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Intercultural Preparation for Ministry

- **English and Culture Studies**
- **Hispanic Preparation for Ministry**
- **The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies**

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HALES CORNERS, WI

An apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart



**SACRED
HEART**
Seminary and
School of Theology

YOUR SEMINARY: *Specialized formation for a universal Church*



English and Culture Studies Program

As more and more priests and religious in the United States are foreign-born, and as English functions as a common language for international communication, there is a growing need for English instruction. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is meeting this growing need through its unique English and Culture Studies (ECS) Program.

Sacred Heart's program not only helps students become proficient in English, it also familiarizes them with American customs and culture. This program attracts people from many different backgrounds and includes seminarians, priests, brothers, sisters, and lay ministers. They seek to achieve English proficiency for advanced studies at universities, priestly formation in the seminary, pastoral work, professional advancement, or personal improvement.

SHSST is a member of the American Association of Intensive English Programs, commonly known as English USA. No prior knowledge of English is necessary for enrollment.

Sessions

The ECS program offers flexible time frame options for enrollment. These sessions can be combined for longer stays. In certain cases, enrollment dates can be adjusted to allow for specialized study programs that fit the needs of the student.

Option 1: Summer Session

Every summer there is one, seven-week ECS sessions. Classes are held four days per week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays), with cultural field trips on Wednesdays.

Summer Session is typically the program's busiest time of year, with the largest enrollment and the widest variety of countries represented. Some students extend the stay and continue studies during the fall semester.

Option 2: Fall and Spring

These sessions coincide with the seminary's semester schedule and provide students the needed time to fully master the English language. During these sessions, classes are four days per week. Wednesdays are dedicated to the all-school Mass, and spiritual/formational activities.

Course placement

A: English Learning Levels

For students learning the English language, courses in reading, writing, grammar, and oral communication on three levels (beginning, intermediate, advanced) are offered.

B: English Advanced Level

For students who are at an advanced level of English, a two-course program (Accent Modification and Communication in a USA Ministerial Context) is offered. These classes are supplemented by two of the other language courses based on student needs.



Testimonial: If you want a priest with good language skills for your diocese or religious order, Sacred Heart is the best place you can send your seminarians.
— Fr. Sergio Rodriguez, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Seminarians, religious, and priests come from around the world

Angola	Colombia	Guatemala	Madagascar	Portugal
Argentina	Croatia	Haiti	Maldova	Rwanda
Benin	DR Congo	India	Mexico	Serbia
Brazil	Ecuador	Indonesia	Mozambique	Togo
Burundi	El Salvador	Italy	Nicaragua	Uganda
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Ivory Coast	Philippines	Venezuela
China	Gabon	Jordan	Poland	Vietnam

Seminary Bridge Program

For students in the English and Culture Studies Program (ECS) with the ultimate goal of enrolling into university or seminary studies, special curriculum components are built into their final semesters in the ECS program to ensure a successful transition to further academic studies.

- Transitional students are simultaneously enrolled in ECS and M.Div. or M.A. courses.
- Transitional students are placed in an “instructional support” course in which ECS instructors assist students with their M.Div./M.A. class assignments by editing papers, previewing presentations, discussing course material, etc.
- ECS instructors meet regularly with the professors of the M.Div./M.A. courses to communicate about student progress and coordinate instructional efforts.
- Transitional students take the Introduction to Graduate Religious Studies course to learn English theological terms and academic skills (research processes, reading strategies, note-taking techniques, source citation, etc.).

Accent Modification

Is the gospel being understood? Often, accent modification is an essential tool for clergy and others who do not speak English as their first language. From preaching to counseling, the ability to be understood is an essential part of helping the Catholic faithful to deepen their relationships with God.

- Sacred Heart offers a proven Accent Modification program to priests, seminarians, and lay church workers who have a strong foundation of English language skills
- Programs range from seven weeks to semester-long, tailored to individual needs
- Also offered online when schedules permit
- Supportive, faith-filled environment in a seminary community
- Seminary Bridge Program into MDiv and MA degree studies (no TOEFL)
- English courses emphasize language for pastoral ministry
- Culture studies focus on ministry in American parishes
- Typical Accent Modification: 70% reduction in mispronounced phonemes, with lifetime access to online resources for continuing improvement

Testimonial: The program is carefully designed to help international students like me. My English pronunciation is improving day by day. This course is highly effective. — Fr. Britto Suresh, Accent Modification participant from India, priest now serving the Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Catholic Seminary Environment

Our English and Culture Studies students often express how happy they are to study in a seminary environment. The Eucharist is celebrated daily. The Angelus is prayed every class day. Reconciliation is scheduled weekly. Communal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Liturgy of the Hours are incorporated into the regular liturgical life of the seminary.

Immigration Connection

for Sponsoring Dioceses and Religious Orders

Sacred Heart has a dedicated immigration specialist on staff. Our Immigration Connection program provides workshops, guides, news updates, and student immigration plans.



Hispanic Ministry Preparation Program

Sacred Heart offers a program in Hispanic studies which has been designed to prepare seminarians and other students for effective ministry in the diverse Hispanic cultures present in the U.S. Church today. Students become aware of how language opens up another world view, appreciate how difficult it is for people, especially adults, to acquire another language, and value the richness of other cultures.

Program Components

Component 1:

Intercultural Ministry

Students acquire an awareness of the social, economic, cultural, and religious realities of U.S. Hispanics by focusing on and applying the social teachings of the Church in Hispanic ministry through theological reflection. This component helps to foster an appreciation of the diverse and complex ministerial needs of Hispanics in the U.S. Catholic Church.

Component 2:

Pastoral Language Skills

Component two centers on language acquisition leading to proficient conversational skills in pastoral contexts. Students will be paired with Language Partners and encouraged to participate in “Almuerzo,” an on-campus lunch during which only Spanish is spoken. A language and pastoral-cultural immersion experience in a Spanish-speaking country is strongly encouraged. Those with a limited facility

in Spanish may receive an intensive language immersion experience during the summer.

Component 3:

Pastoral Preparation

Component three focuses on preparation for Hispanic ministry. Students learn to preside at Eucharistic liturgies, are introduced to how Hispanics draw conclusions and communicate values so as to be able to choose topics and styles for effective preaching, learn how to preside at weddings using Hispanic rituals, are introduced to “popular religiosity” (popular expressions of faith) and learn how to preside at quinceañeras, presentaciones, velorios, etc. These experiences expose students to possibilities for inculturation of the faith as they value the richness of symbols and sense of the sacred found in Hispanic religious experience. Seminarians may complete a pastoral field placement in a Hispanic community in the United States.



The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies

Building bridges between two great faith communities

Committed to helping people carry out the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself,” The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology addresses the crisis of religious intolerance. Dedicated to Catholic-Jewish relations and interreligious dialogue, it is the vision of The Lux Center to “strengthen the living relationship between Catholics and the Jewish People.”



Founder: The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies honors Richard Lux, Ph.D., professor emeritus, who worked tirelessly to build bridges between Catholics and Jews during his 37 years on the Sacred Heart faculty.

The Lux Center programs

As a program within a seminary, The Lux Center is uniquely positioned to improve interreligious understanding:

- Dedicated faculty position in Jewish studies
- Seminar and MA student study trips to Israel
- Public lectures, seminars, webinars, and discussions with renowned scholars
- Seminary events recognizing Jewish holidays, liturgy, and history
- Opportunities for interreligious dialogue
- Library with extensive Judaica and interreligious studies collection
- Speakers' Bureau for churches and synagogues
- Holocaust resources and commemoration events





How can we serve you?

English and Culture Studies Program

Learn more at shsst.edu/ecsp

Hispanic Ministry Preparation Program

Learn more at shsst.edu/hispanic-studiesprogram

The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies

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Contact us today

InternationalStudents@shsst.edu

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