

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CATHOLIC STUDIES

In 2023, Sacred Heart began to offer a new accredited degree, the Master of Arts in Catholic Studies. The degree encompasses courses for the Propaedeutic and Discipleship Stages, and the program educates students in the integration of truth and wisdom through a broad range of subjects, including literature, art, philosophy, history, culture, language, and liturgy. Students graduate equipped for further theological studies in preparation for the Catholic priesthood, manifesting Avery Cardinal Dulles's spirit of *sentire cum ecclesia*, a steadfast desire to “think and feel with the Church” in all her complexity and beauty. This degree is only open to students admitted into Sacred Heart's Priestly Formation Program.

All courses are for a letter grade (except Catholic Heritage I and Catholic Heritage II, which may be taken as pass/fail).

### Admission Requirements

Admission requires an additional application for the Master of Arts in Catholic Studies (separate from the Priestly Formation Program admissions), including an essay and a letter of sponsor support.

### Graduation Requirements

Students must achieve 49 credits in the following areas:

- Core courses (13 credits)
- Catholic Studies electives (6 credits)
- General electives (30 credits)

A seminarian who leaves priestly formation may continue and finish the degree if he:

- has earned at least 30 credits toward the degree
- obtains written permission from the Academic Dean and the President-Rector
- follows relevant handbook policies and procedures, including leave of absence policies

The following conditions also apply:

- Nine (9) credits may be transferred into the Master of Arts in Catholic Studies
- Sixteen (16) credits may be shared with the Master of Divinity Program
- The student must maintain a 3.0 GPA

### Desired Outcomes

Assessment follows PPF6 qualities and benchmarks for intellectual formation in the Propaedeutic and Discipleship Stages.

### CORE CURRICULUM

(required 13 credits)

*Course number, credits, and name*

CA 510 3 The Catholic Imagination

CA 575 3 Catholic Literature

- CA 610 3 Catholic Thought & Culture  
 CA 690 4 Catholic Studies  
 Capstone Seminar

### **CATHOLIC STUDIES ELECTIVES**

(minimum 6 credits)

*Course number, credits, and name*

- CA 500 3 Catholic Heritage I:  
 Sal Terrae

- CA 505 3 Catholic Heritage II:  
 Sint Unum

*Other Catholic Studies electives vary by semester.*

### **GENERAL ELECTIVES**

(minimum 30 credits)

General electives include any course in philosophy, theology, spirituality, history, languages, pastoral studies, Hispanic studies, or Catholic Studies.

### **Optional Concentration in Philosophy**

Students take all 30 general elective credits in philosophy to meet the prerequisite for theological studies (PPF6, no. 306). This is the standard curriculum for seminarians who pursue the Master of Divinity Program.

### **Optional Concentration in Theology and Tradition**

For general electives, students apply 12 credits from the six standard Propaedeutic Stage courses (Catholic Doctrine I & II, Catholic Spiritual Tradition and Priestly Identity I & II, and Reading Sacred Scripture I & II) and take an additional

18 elective credits in theology, philosophy, history, and/or Catholic Studies.

This concentration is designed for seminarians who either do not need all 30 philosophy credits or pursue a flexible Individualized Ordination Track.

## **B.A./M.Div. PROGRAM**

Beginning in 2025, SHSST will partner with the University of Mary (Bismarck, North Dakota) to provide a pathway for the completion of a B.A. in University Studies with a minor in philosophy. Seminarians who do not have a bachelor's degree but who have already earned an Associate of Arts or Science degree or completed at least 52 semester credits of liberal arts coursework from an accredited college or university are eligible. Select SHSST courses for the Propaedeutic and Discipleship Stages (including philosophy and Catholic Studies) can be applied toward this undergraduate degree in preparation for the M.Div. degree during the Configuration Stage. Seminarians who take advantage of the B.A./M.Div. Program are ineligible for the M.A. in Catholic Studies. Please contact the SHSST Registrar for more details.

*See Core Course descriptions beginning on page 61. See Financial Information beginning on page 87.*