

Additional Degrees for the Configuration Stage

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY

Concurrent with the M.Div. degree, qualified and motivated seminarians may enroll in additional courses toward **two joint degrees: the Master of Arts in Theology and the ecclesiastical Baccalaureate in Theology.**

For the **M.A. in Theology**, seminarians pursue the **Lumen Cordis** pathway (“Light of the Heart”). Seminarians may select either Sacred Scripture or Systematic Theology for a concentration. Students have two routes toward graduation:

- **Plan A**, which requires 33 graduate credit hours of coursework with comprehensive examinations
- **Plan B**, which requires 27 graduate credit hours of coursework plus a six-credit thesis

See Master of Arts in Theology requirements and further details beginning on page 40.



BACCALAUREATE IN THEOLOGY

For the ecclesiastical **Baccalaureate in Theology** (known colloquially as the “S.T.B.”) advanced seminarians enroll in additional research and elective seminars. The ecclesiastical degree also requires the study of languages, a thesis defense, and comprehensive examinations. Graduates receive the degree through the **Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome**. Most seminarians who pursue the Baccalaureate in Theology also satisfy the requirements for the **M.A. in Theology**.

Many of the M.Div. core courses are cross-listed with the Baccalaureate in Theology core courses. **Listed below are the additional core courses for the Baccalaureate in Theology, not cross-listed with the M.Div.:**

ADDITIONAL BACCALAUREATE IN THEOLOGY CORE COURSES

Course number, credits, and name

TRS 560	3	Theological Research Seminar
DT 612	3	Theology of Grace
TR 660	3	Research for Scientific Paper
COMP 630	3	Comprehensive Exams
TD 661	2	Scientific Paper Defense

Students must also take six (6) credits in elective seminars and six (6) credits in ancient languages. Please contact the SHSST Registrar for further details.

The Baccalaureate in Theology is facilitated through the Sint Unum Institute, a canonical entity under the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

See Core Course descriptions beginning on page 61.

See Baccalaureate Course descriptions beginning on page 76.

See Financial Information beginning on page 87.

Vocational Synthesis

Upon completion of the Configuration Stage, seminarians enter the Vocational Synthesis Stage. This stage “is a gradual realization of the cleric’s responsibility for the care of the souls while he resides full-time in a pastoral setting, usually a parish” (PPF6, no. 137). The goal of this stage is to gradually introduce newly ordained deacons to the daily experiences of priestly life and pastoral service. Ministering in their diocese or religious community, they apply the knowledge, skills, and spiritual development gained in seminary to ministry in the world. SHSST can work with sponsors on placements, benchmarks, rubrics, and training for supervising priests.

Typically, deacons remain enrolled at SHSST during the Vocational Synthesis Stage as they complete select courses in Pastoral Studies and Pastoral Formation. These courses include a Diaconal Preaching Placement, Parish Administration, and the Integrating Seminar. Courses are designed to accommodate a sponsor’s desire for the deacon to complete the Vocational Synthesis Stage in his home diocese or religious community while the deacon occasionally returns to the seminary for workshops and seminars (PPF6, no. 143).