



English and Culture Studies in a seminary

- Immersive residential English programs
- Bridge program for students transitioning into seminary studies
- Accent Modification in-person or online



English and Culture Studies Program

As English is a common language for international ministries and advanced studies and is also integral to foreign-born priests serving in U.S. parishes, there is a growing need for English as a Second Language instruction. Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology meets this growing need through its unique English and Culture Studies (ECS) Program. Set within a seminary with its robust liturgical life, Sacred Heart's ECS program helps students master English through the intentional experience and study of American customs and culture. This program specializes in intercultural preparation for Catholic ministry in the United States and attracts seminarians, priests, and religious brothers and sisters from around the world.



Main Programs

- Residential Immersion Program: Beginner to Advanced English Studies
- Bridge Program: Pre-Seminary English Studies
- Accent Modification: In-person or Online

ECS at 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.

Available Sessions

The ECS program offers flexible time frame options for enrollment. 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: Fall and Spring

The fall and spring semesters parallel the seminary's academic calendar. Each semester is composed of two 7-week sessions and provides students the needed time to fully master the English language.

During these sessions, classes are held four days per week. Wednesdays are dedicated to the all-school Mass, as well as spiritual/formational activities and outside activities.

Option 2: Summer Session

Every summer there is an intensive, 7-week ECS session, which includes arrival and residential settling-in as well as academic orientation prior to the first day of class. Classes are held four days per week with "culture and customs" 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 their stay and continue their studies during the fall semester.

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

Our seminarians, religious, and priests come from around the world

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|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| • Angola | • Croatia | • Haiti | • Mexico | • Serbia |
| • Argentina | • Czech Republic | • India | • Moldova | • Togo |
| • Benin | • DR Congo | • Indonesia | • Mozambique | • Uganda |
| • Brazil | • Ecuador | • Italy | • Nicaragua | • Uruguay |
| • Burundi | • El Salvador | • Ivory Coast | • Philippines | • Venezuela |
| • Cameroon | • Ethiopia | • Japan | • Poland | • Vietnam |
| • China | • Gabon | • Jordan | • Portugal | |
| • Colombia | • Guatemala | • Madagascar | • Rwanda | |
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Course Placement

A CaMLA placement test is administered to all students prior to the start of classes. Students are then placed into one of three levels according to their proficiency in each of the four skill areas (Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Oral Communication (Listening/Speaking)).

A: English Beginner (100 Level)

For students learning the English language for the first time or with minimal proficiency, courses are provided in reading, writing, grammar, and oral communication.

B: English Intermediate (200 Level)

For students who are at an intermediate 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.

C. English Advanced (300 Level)

For students who are at an advanced level of English, advanced courses are provided in reading, writing, grammar, and oral communication.

Seminary Bridge Program

For students whose ultimate goal is enrolling in a ministry-related university program or seminary studies, the Bridge Program is available to ensure a successful transition to further academic studies (MDiv and MA degrees, for example). As part of the Bridge Program, a 3-credit Bridge Seminar offers intensive reading and writing practice in a one-on-one environment with a dedicated faculty member with an eye toward preparation for theology and philosophy classes. A critical essay and public presentation are part of the capstone project completed by each student. A Bridge Tutorial is available to ensure success for Bridge Program students once they begin their seminary studies.





Intercultural Ministry

Special modules in intercultural ministry, including Women in Ministry, are included in ECS sessions and include speakers with expertise in the given area. Priests in the ECS program learn, for example, what diverse parishes look like in the United States (different groups represented, languages, etc.), how to create outreach as a priest, and what the roles of women are in parishes (and administration) in the United States, and the corresponding expectations of priests serving here.

Pastoral Communications Workshop

A special communication workshop taught by Sacred Heart's Director of Homiletics, Deacon Steve Kramer, provides valuable knowledge and insights to help improve a priest's ability to deliver the Gospel and interact with parishioners effectively. Topics include the reading of Scripture and prayer, verbal and non-verbal communication, jargon and idioms, pronunciation, and voice projection. The workshop provides priests the opportunity for in-class practice with feedback from the instructor.

Accent Modification

Is the gospel being understood? Often, accent modification is an essential tool for clergy and others with an interest in ministry who do not speak English as their first language. From preaching to catechesis, 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 church workers who have a strong foundation in the English language.

The 7-week program requires a pre-course recording and phonetic transcription of the student's individual accent challenges and points for improvement. Lessons are then tailored to an individual's unique needs. The program is also offered online when schedules permit. A typical student in Accent Modification experiences up to 70% reduction in mispronounced phonemes, and has lifetime access to online resources for continuing improvement after the program is finished.

Trusted for Priestly Formation and/or English and Culture Studies 2023-2024 Academic Year

- Diocese of Albany
- Diocese of Belleville
- Diocese of Davenport
- Diocese of Dodge City
- Diocese of Gary
- Diocese of Gaylord
- Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese of Hamilton
- Diocese of Honolulu
- Diocese of Jackson
- Diocese of La Crosse
- Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
- Diocese of Lexington
- Diocese of Lubbock
- Diocese of Madison
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
- Diocese of Rockford
- Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJ),
US Province
- Order of Saint Camillus
USA Delegation
- Saint Francis Xavier Foreign
Mission Society
- Archdiocese of Saint Paul MN
- Community of Saint Paul
- Diocese of Saginaw
- Diocese of Salina
- Society of the Divine Savior (SDS)
- Diocese of Springfield-
Cape Girardeau
- Diocese of Superior
- Diocese of Tucson



Catholic Seminary Environment

Sacred Heart offers a supportive, faith-filled environment in a seminary community. 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. All priests and religious in the ECS program are encouraged to join in this liturgical life.

Immigration Assistance

Sacred Heart employs a full-time International Student Services Specialist to help assist sponsoring dioceses and religious orders with immigration and visa questions.

How can we serve you?

Contact Ryan Stubbs, Director of the English and Culture Studies Program at ecsp@shsst.edu. Learn more at shsst.edu/ecsp

www.shsst.edu | HALES CORNERS, WI
An apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart



YOUR SEMINARY: *Specialized formation for a universal Church*

We are located in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, on a beautiful partially wooded campus.
We are 15 minutes from Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport
and 75 minutes from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.