



# Master of Divinity

## PROGRAM HANDBOOK

### 2025-26



**Santa Clara**  
Jesuit School of Theology

Welcome to the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University!

JST-SCU is a graduate school of Santa Clara University and a formation center of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S. Our school serves as a global hub for theological studies and ministerial formation. Students and faculty from across the globe converge at JST-SCU to engage in its academically rigorous, socially engaged, contextually diverse, and spiritually vibrant community.

JST-SCU is also an ecclesiastical faculty accredited and approved by the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education to prepare Jesuits, lay men and women, religious women and men, and diocesan priests for vocation, ministry, service, and career in the Church, society, and academy. With a current student body from 34 countries, our global community benefits from the wisdom of one another's experiences in preparation for ministry leadership and service to the Church and the world.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara University's vision and mission are firmly rooted in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition to educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and build a more humane, just, and sustainable world. Santa Clara ([www.scu.edu](http://www.scu.edu)) blends high-tech innovation with a social consciousness grounded in the Jesuit educational tradition and engaged with various communities to foster an entrepreneurial mindset in view of helping shape the next generation of leaders and global thinkers.

Besides institutional and academic strengths in systematic theology, biblical studies, sacraments and liturgy, moral theology, social ethics, inter-religious dialogue, and Christian spirituality, JST-SCU has recently enhanced expertise in the following areas of study:

- Ignatian spirituality, including classes, research, and practicums; four spiritual directors trained in Ignatian spirituality are available for Jesuit students.
- Biblical studies, with an emphasis on textual knowledge and contextual interpretation.
- Social ethics, with expertise in reconciliation, ecology, family systems, and post-colonial perspectives.
- Theology of synodality, with focus on the understanding, knowledge, and practice of synodality in the global Church.

JST-SCU's small size allows our world-renowned faculty to personally engage our students in the highest quality of academic excellence. The Jesuit Community at JST offers an intercultural experience of friendship in the Lord that provides a conducive environment for those in formation. We are deeply committed to preparing Jesuits and ministers for service in a global, synodal Church.



A strong academic and ministerial formation is key to what the Society of Jesus can offer our Church and world in the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For U.S. and international students, JST-SCU offers the Master of Divinity (MDiv); Master of Theological Studies (MTS); Master of Theology (ThM); and Ecclesiastical degrees at the Bachelor (STB), Licentiate (STL), and Doctoral (STD) levels in Sacred Theology.

- Our first cycle includes Jesuits and other students from all over the world, and the MDiv and STB are designed to prepare Jesuits for priestly ministry in a variety of contexts and lay students for dedicated church service. The Bay Area provides rich opportunities for ministerial and pastoral formation in various cultures and languages and socio economic conditions. This intercultural context counts as a distinct strength of our program
- The MTS offers students a foundation in theology and ministry, and the ThM allows students to explore a particular aspect of theology through classwork and a project or thesis.
- The STL allows Jesuits, diocesan priests and religious women and men to do serious academic research in a particular area of theology. Students work with a faculty member with expertise in their thesis topic, providing strong support across the spectrum of theological disciplines.
- Our STD program works with candidates moving directly from the licentiate as well as those who return to further studies to prepare for their assignments in universities and formation centers around the world. Here our Jesuit and lay faculty are at their best, offering strong mentoring and support—with an eye to finishing the degree on time!

For Jesuits and others who would like to come to JST-SCU for a period of academic engagement and spiritual renewal, we offer a Renewal Program for one or two semesters, led by an experienced spiritual guide. Renewal participants enhance the life of the whole community, contributing insight, wisdom, and depth in the courses they take, sharing the breadth and depth of their ministerial experience in formal and informal settings.

JST-SCU is marked by a strong diversity of its community of scholars, staff, and students. While classes require sufficient English proficiency, our professors speak French, Italian, German, Portuguese, Swahili, Vietnamese, and Spanish, among other languages, creating an environment conducive to global theological scholarship. To better serve the needs of our diverse student body, we offer tutoring and writing assistance and coaching for international students (including Jesuits) to help them develop the skills needed for academic writing and research.

We invite you to make your distinctive contribution to our academic and faith community, as together we enliven faith, promote reconciliation, labor for justice, and participate in God's mercy.

Welcome to JST-SCU!

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.  
Dean, Jesuit School of of Santa Clara University

# Table of Contents

<b>Program Guidelines for the Master of Divinity Program.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	
Rationale for the Program Curriculum	
Goals/Objectives	
Prerequisites	
Advanced Standing	
Degree Requirements	
Modern Language Study	
Credit Distribution for Course Work	
Categories of Course Work	
Third Year Capstone: Comprehensive Examinations	
Additional Provisions	
<b>Formation Guidelines .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Ministerial Formation	
Ministerial Assessment	
Ministerial Opportunities	
Spiritual Preparation	
Priestly Formation	
Special Requirements for Ordination Track Students	
<b>M.Div. 1 Advising Addendum.....</b>	<b>13</b>

# Program Guidelines

## **Introduction**

The Master of Divinity is a three-year academic and professional degree that meets the needs for both academic training and pastoral experience of those preparing for pastoral ministry in the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. To accomplish this purpose, the Jesuit School of Theology provides courses of instruction in theology and related disciplines, introduces students to the use of source materials and the practice of scholarly work and investigation, and provides opportunities for supervised experience in pastoral ministry. The M.Div. degree is the ordinary course of theological education and training for those preparing for ordination to presbyteral ministry.

## **Rationale for the Program Curriculum**

As a school we are committed to two major ideals: First, the reverent and critical service of faith that does justice. “Critical” here denotes informed, thoughtful respect of the tradition. Secondly, as a means to carrying out that first ideal, we are also committed to the contextualized study of theology and ministry. This curriculum incorporates a contextual learning approach to theological study. As a professional degree, the M.Div. emphasizes this praxis component.

The curriculum employs four categories of coursework: Foundational, Distribution, Praxis and Elective. Foundational courses are taken in the first year and provide a foundation for subsequent coursework in each area. In the second and third years students satisfy the Distribution requirements by selecting courses in the areas of 1) Bible 2) Theology and History and 3) Ministry, Ethics, and Society. Praxis courses, which may be taken throughout the program, develop the ability to integrate maturing theological reflection with insight into the context of the pastoral situation. Elective courses may be taken at any time from any of the course offerings, as indicated on the worksheet. The nature and content of all these kinds of courses, together with the electives, are guided by the Program for Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as by the governing documents of the Society of Jesus, and by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry.”

## Goals /Objectives

### Institutional Learning Goals

1. Students will gain a broad foundation in Christian theology, with a focus on the Roman Catholic tradition.
2. Students will demonstrate a critically-informed approach to faith that promotes social justice for the common good, especially for the benefit of those in greatest need.
3. Students will recognize the interplay between faith and culture in addressing issues that emerge in diverse cultural contexts.

### MDiv Program Student Learning Outcomes

A three-year academic and professional degree for those preparing for pastoral ministry in the Roman Catholic Church.

MDiv graduates will...

1. demonstrate an understanding of theological competencies in areas, including: Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Theological Ethics, Religion and Culture, and Pastoral Studies.
2. apply knowledge of theology to their preaching, teaching, liturgical presiding, celebrating sacramental rites, and pastoral situations.
3. appraise theological and pastoral issues in the cultural, social, and global contexts in which they emerge.
4. develop practices of prayer and discernment appropriate to their circumstances, with a particular grounding in Ignatian principles and spirituality.
5. demonstrate strong professional/ministerial ethics, including collaborative leadership, self-care, and clear ministerial boundaries.
6. articulate a deepening sense of their ministerial identity that emerges in their prayer and theological reflection on pastoral experience.

## Prerequisites

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree. Occasionally, an individual may be admitted with the academic equivalent of a bachelor's degree, subject to the discretion of the faculty.
2. Nine semester hours or 12 quarter hours of philosophy. Typically, this prerequisite is satisfied by courses in the areas of history of philosophy, ethics, and systematic philosophy. Students preparing for ordination are required to have completed 24 semester units or 36 quarter hours of philosophy. At the discretion of the faculty, applicants with fewer than the required number of philosophy units may still be considered for admission.
3. The applicant should possess the personal maturity and faith commitment commensurate with preparation for full-time ministry. Preference is given to applicants with significant service or ministerial experience.

## Advanced Standing

A student who has taken graduate courses in theology no longer than six years prior to registration at the Jesuit School may petition the Associate Dean for advanced standing in the Master of Divinity program. This petition may be included with the Application for Admission or it may be submitted at the beginning of the first semester of study. Ordinarily, the maximum amount of advanced standing that is granted is twenty-four semester hours (two semesters of full-time study). Petition forms are available online at <http://www.scu.edu/jst/academics/registrar>.

A student may not transfer units which have already been counted toward another degree, with the exception of units earned toward completion of the combined Master of Arts/Master of Divinity (M.A./M.Div.) program. Only units from regionally accredited institutions of higher learning and those taken at a graduate level can be transferred.

## Degree Requirements

The Master of Divinity degree requires the completion of 81 semester units of course work, including nine units of Field Education. Students may take up to six (6) three-credit courses, or 18 credits, on a pass/no pass basis while in residence at JST. Credits for the Field Education Practicum and the Integration Seminar (FE 2151 and M.Div. 4401) are not counted in the 18 pass/no pass credits allowed.

A student may expect to complete the Master of Divinity degree in three academic years, and must complete the program within six calendar years from the date of initial registration in the program. The normal full-time course load is 9-12 units per semester.

The Jesuit School provides a spectrum of course offerings that enable the student to develop a solid theological foundation for future ministry. The academic advisor assists the student in the selection of courses. Together, they develop an academic plan that addresses the student's specific needs and provides the diverse knowledge and awareness necessary for ministry in today's Church.

The Master of Divinity curriculum is constructed around three theological syntheses. The first is comprised of foundations in Scripture, the history of Christianity, systematic theology and Christian

ethics. The second emphasizes the application of theories and methods of theology for ministry. The third involves the integration of this material so that students are able to articulate theologically informed and pastorally appropriate responses to varied ministerial situations.

## Modern Language Study

Academic credit for basic modern language study is not applicable to the Jesuit School degree programs. However, students are encouraged to take advanced, ministerial language courses while they are in the Master of the Divinity program. Proficiency in Spanish is recommended for all Master of Divinity students.

## Credit Distribution for Course Work and Grade Point Average

Eighty-one hours of credit must be completed according to the course distribution outlined below. M.Div. students also participate in field education and theological reflection which incorporates ministerial formation into their academic program of study. Students must maintain a 3.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average to graduate. A grade of B- or better is necessary in all courses used to satisfy a requirement for the M.Div. program.

### A) Foundational Courses (21 credits total)

Systematic Theology: Introduction to Contextual Theology (3)	History, Art, and Culture: World Christianity and Global Theology (3)
Christian Ethics: Fundamental Moral Theology (3) and Catholic Social Thought (3)	Theology of Ministry and Practice (3)
Biblical Studies: Methods: Pentateuch and Histories (3) and Gospel in Literature (3)	

**Students ordinarily take Foundational Courses at JST in their first year.**

### B) Distribution Courses, Elective and Field Education (48 credits total)

*Students will be required to observe and draw upon various social contexts in relation to their coursework. Goal III.A. specifies that students will incorporate skillful socio-cultural analysis into their reflection on theological and pastoral issues. Accordingly, students will take RS 2092: Culture, Context, and Lived Religion, or another approved course in History, Art, and Culture.*

Biblical Studies (one course in OT Studies and one course in NT Studies, and one OT/NT elective) (9)	Systematic Theology: Christology (3), Ecclesiology (3), Sacramental Theology (3)
History, Art, and Culture: Culture, Context and Lived Religion (3) plus one elective (3)	Christian Ethics: Elective (3)
Field Education (6)	Spirituality Elective (3)
Elective (9)	Third Year Ministerial Formation (3)

## C) Pastoral Courses (12 credits total)

Students will take 12 credits of courses in preparation for pastoral and liturgical work.

<b>Requirements for all M.Div. students</b>	<b>Note:</b> Within the three pastoral course categories on the left, ordination-seeking students must include courses in Canon Law (3) and Confessional Rites and Practices (1.5), which fall under the “ministerial skills” category, as well as Celebrational Rites and Practices (3), which falls under the “liturgy”category.
Liturgy (3)	
Preaching (3)	
Ministerial Skills: Electives (6)	

**Field Education** - Please see [Field Education Handbook](#) for details.

### **First Year Field Education**

M.Div. 1 students will take FE 2621 Theology of Ministry and Practice (3 credits) in the fall semester.

From the spring semester through the fall semester of their third year, M.Div. 1 students will participate in supervised field education placements, theological reflection groups, and cohort classes. Over this period, students will work toward completing six Field Education credits. Students will register for two credits of Field Education (FE-2151 Practicum) each semester.

### **Second and Third-Year Field Education**

Second-year M.Div. students will continue with Field Education. A student may undertake field education in the fall semester of his/her third year, pending approval.

### **Third Year Integration Seminar** (3 credits)

Third Year M. Div. students will take the Integration Seminar in the spring of the cohort’s third year. Its focus is to help students integrate their theological, pastoral and spiritual learning in preparation for comprehensive exams.

## **Categories of Course Work**

### **Foundational and Distribution Courses**

#### *BIBLICAL STUDIES:*

The two foundational courses are survey courses intended to build socio-historical, literary, and theological-spiritual competence in reading and interpreting biblical texts. The distribution courses are text-based studies with either a field component or a contextual project that focuses particular and sustained attention upon the appropriation and/or relation of biblical texts to ministerial settings.

#### *SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY:*

The systematic theology requirement addresses basic theological themes and includes an Introduction to Contextual Theology and coursework focused on particular doctrinal areas (Christology, Ecclesiology, and Sacramental Theology). This requirement is intended to expose students to the

methodology and resources available for the study of theology. Historical theology is integrated into all systematic theology courses.

#### *CHRISTIAN ETHICS:*

The two foundational courses in Christian ethics introduce students to the principles of Fundamental Moral Theology and Catholic Social Thought. An elective encourages students to pursue the study of ethics in a particular area (e.g., family ethics, war and peace, health care ethics, environmental ethics, etc.).

#### *HISTORY, ART, & CULTURE*

All students must take History of Global Christianity. In addition, students should take either the Culture, Context, and Lived Religion course or other approved courses in art, history, or sociology of religion designed to expose them to the concept of culture and its implications for theological study and pastoral ministry.

#### **Pastoral Courses**

In conjunction with the formation program students will hone their pastoral skills and reflect on their experiences as they prepare for ministry in a multicultural Church. All students will take courses in Liturgy and Preaching. In addition, they will choose six credits of Ministerial Skills courses (e.g., Spiritual Direction, Intercultural Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Administration, etc.). Ordination candidates have additional requirements (see above).

### **Third Year Capstone: Comprehensive Examination**

One of the capstone experiences for the M.Div. program, the Comprehensive Exam, is held at the end of the spring semester of the third year and tests for both theological and pastoral competence. At the conclusion of their program, students will be required to successfully complete a comprehensive examination comprising both written and oral components. It will employ the same case method as developed in the Integration Seminar where students will be expected to bring their academic and pastoral knowledge to bear in thinking through hypothetical ministerial situations. The examination questions prepared by the examination board will integrate all aspects of the theological program.

Students' performance on the comprehensive exam, consisting of written and oral components evaluated by their Examination must demonstrate a competency in historical and contemporary knowledge in Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, History, Art, and Culture, and pastoral applications. A passing grade, awarded after the oral exam, indicates that the student was able to answer questions in both the written and oral exams satisfactorily.

### **Worksheet for the M.Div. Program**

Each student should, in conjunction with his/her advisor, keep track of progress toward the degree. The worksheet is available online [here](#).

# Formation Guidelines

## Formation

Formation in the Master of Divinity program is comprised of various components. In addition to the academic and pastoral requirements outlined above, students may also participate in spiritual and community formation opportunities at the Jesuit School of Theology and/or the student's religious community, which include spiritual direction, regular faith-sharing in a small group, days of prayer, participation in liturgy, and an annual retreat. Students are also invited to attend personal development or skills-based ministry workshops on various topics. See [here](#) for more general information about formation at JST. Please see [here](#) for the JST Field Education Handbook.

## Formation Goals

The M.Div. degree is guided by three interrelated formation goals, as follows:

- Ministerial Identity: Focus on students' respective ministerial identities as lay ecclesial ministers, Jesuits, and other religious.
- Ministerial Praxis: Focus on pastoral praxis, supervision, and mentoring.
- Ministerial Integration: Focus on the integration of theology with ministerial and pastoral experiences.

## Ministerial Assessment

In addition to assessment of students' supervised field education experiences, students will be assessed on ministerial competency. This assessment will be done for students in religious communities by the appropriate formation authority in the community (i.e. Superior, Rector, or Formation Director). During the spring semester of the second year of the M.Div. degree lay students will be assessed through the "Interim Review" process. This will include an interview with the Director of Ministerial Formation (DMF) and assessment based upon other relevant input brought to the attention of the DMF by faculty and administration. Students are assessed on their ministerial formation particularly, but not exclusively, in the following areas:

- Capacity for collaborative leadership
- Integration of service and learning, and of faith and justice
- Knowledge of and commitment to professional ministerial ethics.

## Ministry Opportunities

The San Francisco Bay Area offers a range of pastoral opportunities. Students are encouraged to engage in ministry opportunities that foster both skill development and personal growth. Field Education placements may include non-profit agencies, parishes, prison ministry, healthcare ministry, and high school or university campus ministries. Through these experiences, students may develop skills in ministerial leadership, educational and parish leadership, spiritual formation, and outreach to underserved communities. For further information regarding the M.Div. Field Education requirements please see the [JST Field Education Handbook](#).

## **Spiritual Preparation**

In pursuit of its mission to help candidates prepare for ordained and non-ordained ministry in the Church, it is a goal of the school to facilitate students' development for building up the Church as a community of faith, worship, justice, and love. In light of that goal, the school considers the individual student's spiritual formation integral to preparation for ministry. The student should expect to grow and deepen his/her relationship with God throughout the course of studies leading to the Master of Divinity degree. The Ministerial Formation element of the M.Div. program supports students in their growth in faith.

The attainment of this goal means that students are:

- Men and women of faith, familiar with the Word of God in Scripture and with the Catholic tradition in interpreting and understanding that Word; contemplative in their personal assimilation of this faith in a life of prayer.
- Prepared to exercise leadership in Christian worship, through planning liturgies, preaching, administering sacraments, and presiding at Eucharist and other community liturgical celebrations, according to the gifts each has received.
- Prepared to counsel, guide, encourage and instruct in the Christian way of life, with special attention to issues of justice and human dignity, to lead in the formation of the just society and to exercise ministries of reconciliation, according to their gifts.

An important dimension of preparation for pastoral ministry consists of theological reflection upon contemporary human concerns, a contemplative reflection requiring time, disciplined training, communal experience, study, dialogue, and prayer. The Ministerial Formation component of the Master of Divinity program provides opportunities for growth in this process.

M.Div. students are expected to be in spiritual direction and to make a retreat each year; and students are also encouraged to participate in a small faith sharing group that meets regularly. Jesuits and other students who are members of a religious community fulfill these requirements of the program through their own religious community. These aspects of the program are available to lay students through the school's Office of the Assistant Dean of Students. Participation in the liturgical life of the school is another way that students' spiritual life is nourished.

In addition, all students in the M.Div. Program must attend an annual afternoon of reflection with their cohort. The purpose of the reflection time is for the students to focus on their common call to ministry and their efforts to respond faithfully to that call.

## **Priestly Formation**

The Program for Priestly Formation of the National Conference of Catholic bishops requires that all candidates for ordained ministry complete four full years of theological study. This normally entails one year of study beyond completion of the Master of Divinity degree. For Jesuits of the United States, the Jesuit Conference stipulates that this fourth year will generally include the completion of

eight semester-long courses in theological study at the graduate level, the completion of an Advanced Master's degree, or the Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.).

### **Special Requirements for those to be Ordained**

Since canonical faculties for preaching and celebration of the Sacraments are granted by the ordained's religious and ecclesiastical superiors, ultimate responsibility for the certification of the individual's readiness in these areas lies with the relevant superiors. As an aid in this aspect of ministerial preparation, however, regular courses designed to prepare students for the priesthood and for the pastoral administration of the Sacraments, are offered at the Jesuit School of Theology. The normal means by which competency is certified in the pastoral administration of the sacraments will be through successful completion of courses which focus on preaching, the celebration of the rites of the Church, and confessional counseling.

Ordination track students fulfill their ordination requirements by taking the following pastoral courses offered at JST or at the Dominican School of Theology and Philosophy:

- Canon Law – FTST 2336 – Canon Law: Introduction & Marriage (or equivalent)
- Preaching – HM 1073 – Foundations of Preaching (or equivalent)
- Celebration of the Sacraments – FTLS 4725 Celebrational Rites & Practices
- Sacrament of Reconciliation – CEFT 2107 Confessional Rites & Practices

Some of these courses have prerequisites (e.g. Celebrational Rites requires the course in either liturgy or sacramental theology, and Confessional Rites and Practices requires Canon Law and Fundamental Moral Theology). Students together with their advisors should plan their schedules in such a way that they have met the prerequisites prior to taking the course.

In addition to the courses listed above, 2<sup>nd</sup>- and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year ordination track students are encouraged to take Theology and Spirituality of Priesthood (STSP 2600) when it is offered every other year. This course is also open to non-ordination track students.

### **Special Examinations for those to be Ordained**

The normal means by which competency is certified in the pastoral administration of the sacraments will be through successful completion of courses which focus on preaching, celebrational style, and confessional counseling. For exceptional circumstances, in which the student for some good reason has not taken the relevant course(s) outlined above, and is asked by the student's competent religious superior to certify a student's pastoral readiness in the given area(s), faculty in the area of Ministry, Ethics, and Society are delegated by JST to administer the special ordination examinations which certify the individual's competence in preaching and the administration of the Sacraments.

# Subject Area Competencies Addendum

## BIBLICAL STUDIES COMPETENCES

1. To have a working knowledge of the literary, historical, and theological grounding of at least *two* of these areas of the Old Testament canon: Pentateuch-Histories, Prophets, and Wisdom/Deutero-canonical Writings.
2. To have a working knowledge of the socio-historical setting, sources, literary features, theologies, and Christologies of at least *two* of the following: Synoptics, Johannine corpus, and Pauline writings.
3. To be able to negotiate the various representations of God (Creator, Redeemer, Liberator, Savior, the Christ, etc.) across the testaments with good theological understanding.
4. To be able to enunciate the unique revelation of each of the testaments as sources of faith and to be able to identify the various levels of the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
5. To be able to appropriately enlist Scripture in the explication of the nature and practice of prayer in the Catholic tradition.
6. To be conversant on the following topics: Biblical notions of justice, dealing with violence in the Bible, sin, narratives on the miraculous, and fundamentalism.
7. To explain the following notions in conjunction with the Pauline teaching on these topics — Baptism, Salvation, Eucharist, Church, Life of Faith, Reconciliation, and Grace.
8. To be able to address the developments of these topics across the canon — Creation, Covenant, Salvation, Christology, Apocalypticism, and Eschatology.

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY COMPETENCES

1. To apply critical methodologies to the interpretation of magisterial texts.
2. To give a critical account of major developments in the history of the Church from its beginning until the present.
3. To bring appropriate support from the history of the Church to the interpretation of the major theological themes both in various pastoral settings and in relation to the student's ministerial role.
4. To correlate biblical, historical, and theological developments on the doctrinal themes of God, Christ, creation and eschatology, the Human Person, Sin and Grace, Church, and Sacraments.

5. To apply the principles of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue to communicating Christian doctrine in a particular cultural and social context.
6. To integrate responsibly and critically the topics and practices of Christian spirituality into the analysis of biblical, theological, historical, and pastoral theology contexts.

### **MINISTRY AND PASTORAL STUDIES COMPETENCES**

1. To be able to lead a church community in prayer through the rites of the Roman Catholic Church.
2. To communicate effectively in preaching, teaching, presiding, celebrating, listening, and counseling.
3. To be able to organize and work with liturgical ministers – ordained and lay – in preparing worship services.
4. To be able to use the pastoral circle for theological reflection and pastoral planning.
5. To hone a competency in group facilitation and Christian discernment, especially in an environment characterized by racial and ethnic diversity.
6. To be able to explain pastoral practices in a manner that relies upon important ideas within the Catholic theological tradition.
7. To bring Gospel values to bear in attending to issues concerning power and privilege.
8. To integrate spirituality as both a personal characteristic and a pastoral resource.
9. To integrate service and learning in solidarity with the poor and marginalized.
10. To apply norms of ministerial ethics to cases.

### **CHRISTIAN ETHICS COMPETENCES**

1. To integrate the following sources of ethical deliberation in personal and social moral discernment: Scripture, Tradition, reason, and experience.
2. To be able to explain natural law, theological anthropology, moral norms, freedom, agency, the fundamental option, and double effect.
3. To understand the relationship among the individual's formation of character, conscience, moral discernment, and magisterial authority.
4. To be able to explain the connection between ethics, grace and sin, conversion, and reconciliation at both the individual and social levels; to understand frameworks for assessing social sin, such as cooperation with evil, complicity, and corporate vice.

5. To have a working knowledge of the following themes in Catholic social teaching: human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, common good, preferential option for the poor, stewardship of creation, participation, the dignity of labor, the role of government, rights and responsibilities, and religious freedom.
6. To explain and assess the various contributions of ecumenical, interreligious, feminist/womanist/*mujerista*, liberationist, Black, Latino/a, Asian, decolonial, and other enculturated ethics.
7. To have a theoretical and practical knowledge of the following ethical methods: deontology, relationality/responsibility ethics, consequentialism, proportionalism, teleology, and virtue ethics.
8. To be able to marshal the sources and methods from Catholic theological ethics in addressing some of the following topics: integral ecology, sexuality; marriage and the family; health care ethics; economics, war and peace; oppression (e.g., sex/gender, race, ethnicity, class), migration, incarceration.

## **HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE COMPETENCES**

1. To be able to articulate a basic understanding of culture as well as how it shapes meaning-making, consolidates identities, and steers human behavior.
2. To interpret how culture both shapes, and is shaped by, Christian scripture and tradition.
3. To be able to explain the meaning of secularization and how it affects religious commitment and worldviews.
4. To give an account of the ways and extent to which religion influences social solidarity, conflict, change, and political engagement.
5. To gain an appreciation for the extent to which religious ideas, institutions, and publics attend to pressing societal issues within various historical contexts.
6. To understand the difference and mutual relationship between “official” and “nonofficial” (or popular) religion and its ramifications for theology, ministry, and the sacred arts.
7. To be able to track the ways in which religious traditions inform one another just as they are themselves influenced by broader socio-cultural trends.
8. Be able to interpret and discuss images, objects, built environments, buildings, spaces, performances, and sounds that have emerged from religious traditions using appropriate methodological approaches.

# M.Div. 1 Advising Addendum

## First-Year Coursework

All M.Div. students are expected to complete the Foundational Courses during their first year of residence. This will avoid difficulties with course sequencing in later semesters, and ensure that students are adequately prepared for more advanced coursework in their second and third years. The foundational courses in Old Testament and New Testament are particularly important to take in the first year, as they provide instruction in biblical exegesis that is a prerequisite for all upper-level Scripture courses at JST.

## Course Sequencing

Below is one possible outline of the sequence in which M.Div. students might take the required Foundational Courses in order to ensure timely completion of their degree. All students should consult with their faculty advisor on course selection, particularly if they are proposing to transfer coursework from other institutions to meet Foundational Course requirements.

	Fall	Spring
<b>Year 1</b>	ST 2003: Introduction to Contextual Theology (3)	Systematics Core Course (3) (e.g. one of Christology, Ecclesiology, or Sacramental Theology)
	OT 2095: Pentateuch, Histories: Methods (3)	NT 2528: Gospels in Literature (3)
	CE 2056: Fundamental Moral Theology (3)	CE 3230: Catholic Social Thought (3)
	HSST 3600 World Christianity and Global Theology (3)	Elective
	FE 2621 Theology of Ministry and Practice (3)	FE 2151 Field Education Practicum (2)
<b>Year 2</b>	RS 2092: Culture, Context, & Lived Religion or equivalent (3)	



Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use this worksheet to chart your progress in the 81-credit M.Div. program.

Foundations (21 Units)					
Biblical Studies (6)	Course #	Date	Christian Ethics (6)	Course #	Date
OT Foundation			Fundamental Moral Theology		
NT Foundation			Catholic Social Thought		
History, Art & Culture (3)	Course #	Date	Systematics (3)	Course #	Date
World Christianity			Intro to Contextual Theology		
Ministerial Formation (3) (first year)	Course #	Date			
Theology of Ministry & Practice					

Distribution Courses, Electives, & Field Education (48 units)					
Biblical Studies: BS, OT, NT (9)	Course #	Date	Systematics: ST (9)	Course #	Date
OT			Christology		
NT			Ecclesiology		
OT/NT			Sacramental Theology		
History Art & Culture: RS, HS, RA, HR (6)	Course #	Date	Christian Ethics: CE (3)	Course #	Date
Culture, Context, & Lived Religion or approved equivalent			Elective		
Field Ed. (6)			Spirituality SP (3)	Course #	Date
			Elective		
Electives (9)	Course #	Date	Ministerial Formation (3) (third year)	Course #	Date
			Integration Seminar		
			Comprehensive Exam		

Pastoral Courses (12 units)		
Pastoral	Course #	Date
Liturgy (3)		
Preaching (3)		
Ministerial Skills (6)		

**Note:** Within the three pastoral course categories on the left, ordination-seeking students must include courses in Canon Law (3) and Confessional Rites and Practices (1.5), which fall under the “ministerial skills” category, as well as Celebrational Rites and Practices (3), which falls under the “liturgy” category.

**TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS: 81**

## “Fourth Year”

### Residential Theology Requirement for Ordination (24 units) [cf. Canon Law§ 250]

Eight additional graduate theological courses should be taken beyond the MDiv program. With approval, the requirement may be partially met through courses transferred in from First Studies.

Questions should be addressed to the Director of Studies for Religious. Jesuit scholastics must take Theology of Priesthood either as an elective or as one of the “Plus 8” courses.

	Course #	Date
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		