



SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

University of St. Thomas

STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity degree program for seminarians prepares candidates for priestly ministry in the Roman Catholic Church. Its comprehensive program of formation reflects the teaching of the Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores dabo vobis* and the norms of the *Program of Priestly Formation* (Fifth Edition) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which call for the integration of four inter-dependent “pillars” of formation: namely, the Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral formation of the candidate for Holy Orders.

Since 2002, 83.7% of those students who have enrolled in the M.Div. degree program have either graduated or continue toward the completion of their degree at the present time. Furthermore, of those who have completed the M.Div., 96% have been ordained to the ministerial priesthood and advanced on to serve the Church, primarily as parish priests, but also as educators, chaplains, campus ministers, etc.

A wide array of instruments and artifacts, gathered and interpreted annually, are used to gauge educational effectiveness and the successful achievement of goals and outcomes in the M.Div. degree program. Faculty, Formation Advisors, Teaching Parish Supervisors, the Dean of Seminarians, and the students themselves contribute to the evaluation process. Data gathered on the latest M.Div. graduates indicated that 85.1% of all measures used to assess program effectiveness scored at or above the desired threshold.

Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (M.A.P.M.)

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree program prepares men and women for leadership and service in the Church as lay ecclesial ministers. This preparation involves the appropriation and integration of intellectual, pastoral, spiritual, and human formation as recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*. It also prepares candidates to demonstrate competence in the criteria approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission of Certification and Accreditation in the *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers*.

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity resumed its acceptance of new candidates into the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (M.A.P.M.) degree program following a revision of the curriculum in 2008. Since that time, 78.6% of all students admitted into the degree program have either completed the degree or remain enrolled, working toward the completion of the degree. 80% of M.A.P.M. graduates have achieved their professional or vocational aspirations with employment as lay ecclesial ministers or in other church related work in Catholic parishes and organizations.

To fulfill their graduation requirements, M.A.P.M. candidates compile a portfolio that summarizes their experiences in the areas of intellectual, pastoral, spiritual, and human formation. Program assessment incorporates a review of these portfolios utilizing a set of criteria that correspond to program goals and outcomes. An evaluation of portfolios from the most recent M.A.P.M. graduates judged that each of the portfolios demonstrated outstanding growth in all four areas of formation.

Master of Arts in Religious Education (M.A.R.E.)

The Master of Arts in Religious Education degree program prepares men and women for leadership and service to the Church's educational mission, including the direction of religious education, faith formation, evangelization, and catechesis. This preparation is in accordance with the *National Directory for Catechesis*. It also prepares candidates to demonstrate competence in the criteria approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission of Certification and Accreditation in the *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers*.

A thorough revision of the M.A.R.E. curriculum in 2006 greatly improved the theological and pastoral preparation for religious educators and catechists. Since that time, the M.A.R.E. degree program has had an 82% retention rate, with 58% of students who matriculated since 2006 having completed the degree. Since 2006, 100% of M.A.R.E. students achieved their professional or vocational goals upon graduation with employment in Catholic schools and parishes or as part of a religious community that engages in an active catechetical ministry.

M.A.R.E. students prepare a comprehensive portfolio and/or participate in a supervised internship as part of their capstone experience. A review of materials from these experiences and exit interviews form the basis for the degree's program evaluation. Utilizing core competencies from the *National Certification Standards*, recent graduates recorded notable improvements over the course of their time in the M.A.R.E. degree program. Among the areas assessed: 94% of graduates improved their competency in the pastoral praxis of evangelization and faith formation, and 88% experienced an increased aptitude in their knowledge and understanding of Roman Catholic theology.

Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.T.)

The Master of Arts in Theology degree program offers advanced study of theology for those seeking broad preparation across the theological disciplines or in-depth study in areas such as Scripture, moral theology, systematic theology, and historical theology.

Since 2008, 87.5% of all students admitted into the M.A.T. degree program have either completed the degree or remain enrolled, working toward the completion of the degree. Among the total number of graduates since 2008:

- 46% are ordained priests in the Catholic, Maronite, and Armenian Orthodox traditions and/or members of religious orders;
- 12% are engaged in university level teaching and/or administration;
- 12% are employed as lay ecclesial ministers at the parish level;
- 8% hold diocesan staff or tribunal positions;
- 8% are currently enrolled in doctoral programs.

Biennial review of theses, research portfolios, written comprehensive exams, and oral comprehensive exams of M.A.T. graduates measures the degree to which program goals and outcomes are being achieved. The most recent M.A.T. program assessment determined that 96% of the theses or research portfolios, 69% of the written comprehensive exams, and 74% of the oral comprehensive exams met or exceeded expectations established for the M.A.T. degree program