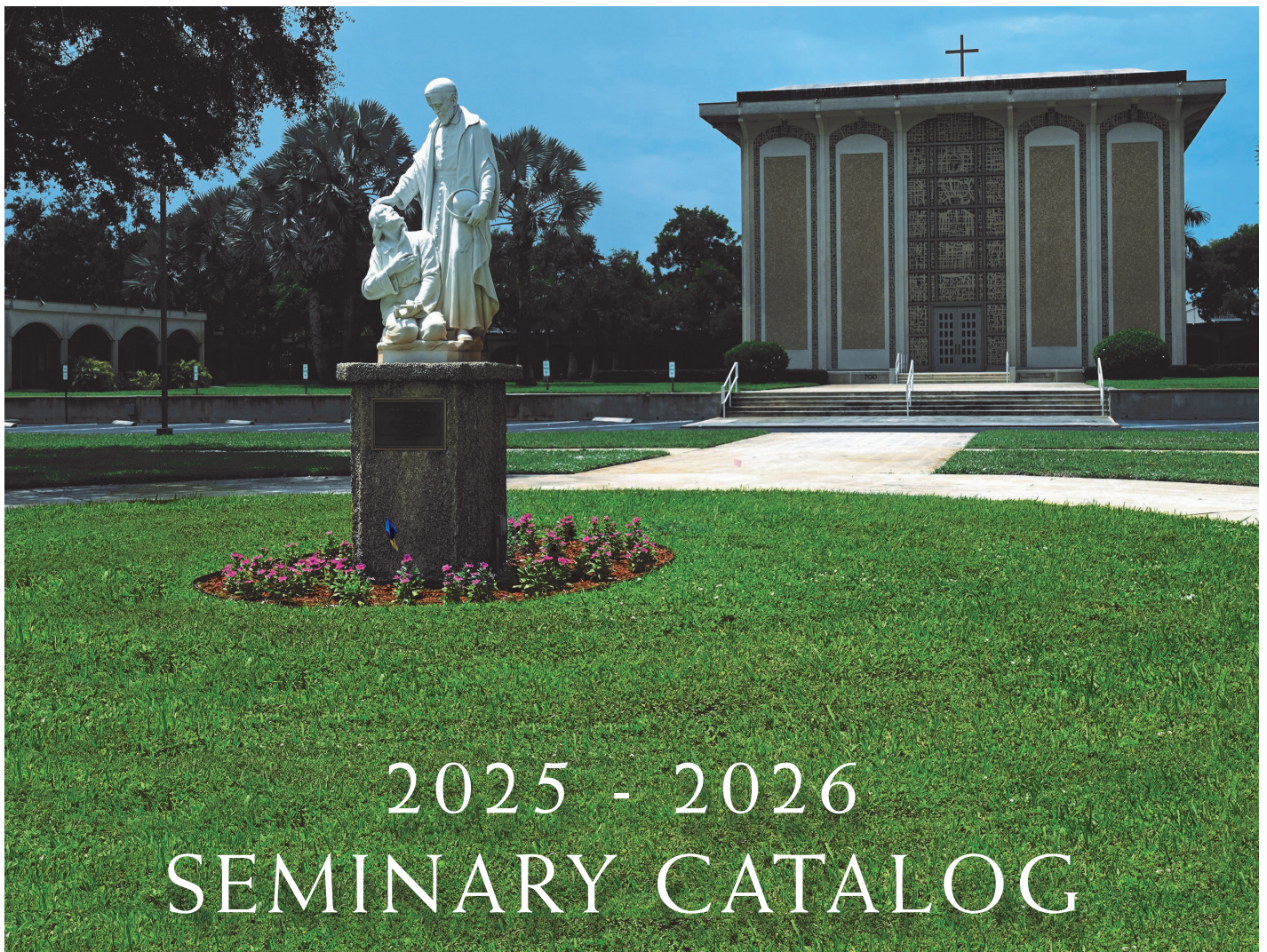




ST. VINCENT de PAUL REGIONAL SEMINARY



2025 - 2026
SEMINARY CATALOG

BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA



ST. VINCENT de PAUL REGIONAL SEMINARY

Boynton Beach, Florida / 2025 - 2026

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary opened in 1963 and serves the Catholic Church in North America, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Due to its location, history, and mission, St. Vincent de Paul offers a significant number of classes in Spanish, as well as a bilingual liturgical life and pastoral experiences in English and Spanish.

Corporate Title: Regional Seminary of St. Vincent de Paul in Florida, Incorporated

Address: 10701 South Military Trail, Boynton Beach, Florida 33436-4899

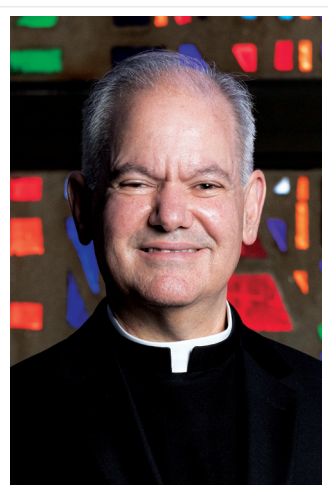
Telephone: (561) 732-4424

Facsimile number: (561) 737-2205

Web Address: www.svdp.edu

This publication and its provisions are not in any way a contract between the student and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. The seminary reserves the right to revise any section or requirement herein at its discretion. Any information is available in Spanish upon request.

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



At St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, we are proud of our long history. Since our founding in 1963, we have been forming priests, permanent deacons, and laypersons for service to the Catholic Church. It is a privilege to be able to offer priestly formation for seminarians of the dioceses of the southeastern United States, as well as for religious communities and for other dioceses around the country.

Our degree programs for seminarians include the Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) and the Master of Divinity. We also offer the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) for permanent deacon candidates and lay students, and lay students may enroll in the Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) program. We also offer the Anima Christi Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality as part of the program of formation for the propaedeutic stage of seminary formation.

Our formation program is deeply rooted in the *Program of Priestly Formation*, Sixth Edition (USCCB, 2022), *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (Pope Saint John Paul II, 1992), and the *Ratio Fundamental* (Congregation for Clergy, 2016). This program offers seminarians a solid foundation in the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of priestly formation. It also provides them the tools that missionary disciples of the twenty-first century will need to bring about the New Evangelization.

Our outstanding faculty not only possess the required ecclesiastical and academic degrees, but also have extensive pastoral experience, which is integrated into every aspect of formation. We seek to form shepherds after the Heart of Christ for service to the People of God. The new *Program of Priestly Formation* gives us a clearer vision, enabling us to accompany seminarians on their journey of formation through the propaedeutic, discipleship, configuration, and vocational synthesis stages. Finally, our bilingual formation program is the only one of its kind in the United States, helping our graduates to be truly able to go out to the peripheries.

If you are a Diocesan Bishop, Vocation Director, or Director of Deacon Formation, or if you are an interested layperson, we are excited to present our seminary to you. Please feel free to contact me directly or the Academic Office if you have any further questions.

Very Rev. Alfredo I. Hernández
Rector/President

OUR MISSION

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary shares in the mission of Jesus Christ "to bring the good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18) in the training of future leaders.

The seminary's primary mission is to foster the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation of candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood so that as ordained ministers they may share the joy of the Gospel with all.

Acknowledging the cultural makeup of Catholics in the United States, the seminary distinguishes itself in offering a comprehensive bilingual formation program, preparing future priests for ministry in both English and Spanish while cultivating a rich and diverse multicultural community.

The secondary mission of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is to provide graduate theological education for permanent deacon candidates, clergy, religious, and laity, as well as to offer ongoing clergy formation programs so that the evangelizing mission of the Church may continue and broaden its reach.

OVER SIXTY YEARS OF HISTORY

At the invitation of the first Bishop of Miami, Most Rev. Coleman Carroll, the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentian Fathers) opened St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in 1963. On July 1, 1971, when the Vincentian Fathers were no longer able to support the mission in Boynton Beach, the Archdiocese of Miami took over the operation of the seminary. In September of 1981, the Holy See granted the seminary regional status, with ownership and operation under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Miami and the Dioceses of Pensacola-Tallahassee, St. Augustine, and St. Petersburg. At this time the name of the seminary became St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. At every stage in its history, the bilingual and multicultural aspect of the seminary's identity has responded to the needs of the Church in the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean.

In October of 1984, when the Dioceses of Palm Beach and Venice were established, they immediately joined the corporation which owns the seminary. The Diocese of Orlando became an owning member of the seminary in 1998. Since that time, the entire Province of Miami has been united in the formation of its future priests, and with the addition of the Archbishop of Atlanta and the Bishops of Savannah, Charleston, and Raleigh to the Board of Trustees, the seminary is truly a regional institution.

The majority of the seminary's buildings were completed at the time of the opening in 1963 or shortly thereafter, with St. Vincent's Chapel being dedicated in 1966. The seminary's library and administration building were completed in 1995. During the seminary's Golden Jubilee year in 2013, with expanding numbers of vocations and a fifty-year-old infrastructure, the Board of Trustees launched a \$25 million capital campaign. The Board dedicated half of the funds to the renovation and expansion of the seminary and the other half to increase the endowment to ensure future sustainability. Completed in 2015, the new and renovated residence halls (each with a private bathroom) have 110 student rooms, with an additional 38 guest rooms available for the ongoing formation of the clergy, the formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate, and various other workshops and retreats.

St. Vincent de Paul has over 660 priest alumni serving in parishes throughout Florida and Georgia and all over the United States and Caribbean. Since 1972, the professional degree offered to seminarians preparing for the priesthood has been the Master of Divinity (MDiv). Currently SVDP enrollment includes resident seminarians from the seven Dioceses of Florida (Miami, St. Augustine, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Palm Beach, and Venice), as well as the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the Dioceses of Savannah, Charleston, Raleigh, Beaumont, and the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Chicago.

In addition to preparing seminarians for the priesthood, the seminary has also provided theological education for deacons, religious, and laity in a variety of ways during its history. From 1980–2009, the seminary offered an M.A. in Theology, and since 2009 it has offered a Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS). Candidates for the permanent diaconate of the Archdiocese of Miami and the Diocese of Palm Beach receive their academic formation and may pursue the MATS degree at the seminary. A number of lay students are currently enrolled in the MATS program as well.

Since 2017, the seminary has offered a third degree program, the Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) (MAPS). This degree program is primarily designed for seminarians fulfilling the requirements for the discipleship stage and is also available to nonresident students seeking graduate education in philosophical studies. With the introduction of the *Anima Christi* propaedeutic certificate in 2023, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is able to offer a fully integrated program of formation for qualified candidates for the priesthood, covering all of their postbaccalaureate studies.

The seminary also offers a variety of programs of continuing formation for clergy, including the Priest Winter Institute and the Deacon Summer Institute. Since 2017, the seminary has served as the host for the Seminary Formation Council's Certificate in Seminary Formation program.

Having celebrated our Diamond Jubilee, we look back on over six decades of priestly formation and rely on God's grace for the successful continuation of our essential mission in the preparation of priests for the decades to come.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALENDAR	4
GENERAL INFORMATION	6
ADMISSIONS	10
PROGRAMS	
PROPAEDEUTIC (<i>ANIMA CHRISTI</i> CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURE, CATECHESIS AND SPIRITUALITY)	15
MASTER OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES FOR MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP)	18
MASTER OF DIVINITY	22
MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)	36
GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION	40
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	52
FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION	53
OTHER POLICIES	57
COURSE OFFERINGS	
PROPAEDEUTIC (<i>ANIMA CHRISTI</i> CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURE, CATECHESIS AND SPIRITUALITY)	61
MASTER OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES FOR MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP)	62
MASTER OF DIVINITY	67
PASTORAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM	78
MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)	83
SPECIAL ANNUAL PROGRAMS	89
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	90
FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION	91

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL/ADVENT TERMS 2025

August 18	Propaedeutic Students Arrive
August 20	MATS Wednesday Night Classes Begin
August 22 – 24	MATS Weekend Classes Begin
August 28	New Configuration & Discipleship Students Arrive
August 29	Add/Drop Period ends MATS Program
September 1	Labor Day: Administrative Offices Closed
September 3	Returning Second Configuration Seminarians Arrive
September 6	All Other Returning Seminarians Arrive
September 8	Propaedeutic Classes Begin
September 15	Fall Term Classes Begin - MDiv/MAPS Opening Academic Exercises
September 19 – 21	MATS Weekend
September 26	Add/Drop Period Ends - MDiv/MAPS
September 27 – 28	Family Weekend/Candidacy/Lector & Acolyte Installation
October 3 – 5	MATS Weekend
October 11 – 14	Quarter Break
October 13	Columbus Day: Administrative Offices Closed
October 15	Classes Resume
October 17	Board of Trustees: No Classes, Study Day
October 31 – November 2	MATS Weekend
November 10 – 14	Course Evaluations – MDiv/MAPS
November 12 – 15	Pastoral Year Workshop
November 13	Thanksgiving Lunch - Full Community
November 14	Last Day of Fall Term - MDiv/MAPS
November 16 - 22	Seminarian Retreats
November 23 – December 1	Thanksgiving Break
November 26 – 28	Administrative Offices Closed
December 2	Advent Term Begins – MDiv
December 3 – 10	Discipleship Mission Trip
December 5 – 7	MATS Weekend
December 10	Last MATS Wednesday Class
December 12	Advent Term Ends - MDiv Christmas Vespers and Dinner – Full Community
December 13 – 19	Course Evaluations – MDiv (Advent Term) Propaedeutic/MATS
December 13 – January 2	Christmas Break
December 22 – January 1	Administrative Offices Closed

WINTER/SPRING TERMS 2026

January 3	Seminarians Return
January 5	Winter Term Begins - MDiv/MAPS
	Propaedeutic Poverty Immersion Begins
January 7	MATS Wednesday Night Classes Begin
January 9 – 11	MATS Weekend
January 16	Add/Drop Period Ends - MDiv/MAPS/MATS
January 19	Martin Luther King Day: Multicultural Workshop Administrative, Offices Closed
January 21	Monday Class Schedule - MDiv/MAPS
January 23	Inter-Seminary Day at SVDP
January 28	Propaedeutic Seminarians Return
February 2	Propaedeutic Classes Begin
February 6 – 8	MATS Weekend
February 16	Presidents Day: Administrative Offices Closed, No Classes
February 20	Board of Trustees: No Classes, Study Day
February 21	MATS Comprehensive Exam
March 2 – 6	Course Evaluations - MDiv/MAPS
March 6	Last Day of Winter Term - MDiv/MAPS
March 7 – 12	Spring Break – No Classes
March 11	Pastoral Care Exam
March 16	Spring Term Begins
March 20 – 22	MATS Weekend
March 28 – April 7	Holy Week/Easter Break
April 2 – 3	Holy Thursday/Good Friday: Administrative Offices Closed
April 8	Classes Resume
April 10 – 12	MATS Weekend
April 18	Diaconate Ordination
April 23 – 29	Pastoral Year Workshop
May 6	Last MATS Wednesday Night Classes
May 13	Last day of classes for Vocational Synthesis
May 18 – 22	Course Evaluations MDiv/MAPS/MATS/Propaedeutic
May 20	Thursday Class Schedule - MDiv/MAPS Last Day of Spring Term
May 21	Commencement Exercises

GENERAL INFORMATION

CHARTER

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary was incorporated in 1960 as a nonprofit educational institution with the power, conferred by the state of Florida, to grant degrees.

ACCREDITATION

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools. The Commission may be contacted at 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110, or call 412-788-6505. The following degree programs are approved by the Commission on Accrediting: Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) (MAPS), and Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS).

APPROBATION

The Florida Department of Veteran Affairs approves the seminary for enrollment of Veterans and War Orphans under section 1775 (a) (1) Chapter 36, Title 38, U.S. Code. Students taking a leave of absence must be terminated for VA pay purposes.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code § 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students will be required to:

- Provide the enrolling institution with a copy of his/her VA Certification of Eligibility (COE)
 - A "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website; eBenefits; or a VAF 28-1905 form, for chapter 31 authorization purposes.

No Other Requirements Other Than COE Submission Required.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Theological Library Association
Association for Institutional Research
Association of Theological Schools
Catholic Library Association
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)
College & University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors
Florida Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers
In Trust Center for Theological Schools

National Association of Catholic Theological Schools
 National Association of Church Personnel Administrators
 National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)
 Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with state and federal laws, including (but not limited to) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary does not engage in any unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran's status (or any other criteria protected by applicable law) in its access to educational programs and activities, treatment of Seminary Community members, admissions, or with regard to employment. Consistent with applicable laws, SVDP will maintain its Catholic character and implement programs, policies, and practices in furtherance of its religious identity and objectives as specifically allowed by state and federal law, including the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Inquiries may be directed to the Title IX/EEO Coordinator, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, who has been designated by SVDP to coordinate its compliance efforts and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX as well as those under Section 504 and the Age Discrimination Act and other applicable nondiscrimination laws. The contact information for the Title IX/EEO Coordinator, Deputy Title IX/EEO Coordinators, and Independent Investigator can be found on the SVDP webpage: www.svdp.edu/nhsm. Inquiries may also be directed to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100, Telephone number: 800-421-3481, Fax: 202-453-6012, TDD: 800-877-8339, Email: OCR@ed.gov.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have a documented disability for which they wish to receive academic accommodation should contact the office of the Academic Dean. Accommodation requires documentation.

CAMPUS AND ONLINE COURSES

The seminary is four miles from the city of Boynton Beach, and it is accessible from the Florida Turnpike and Interstate 95. It is within walking distance of banking facilities and shopping centers.

The campus itself comprises seventy acres. In the middle of the campus is the main seminary complex, which consists of sixteen buildings in a modernized Spanish-mission style. The heart of the seminary is St. Vincent Chapel because of its spiritual importance and architectural predominance. Broad outside corridors connect most of the buildings (resident wings housing the resident faculty and students, classrooms, refectory, auditorium, bookstore, student lounges, faculty meeting room, and faculty offices). A lake is located on the north side of the property, in front of the Library/Administration Building.

The St. Joseph Community Center is a free-standing facility located on the western side of the main complex. It contains the student recreation room, television room, laundry facilities, weight room, and a kitchen for the use of seminarians.

The outdoor athletic facilities include a basketball court, two tennis courts, a soccer/football field, a baseball/softball field, and a swimming pool.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All standards and policies in the *Seminary Catalog* apply equally to students on-campus or in online classes.

THE LIBRARY

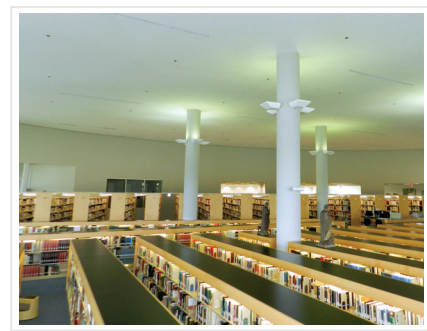
The library is located on the north side of the lake and is part of the building that also houses the administrative offices and classrooms.

The library offers extensive resources in theology, philosophy, and related fields, in English and Spanish, in hard-copy and electronically. It is one of the largest collections of Catholic theology and philosophy resources in the southeastern United States.

Because of the bilingual and multicultural nature of the seminary, the library collection includes many titles in Spanish. Moreover, because of the seminary's unique geographical and cultural setting, the library also includes many Latin American resources.

Nearly all of the library's materials are in open stacks, readily available to users. There is also a Rare Books Room, which is kept locked but is accessible during regular business hours. Resources in the library include a computer lab, electronic databases through an agreement with St. Thomas University, CD-ROMs/DVDs, and a photocopier. Professional staff is available for assistance to aid users in their research endeavors.

The library uses the Library of Congress Classification Outline to catalog new materials more efficiently. Interlibrary loan services are available through the Library Director. The library has a number of study carrels, which students may reserve



WRITING, RESEARCH, AND LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

The SVDP Writing, Research, and Library Resource Center offers students assistance with writing mechanics and research methodology in formal classroom settings, workshops, and one-on-one coaching. The Center also seeks to facilitate access to research resources for students and faculty to increase the quality of academic writing in assessments and to aid faculty wishing to publish. The Center coordinates with the Library in developing a robust array of research resources that cater to the specific needs of students and faculty in order to foster a culture of high-quality academic writing and publication.

STANDING COMMITTEES

To assist in the process of formation, the seminary has standing committees made up of members of the administration, faculty, and/or student body. These committees help the Rector and Deans of Formation in the daily activities of the seminary community. They are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Administrative Council</p> <p>II. Faculty Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Committee • Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue Committee • Information and Educational Technology Committee • Library Advisory Committee • Liturgical Life Committee • Pastoral Life Committee • Social Justice Committee • Spiritual Life Committee | <p>III. Student Council</p> <p>IV. Formation Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configuration Panel • Propaedeutic/Discipleship Panel <p>V. Admissions Committee</p> <p>VI. Seminary Policy Committee</p> <p>VII. Institutional Review Board</p> |
|--|--|

SEMINARY POLICIES

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary maintains policies regarding student life and decorum. Many of these policies are summarized in the *Seminarian Handbook*, the *Nonresident Student Handbook*, or the *Seminary Catalog*. SVDP's policies are published in the Seminary Policy Compendium and are available to all SVDP constituents; they are also available to the public with approval of the Director of Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness or the Rector. Contact the Seminary Policy Compendium Manager at spcm@svdp.edu if you would like a copy of an SVDP Policy. SVDP policies include the following:

1. Academic Integrity
2. Work for Evaluation
3. Human Subjects Research and Scholarly Activities
4. Psychological Counseling
5. Nondiscrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct
6. Hazing
7. Attendance and On-Time Performance
8. Firearms
9. Smoking
10. Student Alcohol and Drug Use
11. Minors as Seminary Guests
12. Information Technology
13. Intellectual Property Rights
14. Formal Student Complaint
15. Social Media
16. Transfer Credit

GENERAL NORMS FOR ADMISSIONS AT SVDP

SVDP, wishing to fulfill its mission of preparing future leaders for the Church, carefully considers applications for admission, determining whether the applicant is prepared for the academic program and, in the case of seminarians, for the program of priestly formation at SVDP. The Rector admits applicants, relying on the recommendation of the Admissions Committee, which is composed of the four Deans (Academic, Human Formation, Pastoral Formation, and Spiritual Formation), the Associate Dean for Propaedeutic and Discipleship Formation, and the Rector.

The requirements for admission to each degree program are specified below. Transfer students are subject to the same requirements as any potential applicant to SVDP. All applicants to SVDP are subject to the requirements below, regardless of whether they may take some courses via distance education or off campus.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO ANY ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT SVDP

SVDP admits qualified students prepared for graduate-level study in their program. All who seek admission at SVDP are required to meet the following requirements and/or provide the following documents:

1. completed application form (using the resident seminarian application form or the nonresident application form, as appropriate);
2. bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent of that level of academic achievement:
 - The academic record is to be demonstrated by an official transcript from each college, university, or seminary that the applicant attended, sent directly from the institution to the Registrar, and/or additional documentation to demonstrate equivalency and competence to complete a graduate-level program as indicated in "Degree Equivalency" below;
 - Hard copy academic records are considered "official" when they arrive in a sealed, stamped, official envelope with the seal and any other security feature intact. Electronic transcripts are considered "official" when they are received from a secure site formally linked to the sending institution or testing service and are considered the official transcript by the sending institution;
 - Students will be asked to present proof of identity prior to enrollment;
 - Exceptions to the bachelor's degree requirement for admissions to seminary programs are noted in "Admission by Exception" below;
 - MATS students are required to provide evidence of at least six semester credit hours of philosophical studies in an official transcript (students lacking these prerequisite philosophy courses may take noncredit courses offered at the seminary to fulfill this requirement);
3. autobiography;
4. three letters of recommendation expressing the applicant's suitability for the program to which the applicant is applying (for seminarians: one from the seminarian's pastor and two from other priests; this requirement does not apply to seminarians transferring directly from another seminary), together with signed permission for the seminary to follow up on them;
5. if applicable, copies of immigration documents (visa, passport, etc.); upon acceptance, students with visas must be in contact with the seminary's Principle Designated School Official for the Student and Visitor Program (SEVIS);

6. if required in an individual case, scores for the Graduate Record Examination and/or the Miller Analogy Test;
7. for applicants whose undergraduate degree was not completed primarily in English, the TOEFL iBT score is required as described below;
8. an interview with faculty members representing the Admissions Committee, or in the case of a permanent diaconate candidate for the MATS program, with the (arch)diocesan admissions committee;
9. a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a four-point scale (for exceptions, see "Admission on Probation" below).

REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO SEMINARIANS

In addition to the general requirements listed in "Requirements for Admission to Any Academic Program at SVDP" above, those seeking admission to SVDP as resident seminarians are also required to meet the following requirements and/or provide the following documents:

1. sponsorship by a diocese or religious community;
2. for seminarians entering directly into the MDiv program, evidence of at least two years of philosophical studies (in an official transcript sent directly to the Registrar) and completion of the requirements of the discipleship stage of formation; transcripts or other documentation should also show evidence of competence in Latin enabling them "to understand and make use of so many scientific sources and of the document of the Church" (cf. *Program of Priestly Formation*, 6th edition [hereafter cited as *PPF6*], 311)—seminarians lacking a sufficient background in Latin will be required to take Latin courses at SVDP to fulfill this requirement;
3. for seminarians entering directly into the MAPS program, evidence of completion of a propaedeutic program or equivalent;
4. psychological evaluation report (report should be no more than two years old and sent directly to the Rector's office);
5. physical exam report, including tuberculosis and HIV test results (report sent to the Rector's office); upon acceptance, students with visas must be in contact with the seminary's Principle Designated School Official for the Student and Visitor Program (SEVIS);
6. confirmation of biological maleness;
7. certificates for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist (issued within the last six months and sent to the Rector's office);
8. if there is previous seminary or religious community experience, a final evaluation or letter of recommendation from the previous seminaries or religious communities (sent to the Rector's office) and signed permission for the Rector or his delegate to make inquiry concerning any previous seminary enrollment;
9. a current picture of the applicant;
10. copy of driver's license (if applicant does not have a driver's license, he will be required to apply for one in a timely manner after acceptance), with release authorizing SVDP to run the driver's license to check driving record;
11. VECHS Federal Background Check, including a fingerprint check;
12. participation in an accepted program for Protection of Children and Young People, such as VIRTUS;

13. if applicable, discharge papers from the armed services;
14. records of any Church ministry (candidacy, lector, catechist, or acolyte) previously received.

Nonresident seminarians applying to SVDP for the MDiv complete the application form for nonresident students and only need to provide the documents indicated in 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14.

In the case where the number of candidates exceeds the available space in an incoming class, seminarians shall be admitted to the seminary in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Trustees, giving priority to candidates from the owning dioceses and thereafter other dioceses whose bishops are on the Board of Trustees.

DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

FOR SEMINARIANS

Initial application materials for admission for the Fall Term should be received by May 31, and all application materials must be received by July 31. For applications for any term, admissions interviews are not scheduled until an application, autobiography, letters of recommendation, and, for an applicant returning to formation after having left seminary formation or a religious community, a final evaluation or letter of recommendation from each of the previous seminaries, dioceses, and/or religious communities has been received. Admissions Committee decisions on resident seminarian applicants do not take place until interviews are completed and psychological evaluations and transcripts (to date) have been received. A student cannot be enrolled and begin classes until all application requirements are fulfilled. Exceptions to the timeline for these requirements may be made in extraordinary circumstances and must be approved by the Admissions Committee.

FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Application materials for admission in January should be received by November 1 of the previous year. Admissions Committee decisions on deacon candidates are not made until all application materials as outlined above, including autobiographies and letters of recommendation, are on file. Directors of diaconate programs should ensure that the Academic Office has all relevant materials.

FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENTS NOT SEEKING ORDINATION

Application materials are received on a rolling basis; the admissions process must be completed no less than one month before the beginning of the semester or term in which the student wishes to enroll. Admissions Committee decisions on nonresident students are not made until all application materials as outlined above, including autobiographies and letters of recommendation, are on file and interviews are completed.

READMISSION, PROGRAM CHANGE, AND ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Students who have previously applied to and enrolled in a program at SVDP do not typically need to resubmit admissions materials that remain current in order to be readmitted or to enter subsequent academic programs. However, those who have withdrawn from SVDP for a period of time will likely need to submit select updated materials. Seminarians who have been dismissed from the formation program may not apply for readmission for a minimum of two years (*PPF6 80*).

DEGREE COMPLETION FOR FORMER SEMINARIANS

Seminarians who have withdrawn from the formation program have the opportunity to complete or change their academic program as nonresident students. Before the request can be made, a minimum of one term must have elapsed from the date of withdrawal from formation. For those who wish to complete the MAPS program, the request must be made within four years of the initial acceptance date into the MAPS. Those who have withdrawn from the MDiv program may request to complete the MATS program within six years of the initial acceptance date into the MDiv program. New application materials are not typically necessary in these cases; however, a written request must be made to the Director of the relevant program, who will consult with the Academic Dean and seek input from the Admissions Committee, as needed, to decide on the request.

DEGREE EQUIVALENCY

In accord with its mission, which indicates that “the seminary distinguishes itself in offering a comprehensive bilingual formation program, preparing future priests for ministry in both English and Spanish while cultivating a rich and diverse multicultural community,” SVDP welcomes applications from students who have studied outside of the United States.

To evaluate whether a prospective student who has earned credits abroad has the equivalency of a US bachelor's degree, for acceptance into the *Anima Christi* Certificate or the MAPS, MDiv, or MATS programs, an evaluation by a recognized agency, such as World Education Service, is used.

The Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB) from Pontifical institutions is recognized as equivalent to a bachelor's degree from an accredited US institution. In the case of other degrees or studies taken at Roman Catholic seminaries outside of the US, the Academic Dean may examine the course of study, and if it materially matches the course of study at a US college seminary, the requisite undergraduate (or graduate) philosophy and theology credits are included in the program, and the total credits are the equivalent of a total of 120 or more semester hours of study, SVDP may recognize its equivalency to an earned bachelor's degree.

ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION TO A SEMINARY PROGRAM WITHOUT AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

A student who does not have a bachelor's degree may be admitted by exception to the *Anima Christi* Certificate or other seminary programs upon recommendation of the Admissions Committee. In the case of students being considered for admission by exception, there will be a careful review of the transcripts from previous academic institutions and of the recommendations of faculty and superiors from these institutions to determine the prospective student's likelihood of success in the program to which the student is applying. Information will also be gathered on life and work experience. The overall review will consider evidence of content knowledge, academic skills, capacity for graduate study, and life experience that has prepared the student for graduate theological study.

ADMISSION ON ACADEMIC PROBATION

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to require an academic entrance examination of a student, and/or admit him/her on academic probation, when the institution from which he/she transfers is not accredited or when his/her scholastic record is below a 3.0 cumulative GPA. A student in the *Anima Christi* certificate program must pass all courses the first semester; a student in any of SVDP's degree programs must achieve good academic standing, a 2.7 cumulative GPA or higher, in the first semester

or term of studies (as relevant to the degree program) to end such probation. In the event that a student does not achieve a 2.7 cumulative GPA by the end of the first semester or term, then the student will be considered to be in the second semester or term of academic probation status at the beginning of the next semester or term, subject to the process and procedures of the academic probation policy. In the interest of either the student or the seminary, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary reserves the right to refuse to admit or readmit any student at any time.

A student entering the MDiv from the MAPS may enter on academic probation if the student's GPA was below 3.0 in the MAPS, and the student has met the formation benchmarks of the discipleship stage.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

For applicants whose undergraduate degree was not completed primarily in English, the TOEFL iBT is required. The TOEFL iBT score required for graduate-level studies in English is 75 or higher. If a student's score falls below this requirement, the following policies apply:

1. If the TOEFL iBT score is between 65 and 75,
 - the student is admitted on probation;
 - the student must take a language placement assessment upon admission;
 - the student must take pastoral language courses;
 - the student's course load will be determined by scores on the TOEFL plus the required SVDP language placement assessment.
2. If the TOEFL iBT score is below 65,
 - the student is admitted on probation;
 - the student must take a language placement assessment upon admission;
 - the student must take pastoral language courses;
 - until the student obtains Intermediate-High on LTI's English WPT, the student must receive professional English tutoring and assistance with translation of in-class material.

PROGRAMS

ANIMA CHRISTI CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURE, CATECHESIS, AND SPIRITUALITY

A.1 - PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATE

The *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality exists to fulfill intellectual formation goals of the propaedeutic stage in *PPF6*. For all students admitted to the seminary who have not already completed the propaedeutic requirements, the propaedeutic stage serves as the first experience in formation for the Catholic priesthood at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

The propaedeutic stage offers initial formation in all dimensions of priestly formation: human, spiritual, pastoral, and intellectual. Unlike the discipleship and configuration stages, which have a greater emphasis on intellectual and pastoral formation, the propaedeutic stage focuses on "the life of the Church as a community in which excellence of character is nurtured" and strengthening the human and spiritual foundations of each student (*PPF6* 32). However, integrated intellectual formation is a foundational component of the propaedeutic stage.

A key focus of the propaedeutic stage of formation is to assist the new seminarian in the initial development of a priestly identity. Seminarians in the *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality will study the theological foundations of the common priesthood of the baptized which underlies ministerial priestly identity (*PPF6* 268). The certificate helps seminarians understand their vocation "within the Church, the People of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, for the service of which they consecrate their lives" (*Ratio* 30; cf. *PPF6* 374). Seminarians will undertake a careful study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and Christian prayer as they pertain to Christian formation and priestly ministry (*PPF6* 268).

The *Anima Christi* Certificate takes its name from the traditional Catholic prayer, the *Anima Christi*. The prayer expresses a total reliance on the grace of Jesus Christ for the sanctification of the whole person. With the propaedeutic stage being the initial stage of formation for ministerial priesthood, the title *Anima Christi* embodies the spiritual posture of humility and docility each seminarian must adopt: entrusting oneself completely to God in order to live in intimate, unceasing communion with the Trinity in this life and in eternal life.



Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malignant enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me.
And bid me come unto Thee,
That with all Thy saints,
I may praise thee
Forever and ever. Amen.

A.2 - PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE CERTIFICATE

Seminarians who complete the *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality will:

1. develop a nuanced, integrated understanding of Sacred Scripture, Catholic doctrine, anthropology, liturgy, priestly identity, and spirituality.
2. demonstrate initiative in gathering information needed for fulsome and proficient theological reflection on their own lives and vocational discernment, as well as pastoral ministry, including use of Scripture, doctrine, cultural and contextual data, and personal experience.

A.3 - CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION

The *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality is a for-credit program which is required of all seminarians who have been admitted to the propaedeutic stage. Only seminarians are admitted to the *Anima Christi* Certificate program.

Admissions Requirements can be found in the "Admissions" section, above on page 10.

A.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

A.4.1. CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The certificate consists of 18 credit hours (overview of courses presented below); the Academic Dean may waive up to 4 credit hours if the Director and the Dean determine that this is appropriate in a particular case.

A.4.2. - CULMINATION OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The courses in the certificate program are pass or fail; the program culminates with an integrative presentation at the end of the nine months of in-residence instruction.

A.4.3 - DURATION

A student must complete at least nine months of the *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality in full-time study to receive a certificate. Completion of the propaedeutic stage requires completion of the *Anima Christi* Certificate (at least nine months on campus), completion of additional formation requirements (see propaedeutic stage Requirements below), and a minimum three additional months of formation.

A.5 - ANIMA CHRISTI CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURE, CATECHESIS, AND SPIRITUALITY OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN OF STUDIES

SEMESTER I		SEMESTER II	
PTHY561	Sources and Methods of Prayer I...2	PTHY562	Sources and Methods of Prayer II..2
PBIB561	Salvation History and Divine Revelation I2	PBIB562	Salvation History and Divine Revelation II2
PTHY563	Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith I2	PTHY565	Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith II2
PPAS561	Theological Reflection I1	PPAS562	Theological Reflection II1
PPAS541	Language and Culture Studies I2	PPAS542	Language and Culture Studies I2
TOTAL	 9 credits	TOTAL	 9 credits

Total Certificate Credits: 18

The Academic Dean reserves the right to modify the Plan of Studies in particular cases to accommodate the academic needs of individual seminarians.

A.6 PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE

In addition to the completion of the *Anima Christi* certificate, seminarians in the propaedeutic stage must also satisfactorily fulfill the benchmarks of the propaedeutic stage in all dimensions of priestly formation as delineated in the sixth edition of the Program for Priestly Formation (*PPF6* 163, 191, 235, 271, 373).

PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES FOR MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP)

B.1 - PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE

The Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) (MAPS) is a graduate program of philosophical studies in preparation for graduate study in theology, further graduate study in philosophy for service to the Church, and/or continuing formation for the priesthood.

In keeping with the seminary's primary mission, the MAPS program provides the philosophical and preparatory theological background required by *PPF6* for entrance into an MDiv program, in an environment where seminarians are formed in all four dimensions: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

3. In keeping with the secondary mission of the seminary, the MAPS program is available to nonresident students desiring to pursue graduate philosophical studies for service to the Church, preparing students to integrate theological and philosophical principles so that they can better engage the world today.

B.2 - PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE MAPS PROGRAM

The goals of the MAPS program are expressed in the following Student Learning Outcomes, which call for graduates to be able to

1. demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of philosophy necessary to pursue higher-level graduate study of theology, including the history of philosophy, logic, epistemology, philosophy of nature, metaphysics, natural theology, philosophical anthropology, and ethics (as outlined in the *PPF6* 306) (**Philosophical Content: MAPS SLO-1**);
2. demonstrate the knowledge of theology necessary to pursue higher-level graduate study of theology, including Church teachings, Scripture, and the role of the Church in the world (*PPF6* 308) (**Theological Content: MAPS SLO-2**);
3. integrate philosophical and theological concepts, demonstrating the ability to research the thought of and dialogue with philosophers of different eras, including modern thinkers, and the capacity to make the link "between philosophical insights and theological frameworks" (*PPF6* 306) (**Integration: MAPS SLO-3**);
4. communicate graduate-level philosophical and theological concepts in appropriate writing or presentation style, in a way that is logical, engaging, and responsive to questions asked by scholars or the lay public today (**Communication: MAPS SLO-4**).

B.3 - CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION

Students may be admitted in the MAPS and/or the discipleship stage within four possible categories:

1. degree-seeking seminarians;
2. seminarians seeking to complete the requirements for the discipleship stage without pursuing the MAPS degree;
3. degree-seeking students who are not seminarians;
4. non-degree-seeking students who are not seminarians (Students in this category can take up to nine credit hours before they must officially declare in writing their intent to enroll in the MAPS degree program.)

Admissions Requirements can be found in the "Admissions" section, above on page 10.

B.4 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

B.4.1. - ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MAPS program consists of a minimum of 42 credit hours distributed as follows (overview of courses presented at B.6):

1. 30 credit hours of philosophical studies with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7
2. 12 credit hours of theological studies
3. a comprehensive exam
4. a philosophy/theology integration paper

B.4.2. - CAPSTONE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination is a requirement for graduation from the MAPS program. This examination takes place towards the end of the program. Students who receive below a 3.0 for the examination must retake it. The time and manner of this retake is to be determined by the Academic Dean. A second failure disqualifies the student from receiving the MAPS degree.

B.4.3. DURATION

The MAPS program requires two years of full-time study or its equivalent. Students have six years to complete the program. The six-year period begins on the opening date of the first term in which coursework begins.

In extraordinary circumstances, a student can appeal the timeframe to complete the program in writing to the Academic Dean. Such exceptions are rare and are based on factors such as illness or injury of the student; death or illness in the student's family that significantly affects the student; significant interpersonal problems with spouse (including divorce and/or domestic violence), friends, or others; difficulties balancing school, work, and/or family responsibilities; leave of absence from formation; financial difficulties; or military deployment.

B.5 OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN OF STUDIES FOR THE MAPS PROGRAM

The following is an overview of the MAPS plan of studies, assuming completion in two academic years:

YEAR I		YEAR II	
FALL TERM		FALL TERM	
PHI5000	Intro. to Philosophy/Logic.....2	PHI5210	Ethics & Natural Law.....3
PHI5400	Phil. Anthropology/Psychology3	PHI5030	Modern & Political Philosophy.....3
THY5310	Discernment of Spirits & the Interior Life2	THY5600	Kerygmatic Catechesis 1: Doctrine and Morals2
	[Spanish] [2]		[Latin] [2]
ADVENT TERM		ADVENT TERM	
[PAS5520 Discipleship Mission Trip I].....[1]		[PAS5521 Discipleship Mission Trip II].....[1]	
WINTER TERM		WINTER TERM	
PHI5200	Epistemology & Phil. Science3	PHI5500	Natural Theology & Phil. Religion..3
PHI5010	Ancient Phil. & Phil. Nature.....3	PHI5040	Contemporary Philosophy2
BIB5210	Intro. to Old Testament.....2	THY5600	Kerygmatic Catechesis 2: Liturgy and Sacraments2
	[Spanish] [2]		[Latin] [2]
SPRING TERM		SPRING TERM	
PHI5220	Metaphysics/Aesthetics.....3	PHI5450	Philosophy Seminar3
PHI5020	Medieval Philosophy2	THY5450	Theology Seminar.....2
BIB5220	Intro. to New Testament.....2		[Latin] [2]
	[Spanish] [2]		
Total Per Year (excluding Mission Trip & Language) 22		Total Per Year (excluding Mission Trip & Language) 20	
Program Total (excluding Mission Trip & Language) 42			

NOTES

1. The MAPS degree is 42 credits.
2. Each Advent term, discipleship seminarians embark on a unique and enriching Spanish immersion mission trip, earning them one credit each year. This opportunity, not part of the MAPS curriculum, is exclusively open to seminarians.

3. With the permission of the Academic Dean, students who, based on previous academic work, show competence in the material covered by the prescribed theology courses may substitute electives from other SVDP offerings. Discipleship students who do so would still need to take the same total number of credits in the MDiv program.
4. Language classes are not required for the MAPS degree but are required in the discipleship seminarian formation. Pastoral Language courses vary based on the needs and abilities of the individual seminarian. Students fluent in Spanish may, with the approval of the Academic Dean, take appropriate electives in the MDiv Program. Lay students in the MAPS program are not required to take Pastoral Language or Latin courses but are welcome to register

B.6 - DISCIPLESHIP STAGE

The primary intent of the MAPS program is to fulfill the requirements for intellectual formation in what *PPF6* describes as the discipleship stage. This stage "allows for systematic work in the personality of the seminarian, in openness to the Holy Spirit" (*Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis*, 63). The four dimensions of formation — intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral (described in detail in the description of the MDiv program, see C.5) — are addressed extensively in the discipleship stage. The seminarian must fulfill not only the academic requirements of the MAPS, but also all the requirements of the formation program, as described in the *Seminarian Handbook*.

TERMINOLOGY

First Discipleship (D1)
Second Discipleship (D2)

First academic year of the discipleship stage
Second academic year of the discipleship stage

B.7 - MAPS PROGRAM FOR FORMER SEMINARIANS

Any seminarian who withdraws from the discipleship stage and wishes to complete the MAPS degree as a nonresident student should follow the procedure in the "Degree Completion for Former Seminarians" section on page 13, above.

PROGRAM ORIENTED TOWARD PRIESTLY FORMATION MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV) DEGREE PROGRAM

C.1 - PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE

The seminary's primary purpose is the preparation of candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood. The priesthood ordination program is a process of formation, which entails the proper preparation of candidates as ministers of Word and Sacrament for today's complex world. The *Code of Canon Law* states: "The Christian Faithful have the right to receive assistance from priests out of the spiritual goods of the Church, especially the word of God and the Sacraments" (can. 213). It is in light of this right of the Christian Faithful to worthy ministers of Word and Sacrament that St. Vincent de Paul fashions its Master of Divinity (MDiv) and ordination programs.

The seminary fosters the formation of future priests by attending specifically to their human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation—the four dimensions of priestly formation developed in Pope St. John Paul II's 1992 Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (PDV). PPF6 115 describes the integration of the dimensions as follows (internal quotation from *Ratio Fundamentalis* 29):

Integral formation attempts to bring together, as much as possible, the four dimensions of formation in the seminarian as he matures into an authentic priestly identity. The four dimensions of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation are interrelated aspects of a human response to God's transforming grace. Without attention to integration in all stages of formation, the overall goal of formation, configuration to the heart and life of the Lord Jesus, cannot be achieved. While each seminary must have a structured plan of formation for all seminarians, the integration of the four dimensions must be personalized in each particular man "to achieve a serene and creative interior synthesis between strength and weakness."

The *Ratio Fundamentalis* (Congregation for Clergy, 2016, 68) describes configuration to Christ as the most important task of the period of theological studies: "This configuration demands that the seminarian enter profoundly into the contemplation of the person of Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of the Father, sent as Shepherd of the People of God. It will make the relationship with Christ more intimate and, at the same time, will lead to an awareness and an assumption of priestly identity."

C.2 - PRINCIPAL GOAL OF THE MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

The MDiv degree program at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary offers a graduate, professional degree to candidates for the Catholic priesthood. Its principal aim is to provide preparation for ordained priestly ministry, integrating the academic (intellectual), human, spiritual, and pastoral dimensions of formation.

C.3 - CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION

Students may be admitted to the MDiv or the priestly ordination program within two possible categories:

1. degree-seeking seminarians;
2. seminarians seeking to complete the requirements for priestly ordination without pursuing the MDiv degree.

Admissions Requirements can be found in the "Admissions" section, above on page 10.

C.4 - ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

By vote of the faculty, the seminary will confer the MDiv degree upon the candidate who has successfully met the following requirements:

1. the MDiv plan of studies of 114 credit hours, with a minimum of a 2.7 cumulative GPA.
2. a minimum of 57 credit hours as degree candidate with at least two full years of residency at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.
3. a minimum grade of B (83.5%) on the Pastoral Care Exam (*Cura Animarum*), which is the capstone requirement.
4. the formation program requirements as outlined in the various seminary handbooks and the Seminary Catalog.

MDiv seminarians who do not have bilingual fluency (English/Spanish) as assessed by the Pastoral Language Department are expected to meet the following benchmarks by graduation:

- For seminarians in the English Pastoral Language Program: proficiency in English at an advanced (A) or superior (S) level according to the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards, and the ability to celebrate the liturgy, including at least a Baptism and the Mass with a homily, in English competently (as described in the SVDP Assessment Plan).
- For seminarians in the Spanish Pastoral Language Program: functional proficiency in Spanish at a minimum of intermediate-high (IH) level, as well as an increase of two sublevels from their initial assessment, on the OPIc/ACTFL, and the ability to celebrate the liturgy, including at least a Baptism and the Mass with a homily, in Spanish competently (as described in the SVDP Assessment Plan).

At the request of a sponsoring diocese or religious community, and after consultation with the Formation Team, the Academic Dean may ask the faculty to approve a plan of studies for a candidate and to approve the conferral of the MDiv degree, with some courses being waived, provided that the purpose of these courses has been met by other means.

C.4.1 - PASTORAL CARE (*CURA ANIMARUM*) EXAMINATION

In this examination, the candidate must manifest an adequate understanding of theology and sufficient knowledge of pastoral practice. This examination serves as the capstone requirement for the MDiv degree.

With regards to ordination, the examination also satisfies the requirements of the *Code of Canon Law*, can. 1051, before ordination to the priesthood.

If a student receives below a B (83.5%) average for the examination, he must retake the sections in which he scored below a B. The time and manner of this retake will be determined by the Academic Dean. A second failure disqualifies the student from receiving the MDiv degree. Even if a student has a passing grade on the exam overall, students who score below a B in any particular area may be required to work with a faculty member to remedy the deficiency, if the concerns are judged to be significant by the examiners and/or the Academic Dean. Failure to correct the deficiency would also disqualify the student from receiving the MDiv degree.

C.5 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

C.5.1 - CONTENT

The MDiv program comprises four areas of formation: intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral. The formation program for ordination is a five-year process for those who meet requirements determined for Catholic seminaries by the *Ratio Fundamentalis* and *PPF6*. For those candidates transferring from other formation programs, the seminary requires a minimum of two years in residence before a recommendation for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood can be given.

TERMINOLOGY

First Configuration (C1):	First academic year of the configuration stage
Second Configuration (C2):	Second academic year of the configuration stage
Third Configuration (C3):	Third academic year of the configuration stage
Vocational Synthesis (VS):	Final period of priestly formation
Pastoral Year:	Nine-month internship in a diocese

As a holistic program, this process of formation requires the following of each candidate:

1. continuing sponsorship by a diocese or religious community
2. good physical and psychological health
3. an attitude of openness and depth, reflecting a priestly vocation
4. the establishment of good habits, attitudes, and practices in the spiritual life that will continue after ordination
5. the liturgical/sacramental formation that reflects the tradition and the public prayer life of the Church
6. the intellectual appropriation of the Church's teaching and tradition

7. pastoral attitudes and experiences that witness to the seminarian's preparedness for ministry
8. community participation that reflects the commitment which the seminarian aspires to make as a priest
9. openness to this seminary's bilingual and multicultural charism, and the desire to serve all of God's people

Within the four dimensions of formation, the MDiv program provides a breadth of exposure to, and deeper understanding of, the theological disciplines throughout the configuration stage.

C.5.1.1 - INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

The area of intellectual formation provides structured opportunities to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of Roman Catholic theology. The Student Learning Outcome for Intellectual Formation indicates that the graduate will

demonstrate a competent understanding of Catholic theology (including Scripture, systematic theology, moral theology, canon law, and historical theology) and the ability to research and develop well-grounded theological arguments (including the ability to conduct research using appropriate resources, synthesize and logically organize information, evaluate nuanced perspectives, and connect to one's own spiritual life and to pastoral practice). (**Intellectual Formation: MDiv SLO-3**)

"The commitment to study, which takes up no small part of the time of those preparing for the priesthood, is not in fact an external and secondary dimension of their human, Christian, spiritual and vocational growth. In reality, through study, especially the study of theology, the future priest assents to the word of God, grows in his spiritual life and prepares himself to fulfill his pastoral ministry" (PDV 51).

The academic dimension of the formation program for ordination is fulfilled by the MDiv plan of studies, which includes 104 core credit hours and 4 credit hours of electives. The courses cover the following fields of theological studies: Scripture, systematic theology, moral theology, church history, canon law, pastoral theology, and electives. Additionally, students may be required to take pastoral language courses in order to attain proficiency in both English and Spanish. Details may be found in the Plan of Studies (C.9). Qualified candidates admitted into the formation program are enrolled in the MDiv plan of studies. Transfer students from other seminaries may enter the MDiv degree program if they have been in the MDiv or an equivalent program at the seminary from which they transferred. To qualify for this degree, transfer candidates must enroll for a minimum of two full academic years (54 credits) at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. (For full details of the MDiv Degree academic requirements, transfer credits, etc., cf. the section *General Academic Information*.)

C.5.1.2 - HUMAN FORMATION

According to the Student Learning Outcome for Human Formation, the graduate will *manifest emotional, moral, and psychological maturity for Christian living, evangelizing witness, and joyful priestly service.* (**Human Formation: MDiv SLO-1**)

Every seminary must have a program of human formation appropriate to each stage of formation, which seeks to prepare men to be bridges for, not obstacles to, the spread of the Gospel. The identity to be fostered in the seminarian is that he becomes a man of communion, that is, someone who makes a gift of himself and is able to receive the gift of others. He needs integrity and self-possession in order to make such a gift. The capacity to be fostered is the affective ability to engage in pastoral leadership with Jesus as the model shepherd (PPF6 202).

Each applicant to the formation program of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is expected to undergo physical and psychological examinations as part of the entrance requirements. The physical and psychological well-being of the priest is very important since he will be ordained to assist others in human and spiritual growth. The formation program will challenge the candidate to examine and change attitudes and habits that hinder his freedom for ministry. The seminary is prepared, through trained personnel and facilities, to help the candidate in this aspect of formation. Student Learning Outcomes are measured systematically by a standard rubric by members of the Formation Team. In addition, the program of human formation provides opportunities that enable seminarians to grow in emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. The program also helps them to develop an understanding of the multicultural realities and structures within which the Catholic Church lives and carries out its mission.

Finally, the Board of Trustees has mandated that the seminarians actively participate in annual Formation Integration Workshops. All seminarians are required to attend these workshops, which are scheduled on Saturdays during the Fall and Spring Terms.

C.5.1.3 - SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The Student Learning Outcome for Spiritual Formation indicates that graduates will *evidence a theologically informed, developing priestly spirituality that embraces prayer, simplicity of life, obedience, pastoral service, attentiveness to the marginalized and social justice, a commitment to spiritual direction, a regular practice of the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a valuing of community, and chaste celibacy.* (**Spiritual Formation: MDiv SLO-2**)

The spiritual formation program is at the center of the whole formation program of the seminary.

It is important that spiritual formation is integrated with the other three dimensions of formation such that all formation allows the future priest to embrace pastoral charity as central to his ministry. Human, intellectual, and pastoral formation are equally indispensable in developing the seminarian's relationship and communion with God and his ability to communicate to others, in pastoral charity, God's truth and love in the likeness of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and eternal High Priest (PPF6 234).

The seminarian gradually learns how to deepen his intimacy with Christ and develop an orientation to pastoral ministry. Both human development and spiritual progress are closely intertwined in this process of growth to priestly maturity. The seminarian needs a high degree of emotional maturity and personal

holiness to enable him to accept priestly challenges and to exercise pastoral responsibility. The seminary offers a variety of opportunities and activities to help the seminarian discern his vocation and grow in his relationship with Christ. The expansive grounds and chapels provide an atmosphere for reflection and quiet meditation. Seminarians are expected to attend and participate in the daily Eucharist, Lauds and Vespers, days and weekends of recollection, conferences, retreats, and devotions. All these spiritual activities touch on the many themes of spiritual, communal, and pastoral life. Central to spiritual formation is the ongoing opportunity for personal spiritual direction. The spiritual director is a companion and guide who assists the seminarian in listening and responding to God's self-communication in the seminarian's life. The seminarian is presented with issues of priestly identity and service, such as sacrificial love, mature obedience, chaste celibacy, flexibility, simplicity in lifestyle, and commitment to social justice.

The Dean of Spiritual Formation, in consultation with the Rector, coordinates the spiritual life of the seminary. He coordinates the activities of all the spiritual directors of the seminary and ensures that each seminarian has a spiritual director. It is the responsibility of the Dean of Spiritual Formation to ensure that each seminarian is actively participating regularly in spiritual direction sessions with his individual director and for the systematic evaluation of student learning goals in this area.

C.5.1.4 - PASTORAL FORMATION

The Student Learning Outcome most directly connected to pastoral formation indicates that the MDiv graduate will *exhibit a substantive capacity for priestly ministry and pastoral leadership to the People of God as developed through field education placements and responsibilities.* (**Pastoral Formation: MDiv SLO-4**)

Graduates must also heed the call of Pope Francis for the Church to be "a community of missionary disciples" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 24), and thus will *express evangelical zeal and competency for pastoral outreach to all, with particular attention to the poor and marginalized, through the acquisition of pastoral language skills, awareness of cultural context, the application of theological material to pastoral situations, and well-developed preaching and teaching skills.* (**Missionary Discipleship: MDiv SLO-5**)

The pastoral formation program provides education, field placements, supervision, and theological reflection in the practice of ministry to help priesthood candidates to develop the attitudes and skills needed to fulfill these learning outcomes.

Pastoral formation provides an opportunity for the seminarian to exercise various forms of leadership in the Church and to learn and integrate the uniquely priestly dimensions of pastoral ministry. Supervision is provided by seminary pastoral staff, on-site supervisors, and trained volunteers. In addition, parish priests serve as valuable role models and teachers by their integration of a healthy prayer life, ongoing personal growth, and constant theological development within active priestly ministry. In offering the seminarian various supervised experiences of pastoral ministry, the seminary seeks to help him to develop a zeal for the mission of the Church, a love for the pastoral care of God's people, and a pastoral acumen that reflects his readiness for ordained ministry. The Dean of Pastoral Formation and the Director of Field Ministry are responsible for coordinating the pastoral formation program.

Systematic assessments are achieved by means of a standard rubric to measure identified areas of growth in the Student Learning Outcomes.

Requirements consist of for-credit courses, pastoral placements, and seminars. Additionally, resident seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary (not including nonresident seminarians, such as those from the Redemptoris Mater Seminary) are required to participate in a sequence of noncredit pastoral experiences, workshops, and conferences designed to develop the seminarian's social awareness, administrative competence, and evangelical zeal.

FOR-CREDIT COURSES, PLACEMENTS, AND SEMINARS

Beginning with students entering the MDiv program in the fall of 2023, the following are requirements for the MDiv Program:

PAS520 Introduction to Pastoral Ministry
PFS530 Critical Issues in Pastoral Ministry
*PAS610 Pastoral Placement I
*PAS611 Pastoral Placement II
*PAS612 Pastoral Placement III
*PAS605 Pastoral Year Workshop I
*PAS606 Pastoral Year Workshop II
PAS615 Pastoral Counseling
PAS660 Parish Administration
PAS667 Catechesis, Missiology, and Evangelization
PAS668 Theology and Pastoral Care of Marriage

LITURGICAL PRACTICA:

PFS700 Liturgical Practicum I
PFS800 Liturgical Practicum II

PREACHING PRACTICA:

HOM620 Homiletics I
HOM720 Homiletics II
HOM730 Homiletics III



*The asterisked courses apply to resident seminarians enrolled in the MDiv program at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary who take part in the pastoral year as is the norm. Some seminarians may, in consultation with their sponsoring ecclesiastical entity, be exempted from pastoral year, in which case they are exempted from the asterisked courses. Additionally, nonresident seminarians do not take the asterisked courses; those affiliated with the Redemptoris Mater Seminary instead take a distinct set of pastoral placement courses as listed in the "MDiv Course Offerings" section of this catalog.

Students who began the MDiv program prior to the fall of 2023 will follow a transitional plan of studies that incorporates the requirements in force before the revisions to the degree program and calendar adopted in 2023.

NONCREDIT PASTORAL EXPERIENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Resident seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul will be assigned to a variety of pastoral placements during their years of formation. (Nonresident seminarians' noncredit pastoral experiences, workshops, and conferences are set by their local superiors.) The minimum field placement hourly requirements per week are:

First Configuration	two hours
Second Configuration	two hours
Pastoral Year Internship	nine-month placement
Third Configuration	two hours
Vocational Synthesis	Until Spring 2026: weekend placement Starting in Fall 2026: A combination of full-time parish placement and intensive academic studies

Beginning in 2026, the vocational synthesis stage will begin with ordination to the transitional diaconate. Pastoral assignments will be arranged in consultation with the seminarian's sponsoring ecclesiastical entity to prepare for a parish assignment envisioned by this final stage of priestly formation.

In addition to these assignments, resident seminarians are expected to participate in an annual multicultural workshop and administration workshop as well as in a series of formation conferences on a variety of topics.

Through both the for-credit and noncredit components of the pastoral-formation program, resident seminarians are expected to develop 11 specific competencies sufficient to assist a pastor when assigned as a parochial vicar and to lay the foundation for ongoing formation after priestly ordination: finances, human resources, working with a team, strategic planning and mission, communications, fundraising, event planning, facilities, school oversight, record-keeping, and community relations.

C.5.2 - RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The MDiv Program at St. Vincent de Paul has a multifaceted goal: the academic, human, spiritual, and pastoral formation of future priests. The importance of developing a comprehensive educational community is such that the MDiv cannot be viewed simply as an accumulation of courses or of an individual's independent work.

To ensure the development of this educational community, no more than 54 credit hours of graduate credit work completed in other graduate theologates can be transferred into the MDiv Program. Any candidate who has transferred from another formation program must complete a minimum of two years in residence to receive the MDiv or a recommendation for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood.

C.5.3 - DURATION

The MDiv Program is typically a five-year full-time program. SVDP meets the minimum standard required in *PPF6*, 315, that, "At least four full years must be dedicated to graduate theological studies". As indicated above, a candidate for the MDiv at St. Vincent de Paul must complete at least two full years in residence.

Students have 7 1/2 years to complete the program. The 7 1/2 years begins on the opening date of the first term in which coursework begins.

In extraordinary circumstances, a student can appeal the time frame to complete the program in writing to the Academic Dean. Such exceptions are rare and are based on factors such as illness or injury of the student; death or illness in the student's family that significantly affects the student; significant interpersonal problems with others; difficulties balancing school, work, and/or family responsibilities; leave of absence from formation; financial difficulties; or military deployment.

C.6 - EVALUATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND ORDERS

The formation program at the seminary is under the direction of the Rector. The Rector coordinates the various aspects of seminary formation, with the support of the Formation Team. Each resident seminarian has both a spiritual director and formation advisor while in formation.

C.6.1 - EVALUATIONS

The formation process facilitates both the Church's and the candidate's own discernment of a priestly vocation through the annual process of evaluation. The formation advisor helps the seminarian with his growth and integration of the dimensions of priestly formation. More specifically, the formation advisor helps the candidate with the details of self-evaluation, yearly evaluations, and ultimately recommendations for orders. It is the responsibility of the candidate to meet at least monthly with his formation advisor to discuss his progress in the formation process. This process involves the candidate, the Formation Team, the seminary community (through an endorsement process), and pastoral placement supervisors. Annual standardized assessment rubrics based on the requirements specified in the *PPF6* are completed by the Rector, the Dean of Human Formation, formation advisors, faculty, and pastoral supervisors.

C.6.2 - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANDIDACY, MINISTRIES, AND ORDERS

Since the purpose of the formation program is to provide worthy candidates to the Church as priests, the seminary takes seriously its responsibility to recommend only worthy candidates to diocesan bishops for installation into the ministries of lector and acolyte, admission to candidacy, and especially ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. Consequently, such recommendations are made only when the candidate has been involved in the seminary's formation program for a sufficient period of time.

A candidate is not considered for recommendation to the order of diaconate or priesthood unless he has been in the formation program of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary for at least two years. The seminary

normally schedules ordination to diaconate during the spring semester of Third Configuration, for those seminarians whose bishops wish them to be ordained to the diaconate with their classmates. Diocesan bishops generally schedule ordination to the priesthood after the deacon has completed the vocational synthesis stage.

C.7 - COMMUNITY LIFE

It is from the parish community that each seminarian comes as a candidate, and it is to the parish community that each candidate returns as a priest. Thus, the seminary fosters a sense of the Church as the community of God's people. By participating in community life, the candidate shares in the responsibilities and benefits of this community. Community life involves a common life of prayer, study, and work; sharing in the celebration of milestones within the process, both academic and pastoral; and shared liturgical and sacramental events. A true sense of respect and charity is an underlying premise of community life: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor 13:4-7). As a future priest, each candidate will be expected to be a leader of community and a public person. The seminary would be remiss in its responsibility if it did not train each candidate in these two specific areas. Seminarians are expected to contribute to the broader community life in the following ways:

Community Service: Community life requires that each seminarian contribute his time and talent for the common good. To this end, each seminarian is given a "stewardship assignment," which should take at least two hours of work weekly. The Student Council, in consultation with the Dean of Human Formation, distributes the stewardship assignments.



The **Student Council** is an important part of community life. It affords the opportunity for seminarians to participate in leadership roles and encourages creative and constructive activity in the community. The Student Council exists and operates as an organized committee, elected by the seminarians to do the following:

1. provide a vehicle for communication among administration, faculty, and seminarians
2. provide a forum for seminarians to share ideas, express opinions, and reach a consensus on matters that concern them
3. coordinate community activities and organizations
4. form *ad hoc* committees to address particular needs
5. administer students' funds and properties

Class Responsibilities: There are certain times during the term when a class is expected to assume responsibility for seminary events. Examples include community dinners; social events; and participation in annual fundraising events, such as Friends of the Seminary.

C.8 - BILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL LIFE

An essential component of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary since 1971 has been its bilingual (English/Spanish) Program. Sensitive to the needs of the Church in Florida and throughout the United States, the seminary began this program to help students become bilingual and appreciative of the cultural differences in American society. In their Pastoral Letter of December 1990, *Heritage and Hope: Evangelization in America*, the U.S. Bishops affirmed that the diverse cultures and peoples of the Church in the U.S. are unique "gifts of God." This is the vision that has guided St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in its commitment to the formation of priests who serve in a multicultural context.

Because of this vision and commitment, many aspects of the formation program are bilingual. Spiritual direction, formation sessions, counseling, liturgical celebrations, select academic courses, conferences, field education opportunities, and programs are offered in both Spanish and English. In addition, the seminary has an annual intercultural competency workshop and integrates intercultural competency throughout its courses, case studies, and assessments.

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is enriched with the presence of faculty members and seminarians from North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Seminarians profit from a mixture of cultures and traditions as well as by practicing and perfecting their pastoral language.

The Pastoral Language Program at St. Vincent de Paul promotes awareness of our diverse world through a multi-layered, interdisciplinary approach to language learning and cultural understanding. This provides future priests with a linguistic flexibility, and consequent availability, to their parishioners that will enhance priestly ministry and pastoral care. In an increasingly interconnected world, such interpersonal skills will increase the effectiveness of our newly ordained priests wherever they may be assigned.



A.9 - OVERVIEW OF PLAN OF STUDIES FOR THE MDIV AND ORDINATION PROGRAM:***FALL TERM (SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER)*****CONFIGURATION I****God Speaks to Humanity**

THY501	Fundamental Theology	3
THY530	Christian Spirituality	3
PAS520	Intro Pastoral Ministry	2

TERM TOTAL 8**CONFIGURATION II****A Prophetic Vocation in Christ**

BIB610	Prophetic Literature	3
THY510	Trinity	3
THY521	Patristics & Patrology	2

TERM TOTAL 8***ADVENT TERM (DECEMBER)*****CONFIGURATION I****Welcoming Christ in the Inspired Word**

BIB501	Intro Bib Studies Psalms	2
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TERM TOTAL 2**CONFIGURATION II****Welcoming Christ in the Eucharist**

THY660	Sacraments II: Eucharist	2
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TERM TOTAL 2***WINTER TERM (JANUARY THROUGH EARLY MARCH)*****CONFIGURATION I****The Story of the Divine Encounter**

BIB510	Pentateuch	3
THY610	Liturgical Theology	3
HIS510	Church History 1	2

TERM TOTAL 8**CONFIGURATION II****Beholding the Great Mystery**

BIB611	Synoptic Gospels & Acts	3
THY611	Christology & Mariology	3
HOM620	Homiletics I	2

TERM TOTAL 8***SPRING TERM (LATE MARCH THROUGH MAY)*****CONFIGURATION I****Responding in Faith**

THY541	Fund Moral Theology	3
THY650	Sacraments I: Intr, Bap, Cnf	3
PFS530	Critical Issues in Past Min	2

TERM TOTAL 8**CONFIGURATION II****Proclaiming Christ: The Image of God**

LAW710	Canon Law I	3
THY710	Ecclesiology & Ecumenism	3
THY713	Sexual Morality	2

TERM TOTAL 8**TOTAL CREDITS FOR YEAR 26****TOTAL CREDITS FOR YEAR 26**

A.9 - OVERVIEW OF PLAN OF STUDIES FOR THE MDiv AND ORDINATION PROGRAM: FALL TERM (SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER)

CONFIGURATION III

The Church: The Mystical Body of Christ

LAW711	Canon Law II	3
BIB710	Pauline Letters.....	3
HIS720	Church History II	2

TERM TOTAL 8

VOCATIONAL SYNTHESIS

The Priest: Minister in the Person of Christ

THY840	Medical Ethics.....	3
THY860	Sacraments IV: Pen & Antng	3
HOM730	Homiletics III	2

TERM TOTAL 8

ADVENT TERM (DECEMBER)

CONFIGURATION III

Welcoming Christ in the Priest

THY750	Sacraments III: Orders	2
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TERM TOTAL 2

VOCATIONAL SYNTHESIS

Welcoming Christ in the Sacred Liturgy

PFS800	Liturgical Practicum II.....	2
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TERM TOTAL 2

WINTER TERM (JANUARY THROUGH EARLY MAR.)

CONFIGURATION III

The Church: Sacrament of Salvation

THY540	Theological Anthropology	3
PAS615	Pastoral Counseling	3
THY640	Social Justice	2

TERM TOTAL 8

SPRING TERM (LATE MARCH THROUGH MAY)

CONFIGURATION III

The Church: "His Own in the World"

BIB711	Johannine Literature	3
HIS820	Church History III	2
HOM720	Homiletics II	2
PFS700	Liturgical Practicum I.....	2

TERM TOTAL 9

TOTAL CREDITS FOR YEAR 27

TOTAL CREDITS FOR YEAR 10

PASTORAL YEAR (PY)

Fall Term

PAS610	Pastoral Placement I.....	2
PAS605	Pastoral Year Workshop I.....	2
PAS667	Catechesis, Miss & Evang.....	2

Winter Term

PAS611	Pastoral Placement II.....	2
PAS668	Theo./Pstrl Care Marriage	2

Spring Term

PAS612	Pastoral Placement III	2
PAS606	Pastoral Year Workshop II.....	2
PAS660	Parish Administration	2

TOTAL CREDITS FOR YEAR 17*

*The total number of credits for Pastoral Year includes a 1-credit Advent Term pastoral placement. In addition, the vocational synthesis stage will include HOM820, Homiletics IV, and PAS811, Spiritual Direction, in a format that is to be determined. All students are required to take 4 credits of electives, bringing the required number of credits for the MDiv, exclusive of pastoral language courses, to 114.

PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) (MATS) DEGREE PROGRAM

D.1 - PURPOSE OF THE DEGREE

The Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS) is a graduate program of theology for lay and religious students. The MATS program offers theological preparation for ministries other than priesthood, such as the permanent diaconate or lay ecclesial ministry, for preparation for further graduate study in theology, or for personal theological enrichment. The program is aligned to the academic standards of *The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons*. Candidates in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Miami and the Diocese of Palm Beach receive their academic formation through the MATS program.

D.2 - PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) PROGRAM

The goals of the MATS program are expressed in the following Student Learning Outcomes, which require graduates to be able to

1. express a competent understanding of Catholic theology including Scripture, systematic theology, moral theology, and historical theology (Content: MATS SLO-1);
2. develop theological arguments with pastoral applications, demonstrating the ability to conduct research using appropriate resources, synthesize and logically organize information, and evaluate nuanced perspectives (Developing Theology: MATS SLO-2);
3. communicate theological concepts for the lay public grounded in research and knowledge in a way that is engaging, contextually aware, and pastoral (Communication: MATS SLO-3).

D.3 - CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION

Nonresident students may be admitted into one of two possible categories:

1. degree-seeking students;
2. non-degree-seeking, credit-earning students. (Students in this category can take up to nine credit hours before they must officially declare in writing their intent to enroll in the MATS degree program; this option is primarily designed to accommodate degreed catechists and Catholic school teachers taking courses as part of ongoing professional development.)

Admissions Requirements can be found in the "Admissions" section, above on page 10

D.4 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

D.4.1. - ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MATS program consists of a minimum of 48 semester credit hours distributed as indicated in the plan of studies below at C.5 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7.

D.4.2. MATS PROPAEDEUTIC SEMESTER

Students admitted to the MATS program are required to complete a propaedeutic semester, which includes philosophy and writing-skills prerequisites, prior to beginning the full MATS program. The propaedeutic courses are noncredit and are not included in the 48 credits required for completion of the degree. A student who can demonstrate competence in these areas may appeal to the Academic Dean for a waiver of this requirement.

D.4.3. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination is a requirement for graduation from the MATS program. This examination takes place during the second semester of the year in which the student expects to graduate. This examination includes written and presentation portions. Students who receive below a 3.0 for the examination must retake it. The time and manner of this retake is to be determined by the Academic Dean. A second failure disqualifies the student from receiving the MATS degree.

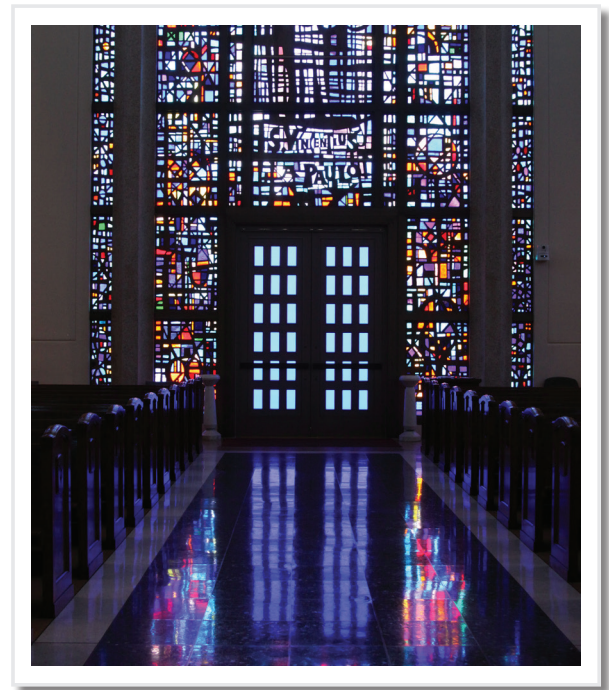
D.4.4. DURATION

The MATS program requires four semesters of full-time study or its equivalent. Nonresident students have five years to complete the program. The five-year period begins on the opening date of the first semester in which a student first takes courses in the MATS plan of studies described below, at C.5.

In extraordinary circumstances, a student can appeal the timeframe to complete the program in writing to the Academic Dean. Such exceptions are rare and are based on factors such as illness or injury of the student; death or illness in the student's family that significantly affects the student; significant interpersonal problems with spouse (including divorce and/or domestic violence), friends, or others; difficulties balancing school, work, and/or family responsibilities; leave of absence from formation; financial difficulties; or military deployment.

D.5 - OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN OF STUDIES FOR THE MATS PROGRAM

CURRICULUM	CREDIT HOURS
SCRIPTURE	
MBIB520 Intro. to Script. Theology	3
MBIB621 Survey of Old Testament.....	3
MBIB622 Survey of New Testament	3
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY	
MTHY500 Intro to Syst. Theology	3
MTHY515 Trinity and Christology.....	3
MTHY545 Christian Anthropology	3
MTHY645 Survey of Sacramental Theol.	3
MORAL THEOLOGY	
MTHY541 Fundamental Moral Theology	3
MTHY650 Social Justice, Missiology and Evangelization	3
MTHY800 Sexual Morality & Medical Ethics ..	3
HISTORY	
MHIS550 Catholic Historical Theology	3
ELECTIVES.....	15
TOTAL CREDITS	48



D.6 - MATS PROGRAM FOR FORMER SEMINARIANS

Seminarians who withdraw from the MDiv program and meet the MATS admissions requirements may request to complete the MATS program as nonresident students according to the procedure in the "Degree Completion for Former Seminarians" section on page 13, above.

D.7 - MATS PROGRAM FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The MATS program provides the intellectual formation for candidates for the permanent diaconate. This program offers a four-year cycle of courses in conjunction with the other dimensions of the diaconal formation programs of the Archdiocese of Miami and Diocese of Palm Beach. Weekend courses are offered once a month, for nine weekends during the academic year, at the Boynton Beach campus. In addition, MATS courses are offered online on Wednesday evenings. The course offerings for each year are available in the Academic Office.

The following courses, while they count as elective courses within the MATS program, are required for candidates for the permanent diaconate to complete their program requirements:

MLAW710	Canon Law	3
MHOM615	Theology of Preaching & Presentations	3
MHOM720	Homiletics II	2
MPAS615	Pastoral Counseling	3
MTHY525	Introduction to Christian Spirituality	2
MPFS700	Liturgical Practicum for Deacon Candidates I	1
MPFS800	Liturgical Practicum for Deacon Candidates II	1

D.8 - CERTIFICATE IN DIACONAL STUDIES

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary also offers the opportunity for candidates for the permanent diaconate who are not seeking the MATS to participate in non-degree, non-credit coursework to meet the requirements for ordination to the permanent diaconate. Further information about this program can be obtained from the Academic Office.

ACADEMIC YEAR

1. For the *Anima Christi* Certificate and the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS) programs, the academic year comprises two fifteen-week semesters, Fall and Spring.
2. For the Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies) (MAPS) and Master of Divinity (MDiv) programs, the academic year comprises three nine-week terms (Fall, Winter, Spring) and a two-week Advent Term in December.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

SVDP adheres to the federal definition of a credit hour:

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than—

Fifteen hours of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of thirty hours of out-of-class student work per term or semester

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester ... hour of credit ... or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

SVDP assigns one credit per each semester hour or for an equivalent amount of work meeting the graduate level learning outcomes of the institution. Examination periods are included as instructional time.

The complete Credit Hour Policy is available in the Seminary Policy Compendium.

COURSE LOAD

Course load consists of all the required courses plus electives for which a student registers in a given term or semester. An MDiv student may not carry fewer than 6 credit hours per term nor more than 10 (Advent Term excepted) without the express permission of the Academic Dean. A nonresident MATS student may not carry more than 12 credit hours per semester, except by permission of the Academic Dean. Full-time course load for any student is a minimum of 6 credit hours per nine-week term or nine credit hours per 15-week semester.

REQUIRED COURSES

Required courses for each program are the courses that all students in the *Anima Christi*, MAPS, MDiv, and MATS programs must take, according to the seminary plan of studies (see the respective plans of study for these programs, above).

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses are credit courses which the student chooses to take in addition to required courses. Unless the Academic Dean grants an exception, an elective course must receive a minimum registration of five students. (**NB:** Four credit hours of electives are required to complete the MDiv program.)

INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

An independent study course is a tutorial course, which has its own proper title. It is designated as an elective for a student having a 3.50 or higher GPA who wishes to specialize in a particular area, or as a required course for a student who otherwise cannot take a core course.

The following procedure is to be followed for an independent study course:

1. By the end of the Add/Drop Period, the student submits to the Academic Dean a registration form, indicating the instructor/director's acceptance to teach/direct the course.
2. The syllabus for the course, which should include a schedule of meetings, must be submitted with this form.
3. In the case of a resident seminarian, the formation advisor must approve the independent study course.
4. The Academic Dean must approve the independent study course.
5. Copies of research papers from specialized independent study courses are to be submitted to the Academic Office at the end of each semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In the first week of the term or semester, students receive from the instructor a copy of the course syllabus for each course in which they are enrolled. In the syllabus, the instructor clearly makes known to the students policies concerning course requirements, assignments, papers, tests, quizzes, examinations, etc. He/she likewise conveys to the students the expectations, learning objectives, schedule, and all necessary information relative to determining course grades and other measures of student learning. Except in the Advent Term, a two-week "grace period" is given each term for students to request adjustments to the assignment schedule to avoid significant conflicts with other courses.

It is left to the judgment of each instructor to give oral or written tests or quizzes, with or without previous notice, to the students.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

At the conclusion of each term, the instructor submits to the Academic Office an academic grade for each student. This grade involves consideration of the following indicators of student performance and learning: attendance; interest; initiative; engagement (e.g., participation in and contribution to class activities, discussions, and projects); and successful fulfillment of course requirements such as readings, papers, quizzes, and examinations.

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The academic evaluation is based upon the approved grading system in the chart below

GRADE DESCRIPTION	GRADE NUMBER SYMBOL	GRADE POINTS GRADE PER CREDIT HR.
EXCELLENT	A	94+
	A-	90-93
	B+	87-89
GOOD	B	84-86
	B-	80-83
	C+	77-79
AVERAGE	C	74-76
	C-	70-73
	D+	67-69
POOR	D	64-66
	D-	60-63
	F	0-59%
FAILURE		
INCOMPLETE	I	
PASS	P	
WITHDREW PASSING	WP	
WITHDREW FAILING	WF	
AUDIT	AU	
EXCELLENT	Ex	
GOOD	Go	
SATISFACTORY	Sa	
POOR	Pr	

PASSING

The grade of **D** indicates that the student has passed the course and earned the corresponding credit and grade points. **D** however, is a minimum passing grade indicative of below average work and unsatisfactory quality.

The grades of **Ex** (Excellent), **Go** (Good), **Sa** (Satisfactory), **Pr** (Poor), and **Fa** (Failure) are used in the noncredit Certificate in Diaconal Studies program.

All courses in the *Amoris Christi* Certificate program are graded on a pass/fail (**P/F**) basis.

FAILURE

A student may receive the grade of **F** by reason of inadequacy in several categories listed under **Academic Evaluation**, including unauthorized class absences, unauthorized absence from the final examination, or the automatic conversion of an incomplete grade (see below). If a student receives the grade **F** for a course, no credit is given without repetition of the course. The course must be repeated if it is a core course.

INCOMPLETE

The grade of **I** is a temporary notation indicating that some course work, assignment, test, or examination has not been completed by the end of the semester because of some circumstance beyond the student's control, and the instructor, after consultation with the Academic Dean, has granted an extension of time for its completion. Unless the Academic Dean determines otherwise, an incomplete grade must be removed by the end of the next academic term (the Advent Term excepted); otherwise, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an **F**. The individual instructor, in consultation with the Academic Dean, may specify an earlier deadline at the time the **I** is granted.

WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal from a course may occur during the Add/Drop Period. No student may withdraw at any time from a required course without the approval of the Academic Dean. After the Add/Drop Period, withdrawal with approval will be graded **WP** or **WF** according to the judgment of the instructor. Withdrawal without approval from any course at any time will be graded **WF**. A student who withdraws from a required course must repeat that course.

GRADE IN QUESTION

Any question concerning a grade must be resolved by the student, in consultation with the instructor and the student's formation advisor (for resident seminarians) or the Academic Dean (for all other students), within one week of the official notification of grades. If any change is to be made, a written request must be submitted to the Academic Dean by the instructor.

SCHOLASTIC INDEX

The cumulative grade point average (GPA) is the overall grade point average for all academic terms completed. This is a student's scholastic index. Course credit hours are not computed if the grade is **WP** or **AU**; they are computed if the grade is **F** or **WF**.

SCHOLASTIC REPORTS

At the conclusion of each term, students have access to their final grades via the student information system (SIS). A seminarian signs a release form authorizing the seminary to send a copy of his grades to his respective Ordinary and vocation director. Likewise, a permanent deacon candidate signs a release form authorizing the seminary to send a copy of his grades to his respective Ordinary, sponsoring pastor, and program director. Only the final term grades appear on the student's permanent record.

ATTENDANCE AND ON-TIME PERFORMANCE POLICY

Each student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and related academic programs. If a student needs to miss a class, except for cases of emergency or illness, permission to be absent must be given by the course professor in advance, preferably as soon as the date of the potential absence is known. It is also helpful to remind the professor of the excused absence near the date of the absence. Even in the case of illness, if at all possible, students should make an effort to inform their professors of their expected absence. A student who is absent from class is required to make up missed work; arrangements to do so are the responsibility of the student in consultation with the professor.

Any absence may affect a student's performance in a course, so absences should be rare. Excessive excused absences or unexcused absences may result in lower grades on assignments, lower participation grades, a lower grade for the class, or loss of credit for the course, depending on the circumstances and the professor's policies.

If a seminarian is going to be absent, in addition to informing his professor(s), he is to let his formation advisor, the Academic Dean, and the Dean of Human Formation know by email. If a seminarian is absent without previous permission, he is to explain his absence in writing to his professor(s), his formation advisor, the Academic Dean, and the Dean of Human Formation. In addition to the potential academic consequences above, unexcused absences, or excessive absences, on the part of a seminarian will be addressed according to the Seminary Attendance Requirements in the *Seminarian Handbook* (5.3.2).

Students are expected to be on time for all scheduled classes and have all work completed by the date indicated by an instructor either orally or as specifically indicated in the syllabus, which, by seminary policy, is subject to modification according to circumstances determined and articulated by the instructor. A student who is late for class should speak to the instructor explaining the reason for being tardy. If a student is late for a third class or assignment within a semester or term, the professor notifies the appropriate formation advisor, the Director of the MATS or MAPS program (as appropriate), and/or the Academic Dean.

Tardiness for classes or failure to turn in work on time may result in lower grades on assignments, lower participation grades, a lower or failing grade for the class, depending on the circumstances and the professor's policies.

Students should refer to the seminary's policy on incompletes, above.

A student enrolled to audit a class is expected to attend class regularly but is exempt from assignments, papers, tests, and examinations.

TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

SVDP accepts graduate-level credit for transfer to its degree programs based on the content and quality of the coursework, including consistency with SVDP course and program outcomes; comparability with courses offered at SVDP; and degree program relevance. Graduate-level credit earned at accredited academic institutions or seminaries or from pontifical institutions is transferable to all degree programs at SVDP based on these criteria. Graduate-level credit earned at other institutions is evaluated on a case-by-case basis taking into account the same criteria. To evaluate credits of students who have earned credits

outside the US, other than at pontifical institutions, an evaluation by a recognized agency, such as World Education Service, is used to supplement the evaluation process.

Credits to be considered for transfer must be in lieu of courses in the appropriate SVDP degree program or in lieu of elective courses at SVDP. The Academic Dean evaluates requests to transfer credits, consulting if necessary with members of the faculty with knowledge in particular fields, to determine whether the courses proposed for transfer are of equal academic rigor and have similar learning outcomes as the corresponding courses offered by SVDP. For seminarians and candidates for the permanent diaconate, the effect of accepting credits on the whole plan of formation is also considered in making determination about the acceptance of credits. All courses accepted for transfer must also be consistent with SVDP's mission and Catholic identity.

SVDP awards transfer credit both for credit received prior to enrollment at the seminary and for credit earned at other institutions while enrolled at SVDP. A maximum of 54 credits can be accepted in transfer for the MDiv degree program (out of the minimum degree requirement of 108 credits), and a maximum of nine credits for the MAPS or MATS degree programs (42- and 48-credit programs, respectively). No grade below C or Pass for a Pass/Fail course is accepted in transfer for the MDiv program, and no grade below B or Pass for a Pass/Fail course is accepted in transfer for the MAPS or MATS program.

In addition to the limits above, no more than half the credits from a previously completed degree may be transferred into any SVDP program. Generally, no credits earned more than seven years prior to entrance into SVDP are accepted for transfer credit hours. SVDP does not accept transfer credit for experiential learning (unless already credited by a graduate institution), prior learning assessment, prior noncredit work, or credit by examination.

A new student who wishes to transfer credits earned prior to enrollment at SVDP must request in writing for this transfer to occur within the first academic term of admission to SVDP. Students who have received credit from other institutions for courses taken after enrollment at SVDP must request in writing that these credits be transferred and SVDP must have an official transcript documenting these credits. This request must be presented before the end of the following academic term in which the student earned the outside credits.

Grades for credits accepted by transfer do not enter into the calculation of the SVDP grade point average (GPA).

The complete Transfer Credit Policy is available in the Seminary Policy Compendium.

¹ Discussion of the number of credits transferred in what follows assumes credits earned as semester hours equivalent to SVDP's definition of a credit hour. In the case of accepting credits for transfer from an institution on the quarter system, SVDP will multiply quarter hours by 0.67 to convert to semester hours. In certain circumstances, the Academic Dean may accept a 4-credit quarter-hour course that meets a SVDP 3-credit course requirement as fulfilling that course requirement in full (the 2.68 calculated semester hours would be rounded up to 3 credits).

² Per the academic degree requirements, MDiv students must complete 54 semester credit hours as a degree candidate and at least two full years of residency at SVDP.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation is a serious warning to the student that his/her academic record is unsatisfactory. A student is placed on academic probation if his/her cumulative GPA falls below 2.7.

A student on academic probation will be informed as soon as possible by the Academic Dean. Thereafter, the student is expected to consult his/her formation or faculty advisor as directed.

The Executive Committee of the Academic Committee will review the case of a MATS student who has obtained, in two courses, grades lower than B in any one semester of study, or whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. After consultation with the student's faculty advisor, an appropriate course of action will be devised and its implementation monitored.

A MATS student on academic probation for two consecutive semesters will not be allowed to continue in the degree program. Upon recommendation by the Academic Dean, the Rector may allow such a student to register for audit status.

The Formation Team will review the case of an ordination candidate who is on academic probation for two successive terms or has failed two courses in a single term. Such a student may continue in the seminary only by special approval of the Formation Team. Any student who is receiving veterans' benefits will be terminated for VA pay purposes if the student remains on academic probation beyond two consecutive semesters..

HONORS

A degree candidate who has maintained a high level of scholastic standing is awarded his/her degree with the following distinctions, provided that in the judgment of the Faculty Council he/she reflects the aims and objectives of this seminary:

1. Cum laude for a GPA of 3.5
2. Magna cum laude for a GPA of 3.7
3. Summa cum laude for a GPA of 3.9

VALEDICTORIAN

The title of valedictorian is awarded to the graduate with the highest GPA at SVDP among the graduates for that year for the MDiv, MAPS, and MATS, respectively. The valedictorian must earn at least 50% of his/ her credits while enrolled in the SVDP degree program from which he/she is to receive a degree.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

The Registrar secures the academic records which originate from St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, including the records of off-site students and students in distance education classes. The seminary maintains the confidentiality of educational records of all students on-campus, off-site, or in distance education classes in accordance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) of 1974 as amended.

All currently and formerly enrolled students have the right to review their academic records. However, documents submitted by or for students as part of the admission requirements are not available for review by the student, nor may they be released to a third party.

Requests for transcripts should be made in writing to the Registrar. Once requested in writing, the Registrar will issue official transcripts directly and only to agencies, institutions, or business concerns named by the student or former student making the request. Official transcripts are not issued to students or former students. An official transcript is one which bears the signature of the Registrar and date of issue on the line following the last entry on each page, and is imprinted with the seal of the Regional Seminary of St. Vincent de Paul in Florida, Incorporated.

POLICIES REGARDING WORK FOR EVALUATION

1) WRITING STYLE

All written work is to conform to the norms stipulated in the document "A Guide to Formatting Written Work at SVDP." The style described therein is based on the 17th edition (2017) of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

2) USE OF GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

While the direct quotations from other works are to respect the language of quoted text, appropriate use of gender-inclusive language is expected in all written work.

3) WRITTEN WORK DUE DATE

The last possible submission date for written work such as papers, reports, etc., is determined by the Academic Dean, in consultation with the Faculty Council, and then published in the official Seminary Calendar. Instructors have the right to require due dates for written work prior to, but not after, this date. Additionally, students are expected to abide by the On-Time Performance Policy (see below) regarding both written and nonwritten assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary are expected to conduct themselves with academic integrity. Such conduct is vital for the flourishing of the community as well as the intellectual growth, maturation, and spiritual development of the students. Violations of academic integrity include but are not exclusive to the actions described below.

CHEATING

Cheating is the fraudulent or dishonest presentation of work. Cheating includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Looking at another's work during an exam;
- Obtaining questions or answers prior to an exam;
- Bringing resources that are not permitted into an exam or using resources for a take-home exam that are not allowed;
- Copying from the work of another on exams or written assignments;
- Falsification of records or reports, plagiarism, and improper use of materials;
- Misrepresentation of one's own or another's identity for academic purposes or of material facts or circumstances in relation to examinations, papers, or other evaluative activities;
- Not citing original thought that is not the student's own. While students may consult resources such as Wikipedia or natural-language processing tools (e.g., ChatGPT) in their initial development of an assignment, these sources should not typically be cited in graduate-level work. All information drawn from such resources should be verified and attribution given to original sources.

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- The sale, purchase, or the giving or receiving of papers, essays, or research for fraudulent use (in general students should not need to pay for resource materials as scholarly resources can be obtained by Interlibrary Loan from the Library);
- Dishonesty in request for extensions or in documentation of absences;
- Collusion.

Collusion is defined as cooperating with or an attempt to cooperate with another student in an act of academic dishonesty. Collusion is distinct from collaborative learning, which may be a valuable component to scholarly development and which may be encouraged in some courses. Students are expected to consult with their instructor if they are uncertain whether their cooperative activities are acceptable.

Instructors are asked to state what materials may or may not be used on exams and assignments, but if it is not clear students should ask. If not stated explicitly, students should assume work is to be completed independently and with no outside resources.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of taking the work presented in the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one's own. It is an expectation of the seminary that all written and oral assignments will be prepared with full integrity. Materials from print, nonprint, and electronic sources used in developing papers or presentations are to be carefully cited. Each student is responsible for learning and using proper methods of paraphrasing and footnoting, quotation, and other forms of citation, to ensure that the original author, speaker, illustrator, or source of the material used is clearly acknowledged. Graduate-level standards would indicate a limited use of direct quotations. Oral presentations must acknowledge all outside sources.

All content and ideas that do not stem from the student's own original thought should be cited. Plagiarism includes such acts as the following:

- Not quoting or citing any work that is not one's own;
- Copying significant amounts of material from any source;
- Using multiple sources to such an extent that one's paper or presentation no longer represents original work;
- Using new content or ideas produced by a natural-language processing tool such as ChatGPT without verification and attribution to the original sources;
- Improper use of editing assistance from persons or e-tools; submitted assignments must reflect the student's own voice and understanding of the work;
- Referring to or citing nonexistent sources;
- Recycling one's own previous work without permission from the instructor;
- Downloading a paper and attempting to pass it in as one's own work;
- Using a paper or sections of a paper from another student or paper file and turning in that paper.

The principles regarding academic integrity apply to work turned in for class as well as work performed as part of your field education and ministry (e.g., a homily or report written for the ministry site must acknowledge sources as appropriate). Work submitted must also be an honest reflection of the activities in which the student is engaged (e.g., cases submitted for review must present actual ministerial events).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade reduction, typically a zero for the assignment, unless the infraction is decidedly minor. Additional consequences, including failure of the course, academic suspension, and dismissal from the program and the seminary, may be applied according to the section concerning policy and process below.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright infringements include violations of “fair use” as described in copyright law. Students of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary are expected to abide responsibly by the standard guidelines of fair use doctrine for copyrighted materials, including seeking permission for the use or sharing of copyrighted material. Each student is expected to familiarize him or herself with the accepted standards of application.

POLICY AND PROCESS REGARDING QUESTIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Violations of academic integrity in any form are unacceptable behavior for a student in any program at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

In case of suspected violations of academic integrity, the following process will be followed:

- 1) The faculty member will speak to the student first. If the faculty member believes that a violation of academic integrity has occurred according to the standards listed above, the faculty member will notify the Academic Dean of the occurrence and the consequence he or she intends to impose.
 - a. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity has occurred, but determines it is not of a serious enough nature to warrant a significant academic consequence, or if the faculty member feels the violation of academic integrity is minor, the faculty member may impose a grade reduction or lesser penalty. The faculty member shall still report this to the Academic Dean, who may impose a further consequence.
 - b. If the faculty member believes the violation fully meets the criteria for plagiarism or cheating, the student will typically receive a zero for the assignment. The faculty member may also fail the student for the course, even if the zero on the assignment would not otherwise result in a failure of the course. The faculty member shall report this to the Academic Dean, and the process of consultation described below will be followed.
 - i. If the Academic Dean concurs that the violation is credible and the consequences are in line with this policy, the faculty member's consequences will be imposed, and the Academic Dean may pursue or impose further consequences.
 - ii. If the Academic Dean is not in agreement with the faculty member concerning the validity of the accusation, the Executive Committee of the Academic Committee will be consulted, with the Academic Dean recusing himself. The decision of the Executive Committee as to the credibility of the violation is final. If it is determined that no violation has occurred, no consequence will be imposed.
- 2) In cases where the Academic Dean or Executive Committee of the Academic Committee concurs with the faculty member's judgment that a violation has occurred, the Dean will then inform, as

appropriate, the student's formation advisor and vocation director, or the director of the applicable deacon formation program. Following consultation with the involved parties, and based on other factors such as previous instances, the Academic Dean will either confirm the consequence imposed by the faculty member or recommend a more serious consequence, which may include the following:

- a. a zero for the assignment (if this penalty was not imposed by the faculty member);
- b. failure of the course (if this penalty was not imposed by the faculty member);
- c. suspension for the following semester from all courses;
- d. any combination of the above;
- e. dismissal from the seminary.

Any consequence exceeding failure of the course will require the approval of the Rector.

If the student chooses, he or she may appeal the judgment to the Academic Dean in writing within five business days of the Dean's communication of the decision. The Academic Dean will then convene a disciplinary board. This board will consist of the Academic Dean, the Dean of Human Formation, and an uninvolved faculty member. The board will investigate the matter and make its recommendation to the Rector, who will then determine the outcome of the case. The decision of the Rector is final.

A record of reported violations of academic integrity and any subsequent proceedings will be kept on file in the Academic Office for the tenure of a student's enrollment.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The seminary administration recognizes the need to provide technological resources to support its mission statement. As a commitment to the teaching, learning, and research goals of the seminary program, every effort is being made to provide adequate electronic resources for students, faculty, and staff to assist and enhance the curriculum and the formation of priests, deacons, and laity. The Information Technology Policy is found in the *Seminarian Handbook*, *Nonresident Handbook*, and *Faculty and Administration Handbook*.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to meet the minimum computer and technology requirements as presented in the SVDP Technology Specification Guidelines. Older computers often do not perform well on today's modern infrastructure. The SVDP Technology Specification Guidelines are designed to alleviate potential difficulties in utilizing the seminary's resources and completing academic work. The guidelines are available on the SVDP website at <https://www.svdp.edu/policies/techreqs> and in the Canvas student resource shells. The guidelines are also included in the program application materials.

If a student's equipment does not meet the minimum requirements of the SVDP Technology Specification Guidelines, the student may not be able to fully meet course requirements, may not have proper network connectivity and support of seminary provided software, and may forfeit the level-1 IT support that SVDP typically provides for nonseminary computers. If meeting the minimum technology requirements poses a significant hardship, the student should speak to the Academic Dean at the time of application or at the time a current student is no longer able to meet the requirements.

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES POLICY

All research and scholarly activities conducted with human participants at SVDP are guided by the moral principle of respect for the dignity of each person embodied in the Catholic moral tradition. In order to ensure that each person's autonomy and freedom are respected, this policy expresses the commitment of SVDP to ensure that all research by those affiliated with the seminary be conducted ethically. SVDP adheres to the criteria for ethical research outlined in the Belmont Report: respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. Consistent with the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the criteria for approved research, at SVDP risks to subjects are minimized and reasonable in relation to the benefits, selection of subjects is equitable, informed consent is employed and documented, data is protected, privacy is protected as appropriate, and special safeguards are taken with any vulnerable populations.

All research conducted by SVDP faculty members, staff members, and students that meets the federal definition of human subjects research must be reviewed and approved by the SVDP Institutional Review Board process prior to any engagement with human participants (or, in the case of work with data from normal educational practices or de-identified publicly available data, prior to the use of the data for presentation or publication outside of SVDP). Activities requiring IRB approval include research that involves human subjects that will be presented or published outside of SVDP, or made available to the public, including classroom activities of this nature.

While the Federal definition of research only defines as research those activities designed to develop or contribute to generalized knowledge, SVDP expects all scholarly activities involving human participants, such as classroom activities that gather data or engage outside persons in class activities or program evaluation, to adhere to the same ethical principles guiding human subjects research, as well as following all SVDP policies, even if the information will not be generalized beyond the classroom. If there is any chance that a classroom activity might be used to contribute to generalized knowledge (e.g., be presented or published outside of SVDP), then that activity must be approved through the IRB process.

All scholarly activities and human subjects research conducted at SVDP by students must have a faculty supervisor. For classroom activities, the instructor-of-record serves as the supervisor for the entire class.

The full Human Subjects Research and Scholarly Activities Policy is available in the Seminary Policy Compendium, including the procedures to be followed when there is any question whether the IRB process needs to be implemented.

¹National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, "The Belmont Report," 1979, <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/read-the-belmont-report/index.html>

²45 CFR 46.111, "Criteria for IRB Approval of Research," July 19, 2018.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following are budgets used in estimating the cost of attendance per year and are the figures used for financial aid purposes:

- (1) Resident Seminarians
- (2) Nonresident students (full-time, 9 cr. hrs/semester), off-campus room/board
- (3) Nonresident students (part-time, 5 cr. hrs/semester), off-campus room/board

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Tuition	\$25,000	\$8,100 (est.)	\$4,500 (est.)
Books/supplies	\$1,000	\$600	\$300
Room and Board (allowance for nonresident students)	\$15,000	\$19,000	\$19,000
Transportation	\$1,800	\$4,000	\$2,000
Personal expenses	\$1,200	\$4,300	\$4,300
One-time application fee	\$0	\$15	\$15
Graduation fee	\$40	\$40	\$40
TOTAL	\$44,040.00	\$36,055.00	\$30,155.00

The bolded items above are the cost of actual fees charged by the seminary. Other items are estimates.

The tuition and room and board fees for resident seminarians are payable upon arrival for the Fall and Winter terms.

Tuition for nonresident seminarians is payable at the end of the Add/Drop Period for the Fall and Winter terms. For nonresident lay students and those in the deacon formation program tuition is payable at the end of the Add/Drop Period of each semester. Students may solicit deferred payment at registration for a period no longer than thirty days. The graduation fee is payable during the term the student graduates. Nonresident students who are present during the day for classes are asked to make a minimum \$5.00 donation per meal. This arrangement should be made in advance with the Academic Office by those electing to participate. Students who are members of a permanent diaconate formation program are already enrolled in the meal plan by their diocese.

Financial obligations to the seminary may be paid by credit card, subject to a 5% fee. Tuition fees paid by credit card must be paid in full.

TUITION PER CREDIT HOUR

All noncredit courses	(300 and 400 level and audit)	\$400.00 per cr. hr.
All graduate courses	(500 level and above)	\$450.00 per cr. hr.

No student may receive a diploma, nor will the Registrar issue transcripts of his/her academic record until his/her financial obligations to the seminary have been settled. These obligations include borrowed library items and any outstanding debts to the bookstore.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM FEE

Students taking the comprehensive exam for the MAPS or MATS in an academic year during which they took no classes at SVDP will be charged the cost of one credit hour (\$450.00) as an examination fee.

TUITION REFUNDS

If a seminarian in the MDiv, MAPS, or *Anima Christi* certificate program withdraws during a given term, the tuition and fees paid for that term will be refunded upon request as follows:

4 weeks or less in residence	50% refund
After 4 weeks in residence	No refund

No refunds will be given for seminarians who withdraw during the Advent Term or the Spring Term.

Nonresident students taking courses in the MAPS or MDiv program may request refunds according to the formulas listed above.

If a student in the MATS program withdraws during a given MATS semester, the tuition and fees paid for that semester will be refunded upon request as follows:

2 weeks or less after start of classes	80% refund
Between 2 and 6 weeks after start of classes	50% refund
More than 6 weeks after start of classes	No refund

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

SVDP's Financial Aid Office coordinates the Direct Loan program, which is available to students enrolled at least half-time¹ in the MATS, MAPS, and MDiv programs. To apply for financial aid, students must complete a FAFSA form (fafsa.gov). Students new to the Direct Loan program must also complete entrance counseling, <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling>. After submission of the FAFSA, students will receive their FAFSA status and loan approval information. Note that all Direct Loans for graduate students (both Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Direct Plus Loans) are unsubsidized, meaning interest begins to accrue as soon as the loan is received and continues to accrue while the student is in school even if payments are deferred.

Students enrolled at least half-time¹ in any of SVDP's programs (i.e., *Anima Christi* Propaedeutic Certificate, MATS, MAPS, or MDiv) are eligible for loan deferment of previous or current federal loans. Students who want to qualify only for deferment, and not new loans, do not need to complete a FAFSA. Students should be aware that interest accrues on all deferred loans, except those that were subsidized loans, even if monthly payments are deferred. The accrued interest can be sizeable over the course of time students are in school, especially if no payments are made.

For more information on applying for financial aid or loan deferment contact the Director of Financial Aid at finaid@svdp.edu.

All students who receive loans or deferments while at SVDP must complete exit counseling if (1) their course load drops below half-time, (2) they withdraw, or (3) they graduate. Exit counseling is completed at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling>. Failure to complete this requirement can delay federal aid requested from a school attended after leaving SVDP.

Because financial support for seminarians is usually provided through the vocations office of their respective dioceses or through their ecclesial entities, the seminary recommends that seminarians seek guidance from their Ordinary, vocation director, or the Rector prior to applying for student loan. The seminary also recommends that seminarians not apply for loans exceeding \$4,000.00 per academic year, bearing in mind the accrual of interest over the course of time in studies and the earning potential of diocesan priests and their ability to repay.

Information on other sources of financial aid is available from the Financial Aid Office.

¹At least half-time status is defined at SVDP as taking more than one class, or one class if in an internship or during the Advent Term.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is determined by meeting the measures for GPA, pace, and timeframe outlined below. Any student who has not met one of these measures at the end of any payment period has not made SAP.

QUALITATIVE MEASURE: GPA

In order to maintain SAP students in all degree programs must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 as measured at the end of each payment period.

The student's GPA is rounded up or down to the nearest hundredth.

Students in the *Anima Christi* Certificate must pass all of their required courses in each payment period.

QUANTITATIVE MEASURE: PACE

In addition, all students must earn at least 67% of the cumulative credits attempted. This is calculated at the end of each payment period.

The percentage of credits completed is calculated and rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

TIMEFRAME

- Master of Divinity (MDiv) students have a maximum timeframe of 7.5 years from the date of first enrollment to complete the program.
- Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship) (MAPS) and Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATs) students have a maximum timeframe of 6 years from date of first enrollment in credit classes to complete the program.
- *Anima Christi* Certificate in Scripture, Catechesis, and Spirituality students have a maximum timeframe of 2 years from date of first enrollment to complete the program.

INCOMPLETES, WITHDRAWALS, REPETITIONS, AND TRANSFER CREDITS

For purposes of the GPA:

- Incompletes do not affect the GPA until finalized.
- Withdrawals do not affect the GPA.
- Repeated courses are counted in the GPA each time taken.
- Transfer credits are not included in the GPA.

For purposes of PACE:

- Incompletes are included in hours attempted and not counted as hours earned.
- Withdrawals are included in hours attempted and not counted as hours earned.
- Repeated courses are included in the student's attempted credit total in evaluating pace and timeframe. All attempts of a repeated course are counted in the attempted hours total, but only passed attempts are counted in the earned hours total. For purposes of financial aid, students can only take a passed course one time. There is no limit on the number of attempts allowed if a student does not receive a passing grade for a course unless SAP is affected.
- Transfer credits are counted as attempted and earned in the semester in which they are accepted.

FREQUENCY OF SAP EVALUATION

SAP is calculated at the end of each semester or term prior to Add/Drop in the subsequent semester or term based on final grades at the end of that semester or term. GPA and pace (percentage of credits earned to credits attempted) are calculated cumulatively from the start of the program. Progress toward completion within the maximum timeframe is also calculated each semester and term based on years remaining in the maximum timeframe, credit hours needed to complete the program, and maximum credit hours of 18 per semester or 12 per term. When the time period to earn the credit hours needed to complete the program exceeds the time remaining in the maximum timeframe, the student has not made SAP.

The semester or term before reaching the maximum timeframe, the Director of Financial Aid notifies the student that one semester or term remains to complete the program and remain eligible for federal student aid. If the student is unable to complete the program at the end of the maximum timeframe, the student is placed on warning and follows the guidelines for warning below.

WARNING

If a student is failing to make SAP based on any of the above three criteria (GPA, pace, or timeframe) and the student had made SAP in the previous semester or term or has only completed one semester or term, the student is placed on warning for one semester or term. The student is given notice of the warning, an explanation of the cause, the consequences of not meeting SAP, and how to meet SAP. The student's financial aid eligibility continues during the warning period.

If a student is on warning, SAP is calculated prior to the end of Add/Drop of the semester or term subsequent to the warning semester or term based on grades at the end of the warning semester or term. Students on SAP warning who fail to meet SAP at the end of the SAP warning semester or term are notified that they are ineligible for continued federal student aid. They are suspended from receiving further financial aid unless they successfully appeal the suspension or they regain SAP in a subsequent semester or term.

A student may be on federal student aid warning more than once during an academic career, but not consecutively.

APPEALS

A student may submit an appeal of suspension in writing to the Director of Financial Aid within thirty (30) days of notification of suspension from federal student aid if there were extraordinary circumstances that affected the student's ability to maintain SAP. The student must include in the appeal request a) why the student believes he/she could not make SAP based on the criteria below and b) what has changed that will allow the student to demonstrate SAP at the end of the next SAP evaluation. Appeals for failures to meet GPA, pace, or timeframe are treated equivalently. The Director of Financial Aid and Registrar jointly decide the outcome of appeals based on their assessment of whether the student should be able to meet SAP standards by the end of a probationary semester or term (except in the case of appeals for maximum timeframe which are referred to the Academic Dean directly). If the Director of Financial Aid and the Registrar do not agree, the Academic Dean makes the final determination. If the Registrar and the Director of Financial Aid are the same individual, appeals are reviewed and decided upon by the Registrar/Director of Financial Aid and the Academic Dean.

Criteria that can form the basis of an appeal include

- Illness or injury of the student
- Death or illness in the student's family that affects the student
- Interpersonal problems with spouse (including divorce and/or domestic violence), friends, or others
- Difficulties balancing school, work, and/or family responsibilities
- Financial difficulties
- Military deployment

If the appeal is approved, the student is placed on SAP probation for one semester or term.

PROBATION

If a student is on probation, SAP for the semester or term is calculated prior to Add/Drop of the subsequent semester or term based on the final grades of the probationary semester. Students on SAP probation who fail to meet SAP at the end of the probation semester or term are notified they are ineligible for continued federal student aid. Students may file one additional new appeal for an extension of probation following the same process as outlined in "Appeals" above. That is, students are allowed a total of two appeals of suspension. The new appeal must include new information to constitute a new appeal. Students who have not met SAP and do not successfully appeal the suspension of federal student aid are ineligible for continued federal student aid unless they later meet the criteria for SAP.

REINSTATEMENT OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID ELIGIBILITY

The Director of Financial Aid continues to provide students who have been suspended from financial aid notification of their SAP status each semester and term. If they are currently making SAP they can be reinstated as eligible for federal student aid.

The full Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy is available in the Seminary Policy Compendium.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary has been approved for veterans' educational benefits under Section #1775 of Title 38, United States Code.

REV. SEAMUS MURTAGH SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. H. Edward Wrapp established a scholarship fund to honor Rev. Seamus Murtagh for his contributions to St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary awards this scholarship to nonresident students who, after a full year of enrollment at the seminary, show significant academic ability and a personal commitment to Christian service/ministry. Nonresident students apply for this scholarship by contacting the Academic Dean.

OTHER POLICIES

HAZING POLICY

Consistent with its mission statement, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary believes that true community is nurtured in an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for individuals, and loyalty to the principles of higher education. This basic philosophy, coupled with the seminary's adherence to state, local, and federal guidelines, is the basis for the adoption of this formal hazing policy.

Hazing Is Defined As

1. Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or in affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized by the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.
2. Such actions and situations include paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical or psychological stress; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; forcing consumption of alcohol or drugs; and any other activity which is not consistent with the formation program, regulations, or policies of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

If a student or group is involved in a hazing incident appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Any hazing that involves discrimination against a protected class falls under the Nondiscrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy.

FORMAL STUDENT COMPLAINT POLICY

Students at SVDP who have credible and substantive complaints about academics, student services, the actions of fellow students or of faculty, deviations from specific seminary policies or norms as published in seminary publications or accreditation standards, or other such complaints, have recourse to the formal student complaint process as described below. This policy pertains to all SVDP students, including those taking distance education courses or courses at SVDP's ongoing course-offering site. Excluded from this policy are matters covered by SVDP's Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy. Additionally, all votes by the Formation Team and actions by the Rector concerning continuation of formation and/or promotion to ordination are also excluded from consideration under this policy.

When a student believes that he/she has been treated unfairly or that SVDP is not following its procedures or adhering to accreditation standards, the seminary encourages the student to resolve the grievance, in accord with Matthew 18:15-17, informally and directly with the other person(s) or offices involved. If this fails to bring about a satisfactory resolution, the student has recourse to the following process:

- Step 1: A resident seminarian may bring the grievance to either his formation advisor, the Dean of Human Formation, or the Academic Dean (especially if the grievance involves an instructor). A nonresident seminarian may bring the grievance to the Academic Dean. Other nonresident students may bring the grievance either to the Director of the MATS or MAPS, the Assistant Academic Dean, or the Academic Dean.
- Step 2: If the student is unsatisfied with the response following Step 1, the student is asked to informally raise the concern with the Vice Rector.
- Step 3: If this fails to bring a satisfactory resolution, the student may submit a formal written complaint (hardcopy or submitted electronically) to the Vice Rector. The written complaint must include:
 - a. The policy or norm that has allegedly been violated as described in official seminary publications, the *Program of Priestly Formation* (6th ed.), or accreditation standards.
 - b. The person against whom the complaint is alleged (if a particular person is involved);
 - c. Specific details and circumstances of the grievance; and
 - d. A description of the informal process attempted for resolution prior to the formal complaint and the people involved.

PROCESSING OF THE COMPLAINT

Generally, students should file the formal complaint within thirty days of the conduct or actions giving rise to the complaint. Following receipt of the complaint, the Vice Rector determines if the complaint is credible and substantive and gathers information pertaining to the underlying facts of the complaint. The Vice Rector also evaluates if the complaint is a possible violation of the Nondiscrimination and Harassment policy, in which case the complaint is referred to the policies and procedures outlined therein. The Vice Rector also informs the Academic Dean (if the Vice Rector is not the Academic Dean) and/or the Chief Financial Officer of any complaints that involve a faculty member, administrator, or staff member.

RESPONDING PARTIES

Generally, the responding party or parties, if any, have the right to access copies of the complaint and to provide a response to the written complaint. The Vice Rector generally informs all responding parties if a complaint has been submitted against them.

DETERMINATIONS

- 1. If the Vice Rector determines that a complaint is without merit, the complainant will be notified of the decision and may appeal the decision to the Rector. The Rector's determination of the appeal, if any, will be final.
- 2. If the Vice Rector determines that a complaint is with merit and no further review is necessary, the Vice Rector resolves the complaint. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution, the complainant can appeal the decision and the complaint follows the review process below.
- 3. If the Vice Rector accepts the merit of the complaint and determines that a nearly identical complaint has previously been decided, the Vice Rector informs the complainant of the outcome

of that decision and the complaint and the determination of its similarity to a previous complaint is maintained in the formal complaint files. The complainant has the right to appeal the decision to the Rector.

4. If the Vice Rector determines that a complaint may have merit but warrants further consideration, generally, within three business days, the Vice Rector appoints an Inquiry Board of three members to review the written complaint along with supporting documentation. The complainant must agree to at least one member of the appointed board; the responding party(ies), if there are any, must agree to at least one member of the appointed board.
 - a. The Inquiry Board is responsible for investigating the complaint and may request additional information or documents from the complainant or responding party.
 - b. Generally, the complainant and responding party have access to the complaint and related documentation and have an opportunity to represent themselves to the Inquiry Board.
 - c. Generally, within one week, the Inquiry Board renders a written recommendation to the Vice Rector.
 - d. The Vice Rector reviews the recommendation of the Inquiry Board and issues a written decision, together with any action to be taken, to the complainant, the responding party, the Rector and the Academic Dean or Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate.
 - e. Complainants and responding parties may appeal the decision made by the Vice Rector to the Rector within one week of the Vice Rector's decision. Generally, the Rector issues a final determination of the appeal within one week.

ALTERNATIVE PROCESS

If a complaint is directed against the Vice Rector, the formal complaint is submitted to the Rector, and the Rector completes the Vice Rector's duties as outlined herein. Any appeal of the Rector's decision may be made to Chair of the Board of Trustees.

If a complaint is directed against the Rector, the formal complaint is submitted to the Vice Rector, with a copy to the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Vice Rector completes his duties outlined in this policy; however, the Chair of the Board of Trustees replaces the Rector for purposes of this policy and any appeal of the Chair's decision may be made to the full Board of Trustees.

RECORDS

Records of formal complaints include the initial complaint, a list and summary of the information gathered in determining the merits of the complaint, the determination, the composition of the Inquiry Board if convened, a list and summary of the information gathered by the Inquiry Board, the Board's recommendation, the decision by the Vice Rector (or the decision of the appropriate party), any actions to be taken, and any appeals process. Records of formal complaints will be kept for ten years in the Rector's Office, in the custody of the Assistant to the Rector.

EXTERNAL PROCESS

In general, students not satisfied with the institutional resolution of a complaint can submit a complaint as follows. Students wanting to pursue a complaint about financial aid can submit a complaint to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Florida Department of Education, the Federal Student Aid Feedback System, and the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman. Out-of-state distance education students, who have completed the internal institutional grievance process and the applicable state grievance process, may appeal non-instructional complaints to the FL-SARA PRDEC Council. For additional information on the FL-SARA complaint process, please visit the FL-SARA Complaint Process page.

NONDISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary strives to provide a learning, working, and living environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, discriminatory or sexual harassment, and all forms of sexual misconduct. All students, faculty, and staff at the seminary have the right to expect an environment that allows them to enjoy the full benefits of their work or learning experience. It is, therefore, SVDP policy that no member of the seminary community may engage in conduct which unlawfully discriminates against or harasses another individual or group on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, veteran's status or any other criteria protected by applicable law. Likewise, the Seminary prohibits conduct which constitutes sexual misconduct such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as those terms are defined in the Nondiscrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy (NHSM). SVDP's Statement of Nondiscrimination appears on pg.7 of this Catalog.

The full and current NHSM policy appears in the Seminary Policy Compendium and is posted on the SVDP website at <https://www.svdp.edu/nondiscrimination-policy>. All SVDP employees and students who are aware of conduct that violates this policy, whether they observe the conduct directly or otherwise learn about it, unless explicitly designated as a confidential resource in the policy, are expected to promptly report it to the Title IX/EEO Coordinator or the Independent Investigator, whose contact information is provided below and at <https://www.svdp.edu/nondiscrimination-policy>. There is no stated timeframe for reporting, but prompt reporting will better enable SVDP to provide an appropriate response. If the conduct that violates this policy is also a crime as defined in SVDP's Clery Policy, members of the SVDP community must report the violation to the Campus Safety Officer (CSO) or a Campus Security Authority (CSA) as explained in SVDP's Clery Policy in SVDP's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (available in the Canvas resource shells).

The reporting and grievance process, including formal complaints, investigation, hearings, and resolution process, are described in detail in the NHSM policy and are summarized in the *Seminarian Handbook* and the *Nonresident Student Handbook*.

Title IX/EEO Coordinator
Email: titleIXcoordinator@svdp.edu
Phone: 561-732-4424, ext. 9867
Library and Administration Building
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary
10701 S. Military Trail
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Independent Investigator
Rodney Brimlow
Email: rodneymdg@yahoo.com
Phone: 954-616-9711
9995 N. Military Trail
PO Box 109650
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE *ANIMA CHRISTI* CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURE, CATECHESIS, AND SPIRITUALITY

PASTORAL STUDIES

PPAS561 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION I

CREDIT HOURS 1

PPAS562 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION II

CREDIT HOURS 1

This two-semester course challenges seminarians to reflect theologically in order to integrate classroom learning, formative experiences, spirituality, works of literature, and pastoral ministry. The seminarians will examine personal and collective experiences in individual and group theological reflections. Given the complexities of different pastoral situations and the diversity of the populations served in the ecclesial region the seminary serves, seminarians will also examine the influence of context, cultures, and languages that arise in ministry.

PPAS541 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES I

CREDIT HOURS 2

PPAS542 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This two-semester course develops pastoral language skills and cultural comprehension to prepare seminarians for ministry in the multicultural context of the United States. This includes basic instruction in intercultural competency and the Spanish language that will start them on the path of developing skills to meet the pastoral needs of all in their dioceses (*PPF6* #268). Based on language assessment and cultural background, different tracks may include (a) basic instruction in the Spanish language, (b) introduction to American culture, or (c) engagement with the arts and literature of Spanish-speaking cultures.

SCRIPTURE

PBIB561 SALVATION HISTORY AND DIVINE REVELATION I

CREDIT HOURS 2

PBIB562 SALVATION HISTORY AND DIVINE REVELATION II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This two-semester course provides the foundation and framework of God's divinely revealed plan to create, redeem, and reconcile humanity. Seminarians will examine the story of salvation as revealed in Sacred Scripture and develop a nuanced baseline of biblical literacy as a pre-requisite to formal Scripture studies. The course will also examine the biblical foundations for priestly identity and spirituality.

SYSTEMATICS

PTHY561 SOURCES AND METHODS OF PRAYER I

CREDIT HOURS 2

PTHY562 SOURCES AND METHODS OF PRAYER II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This two-semester course is an introduction to foundations in Christian prayer rooted in the Word of God. Students examine and apply various resources and methods for prayer in practicum exercises. These include Ignatian spirituality and prayer, *Lectio Divina*, the Rosary, meditation, contemplation, and Part IV (Christian Prayer) of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students will also learn and practice Spirit-centered spirituality and its development related to the charismatic renewal in the

MAPS COURSE OFFERINGS

Catholic Church. As men discerning Holy Orders, students will explore the spirituality of all the baptized as beloved children of God and further nuance what is unique to the spirituality of diocesan priests.

PTHY563 FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH I CREDIT HOURS 2

PTHY565 FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH II CREDIT HOURS 2

This two semester course presents Parts I-III of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which summarizes the "essential and necessary elements" of the Christian faith and is a "new, authoritative exposition of the one and perennial apostolic faith" (St. John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, *Laetamur Magnopere*, August 15, 1997). This course will challenge seminarians to evaluate their understanding of foundational Catholic doctrines and the significance of those doctrines in their personal context and universally, and in particular, regarding the identity and mission of all the baptized and those called to the ministerial priesthood.

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE MAPS PROGRAM

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

PHI5010 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY & THE PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE CREDIT HOURS 3

This course focuses on the Classical thinkers from Thales to St. Augustine who contributed to the early development of philosophy and the Christian tradition. Since the "study of the philosophy of nature—which treats of fundamental principles like substance, form, matter, causality, motion, and the soul—provides [students] with a foundation for the study of metaphysics, natural theology, anthropology, and ethics" (PPF6 283c), such study is emphasized in this course as a means to approach ancient thought.

PHI5020 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY CREDIT HOURS 2

This course provides an in-depth study of major themes that characterized philosophy in the medieval period. Among these themes are the relationship between faith and reason, questions regarding the existence and nature of God, debates surrounding the freedom of the will, the problem of evil, and the nature of the human person. These issues, and others, are explored in the writings of Augustine, Boethius, Anselm, Averroes, and Thomas Aquinas. Particular attention is paid to the Thomistic corpus.

PHI5030 MODERN & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is an in-depth study of key modern philosophers whose ideas have engaged with the Catholic intellectual tradition. The metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical problems presented in the rationalism of Descartes and the empiricism of Hume led to the critical philosophy of Kant. These philosophers, and others, are discussed centering on the nature of knowledge, existence, and the universe, as well as causality and teleology. This course also considers the development of political philosophy in the modern period as it relates to contemporary political theory.

PHI5040 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is an in-depth study of philosophical thought from the nineteenth century up until the present day. Topics include, though are not limited to, phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, the crisis of reason, the rise of atheism, postmodernism, and the revival of the thought of Aquinas. Philosophers surveyed throughout this ongoing period include Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Husserl, and Wojtyla. Attention is also given to current topics and problems in philosophy that have significance for missionary discipleship and the New Evangelization.

LATIN

LAT551 ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN I

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is an introduction to ecclesiastical Latin with emphasis upon vocabulary, basic grammar, pronunciation, and translation.

LAT552 ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of LAT551. Its goal is to advance the student's knowledge of Latin morphology and syntax with emphasis upon translation.

LAT553 ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN III

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of LAT552

SYSTEMATIC PHILOSOPHY

PHI5000 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC

CREDIT HOURS 2

This introductory course into the graduate study of philosophy is designed to equip students with philosophical methodologies, logical argumentation, and the foundational content necessary both for authentic missionary discipleship and participation in the New Evangelization. Particular attention is given to logical argumentation; "The study of logic helps [students] to develop their critical and analytical abilities and become clearer thinkers who will be better able rationally to present, discuss, and defend the truths of the faith" (*PPF6* 283a). Students are expected to master preliminary philosophical content while also exhibiting a deepening sense of the relationship that exists between philosophy and theology. The theme for this course is the "mystery of man," and the human person is the primary lens through which this introductory material is presented.

PHI5200 EPISTEMOLOGY & THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course provides an in-depth analysis of diverse approaches to theories of knowledge. Initially the course aims at defining knowledge, truth, faith, belief, and certainty, while also addressing fundamental questions such as whether or not knowledge is possible. Through the study of epistemology, students "come to appreciate the power of reason to know the truth; yet as they confront the limits of the powers of human reason, they are opened to look to Revelation for fuller knowledge of those truths that exceed the power of human reason" (*PPF6* 283b). The second dimension of this course orients students to the historical development of modern science as an epistemological system with its own systematic strengths and limitations.

PHI5210 ETHICS AND NATURAL LAW

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course investigates the study of ethics and involves topics such as the moral decision-making process, human conscience, freewill, human flourishing, and empathy. "Ethics also considers the common good and virtue of solidarity as central to Christian social political philosophy.... The social encyclicals and other documents foundational to the Church's rich social doctrine should be utilized in the study of ethics" (PPF6 283g). This course investigates competing ethical systems (e.g., utilitarianism, social contract theory, deontological ethics) as distinguished from natural law theory and the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. Particular ethical issues (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment) are examined to understand various ethical theories in preparation for the study of moral theology.

PHI5220 METAPHYSICS & AESTHETICS

CREDIT HOURS 3

The purpose of this course is to investigate the question of Being and to foster the primal wonder at Being that is fundamental to metaphysical inquiry. Part 1 of the course will familiarize students with major primary sources in the metaphysical tradition in the classical and medieval periods, including Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Pseudo-Dionysius, and Thomas Aquinas. Part 2 will dive deeper into this tradition by looking at contemporary retrievals of Thomistic metaphysics. Parts 3 and 4 present metaphysics in the modern period, treating challenges to metaphysics and some contemporary pathways to resurrecting metaphysical wonder. The final part of the course provides a theological reflection on metaphysics by meditating on the ultimate Christological and Trinitarian grounding of metaphysics.

PHI5400 PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONHOOD CREDIT HOURS 3

This course provides students with an in-depth analysis of the diverse philosophical accounts that surround human nature and the psychology of personhood. "The study of philosophical anthropology helps [students] understand 'the authentic spirituality of man, leading to a theocentric ethic, transcending early life, and at the same time open to the social dimension of man' (PPF6 283f). Topics for analysis include freewill, life, soul, body, rationality, emotions, sexuality, spirituality, and personhood. This course also provides an introduction into the study of psychology as it relates to human nature, behavior, and identity. Particular emphasis is given to the debate that exists between transcendent and non-transcendent accounts of the lived human experience.

PHI5450 FIDES ET RATIO: PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

CREDIT HOURS 3

This seminar focuses on an analysis of the possible relationships between the philosophical and theological themes encountered in the study of philosophy for missionary discipleship and the New Evangelization. "It is essential that [students] develop an understanding of the relationship between faith and reason and of the relationship and interaction between philosophy and theology, especially the ways they mutually enrich one another" (PPF6 279). Particular focus is given to the historical dialogue among the great thinkers on faith and reason that culminated in Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et Ratio*. Program requirements for this capstone course include a substantial integration paper and oral presentation of that paper. The seminar also provides informative sessions and class time for the MAPS oral and written comprehensive exams.

PHI5500 NATURAL THEOLOGY & THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION CREDIT HOURS 3

This course has three main goals: (1) to cover questions concerning the existence and nature of God; (2) the philosophical analysis of the nature of religion and its diverse sociological expressions; and (3) the main tenets, development, and contemporary expressions of atheism. "The study of natural theology ... provides a foundation for the [student's] study of theology and the knowledge of God by means of Revelation" (PPF6 283e). In addition, a few major religions (e.g., Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism) are evaluated as time permits, along with a critique of diverse forms of atheism.

THEOLOGY**BIB5210 INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT** CREDIT HOURS 2

This course, which assumes a basic introduction to salvation history, introduces the student to the historical, geographical, and literary contexts of the Old Testament: the Pentateuch, historical books, psalms, wisdom literature, prophetic and apocalyptic texts, and the deuterocanonical books. Emphasis is given to the rise and fall of Israel in the Ancient Near East, especially under the influence of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, and Greek empires. Students are also introduced to the scholarly study of these books, learning how to unite faith and reason in their approach to the Bible.

BIB5220 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT CREDIT HOURS 2

This course, which assumes a basic familiarity with the Gospels and life of Jesus, introduces the student to the historical, geographical, and literary contexts of the 27 books of the New Testament. Emphasis is given to how the ministry of Jesus and early development of the Church arose amid the Roman Empire and the Judaism of the late Second Temple Period. Students are also introduced to the scholarly study of these books, learning how to unite faith and reason in their approach to the Bible.

THY5310 DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS & THE INTERIOR LIFE CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is an introduction to the foundations of Christian prayer and discernment rooted in the Word of God for missionary discipleship. Resources and methods for prayer are studied and explored in practicum exercises. Methods include the Ignatian Rules of Discernment, *lectio divina*, and the Examen prayer.

THY5450 MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP: THEOLOGY SEMINAR CREDIT HOURS 2

The Missionary Discipleship seminar is an immersive study of Christian discipleship's theological, cultural, and anthropological dimensions lived out in the family, parish, and public setting. The seminar culminates the cycle of theological courses in the MAPS program and fosters a synthesis of Christian vocation. Some consideration is given to the nature and mission of the Church, especially in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, Catholic Social Thought, and recent papal teaching.

THY5600 KERYGMATIC CATECHESIS: DOCTRINE AND MORALS

CREDIT HOURS 2

THY5610 KERYGMATIC CATECHESIS: LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

CREDIT HOURS 2

This two-term course will approach the foundational doctrines of the Catholic Church from a missionary perspective, through "kerygmatic catechesis" as a "mystagogic initiation" (Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, November 24, 2014, 164-166). Seminarians will understand and experience kerygmatic catechesis as a process that "introduces the believer into the living experience of the Christian community and ... the development of a mentality of faith in a dynamic of transformation which is ultimately an action of the spirit" (*Directory for Catechesis*, 2-3). The course will challenge seminarians to engage their Catholic imagination through a study of Christian anthropology, models of catechesis, the art of accompaniment and evangelization, and care for creation and culture.

ADVENT MISSION TRIP

PAS5520 DISCIPLESHIP MISSION TRIP I

CREDIT HOUR 1

PAS5521 DISCIPLESHIP MISSION TRIP II

CREDIT HOUR 1

The MAPS annual Advent Mission Trip spans two transformative immersions among a Spanish-speaking population suffering significant social and spiritual injustice. Participants live among the local population to grow in the "*vicinanza*" (closeness) required of authentic missionary disciples. This immersive environment fosters cultural and spiritual exchanges that integrate priestly identity, Christian service, and simplicity of life within a communal setting. Participants engage in the daily plight of locals through personalized projects and initiatives that provide insights into language, culture, local challenges and solutions. By the trip's end, participants emerge with improved language proficiency, a profound appreciation for cultures diverse from their own, and a deepened commitment to the Catholic Church's global initiatives for evangelization and missionary discipleship.



COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE MDIV PROGRAM

CANON LAW

LAW710 CANON LAW I

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course surveys the historical development of Church law, which culminates in the promulgation of the 1983 Revised Code of Canon Law. Books I, II, V, and VI of the revised code are studied with particular emphasis on the interpretation of law, rights, and obligations of the Christian faithful; the hierarchical constitution of the Church; diocesan and parish structures; temporal goods; and sanctions.

LAW711 CANON LAW II

CREDIT HOURS 3

This practical study of the current Church discipline of the sacraments, with a special emphasis on matrimonial legislation, treats the theological underpinnings of the law, familiarizes the student with the canonical requisites for sacraments, especially for marriage preparation and its celebration. It prepares the student to deal, as a parochial minister of the sacraments, with their proper administration, and the processes involved with the matrimonial tribunal. **Prerequisite: LAW710 Canon Law I.**

CHURCH HISTORY

HIS510 CHURCH HISTORY I

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course surveys the Christian theological tradition from the end of the New Testament period up to the Middle Ages, emphasizing the Church's engagement with culture, the development of doctrine, major intellectual figures and debates, and the saints' lived holiness as fresh, performative exegeses of the Gospel in every age. The story of the Church is a divine drama in which God intimately enters into the world to form it into a "chalice" for his self-outpouring presence. This course will also treat significant political, historical, and cultural events to the extent that they illuminate and contextualize the story of the Church. Through the close reading of primary texts, the course endeavors to help students to read and appreciate these texts more deeply. **This course continues in HIS720 and HIS820.**

HIS720 CHURCH HISTORY II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of Church History I. It is a comprehensive history of the Church from the beginning of the 11th century until the end of the 16th century. The Investiture Crisis, the Crusades, and the birth of the Mendicant Orders will be explored as well as the rise of universities, the inquisition, and the Avignon Papacy. The Renaissance will be studied, and in this context the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Renewal, especially the Council of Trent will be explored in depth.

HIS820 CHURCH HISTORY III

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course continues the survey of church history starting with the missionary Church and the New World of the 16th century and concluding in the 20th century with the Second Vatican Council. The implications of the missionary efforts of the Church during the Age of Absolutism and the rise of the new religious congregations of this era shall be discussed. Additionally, the new doctrinal and philosophical questions that arise from the advent of the secular state leading to the First Vatican Council shall be discussed, as well as the postwar world in relation to the convocation of the Second Vatican Council. This course will also have a special focus on the concurrent growth of the Church in the United States throughout this time period.

THY521 PATRISTICS AND PATROLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a survey of patrology and patristic theology. Through a reading of primary texts of the Patristic period in translation, aspects of early Christian theology will be examined. The course is divided into three sections. The first section considers the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, from Ignatius of Antioch to Origen. The second section examines the Nicene period from Athanasius to Basil. The third section surveys the post-Nicene period from Augustine to the debates leading to Chalcedon and finishes with the reign of Gregory the Great. The course will offer students ample understanding of the main theological debates, historical context, and figures of the Patristic Era.

MORAL THEOLOGY**THY530 CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course aims at introducing students to this theological discipline, while assisting them to make an experience of a possible integration in Christ between knowledge and life. It will cover the origins and nature of Christian spirituality, bringing out the main basic principles of the Christian spiritual life. This will be exemplified through scriptural, traditional, and historical references.

THY541 FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is an introduction to the fundamental issues and concerns of Catholic moral theology as a science of Christian praxis through "a scientific reflection on *the Gospel as the gift and commandment of new life*" (*Veritatis splendor* 110). Its topics include the renewal of moral theology by the Second Vatican Council, as well as the scriptural and historical background to this renewal effort; the relationship of faith and human reason (grace and human nature) in ethical reflection; and the meaning of moral-theological categories such as beatitude and human flourishing, freedom and the moral act, conscience, law, human action, sin and conversion, the significance of the Christian virtues in a contemporary context, and applications of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes to the moral life "and their relation with man's ultimate end" (*Veritatis splendor* 110). **Prerequisite: THY501 Fundamental Theology**

THY640 SOCIAL JUSTICE

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course offers a study of Catholic teaching on social justice, focusing on the tradition as it has developed since the encyclical *Rerum novarum* by Pope Leo XIII. It includes a review of the background to this teaching in Sacred Scripture and in the tradition of the Catholic Church through the patristic, medieval, and modern periods to the present. Special attention is given both to the magisterial documents which constitute the main body of this teaching from *Rerum novarum* (1891) to *Laudato Si'* (2015) and the significance of this combined teaching for the life of faith in our North American context. **Prerequisite: THY541 Fundamental Moral Theology.**

THY713 SEXUAL MORALITY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course provides a study of the moral and theological dimensions of human sexuality in the context of Church teaching, especially on marriage. It includes a biblical review of love and virtue and the meaning of human sexuality in the Catholic tradition. It provides an analysis of official Catholic teaching and theological reflection on specific issues in sexual ethics, particularly the Theology of the Body. **Prerequisite: THY541 Fundamental Moral Theology.**

THY840 MEDICAL ETHICS

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course offers a study of medical ethics from a Catholic moral theological perspective. The focus of the course is on the deeper moral-theological dimension of issues in medical ethics today, such as abortion, human experimentation, cloning, stem cell research, genetic intervention, informed consent, sterilization, in vitro fertilization, surrogate parenthood, human suffering and death, euthanasia, hospice care, bodily modifications, and the role of virtues in decision making process in medical ethics. Special attention is given to the Church's teaching of Catholic ethics and its sources as well as medical moral principles and to the work of moral theologians, philosophers, and medical professionals who have informed the self-understanding of Catholic moral theology in this field. **Prerequisite: THY541 Fundamental Moral Theology.**

PASTORAL STUDIES**HOM620 HOMILETICS I**

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is designed to introduce the seminarian to the history of preaching since the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council; the craft of Lectionary-based preaching and the discipline of homiletics for preaching in the Sunday assembly; the use of the exegesis of the text; the importance of *Lectio Divina* in homily preparation; the use of movements in a homily; and the importance of public speaking skills. Each seminarian will be expected to prepare written texts of his homilies, to record the delivered homily, and participate in the review of peer homilies. Additionally, two homilies will be reviewed in small group coaching. The seminary-preaching rubric will be used in assessing the homilies. **Only seminarians may register for this course.**

HOM720 HOMILETICS II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is designed to build on the foundation established in HOM620, honing the seminarian's understanding of preaching in the Roman Catholic tradition. The Homiletic Directory will be used to summarize the course material previously studied. The seminarian will develop an operative theology of preaching that will reflect his integrated understanding of systematic theology and pastoral life. The operative theology of preaching will demonstrate a theological awareness of how preaching incorporates the applied disciplines of anthropology, theology, and Christology, as well as understanding preaching within the dialectical and sacramental imagination. The seminarian will learn to assess critically his particular assembly, incorporating these facets into the skill and art of writing a homily. This course will emphasize the exegesis of both the preacher and the assembly. Each seminarian will be expected to prepare written texts of his homilies, record the delivered homily, and participate in the review of peer homilies. Additionally, two homilies will be reviewed in small group coaching. The seminary-preaching rubric will be used in assessing the homilies.

Prerequisite: HOM620 Homiletics I. Only seminarians may register for this course.

HOM730 HOMILETICS III

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course builds upon HOM720E, the second course in homiletics. It continues to focus on homily preparation, developing a personal methodology and style of preparation. The course will include sacramental preaching on baptism, Eucharist, weddings, as well as funerals, and homilies in preparation of those receiving Confirmation. The use of imagination will be emphasized for homily preparation. As a general rule, the seminarians in Third Configuration are ordained to the diaconate at the end of this term. Hence, this course is designed to prepare the "newly ordained deacon" for ministry in the following summer as minister of the Word for baptisms, funerals, and weddings, as well as daily and Sunday homilies. **Prerequisite: HOM720 Homiletics II. Only seminarians may register for this course.**

HOM820 HOMILETICS IV

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course provides the fourth-year seminarian, usually the transitional deacon, the opportunity to hone the skills for homily preparation and presentation. Building upon the three previous preaching courses a major point of emphasis will be to challenge the seminarian to sharpen one's listening and critical thinking skills to identify concretely the theology which is being preached and which is being heard by the assembly. Each student will be expected to review and compare a homily from one's first course in homiletics with a homily from this course with a "dialogue partner," another deacon: a pre and post peer evaluation of one's homilies in course of the homiletics program at the seminary. Preaching without a text will be stressed. The course will include presentations on preaching days of recollection for groups such as Spirit days for confirmation, parish staffs, parish missions, etc.

Prerequisite: HOM730 Homiletics III. Only seminarians may register for this course.

PAS615 PASTORAL COUNSELING

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course will introduce the student to the concepts, theories, and principles of counseling with a broad spectrum of applications: individual, family, and marital. There is a focus on both the theoretical and practical aspects of acquiring clinical skills through interviewing and role-play experiences.

PAS811 SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is an overview course, which will include aspects such as: the qualification and preparation of candidates for director, the focus of the session, obstacles to a good relationship, the skills and procedures that help facilitate this spiritual dialogue, the goals of direction, and case studies. **Prerequisite: THY530 Christian Spirituality.**

PFS520 INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is designed to help the first-year theologian gain a basic understanding of the essential theology, dynamics, and fundamental skills of pastoral ministry. The course is designed to complement the seminarian's pastoral assignment for the year.

PFS530 CRITICAL ISSUES IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is designed to help the first-year theologian deepen his appropriation of the dynamics and skills of ministry with particular focus on the pastoral issues of grief, conflict, doubt, and situational crises. **Prerequisite: PFS520 Introduction to Pastoral Ministry.**

PFS700 LITURGICAL PRACTICUM I

CREDIT HOURS 2

An introduction to style of celebrating sacraments, respect for theology and directives contained within the ritual books, practicum for the sacraments of baptism and marriage, an understanding of the ministries of lector and acolyte, practicum for the care of the sick and the dying, burial, Eucharistic devotions, and ritual of blessings. **Only seminarians may register for this course.**

PFS800 LITURGICAL PRACTICUM II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course provides lectures and practicum experiences to prepare the seminarian for the liturgical roles proper to the priest. The course explores the theology and directives contained within the liturgical books and offers practicum experience in the seminary's pastoral languages for sacramental and liturgical responsibilities proper to the priest: the celebration of the Mass (including some of the special issues relating to OCIA and Holy Week) and sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. **Only seminarians may register for this course.**

PASTORAL YEAR**PAS605 PASTORAL YEAR WORKSHOP I**

CREDIT HOURS 2

This first of two Pastoral Year workshops is meant to facilitate the seminarian's integration of previous pastoral experiences, as well as help to process issues arising in the first weeks of the Pastoral Year. The Dean of Pastoral Formation and members of the pastoral formation faculty facilitate this program, with the assistance of other faculty members. Theological reflections, verbatims, videos, and speakers may be part of this process.

PAS606 PASTORAL YEAR WORKSHOP II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This second of the two Pastoral Year workshops is similar to the first, but focuses more intensely on the seminarian's experience in the parish and his developing pastoral aptitude, taking into consideration feedback from the supervisor, parishioners, and staff.

PAS610 PASTORAL PLACEMENT I (FALL)

CREDIT HOURS 2

Each seminarian is assigned by his (arch)diocese to a parish placement with a priest-supervisor for a year-long pastoral experience, living with parish priests and working with them and the parish staff for approximately nine months. This extended internship allows the seminarian to engage fully in the collaborative nature of parish life and to develop his pastoral identity and ministerial skills, participating in a variety of parish ministries and activities. The internship is a time for continuing clarification of the seminarian's vocational choice through prayer and discernment.

PAS611 PASTORAL PLACEMENT II (WINTER)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS610 Pastoral Placement I.

PAS612 PASTORAL PLACEMENT III (SPRING)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS611 Pastoral Placement II.

PAS613 PASTORAL PLACEMENT (ADVENT)

CREDIT HOUR 1

This placement, which may be a continuation of the Pastoral Year internship, gives the seminarian the opportunity to accompany a parish community through the observance of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

PAS711 PASTORAL PLACEMENT IV (FALL)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS612 Pastoral Placement III.

PAS712 PASTORAL PLACEMENT V (WINTER)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS711 Pastoral Placement IV.

PAS713 PASTORAL PLACEMENT VI (SPRING)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS712 Pastoral Placement V

PAS660 PARISH ADMINISTRATION

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course provides topical lectures, case studies, guest speakers, and discussion to prepare the student for a future role of leadership and management as it relates to effective administration of a parish. The course will explore critical issues that pastors and administrators will face. The course will employ an experiential approach that seeks to help the student understand and grow into the role of Pastor/Administrator and how this role relates to his evolving priestly responsibilities. It will also help the student relate the administrator function to personal skills development. This course is offered via videoconferencing for seminarians on Pastoral Year, as well as in person, for seminarians on campus.

PAS667 CATECHESIS, MISSIOLOGY, & EVANGELIZATION

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course draws on students' ministerial experiences in catechesis, mission, and evangelization. Students share best practices from their pastoral experiences. This course introduces skills to identify community or parish needs and socio-cultural context, gather and synthesize data, reflect theologically, and plan an appropriate programmatic pastoral response.

PAS668 THEOLOGY AND PASTORAL CARE OF MARRIAGE

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course examines the historical, scriptural, and doctrinal foundations of the Sacrament of Matrimony. It also provides students with resources for effective pastoral care regarding marriage and family life, including preparation for the reception of the sacrament, marriage enrichment, and assistance for families in crisis. **Prerequisite: THY713 Sexual Morality**

PASTORAL YEAR (*REDEMPTORIS MATER*)**PAS620 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS I (FALL) CREDIT HOURS 2**

Each seminarian from the Redemptoris Mater Seminary is assigned by his superiors to missionary placements, with pastoral assignments representing 15 hours per week, with a pastor and team members as supervisors. This experience may take up to three years, sharing life with parish priests and with members of the Neocatechumenal Way. This extended internship allows the seminarian to engage fully in the missionary charism of the Neocatechumenal Way, while being involved in a variety of parish ministries and activities. This experience is a time for continuing clarification of the seminarian's vocational choice through prayer and discernment. This represents the first stage of a multiterm experience, during which the seminarian is considered a full-time student at SVDP.

PAS621 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS II (WINTER) CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a continuation of PAS620 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements I.

PAS622 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS III (SPRING) CREDIT HOURS 2
This is continuation of PAS621 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements II.

PAS720 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS IV (FALL) CREDIT HOURS 2
This is continuation of PAS622 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements III.

PAS721 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS V (WINTER) CREDIT HOURS 2
For those seminarians for whom a longer missionary experience is judged appropriate, this course is a continuation of PAS720 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements IV.

PAS722 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS VI (SPRING) CREDIT HOURS 2
For those seminarians for whom a longer missionary experience is judged appropriate, this course is a continuation of PAS721 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements V.

PAS723 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS VII (FALL) CREDIT HOURS 2
For those seminarians for whom a longer missionary experience is judged appropriate, this course is a continuation of PAS722 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements VI.

PAS724 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS VIII (WINTER) CREDIT HOURS 2
For those seminarians for whom a longer missionary experience is judged appropriate, this course is a continuation of PAS723 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements VII.

PAS725 PASTORAL PLACEMENT FOR MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS IX (SPRING) CREDIT HOURS 2
For those seminarians for whom a longer missionary experience is judged appropriate, this course is a continuation of PAS724 Pastoral Placement for Missionary Movements VIII.

SCRIPTURE

BIB503 INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES, PSALMS, AND WISDOM LITERATURE
CREDIT HOURS 2

This course covers the topics preliminary to the study of Sacred Scripture including canon, text, inspiration, truth, methodology, and the relationship between the two Testaments. This course will study the history of how Catholics have interpreted the Bible as well as survey various methods and approaches used in exegesis today. The Psalms and the Wisdom literature will also be treated, using selected texts as opportunities to illustrate sound methodology and exploring the theology of these books. **This course is a prerequisite for all Scripture courses.**

BIB510 PENTATEUCH

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is a study of the first five books of the Bible from historical and literary points of view. It enables students to become familiar with the Pentateuch, to understand its purpose and importance in Israel and its relevance to the study and understanding of the rest of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and of Judaism. The course includes exegesis of selected texts.

BIB610 PROPHETIC LITERATURE

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course examines the phenomenon of prophecy in Israel. It explores its origins and surveys some early "non-writing" prophets and the classical prophets who have left books that bear their names. These prophets are set in their historical contexts, which include social, political, and economic factors. Prophetic books and sayings are studied with modern literary techniques, including exegesis of selected texts. The overall aim is to uncover the theological message of the prophets (including their teachings on social justice) and to arrive at an understanding of the development of prophecy into eschatology and apocalyptic (including messianism).

BIB612 SYNOPTIC GOSPELS & ACTS

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course studies the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke with a view toward understanding their relationship and interdependence (the "synoptic problem"). Which gospel was written first, which sources were used by the "synoptic" gospels, and what are the literary and theological characteristics of each of these gospels? Topics covered include the question of the historicity of the gospels; their Christological, soteriological, and ecclesial dimensions; and similar issues in regard to the Acts of the Apostles. The course includes exegesis of selected texts. .

BIB710 PAULINE LETTERS

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is a discussion of Paul as theologian and author, focusing on the main themes of the Pauline "Gospel," such as Christology, faith, and justification. Paul's view of the Law and the promise, his ecclesiology, and his theology of grace are also considered.

BIB711 JOHANNINE LITERATURE

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is a study of the fourth gospel (John) and, secondarily, of the three letters attributed to John. It also briefly discusses the Book of Revelation. It examines the question of authorship and of the community that may be behind these writings; it explores the lofty theology and Christology, as well as the linguistic and compositional peculiarities of the author. The course includes exegesis of selected texts.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

THY501 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course studies the nature, history, and methodology of fundamental theology, providing a basic understanding of Divine Revelation, its role as the foundation for Catholic faith, the Church's role as the divinely authorized custodian and interpreter of Divine Revelation, and the relationship of Divine Revelation with Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Special attention will be given to Von Balthasar's proposal that the Transcendental of Beauty serves as the point of departure. This course will also highlight the habit and task of theology as a means of both understanding and expressing the experience of God. (No prerequisites)

THY510 TRINITY

CREDIT HOURS 3

Trinity is the critical, participatory, and contemplative reflection on the mystery of God and His trinitarian reality. We will converse with the witness of the Scripture, the theological and magisterial Tradition of the Church, and the mystical experience. We will emphasize certain topics: the Trinity as the only answer to the challenge of atheism, the Trinity as the source of all reality, the trinitarian revelation in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, the history of development of trinitarian doctrine, and the central trinitarian categories. As a conclusion, we will reflect on the pastoral and spiritual actualization of trinitarian theology. **Prerequisite: THY501 Fundamental Theology.**

THY540 THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theological understanding of the nature of human beings. The course emphasizes the view that Jesus Christ is the revelation, not only of God, but also of what it is to be human. This course entails an articulation of the relationship between grace and human nature. The course will also examine the theological virtues with particular emphasis on the virtue of hope, the divine calling of humanity to its eschatological destiny. **Prerequisite: THY501 Fundamental Theology**

THY610 LITURGICAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is the study of the liturgy from a theological, historical, and anthropological dimension so as to give the student an appreciation of both divine revelation and mystery as expressed in the liturgy of the Roman Rite. This includes a familiarization with both historical documents and sociological contexts in light of current magisterial teaching on the sacred liturgy.

THY613 CHRISTOLOGY & MARIOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

Christology is the critical, participatory, and contemplative reflection on the life, ministry, and Paschal event of Jesus of Nazareth. The query of the sources of Christian theology and faith includes: Scriptures, the Tradition of the Fathers, the Scholastics, the Mystics, and contemporary theologians, as well as the liturgical proclamation and the life of faith, love, hope and justice of the Church. Students will endeavor to unveil, as much as possible, the profile and identity of Jesus, the Son of God, and His meaning for the Church, human existence, and contemporary culture. Mariology studies

Mary's importance from scriptural, doctrinal, and devotional perspectives. Mary's association with, and relationship to, the mystery of Christ and the Church is also explored, especially in light of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. **Prerequisite: THY501 Fundamental Theology.**

THY710 ECCLESIOLOGY & ECUMENISM

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course studies the Church as revealed in the words and events of the Old Testament and New Testament – People of God, Body of Christ; the Church and the Kingdom of God; the Sacramentality of the Church; the mission of the Church; relationship to other Churches; the development of the Church with special emphasis on *Pastor Aeternus* and *Lumen Gentium*; and the structures of the Church – its hierarchical constitution and role of the Magisterium. This course will also cover the Catholic Church's relationship with other Christian Churches and ecclesial communities with special focus on the documents *Unitatis Redintegratio*, *Ad Gentes*, *Nostra Aetate*, and *Ut Unum Sint*.

Prerequisite: THY501 Fundamental Theology.

THY650 SACRAMENTS I (INTRODUCTION, BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION)

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course introduces the student to the general principles of sacramentality and sacramental theology. The course then applies these methods to investigate the historical, Scriptural, patristic, and doctrinal foundations of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Special consideration will also be given to the topics of sacramentals and the RCIA process.

THY660 SACRAMENTS II (EUCCHARIST)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course will be focused on the anthropological, historical, Scriptural, patristic, and doctrinal foundations of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. **Prerequisite: THY650 Sacraments I.**

THY750 SACRAMENTS III (HOLY ORDERS)

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course examines the historical, Scriptural, and doctrinal foundations of the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Catholic Church, namely, the sacrament that imparts a special character and empowers those called by God to share in Christ's priestly ministry by sanctifying, teaching, and shepherding God's people as bishops, priests, and deacons. Various themes, such as the essential relationship with the baptismal priesthood of all Christ's faithful and the history and purpose of clerical celibacy in the Latin Rite will be addressed. An underlying theme is the centrality of self-oblation in living out the ministerial priesthood; those called to consecrate themselves through these sacred rites are to realize that their self-offering lies at the nucleus of their existence. **Prerequisite: THY650 Sacraments I.**

THY860 SACRAMENTS IV (PENANCE & ANOINTING)

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course will examine the historical, Scriptural, patristic, and doctrinal foundations of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. Special topics will include the practical and pastoral application of Reconciliation and Anointing. **Prerequisite: THY650 Sacraments I.**

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

BIB571 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL HEBREW I CREDIT HOURS 2

This is an introductory course which enables the student to acquire basic vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of Biblical Hebrew in order to gain some experience in translating the Old Testament and reading modern biblical sources intelligently.

BIB572 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL HEBREW II CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of BIB571. **Prerequisite: BIB571 or its equivalent.**

BIB573 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL HEBREW III CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of BIB572. **Prerequisite: BIB572 or its equivalent.**

BIB581 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL GREEK I CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is an introduction to the Greek of the New Testament with emphasis on vocabulary, form recognition, and basic grammar.

BIB582 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL GREEK II CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of BIB581. **Prerequisite: BIB581 or its equivalent.**

BIB583 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL GREEK III CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a continuation of BIB582. **Prerequisite: BIB582 or its equivalent.**

PASTORAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT)

The Language Department assesses the language proficiency levels of all incoming seminarians upon their admission to the seminary. Multipart language placement assessments include the Oral Proficiency Interview/Computer exam (OPIc) through Language Testing International (LTI)—the exclusive licensee of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)—as a pretest in the appropriate (non-native) language(s). The outcome of the multipart assessment process determines placement in the language program..

INITIAL PLACEMENT

ENGLISH

Upon entering the seminary, students will undergo an English-language level assessment by the Pastoral Language Department and the Writing Center. In consultation with the student's formation advisor (and, if necessary, the Vocations Director), this assessment will guide the studies needed for the student to achieve college-level English-language proficiency. These might include working with speech or pronunciation tutors, writing classes, and writing tutoring. All seminarians are expected to meet the following benchmark by graduation: proficiency in English at an advanced (A) or superior (S) level according to ACTFL standards and the ability to celebrate the liturgy, including at least a Baptism and the Mass with a homily, in English competently (as described in the SVDP Assessment Plan).

SPANISH

Students may be placed in the Spanish-language course sequence (see below, page 82) following assessment and recommendation by the Director of the Language Department, in consultation with the Academic Dean and the seminarian's formation advisor. These students are to complete coursework and language development activities accordingly. All seminarians in the Spanish pastoral language program are expected to meet the following benchmark by graduation: proficiency in Spanish at a minimum of intermediate-high (IH) level, as well as an increase of two sublevels from their initial assessment on the OPIc/ACTFL, and the ability to celebrate the liturgy, including at least a Baptism and the Mass with a homily, in Spanish competently (as described in the SVDP Assessment Plan).

In particular cases, the consultation among the Director of the Language Department, the Academic Dean, and the seminarian's formation advisor will determine if there exists a greater need for the seminarian to be in the English or Spanish Pastoral Language program. If there is a significant need in both languages, tutoring may be recommended for one of them. Seminarians are not required to be in academic courses for both pastoral languages simultaneously.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center collaborates with the Language Department to assess the English writing skills of all incoming seminarians, particularly non-native English speakers who may need extra support with their English language skills. After the initial assessment, students will be placed in a low-, medium-, or high-level writing proficiency cohort. Low-level writers will be required to work one-on-one with a tutor to polish their writing skills and have intensive support throughout the writing process for their assignments. They will also be required to attend several writing workshops throughout the year tailored to specific issues, such as academic integrity and plagiarism, using AI tools, research methods, writing mechanics and processes, style guides, formatting, and writing for media. Mid-level writers will be required to attend workshops, but tutoring will be optional and available. High-level writers have the option to attend workshops and utilize tutoring but may also act as peer tutors in proofreading fellow students' work. The Writing Center is available as a resource for all students throughout the research and writing process to assist with building strong English skills and good research and writing habits.

CONTINUING LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The Language Department also conducts mid- and post- tests (including LTI-OPIC) on all seminarians enrolled in the language program.

All seminarians with appropriate language competencies are required to take one course in Spanish per year. Seminarians in the Spanish subdivision of the Pastoral Language Program who have completed PAS535S (Intermediate Spanish III) are expected to meet this requirement.

All seminarians in the Pastoral Language Program must continue their language development throughout priestly formation. These students submit a pastoral language development plan to the Director of the Language Department for approval **before the last day of classes in spring term** each year. This plan is shared with their formation advisors.

Seminarians are responsible for contacting the Director of the Language Department to meet and discuss their proposed plans prior to submission. Individual pastoral language development plans must include the following components:

a. tutoring online or on-site with a faculty tutor (minimum one hour per week) or appropriate language courses.

and

b. 20 logged hours per term of language activities such as peer tutoring, workshops, core or elective courses offered in their pastoral language, or lab hours.

Evaluation: Seminarians will include a report on their progress in their pastoral language development in their annual self-evaluation.

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE PASTORAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE SEQUENCES

Sequence 1: Basic Spanish (3 courses, 2 credit hours each)

This course sequence is for students with limited or no previous knowledge of Spanish, and the overall goal is to develop the student's ability to communicate about and comprehend his immediate world in the basic Spanish language. Grammatically, the focus will be on the present and past tenses. By the end of the basic Spanish course sequence, students should be able to maintain a simple conversation and do a brief presentation in Spanish.

SPAS530S BASIC SPANISH I

CREDIT HOURS 2

This introductory course is designed to provide students with direct experience of the Spanish language through consistent exposure in class with limited to no English engagement. Students will study basic sentence structures in the present and future tenses in order to begin speaking, reading and writing. Through small group work, games, singing, and other means, students will organically learn while gaining insights into Hispanic culture. **Prerequisite: None.**

PAS531S BASIC SPANISH II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is a natural progression from PAS530S. At this level, students expand their capacity to communicate using compound present tenses such as the present perfect and the present progressive. Combined with their continued reading and in-class work, students gain confidence in their Spanish language abilities. **Prerequisite: PAS530S or equivalent.**

PAS532S BASIC SPANISH III

CREDIT HOURS 2

Building on their solid foundation in the previous courses, students delve into the past tenses, which will prepare them for the Intermediate-level coursework. By the end of the term, students will be able to converse using both present and past tenses. At this level, students will also start learning church-related vocabulary, which will familiarize them with their pastoral environment. **Prerequisite: PAS531S or equivalent.**

Sequence 2: Intermediate Spanish (3 Courses, 1 credit hour each)

This sequence continues the work established at the Basic level. These courses build Spanish language skills for real-life and cultural engagement, including the expression of opinions, beliefs, and doubts, while also building vocabulary. Grammatically, the focus is on the indicative, subjunctive, and imperative moods.

PAS533S INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course reviews all the material learned in the Basic Spanish sequence (to refresh memories after the summer break and to bring new students up to level): all present tenses, basic sentence structures, and pronouns, while also offering an exploration of Hispanic culture, current affairs, and pastoral readings.

PAS534S INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course focuses on reading/writing components of language learning and continued development of listening/speaking. This course builds Spanish language skills via a communicative approach to real-life and cultural topics, with an introduction to pastoral subjects. Students begin to communicate and comprehend opinions, beliefs, and doubts in Spanish. In conjunction with learning to express themselves subjectively, students begin an in-depth study of the Spanish sentence structures that govern this kind of communication and increase their vocabulary. Grammatically, the focus will be on indicative tenses and the subjunctive mood.

PAS535S INTERMEDIATE SPANISH III

CREDIT HOURS 2

This sequence focuses on reading/writing components of language learning and continued development of listening/speaking. These courses build Spanish language skills via a communicative approach to real-life and cultural topics, while continuing readings and discussions based on cultural and pastoral themes. Students continue to communicate and comprehend opinions, beliefs, and doubts in Spanish. In conjunction with learning to express themselves subjectively, students continue an in-depth study of the Spanish sentence structures that govern this kind of communication and increase their vocabulary. Grammatically, the focus will be on imperfect subjunctive and passive voices.

Sequence 3: Advanced Spanish (3 Courses, 1 credit hour each.)

The overall goal of this sequence is biliteracy, and the core focus is on content- and context-based instruction. The courses highlight global Spanish and address questions of linguistic diversity and intercultural competencies. This sequence emphasizes critical thinking skills and introduces problem-solving strategies in pastoral contexts. The sequence develops written and oral communication skills and incorporates spiritual reflection, bringing students to intermediate-mid (IM) to intermediate-high (IH) proficiency.

PAS551S ADVANCED SPANISH I

CREDIT HOURS 2

Advanced Spanish language integrates and consolidates the students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing language skills. In a dynamic, in-depth setting, the students develop linguistic accuracy and confidence while exploring Spanish-speaking culture through complex texts of both pastoral and cultural importance. Fluency in communication in the four language skills is cultivated through active participation and engaged discussion. **Prerequisite: PAS535S or equivalent.**

PAS552S ADVANCED SPANISH II

CREDIT HOURS 2

In this course, students are introduced to the passive voice while continuing to explore all of the subtleties of the subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive moods and conditional clauses in Spanish. For this course, the context of a variety of pastoral and culturally significant works of literature that are highly rewarding and complex is offered as a backdrop. **Prerequisite: PAS551S or equivalent.**

PAS553S ADVANCED SPANISH III

CREDIT HOURS 2

This capstone course is entirely taught and engaged by students in Spanish. Students polish their delivery using the full spectrum and wealth of the Spanish language, taking advantage of all the subtleties and complexities offered by the language. Students will be able to speak extemporaneously on a variety of topics with few or no errors. This course includes a final project that will showcase the student's Spanish capabilities. **Prerequisite: PAS552S or equivalent.**

Sequence 4: Ministerial Spanish (2 Courses, 1 credit hour each)

The Ministerial Spanish course sequence is designed to prepare students for their pastoral and ministerial assignments directly following ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. Emphasis is placed on writing and delivering homilies, effectively celebrating the liturgy, and meaningful interaction

with participants in the rites of the Church. These activities enable students to develop maturity and independence in written and spoken Spanish through the creation of texts that are responsive to and reflective of specific cultural environments. Students will build portfolios and practice the liturgy both in the classroom and in the Liturgy Lab.

PAS538S MINISTERIAL SPANISH I

CREDIT HOURS 1

Focus areas include developing one's individual voice in the pastoral language, with special attention to homiletics/ preaching; practice in a variety of pastoral applications; interactive participation; advanced spiritual reflection; peer review; direct applications for parish settings and diaconal responsibilities.

Prerequisite: PAS553S or equivalent.

PAS539S MINISTERIAL SPANISH II

CREDIT HOURS 1

Building on PAS538S this course offers increased attention to forms of prayer in liturgical and pastoral contexts and to spontaneous, independent production of language. **Prerequisite: PAS538S or equivalent.**

PAS550S SPANISH PASTORAL IMMERSION

CREDIT HOURS 2

This is a six-week intensive summer immersion in Spanish expected of all students who are not fully bilingual. Students will participate in pastoral ministries as an important part of this program. The Immersion program achieves two purposes: first it gives the student the opportunity to use their language learning in an authentic setting, and at the same time, this process provides the students with the confidence to communicate effectively in Spanish. **Prerequisite:** Permission of the Language Department.

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE MATS PROGRAM

PREPARATORY COURSES

PAS408 WRITING SKILLS

NON-CREDIT HOURS 1.5

Designed for new graduate theology students, this course is an overview of English written communication. It will provide a review of basic English grammar, usage, punctuation, and style and invite the students to develop their own writing voice so that they will be well equipped for future graduate courses and pastoral ministry. They will also learn new skills to express themselves vividly and clearly in writing. In the capstone assessment for this course, students will critically read a short piece of scholarly literature and compose a short essay in which they will respond by proposing a thesis and defending it with evidence found through research. As they do so, they will also learn how to avoid plagiarism and write with integrity.

PHI422 METAPHYSICS

NON-CREDIT HOURS 3

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the fundamental metaphysical nature of reality. The course will be inspired by the Thomistic tradition, emphasizing particularly the creative retrieval of the thought of St. Thomas by some of the most important Catholic thinkers since the beginning of the 20th century.

PHI440 PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

NON-CREDIT HOURS 1.5

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to a fundamental philosophical understanding of what it is to be human. The course will entail both historical and systematic treatment of the basic metaphysical dimensions of human existence. Emphasis will be made especially on the personal nature of human beings and their creative freedom in the context of their essential historicity in the world of human experience.

HISTORY

MHIS550 CATHOLIC HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

The purpose of this class is to introduce the students to the theology of the Catholic Church by reflecting on 2000 years of growth, through the three stages of the Church: early [patristic] (33-590), medieval [scholastics] (590-1517), and modern (1517-present). In each era, the development of Catholic theology will be seen arising from its historical context. The Church in the United States does not stand in isolation; hence, American Catholic Church history will also be examined. This course is a survey class.

MORAL THEOLOGY

MTHY541 FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is an introduction to the fundamental issues and concerns of Catholic Moral Theology as a science of Christian praxis through "a scientific reflection on the Gospel as the gift and commandment of new life" (*Veritatis splendor* 110). Its topics include the renewal of moral theology by the Second Vatican Council, as well as the scriptural and historical background to this renewal effort; the relationship of faith and human reason (grace and human nature) in ethical reflection; and the meaning of moral-theological categories such as beatitude and human flourishing, freedom and the moral act, conscience, law, human action, sin and conversion, the significance of the Christian virtues in a contemporary context, and applications of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes to the moral life "and their relation with man's ultimate end" (*Veritatis splendor* 110).

MTHY650 SOCIAL JUSTICE, MISSIOLOGY, AND EVANGELIZATION

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course offers an overview of Catholic teaching on social justice beginning with the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, issued by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. It will also offer an introduction to the theology of mission in support of the task of evangelization. **Prerequisite MTHY541 Fundamental Moral Theology**

MTHY800 SEXUAL MORALITY AND MEDICAL ETHICS

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course offers an overview of sexual and medical ethics from a Catholic moral perspective, including discussion of the deeper moral-theological dimension of issues in sexual morality. Issues explored include the role of sex in human growth and development, some sexual deviations, natural and artificial procreation, as well as natural and artificial birth control, sterilization, surrogate parenthood, human experimentation, cloning, stem cell research, euthanasia, and the role of the virtues in the decision-making process in medical ethics. **Prerequisite** MTHY541 **Fundamental Moral Theology**

OTHER**MHOM615 THEOLOGY IN PREACHING AND PRESENTATIONS**

CREDIT HOURS 3

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis stated, "Preparation for preaching is so important a task that a prolonged time of study, prayer, reflection and pastoral creativity should be devoted to it" (n. 145). This course is designed to build a foundational pattern of prayer and study that will assist in the development and preaching of a Catholic homily. Students will understand the foundational texts associated with defining a Catholic homily, grow in their understanding of themselves as preachers, and learn to become attuned to the assemblies they address. Review of homilies by faculty and peers will be part of the course using the SVDP Preaching Rubric. **Only candidates for the permanent diaconate may register for this course.**

MHOM720 HOMILETICS II

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course is designed to build on the foundation established in MHOM315/615, honing the deacon candidate's understanding of preaching in the Roman Catholic tradition. The *Homiletic Directory* will be used to summarize the course material previously studied. The deacon candidate will develop an operative theology of preaching that will reflect his integrated understanding of systematic theology and pastoral life. The operative theology of preaching will demonstrate a theological awareness of how preaching incorporates the applied disciplines of anthropology, theology, and Christology, as well as understanding preaching within the dialectical and sacramental imagination. The deacon candidate will learn to assess critically his particular assembly, incorporating these facets into the skill and art of writing a homily. This course will emphasize the exegesis of both the preacher and the assembly. Each deacon candidate will be expected to prepare written texts of his homilies, to record the delivered homily, and participate in the review of peer homilies. The SVDP Preaching Rubric will be used in assessing the homilies. **Prerequisite: HOM615 Theology in Preaching and Presentations.**

MLAW710 CANON LAW

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course surveys the historical development of Church law, which culminates in the promulgation of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*. Books I, II, IV, and VI of the Code are studied with particular emphasis on the role of clerics, rights and obligations of the Christian faithful and clergy, the hierarchical constitution of the Church, and diocesan and parish structures. A practical study of the current Church discipline of the sacraments, with a special emphasis on matrimonial legislation and the sacraments of Initiation, provides students with the canonical requisites for reception of the sacraments and their celebration. It readies students to deal, as parochial ministers of the sacraments, with their proper administration, and the processes involved with the matrimonial tribunal.

MPAS615 PASTORAL COUNSELING

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course will introduce the MATS student to the concepts, theories, and principles of counseling with a broad spectrum of applications: individual, family, and marital. There is a focus on both the theoretical and practical aspects of acquiring counseling skills through interviewing and role play experiences.

MTHY525 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

CREDIT HOURS 2

This course introduces students to this theological discipline, while assisting them to make an experience of integration in Christ between knowledge and life. It covers the origins and nature of Christian spirituality, bringing out the main basic principles of the Christian spiritual life. This is exemplified through Scriptural, traditional, and historical references.

MPFS700 LITURGICAL PRACTICUM I: DEACON CANDIDATES

CREDIT HOUR 1

This is an introduction to proper style for the celebration of the sacraments and other liturgies, with respect for liturgical/sacramental theology and the directives contained within the liturgical books. Focus will be on the following:

1. An understanding of the ministries of lector and acolyte and the ordained ministry of deacon;
2. Practicum for the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony;
3. Practicum for the care of the sick and the dying, burial, Eucharistic devotions, and blessings.

Only candidates for the permanent diaconate may register for this course.

MPFS800 LITURGICAL PRACTICUM II: DEACON CANDIDATES

CREDIT HOUR 1

This course is a continuation of MPFS700 with more opportunity for practice. **Only candidates for the permanent diaconate may register for this course.**

SCRIPTURE

MBIB520 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course has three main parts: First, it explores Church teaching on Sacred Scripture, including the formation of the canon and the inspiration and truth of Scripture, by surveying various Church documents on these questions. Second, it introduces the exegetical methodology generally accepted in Catholic biblical scholarship, giving attention both to diachronic and synchronic tools; this part of the course examines exegesis so that students will understand how we know what we know about the biblical texts. Third, it provides an overview of the entire Catholic canon, offering a general introduction to the 73 books considered inspired by the Church. **This is a prerequisite course for all Scripture courses in the MATS Program.**

MBIB621 SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course builds on the foundation provided in MBIB520 by exploring the Old Testament more deeply. It provides an overview of the culture, language, religion, and history of the Old Testament, exploring the literary, geographical, and historical contexts of the different books. The books of the Old Testament will be considered within the traditional 3-part division of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) – Torah, Prophets, and Writings – with attention also given to the deuterocanonical books. This course will also include exegesis of selected Old Testament texts of different genres: narrative, law, prophetic poetry and prose, wisdom literature, and apocalyptic. **Prerequisite: MBIB520 Introduction to Scripture.**

MBIB622 SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course builds on the foundation provided in MBIB520 by exploring the New Testament more deeply. It provides an overview of the culture, language, religion, and history of the New Testament, exploring the literary, geographical, and historical contexts of the different books. The books and major theological themes of the New Testament will be considered within the division of the genres of the various texts – gospel, Hellenistic history (Acts), Hellenistic letters (those of the Pauline corpus and others), and apocalyptic (Revelation). This course will also include exegesis of selected New Testament texts of different genres.

Prerequisite: MBIB520 Introduction to Scripture.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**MTHY500 INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

CREDIT HOURS 3

The discipline of Roman Catholic systematic theology is classically characterized by the use of an analytical realism, a deep respect for the diverse realities of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the individual and his/her interrelationship with the community in union with God. This course will introduce the student to the major facets integral to the practice of Roman Catholic theology. As a survey course practicing theology within the current context, the course provides an overview of many disciplines, from the Divine Mystery and Christology to revelation and ecclesiology.

MTHY515 TRINITY AND CHRISTOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

Trinity is the critical, participatory, and contemplative reflection on the mystery of God and His Trinitarian reality. The course converses with the witness of the Scriptures, the theological and magisterial Tradition of the Church, and the experience of the mystics. The course emphasizes the following topics: the Trinity as the source of all reality and the only answer to the challenge of atheism; the Trinitarian revelation in the Paschal mystery of Christ; the historical development of Trinitarian doctrine; and the central Trinitarian categories. The course also reflects on the pastoral and spiritual actualization of Trinitarian theology. Christology is the critical, participatory and contemplative reflection on faith in God and on the life, ministry, and Paschal event of Jesus of Nazareth. The query of the sources of Christian Theology includes: Scriptures, the tradition of the Fathers, the Scholastics, the mystics, and contemporary theologians as well as the liturgical proclamation and the life of faith, love, hope, and justice of the Church. Students will endeavor to unveil, as much as possible, the profile and identity of Jesus, the Son of God, and His meaning for the Church, human existence, and contemporary culture.

MTHY545 CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theological understanding of the nature of human beings. The course emphasizes the view that Jesus Christ is the revelation, not only of God, but also of what it is to be human. The course entails an articulation of the relationship between grace and human nature. In line with this relationship, the eschatological nature of Christian faith will also be considered.

MTHY645 SURVEY OF SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

CREDIT HOURS 3

This course will provide a general introduction to the theology of the sacraments. It will begin with an overall view of the sacraments and move specifically into more detail with each of the seven sacraments. Students will also learn the specific rituals of the sacraments and use the liturgical texts as a key tool for learning the theology of each.



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Since 1983 the seminary has sponsored scholars-in-residence to either teach or present lectures. The purpose is to expose faculty and students to contemporary Catholic theological scholars. This is not an annual program.

PRIEST WINTER INSTITUTE

In keeping with the secondary purpose of the Mission Statement, the seminary sponsors an annual, week-long, ongoing formation program for priests. Each year experts are invited to address topics or issues which are of particular relevance to priests in their ministries.

DEACON SUMMER INSTITUTE

In keeping with the secondary purpose of the Mission Statement, the seminary sponsors an annual ongoing formation program for permanent deacons. Each year experts are invited to address topics or issues which are of particular relevance to deacons in their ministries.

RECENTLY ORDAINED WORKSHOP

In keeping with the secondary purpose of the Mission Statement, the seminary sponsors an annual, three-day workshop for priests who are recently ordained. Experts are brought in to present topics relevant to priests who are in the early years of their ministry.



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*May God bless our mission of forming priests
after the Heart of Jesus Christ!*



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