

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.:**



Master of Arts in Theology

Pathways to a Master of Arts in Theology

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology offers three distinct Master of Arts degree pathways, each providing outstanding opportunities for students to enrich their faith lives and their ability to serve God's Church. Specifically, the SHSST M.A. Program strives to provide a deep exploration of the meaning of the Christian faith in today's world.

- 1 Lumen Cordis** ("Light of the Heart") is open to seminarians and lay students.
- 2 Cor Unum** ("One Heart") is for lay students.
- 3 Adveniat Regnum Tuum** ("Your Kingdom Come") is open to seminarian members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart who are living abroad.

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY OVERVIEW

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology offers a Master of Arts in Theology degree with two possible areas of concentration: Scripture or Systematic Theology.

The M.A. Program is a 33 credit hours degree, distributed as follows:

Plan A requires 33 credits of course work plus comprehensive examinations.

- Nine (9) credit hours from required courses.
- Fifteen (15) credit hours from courses from the chosen area of concentration: Scripture or Systematic Theology.
- Nine (9) hours of elective credits.
- Comprehensive examinations (written and oral).

Plan B requires 27 credit hours of course work plus 6 credit hours of the M.A. thesis.

- Nine (9) credit hours from required courses.
- Fifteen (15) credit hours from courses from the chosen area of concentration: Scripture or Systematic Theology.
- Three (3) hours of elective credits.
- Six (6) credit hours from the M.A. thesis.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Master of Arts in Theology Program, an applicant must:

- Possess an undergraduate degree (transcripts must be sent by the college/university directly to the director of admissions).
- Possess six credits of undergraduate philosophy in the areas relevant to theological studies and six credits of undergraduate theology. Equivalent prerequisites may be earned at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology before starting core Master of Arts in Theology Program coursework.
- Submit a personal history containing: past education or specialized training, employment record, church activity or service, and a personal goal statement describing why the applicant is interested in pursuing the master of arts degree.

- Submit a letter of recommendation from the pastor or other competent authority in a parish, diocese, religious community, or the equivalent.
- Possess advanced knowledge of English.

For information on the program, contact the Director of the Master of Arts Program at 414-425-8300 or e-mail academicVP@shsst.edu.

To apply, contact the Director of Admissions at 414-425-8300 or e-mail admissions@shsst.edu.

Language Requirements

Both Plan A and Plan B require advanced understanding of the English language.

Plan B has additional language requirements that vary according to their chosen area of concentration:

- **Scripture:** Biblical Greek or Biblical Hebrew.
- **Systematic Theology:** Latin or a modern language other than English.

Sacred Heart regularly offers courses in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Spanish courses.

The student can demonstrate a basic working knowledge of the language by

taking and passing two semesters of the appropriate language course at Sacred Heart, by providing official transcripts of comparable credit hours in the language from an accredited institution of higher education, or by passing a written exam administered by Sacred Heart faculty.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 33 credits of graduate work (Plan A or Plan B) in the appropriate areas.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.
- Pass the comprehensive exam (Plan A) or oral defense of thesis (Plan B).

Profile of Desired Outcomes

The SHSST Master of Arts in Theology Program is governed by a profile of desired outcomes for graduates. This profile is used to develop essential course syllabi and instructor syllabi for core courses. The profile is also used to develop the comprehensive program assessment process which is used to improve the quality of the formation at Sacred Heart.

- **Grounded in Foundational Understanding:** Employs appropriately the foundational theological concepts underlying Catholic doctrine and biblical interpretation.

- **Competent in the Chosen Area of Concentration:** Elucidates the major theories, sources, methodological approaches, and scholarly schools related to the area of concentration (Scripture, Systematics).
- **Skilled in Analysis:** Assembles, arranges, and reformulates ideas and concepts through the appropriate use of theological or exegetical methods to refine knowledge in area of concentration (Scripture, Systematics).
- **Capable of Insightful Research:** Executes investigative research that draws on theoretical perspectives and/or analytical methods in order to assess core theological/exegetical/spiritual issues and advance interpretative arguments in relation to those issues.
- **Articulate:** Produces written and oral assignments with appropriate use of sources that provide sustained, coherent arguments which assess disputed theological/exegetical/spiritual questions and advance resourceful solutions.
- **Resourceful in Application of Theological Knowledge:** Employs appropriate heuristic techniques to apply theological concepts, spiritual insights, and/or exegetical interpretations in addressing pastoral ministry situations or social/moral questions.

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

Lumen Cordis

FOR SEMINARIANS AND LAY STUDENTS

The Lumen Cordis pathway, which has been serving students for three decades, offers the flexibility to pursue a program of study tailored specifically to each student's needs for enrichment of his or her personal life and/or ministry.

Through full-time study, the degree can be completed in two years, or at one's own pace to accommodate students with busy schedules. Most Lumen Cordis classes take place during the day alongside seminarians, and are offered in fall, spring, and May session semesters.

Students in the SHSST Lumen Cordis pathway select one of two areas of concentration, each with many opportunities for electives befitting the student's particular goals and interests.

- **Scripture:** Focused on a critical and careful study of Sacred Scripture.
- **Systematic Theology:** Focused on a comprehensive examination of the Christian faith.

Regardless of the area of concentration, students have two routes to graduation: Plan A, which requires 33 graduate credit hours of course work, and Plan B, which requires 27 graduate credit hours of course work plus a six-credit thesis.



Lumen Cordis Requirements

All students complete three (3) of the following (three credits each):

- Scriptural Foundations
- Fundamental Theology
- Foundations of Christian Spirituality or Fundamental Moral Theology

Plan A students also complete:

- Fifteen (15) credits in the chosen area of concentration
- Nine (9) elective credits
- Comprehensive exams (oral and written)

Plan B students also complete:

- Fifteen (15) credits in the chosen area of concentration
- Three (3) elective credits
- M.A. thesis (6 credits)
- Language requirement