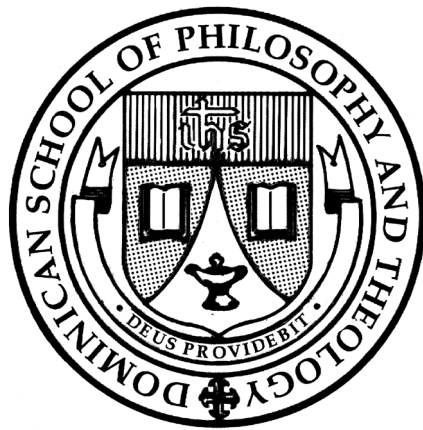


Dominican School
of Philosophy & Theology

Student Handbook



2026-2027

Draft Version

2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA 94708

510-849-2030

www.dspt.edu

INTRODUCTION

This *Handbook* has been written to satisfy the requirements of accreditation agencies and the U.S. Government that school policies be clearly stated and easily accessible. Students are expected to read this *Handbook* and be familiar with its contents.

If you have any questions about this *Handbook*, or ways in which the presentation of the information can be improved, please contact the Academic Dean.

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SECTION I: HISTORY AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology is a community of scholars committed to the pursuit of truth as revealed in the Gospel and discovered by human reason. Inspired by the Dominican practice of disciplined inquiry and learned preaching, the School draws its students into the rich tradition of classical philosophy and Catholic theology, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas, and from this tradition engages contemporary scholarship and culture in mutual enrichment.

As a Center of Studies of the Order of Preachers and an apostolate of the [Western Dominican Province](#), its foundational mission is to provide intellectual and priestly formation for Dominican student brothers, while preparing all of its students – religious, clerics, and laity – for academic and apostolic vocations.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

Pedagogical Goal: Deep Learning.

Motivated by a thirst for truth, the disciplined inquirer is a life-long learner who recognizes fundamental principles in a given field of inquiry and applies them in creative or innovative ways to broader contemporary issues which are of importance to Church, the academy, and/or society. Disciplined inquiry includes the following characteristics:

1. **Integrative Thinking:** the ability to recognize, understand, retain, integrate, and apply the fundamental principles operative in a field of inquiry, and use them to make synthetic judgments.
2. **Intellectual Humility:** an orientation of mind and heart that fosters intellectual collaboration, precludes both rigidity and passivity of mind, and recognizes that contrary opinions are not a threat, but provide the opportunity to test and deepen one's own grasp of the truth.
3. **Self-Direction:** the disposition to take primary responsibility for one's own education, manifested in a keen intellectual interest in the topic of studies, and the ability to teach oneself through a habit of skilled and responsible research and resilient exploration.

Vocational Goal: Collaborative Leadership.

A collaborative leader inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example.

1. **Ability to Collaborate**, expressed in good listening and communication skills which foster decisions stemming from and leading to an open, transparent, and mutually enriching dialog with others in order that the gifts of all can be appropriately acknowledged and utilized.

HISTORY

In 1851, Francis S. Vilarrasa, O.P., traveled with six novices from Spain to Monterey, California and there established a small community to prepare these young men for the priesthood. Three years later, he moved the formation community to Benicia where it remained until 1931, when Martin Gillet, O.P., Master of the Order, requested that the friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, called the Western Dominican Province in the United States, follow the Dominican practice of locating a center of studies near a major university. One year later, the Province purchased a five-acre plot located approximately two miles south of the University of California, Berkeley campus and opened the College of St. Albert the Great. As noted in documentation from that era, the College would provide training not only for friars of the Province but also for lay students – in the area of philosophical study – so that “they may be intellectually fitted to cope with the problems of the modern age.”

In 1964, St. Albert College became the first Roman Catholic institution to join the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). In 1976, the administrative offices and classrooms were completely moved from the original 5-acre estate to the GTU campus. Two years later, the name of the School was changed to the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT). In 2006, DSPT relocated a short distance to its current campus at Arch and Vine Streets.

In 2007, DSPT celebrated seventy-five years of study in the service of truth. Making steady progress towards the fulfillment of the original vision for St. Albert College, DSPT brings together a community of religious, clerics, and laity who strive to build a solid foundation that integrates the Church’s philosophical and theological traditions with the needs of our times. Together we engage the contemporary culture in topics such as art and religion, bioethics, inter-religious dialogue, philosophy/theology and science/technology, and many others. More recently, responding to the call of the 2019 General Chapter of Dominican friars and with the endorsement of the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers and the support of the Western Dominican Province, the DSPT has launched PHILOI International, which offers philosophical and theological formation to student friars from around the world.

GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE OF DSPT

Western Dominican Province Administration of DSPT

As a Center of Studies of the Dominican Order, DSPT is responsible for the academic and ministerial components of the initial formation of friars of the Province and Order, while St. Albert Priory, in conjunction with DSPT, is formally responsible for their formation in prayer and community life. The distinction is not meant to imply a “clean separation” or division of labor, but a complementary endeavor in which there is collaboration and integration among these aspects of formation. Certain course sessions are held at the Priory, while many communal and liturgical events occur at DSPT.

Firmly grounded in the philosophical and theological tradition of the Dominican Order and the larger Roman Catholic Church, DSPT facilitates the intellectual formation of its students as part of the larger mission of vocational discernment and formation required of all the baptized members of the Christian community. The School follows the guidelines of the Dominican Order for the initial formation of its members (called “friars” or “brothers”) as legislated in specific documents that are regularly updated and published. Candidates who have been accepted into the Order follow a standard process of initiation and gradual integration which is referred to as initial formation. The formation process consists of a year of orientation (novitiate), that is generally followed by two years of philosophical formation and four years of theological formation.

Initial formation aligns with the four aspects (pillars) of Dominican life: community, prayer, study, and the Ministry of the Word (preaching and teaching). Student friars live together at the house of studies under the direction of a formation team, who guides them in the gradual integration of these four pillars. Formal academic study, called intellectual formation, is normally conducted at a center of studies, operated by Dominican professors trained in the intellectual tradition of the order. Dominican study is not oriented to the goal of obtaining a professional degree. Rather, it is a life-long endeavor that guides and promotes core mission of the Ministry of the Word. As described in the legislative acts of the 2001 General Chapter (Providence, RI), study is directed towards the “sharing of the fruits of contemplation” so that others may come to meet Jesus Christ. In this regard, Dominicans are motivated to be “useful to souls through intellectual compassion, by sharing with them the mercy of truth (*misericordia veritatis*).” Flowing from its emphasis on life-long study, the Order outlines the requirements for the intellectual formation in the *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* (RSG), which is further specified in WDP in the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* (RSP).¹

Each Province of the Dominican Order elects its own leaders through a democratic process. The highest level of governance in a Province is the Provincial Chapter – which convenes every four years – along with the Prior Provincial. When the Chapter is not in session, the Prior Provincial governs with full authority on its behalf. To assist him in his general duties, there exists a Council of the Province. As concerns the intellectual life of a Province, the Prior Provincial is charged with oversight of studies within his Province, assisted by the Province’s Regent of Studies and Commission for the Intellectual Life.

¹ Dominican documents, including those dealing with the formation of religious and clerical candidates cited in this Handbook, with promulgation date, as available, and abbreviated title, include *Ordo Praedicatorum* (Order of Preachers), *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* (RSG, 7 March 2017), and *idem*, *Ratio Formationis Generalis* (RFG, 2016); The Dominican Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* (RSP, 24 Nov 2019), *idem*, *Ratio Formationis Particularis* (RFP, 2019), *idem*, *Acts of the Twenty-Sixth Provincial Chapter and Statute of the Province* (WDP Acts & Statute, 2019). Also cited herein are The Congregation for the Clergy, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation: Ratio Fundamental Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (Vatican City: L’Osservatore Romano, 8 Dec 2016), abbreviated *RFIS*, and The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Program of Priestly Formation*, 6th ed. (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2022), abbreviated *PPF*.

In developing the *RSP*, the Intellectual Life Commission of WDP must follow the general precepts described in the *RSG* of the Order. As a result of this process, the academic programs of DSPT are driven in large measure by the *RSP* of the Province. Philosophy *RSP* requirements are incorporated into the MA (Philosophy). While WDP friars are not required to enroll in the MA (Philosophy) program, they must complete all of the courses which comprise that program. WDP friars must also complete all the courses which comprise the Master of Divinity degree, as well as an additional year of coursework known as the complementary curriculum. Furthermore, in order to accommodate the needs of clerical candidates from other religious institutions and dioceses, the School has aligned its own formation program more closely with the guidelines of the U.S. Bishops' *Program of Priestly Formation* (PPF).

Because of its role as an apostolate of the Province, DSPT also offers degree programs and other programs designed to address the needs of the laity and the local Church. Presently, these are the Master of Arts (Philosophy), the Master of Arts (Theology), the Certificate of Philosophical Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies. All of these programs utilize coursework from the *RSP*. Faculty also provide a significant number of graduate level courses as electives for these programs. They are also involved in teaching and advising of students enrolled in the doctoral program of GTU.

In light of this general administrative structure, the governance of DSPT is organized as follows (2024 *Bylaws*, V.2):

Chancellor. The chancellor of DSPT is the Prior Provincial of WDP. He exercises authority over the School according to the general and particular laws of the Order and the DSPT *Bylaws*.

Intellectual Life Commission. In WDP, the members of this commission are the Regent of Studies (*ex officio* & chair); the President of DSPT (if he is a member of WDP); the Academic Dean of DSPT (if he is a member of WDP); plus other representatives of the Province (WDP *Acts & Statute*, 2023, Statute s26). Under the authority of the Provincial, the Intellectual Life Commission offers advice and guidance on matters pertaining to the intellectual life of the friars. It also has a role in proposing and implementing the regulations concerning the academic formation of the student friars.

Vice-Chancellor. The Regent of Studies of WDP is also the Vice-Chancellor of DSPT. The Regent, who is always a Dominican friar, is nominated by a Provincial Chapter with subsequent confirmation and appointment by the Master of the Order. The office of Regent of Studies is among the most important governance positions within the Dominican Order. While the Prior Provincial of a Province is the person in charge of studies in his Province, the Regent of Studies is charged with ensuring the fulfillment of all academic regulations. On a practical level, the WDP Regent of Studies ensures 1) the academic quality of the program of studies envisioned by the *RSG* and *RSP*; 2) that all program requirements are made available to the student friars at DSPT; and finally, c) that all the student friars of WDP successfully complete those requirements. As the Regent of Studies, he is assisted by the Intellectual Life Commission of WDP (*RSG*, n. 45-46).

Council of Professors. Each Center of Studies of the Order is also required to have a Council of Professors. Working under the President of DSPT, the Council of Professors includes all those WDP friars who are administrators or members of the Regular Faculty of the School (RSP, 17). The primary responsibility of the Council is to approve the particular plan of studies. It may also be convened as necessary to promote all that pertains to study as a central element in the integral formation of the brothers, to discuss the progress of the student brothers, and especially to make suggestions regarding complementary studies for the brothers (RSG, 59-60; and RSP, 17-19).

Other Administrators of the School

Board of Directors. As defined in the 2024 DSPT *Bylaws*, while the WDP, as the Sole Member of DSPT, exercises a limited non-fiduciary role, the Board of Directors is the sole fiduciary body responsible for the governance of the School. The composition and duties of the DSPT Board of Directors are defined in the *Bylaws*, III.

President. As the chief executive officer of DSPT, the President, under the supervision of the Board of Directors, has the overall responsibility for the leadership, institutional direction, administration, and academic life of the School. He also serves *ex officio* as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty. Either the President or the Academic Dean must be a Dominican Friar (*Bylaws*, V).

Academic Dean. As the chief academic officer of the School, the Academic Dean works under the supervision of the President to coordinate and supervise the academic programs and policies of the School (*Bylaws*, V).

Regular Faculty.

While their overall content are determined and monitored by those agents noted above, all academic programs of DSPT are the direct responsibility of the Regular Faculty and Administration of the School as outlined in the DSPT Employee/Faculty Handbook.

COMMUNITY

The DSPT community brings together not only students and faculty, but also the staff that supports their work, the College of Fellows that contributes to the engagement of the School with contemporary issues, the Boards of Directors who offer overarching leadership, and the larger circles of the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley.

Students. Since its inception, the Dominican Order has utilized a pedagogical model which envisions the classroom as more than a place. Key to Dominican pedagogy is the interchange between student and teacher, through which the student acquires not only important information, but also the critical thinking skills necessary for its proper analysis. The paradigm for this pedagogical interchange is found in the relationship between two thirteenth century Dominican friars, St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas.

In his early days in the Order, Thomas Aquinas was considered to have insufficient intellectual

skills for the work of the Order, so much so that he was nicknamed the “dumb ox” by the friars. By engaging him on a deeper level, his teacher, Albert, saw a different Thomas, someone who was in fact “too smart” for the program being offered and too humble to publicly outwit his mentors. Albert saw the great potential in this friar and, taking him under his tutelage, predicted that Thomas would bring forth a teaching which would echo throughout the world. At the heart of the mission of DSPT, students receive this same kind of care and attention so that their natural gifts and talents are brought to bear upon the philosophical and theological inquiry at hand.

The small student/teacher ratio provides a stimulating atmosphere for developing those core skills particular to the DSPT experience. The comfortable galleria and garden of the School are ideal places for sharing ideas outside of formal classroom settings.

Upon graduation, our students enter into a variety of fields, including advanced academic teaching and research, and ministry within the Church. Those with a vocation in other areas bring with them valuable principles of faith and reason to illuminate both home and work environments. Many continue to be part of our community of scholars through membership in our alumni program.

Faculty. To help fulfill its mission, DSPT brings together a diverse group of professionals committed to teaching, scholarship, and service. Following the Dominican call to bring the Gospel message to contemporary society, faculty bring the wisdom of classical philosophy and theology to study a variety of contemporary concerns. Their research and teaching interests cover a wide range of topics, from classical and contemporary philosophy to ethics, Ecclesiology, Patristics, Islamic studies, religion and the arts, Scripture, and spirituality. Following the Dominican pedagogical emphasis on a strong teacher-student relationship, faculty align their research expertise with the genuine interests and needs of their students.

Staff. As a vital support to the teaching and research experience, DSPT staff work closely with faculty and students to ensure that the necessary resources are available for study, research, and active dialogue with the Church and local community. Weekly liturgy, as well as opportunities for spiritual direction from competent faculty, provide the spiritual support necessary for good scholarly work. See the [DSPT website for more information on current staff members](#).

Membership in the [Graduate Theological Union \(GTU\)](#). For the duration of the 2026-2027 academic year, DSPT is a member school of the GTU, an ecumenical and interreligious consortium of private independent American theological schools and several centers and affiliates.

AFFILIATE INSTITUTES

DSPT also provides opportunities for those not immediately involved in specific degree programs by affiliating with other centers. Each of these opportunities provides important example of collaboration between DSPT and lay experts in the mission of the Church.

DSPT College of Fellows

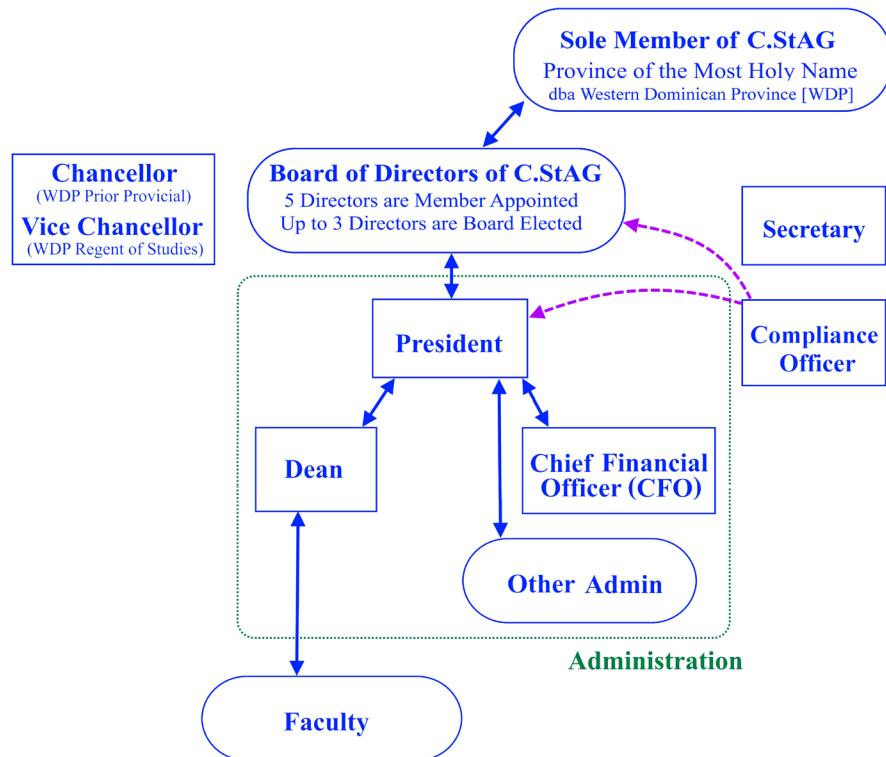
Through the [College of Fellows](#), lay Catholics of eminence in their fields are incorporated into the DSPT community to offer analysis of contemporary issues, and to present colloquia which supplement the curriculum. By reflecting upon the Catholic faith in the light of their secular vocations, Fellows contribute to an understanding of the secular mission of the Church, and are offered a forum in which to influence that mission through the education of leaders in the Church and the academy.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

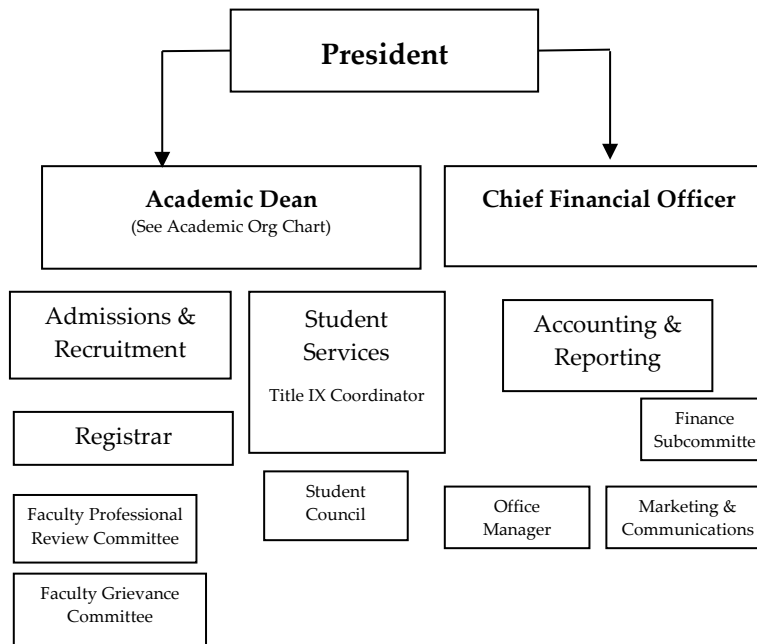
As a Center of Studies of the Dominican Order, DSPT has a governance structure which combines the regulations of the Order with typical governing bodies of a public institution of higher education. This relationship is most easily illustrated by the three organizational charts on the following pages:

Overall Organization of the Institution

Governance Structure
Administrative Reporting Structure
College of St. Albert the Great [C.StAG]
dba Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology [DSPT]

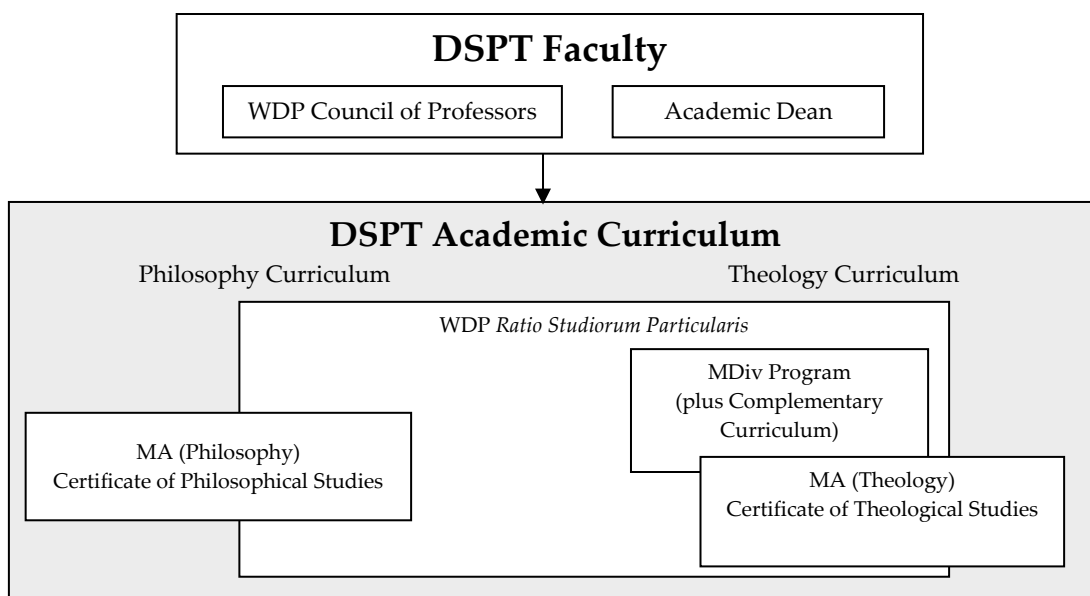


Administrative Organization



Organization of Academic Curriculum – As members of the Regular Faculty, the WDP Council of Professors ensures that the friars fulfill all of the educational requirements of the Dominican Order and Province (*RSG* and *RSP*). Under the direction of the Academic Dean, the entire Faculty ensures the quality of all academic programs of the School.

Organization of Academic Curriculum



LOCATION

The campus is located on the corner of Arch and Vine Streets in Berkeley, a short walk from the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. With up-to-date classroom technology, DSPT provides important teaching resources for both its own students and faculty.

Faculty, staff, and students who are members of WDP maintain the original five-acre campus as their home. Located just two blocks from the Rockridge BART station, the [Priory of St. Albert the Great](#) has its own library, which includes a significant rare books collection, as well as archival and historical documents of WDP. The Priory regularly hosts special events and classes for DSPT. Members of DSPT are always welcomed to participate in the liturgical life of the friars at the Priory.

ACCREDITATION

DSPT is established by the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers (Dominican Order) as a Center of Studies for the Order.

DSPT is chartered by the State of California as a degree-granting institution of higher education, and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges—Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

WSCUC Contact Information

WASC Senior College and University Commission
1001 Marina Village Parkway
Suite 402
Alameda, CA 94501
Telephone: 510-748-9001
Fax: 510-748-9797
Website: www.wscuc.org

DSPT is also accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) to offer the degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Arts (Philosophy), and Master of Arts (Theology).

ATS Contact Information

10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh PA 15275-1110
Telephone: 412-788-6505
Fax: 412-788-6510
Website: www.ats.edu

DSPT is authorized under Federal law to enroll non-immigrant students.

SECTION II – GENERAL POLICIES

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY (Title IX)

The Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology highly values the individual and collective security of its students, faculty, and staff. This is so not only because it cares about individual safety, but also because safety is a pre-requisite for the creation of an academic community devoted to research, learning, and teaching. DSPT also strives to fulfill its goals and objectives for quality education and services for its students and employees. The information on this page is designed to assist students and employees who may either have complaints about DSPT or who have experienced discrimination or harassment of some kind.

The California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (California Education Code, Title 3, Division 10, Part 59, Chapter 8) and the subsequent Senate Bill 81 (Section 25 94874.9) requires all private institutions of higher education to provide contact information for registering complaints about fraud, abuse, or false advertising concerning any of our school policies or procedures. Any student who wishes to register a formal complaint about the DSPT may contact the **California State Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education** at:

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95833
Telephone: 916-431-6924
Facsimile: 916-263-1897
Website: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov>

Title IX refers to a section of the Education Amendments of 1972 law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities at schools that receive federal financial assistance. Sex discrimination includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, sexual harassment, and sexual assault or violence, all of which are prohibited by the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT). **The DSPT does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment.** As an educational institution controlled by religious organizations, DSPT reserves the right to seek a religious exemption, to the extent any provisions of Title IX conflict with a religious tenet. The DSPT has a Title IX Coordinator whose responsibilities include overseeing all complaints of sex discrimination and identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such complaints. Detailed information about DSPT's Title IX policy is available at dspt.edu/campus-security.

In addition, the Congress and Department of Education have established many requirements for campus crime policies and reporting. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), codified at 20 U.S.C. 1092(f) as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), and the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008

require that the DSPT disclose policy information and crime statistics as part of a campus security report published annually. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) (20 U.S.C. 1092(f)) amended the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Crime Statistics Act (Clery) under the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act provisions (Campus SaVE Act). These laws changed the violations that must be reported by DSPT to include domestic violence, dating violence and stalking as well as to expand the categories of reportable hate crimes. This report serves as the campus security report for DSPT and may be found in the [Campus Safety, Security, and Quality](#) section of the DSPT website.

The Title IX coordinator, who is also DSPT's Campus Security Authority (CSA), is responsible for assisting victims and/or witnesses to sex discrimination and/or a crime on campus. Part of his or her duty includes assisting any DSPT student who wishes to register an offense by completing the Crime Incident Report form.

DSPT also has a Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation set forth in **Section II** below.

Complete information about campus security and how to file a complaint or incident of sex discrimination or harassment is available at the [Campus Safety, Security, and Quality](#) section of the DSPT website.

DIVERSITY

Any formal statement about institutional diversity becomes relevant to a school only to the extent that it augments the fundamental mission. At DSPT, diversity should be embodied not merely in terms of the percentage of various groups on our campus. Diversity is fundamental to the quality of the learning and research environment which comprise the core of Dominican pedagogy. The hallmark of Dominican intellectual formation is the commitment to philosophy as both an independent field of inquiry and a "handmaid" to theological inquiry. As the 2017 *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* (RSG I.18) observes, "In addition to providing an intellectual framework for the understanding of the Catholic faith, ... philosophy serves as a vehicle for dialogue by engaging other cultures, religious beliefs, and intellectual positions." In this light, the commitment to diversity and inclusion is institutionalized at DSPT through our commitment to philosophical inquiry.

Many different types of students come to DSPT, each with their own vocational backgrounds – as ordained ministers, teachers, researchers, as well as those from a variety of secular professions. We strive for intellectual hospitality through our pedagogical approach – using models which bring together divergent ideas in order to arrive at the truth. Even within the first hundred years of the Dominican Order, the friars developed structures of teaching which incorporated people from outside their local community. By seeking out university settings, the friars placed their major *studia* in conversation with non-Dominican academics. In the other convents, their schools sought to engage the wider public of the cities. At the core of a regular program of study was a weekly debate on a specified topic. This interchange instilled in the student not only important facts, but also the critical thinking skills which allow a proper

analysis of those facts. No longer practiced in its original manner, the approach involved a formal exchange on difficult questions (*quaestiones disputatae*) whereby a teacher, often together with teachers and students from outside his particular school, engaged one another before a diverse audience through a series of questions and responses.

DSPT continues this tradition through its emphasis on supporting a community of scholars willing and able to engage “contemporary scholarship and culture in mutual enrichment” (from the DSPT Mission Statement). With its focus on disciplined inquiry and effective leadership, DSPT creates a diverse educational environment that invites both faculty and students to examine diverse points of view so as to uncover the truth. In order to achieve this goal, the community must first understand and remain grounded in its own Catholic tradition, and from that grounding carefully engage different viewpoints. More importantly, they are able to seek the truth in those viewpoints, and to incorporate what is learned into their own body of knowledge in a transformative manner. When engaged wisely, this activity does not dilute the Catholic tradition. Rather, it develops the tradition, both learning from and contributing to the contemporary culture.

In a complementary fashion, DSPT strives to engage the contemporary academy, Church, and society by offering a kind of “intellectual hospitality” which welcomes new ideas and provides an opportunity for them to be discussed, developed, and critiqued. In that sense, DSPT strives to engage the contemporary culture in such a manner that the resources of the DSPT community may be brought to bear upon more urgent topics of our day.

DRUG-FREE CAMPUS

DSPT is committed to maintaining an environment in which students, faculty, and staff live and work together in an atmosphere free from the abuse of drugs and alcohol. The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (PL101-226) require all schools which receive federal funds of any kind, including federally-guaranteed student loans, to certify to the U.S. Government that the campus and workplace are in compliance with the law.

Unlawful possession, manufacture, use, dispensation, or distribution of illicit drugs, or abuse of drugs or alcohol by students, faculty, administration, staff, residents, and tenants is prohibited on any DSPT properties or as part of any DSPT school activities.

As a condition of continued enrollment in or employment by DSPT, a member of the student body, faculty, administration, or staff will notify the institution of a conviction for any criminal drug statute no later than five days after such conviction. Any member of the student body, faculty, administration, staff, resident, or tenant who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be subject to immediate dismissal from the student’s program of study, termination of employment, or cancellation of lease or other rental agreements, as applicable.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, is a federal law which

states (a) that a written institutional policy must be established and (b) that a statement of adopted procedures covering the privacy rights of students must be made available. The law provides that the institution will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. FERPA **also** ensures that students attending a post-secondary educational institution have the right to inspect and review certain of their educational records and, by following the guidelines provided by school policy, to correct inaccurate or misleading data through informal or formal hearings. It protects students' rights to privacy by limiting transfer of records without students' consent, except in specific circumstances.

At DSPT, no one but the individual student or officers of the School who have a legitimate educational interest (including the student's academic advisor) may have access to a student record, and no copy of a student transcript, test scores, or other evaluation will be supplied to any other person or agency without the express written permission of the student, except as required or permitted by law. Students who are members of a religious congregation or order are asked to sign a permission form releasing their grades to their religious superiors, to the extent permitted by law.

Under the provisions of FERPA, registered students have the right to inspect and review their educational records and to have inaccurate or misleading data corrected. The following definitions are used to determine which document(s) may be viewed:

Student Education Records

Student education records mean those records which are directly related to a student and maintained by the institution or by a party acting for the institution. Student education records include, but are not limited to, academic evaluations, transcripts, test scores and other academic records, general counseling and advising records, disciplinary records, and financial aid records.

The term "student education records" does **not** include:

1. Records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel and educational personnel ancillary thereto which are in the sole possession of the maker thereof and are not accessible or revealed to any other individual, except to an individual who performs on a temporary basis the duties of the individual who made the record; or
2. Records relating to an individual who is employed by the DSPT which are made and maintained in the normal course of business, relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee, and are not available for any other purpose; or
3. Records containing only information relating to a person after that person is no longer a student, such as information pertaining to alumni, and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.
4. Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by an instructor.
5. Records on a student who is 18 years of age or older, or is attending an institution of postsecondary education, that are:

- a. Made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional capacity or assisting in a paraprofessional capacity;
- b. Made, maintained, or used only in connection with treatment of the student; and
- c. Disclosed only to individuals providing the treatment. For the purpose of this definition, “treatment” does not include remedial educational activities or activities that are part of the program of instruction at the agency or institution

Students wishing to review their education records must make a written request by email to the DSPT Academic Dean by e-mail, listing the item or items of interest. Only records covered by the Act will be made available within forty-five days of the request. Students may have copies made of their records with certain exceptions (e.g., a copy of the academic record for which a library or administrative “hold” exists, or a transcript of an original or source document which exists elsewhere).

Students may **not** inspect and review the following as outlined by the Act:

- (1) Confidential letters and recommendations associated with admissions, employment or job placement, or honors to which they have waived their rights of inspection and review; or
- (2) Education records containing information about more than one student, in which case the institution will permit access only to that part of the record which pertains to the inquiring student.
- (3) The institution is not required to permit students to inspect and review confidential letters and recommendations placed in their files prior to January 1, 1975, provided those letters were collected under established policies of confidentiality and were used only for the purposes for which they were collected.

Students who believe that their education records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading, or is otherwise in violation of their privacy or other rights, may file a written request by email with the Academic Dean by e-mail indicating the specific information believed to be inaccurate or misleading. Upon the Dean’s approval, the records will be amended accordingly. If the Dean does not approve the request, the student will be notified within a reasonable period of time that the records will not be amended, and will be informed of the right to a formal hearing.

Student requests for a formal hearing must be made in writing in a formal letter to the DSPT President who, within a reasonable period of time after receiving such a request, will inform the student of the date, place, and time of the hearing. The student may present evidence relevant to the issues raised and may be assisted or represented at the hearings by one or more persons of his/her choice, including attorneys, at the student’s expense. The hearing panels which will adjudicate such challenges will be appointed by and chaired by the DSPT President. The hearing panel will consult with legal counsel as appropriate.

Decisions of the hearing panel will be final, will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing, and will consist of written statements summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the decisions, and will be delivered to all parties concerned. The education records will be corrected or amended in accordance with the decisions of the hearing panel.

“Directory Information” means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. DSPT designates the following categories of information as **“Directory Information”**: name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, year in school, dates of attendance, degrees, registration information, thesis title, scholarships and honors, previous degrees, religious affiliation/ order, and country of citizenship. Currently enrolled students may withhold disclosure of any of this information under FERPA by submitting a written request by email to the Registrar within two weeks of registration. DSPT assumes that failure on the part of any student specifically to request the withholding of categories of **“Directory Information”** constitutes individual approval for disclosure. Request for non-disclosure will be honored by the institution for **only one academic year**; therefore, authorization to withhold Directory Information must be filed annually in the Registrar’s Office.

FERPA Complaints

Students have the right to file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office (FERPA), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202, concerning alleged failures by DSPT to comply with FERPA. Procedures to be followed in exercising their rights are specified in policy documents available to students in the Office of the Registrar.

DSPT will retain on a permanent basis the academic records of matriculated students only. Dossiers of applicants who do not matriculate are destroyed after three years; however, applicants who declined or were denied admission must submit a new application if they re-apply for admission after two years. Materials (transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, statements of purpose, etc.) submitted to DSPT become the exclusive property of DSPT. Hence, the School cannot supply copies to any other institution or person, even with the consent of the applicants, except as permitted by law.

All records in a student’s file are the property of the School and will not be given back to the student.

POLICY PROHIBITING UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, RETALIATION, AND HAZING

The DSPT is committed to providing an environment that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination and retaliation as defined by federal, state and local law, as well as under this policy. The DSPT recognizes the important contribution a diverse community of students, faculty and staff makes towards the advancement of its goals and ideals. To this end, the DSPT strictly prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment (including sexual harassment), unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation in any form. Any violations of this policy will be treated as

serious misconduct and result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the DSPT.

Federal and state law, and DSPT policy, prohibit unlawful harassment and discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics, including but not limited to: race, religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (including possession of a driver's license granted under Section 12801.9 of the CA Vehicle Code; and including language and language use restrictions), citizenship status, ancestry, marital status, registered domestic partner status, genetic information, sex, (including pregnancy, childbirth, and/or related medical conditions and/or breastfeeding), sexual orientation or preference, gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender (including whether or not the individual has transitioned or is transitioning), genetic information, age 40 or over, military or veteran status, mental disability, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), legally protected medical conditions (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), denial of protected leave under federal or state law, certain medical conditions (including, but not limited to cancer and genetic characteristics), military and/or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, political affiliation, or any other bases protected by federal, state law, or local law, ordinance or regulation.

Unlawful harassment and discrimination are also prohibited based on the perception that a student has any of the above-mentioned protected characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. Conduct in violation of this Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Policy is prohibited in all places and at all times, including, but not limited to, during any school program(s) and/or activit(ies) and in classrooms, school facilities, and/or off campus locations. Anyone who violates this Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including immediate dismissal from the School.

Unlawful Discrimination Defined

Unlawful discrimination occurs when an individual's protected characteristic is used as a basis for material adverse actions affecting that individual. A materially adverse action is a substantial and detrimental change in the terms and conditions of an educational program or activity or which limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity. Petty slights, minor annoyances, and lack of good manners do not constitute materially adverse actions. Whether an action is materially adverse is judged from the perspective of a reasonable person in the individual's position.

Discrimination encompasses a wide range of conduct, including but not limited to refusing a request for time off based on a protected characteristic; denying housing or other benefits based on a protected characteristic; assigning an undeserved low grade based on a protected characteristic.

Unlawful Harassment Defined

Unlawful harassment includes all forms of unwelcome verbal, physical and visual conduct and displays that are based on any of the above-mentioned protected characteristics and which are sufficiently severe or pervasive from the objective standpoint of a reasonable person to interfere with performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Harassment can take many forms. Following are some examples that may constitute harassment if sufficiently severe or pervasive:

- ◆ Verbal harassment such as jokes, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, unwelcome remarks about an individual's body, dress, clothing, race, physical appearance or abilities, pitch of voice, derogatory comments, discussions of a sexual nature and/or harassing remarks.
- ◆ Physical harassment such as physical interference with normal activity, impeding or blocking movement, assault, unwelcome physical contact or touching, staring at a person's body, and/or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to a protected characteristic; and
- ◆ Visual harassment such as offensive or obscene e-mails, instant messaging, web blogs, photographs, calendars, posters, cards, cartoons, drawings and gestures, displays with sexually suggestive or lewd objects, unwelcome letters or notes or any other graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of the individual's protected characteristics. Unlawful harassment may occur in any of the programs or activities the DSPT provides to students, and it can take place in offices, classrooms, DSPT facilities, or off-campus locations.

Unlawful Sexual Harassment Defined

Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome sexual advances, or visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, is sufficiently severe or pervasive from the objective standpoint of a reasonable person to interfere with performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Sexual harassment is harassment based on sex or conduct of a sexual nature, and includes harassment based on sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions), gender, gender identity, gender expression and/or transgender. Sexual harassment and discrimination may involve harassment of women by men, men by women and gender-based harassment of individuals of the same gender as the harasser. Sexual harassment also includes sexual violence, sexual battery, and sexual exploitation.

Quid pro quo sexual harassment occurs when submission to or rejection of unwelcome sexual conduct by an individual is used as a basis for any educational decisions affecting that individual. It may involve offers of benefits in return for sexual favors, or threats of adverse action for refusing, and demands to submit to sexual requests. Sexual harassment encompasses a wide range of conduct. Examples of specifically prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Promising, directly or indirectly, a reward to a student who complies with a sexually oriented request;

- ◆ Threatening, directly or indirectly, retaliation against a student who refuses to comply with a sexually oriented request;
- ◆ Engaging in sexually suggestive conversation, or physical conduct;
- ◆ Displaying pornographic or sexually oriented materials;
- ◆ Telling sexual or “dirty” jokes; ◆ Engaging in indecent exposure; ◆ Making unwanted sexual or romantic advances;
- ◆ Spreading sexual rumors; or
- ◆ Physical conduct such as sexual assault, touching, or blocking normal movement.

Sexual harassment and sexual discrimination are also prohibited under DSPT's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy. As set forth below, if the DSPT determines that a complaint falls under the DSPT's Title IX Policy, the complaint will be referred to DSPT's Title IX Coordinator and must proceed under that policy and its procedures.

Unlawful Hazing Defined

State law and DSPT policy also prohibit hazing, defined as a method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or student body, that is likely to cause serious bodily injury.

Complaint Procedure

Anyone who believes they are being harassed, discriminated or retaliated against is encouraged to immediately make a complaint. Complaints can be initiated by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, who will fill out a DSPT Incident Report with the information provided. Individuals who submit complaints will be contacted by the Title IX Coordinator or their designee for follow-up. Complaints can also be initiated by contacting the Academic Dean.

The complaining individual will be asked to identify the facts of the incident(s), the name(s) of the party(s) involved, and all relevant dates, witnesses, and documents. The complaining individual will also be encouraged to put the complaint in writing.

The complaining individual may be asked whether they want the DSPT to attempt to facilitate an informal resolution, either directly or through a facilitator, or whether they want to initiate a formal complaint and investigation under this Policy. The DSPT will assess the severity of the alleged harassment, discrimination or retaliation, and the potential risk of a hostile environment for others in the community to determine whether informal resolution may be appropriate.

When the DSPT receives a complaint of sexual harassment or discrimination under this Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation, it will determine whether the complaint also falls within the scope of DSPT's Title IX – Sexual Harassment Policy. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will take into account various factors, including, but not limited to, the nature of the report and the location of the alleged incident(s). If it is determined that a complaint falls under the University's Title IX - Sexual

Harassment Policy, the complaint will be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator and must proceed under that policy and its procedures. A complaint about the same alleged incidents of sexual harassment may not be pursued under both policies.

Affected students may also direct complaints to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (1-415-486-5555).

Investigations

All complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation made to the DSPT against any student, employee, or third party affiliated with the DSPT will be promptly, thoroughly and objectively investigated. Investigations will be conducted in as discreet manner as possible. Investigations will include interviews of the complaining individual, the accused party, and others, as appropriate. Such interviews will be aimed at providing both parties an opportunity to present evidence and explain their version of the events. Information obtained from the investigation will be disclosed only on a need-to-know basis. At the conclusion of the investigation, the DSPT will determine whether, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, prohibited harassment, discrimination and/or retaliation has occurred in violation of DSPT policy and will communicate a summary of its findings in writing to the accused and the complainant.

When appropriate and lawful, the DSPT will communicate its findings to other persons who are directly concerned. Any member of the DSPT community who is found to have violated this Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including immediate termination or dismissal. Steps will be taken as necessary to prevent any further harassment, discrimination or retaliation.

No Retaliation

The DSPT takes all complaints of harassment, discrimination and retaliation seriously and wants the opportunity to internally resolve any problems that may arise. No individual will be retaliated against or otherwise disciplined for reporting in good faith an incident of harassment, discrimination or retaliation, or for participating in good faith in an investigation. The reporting individual and all parties participating in an investigation have the assurance of the DSPT that no reprisals will be taken as a result of the complaint, unless the complaint was filed in bad faith or for an improper purpose. If any individual feels they have been retaliated against, they should immediately report the retaliatory conduct.

NO SMOKING

In compliance with the laws of the State of California and the City of Berkeley Municipal Code, smoking of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, is not permitted in any of the campus buildings. Smoking is also prohibited in any multi-unit dwelling or common areas, which include adjoining parking lots, nearby outdoor seating, shared outdoor spaces, and any areas open to the public. It is also prohibited to smoke within 25 feet of the campus, or of nearby private residences.

NON-VIOLENCE, AND PROHIBITION OF FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS

No individuals shall possess any firearms or dangerous weapons on the DSPT campus at any time. Exceptions include law enforcement officials licensed to carry a weapon. Violation of this policy will lead to disciplinary action up to possible expulsion from the School and may result in arrest and prosecution for any criminal acts.

All members of the DSPT community are prohibited from making threats or engaging in threatening violent activities. This list of behaviors includes, but is not limited to:

- Causing injury to other person(s);
- Making threats of any nature;
- Aggressive, hostile, or violent behavior such as intimidation of others, attempts to instill fear in others, or subjecting others to emotional distress;
- Intentionally damaging School property or the property of another employee, student, or member of the public;
- Possession of a weapon while on DSPT School property, while performing DSPT School business, or while attending a DSPT-sponsored event;
- Committing an act motivated by, or related to, sexual harassment or domestic violence.

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Except as otherwise explicitly provided for in this *Handbook*, the general procedure for resolution of disputes is as follows:

1. Disputes of an Academic Nature

- a. The Academic Dean is the first arbiter for academic disputes between students and faculty. If a DSPT student disagrees with the grade or other academic decision of a faculty member, the matter is resolved according to the policies of the school of that faculty, and is adjudicated by the Academic Dean of that school. In such a case, the student should first approach the Academic Dean of his/her school of affiliation, who will refer the matter and the student to the Academic Dean of the school of that faculty member for adjudication.
- b. In the event that the Academic Dean cannot resolve the dispute, then either party may appeal to the Executive Committee of the Faculty, whose decision is final.

2. Disputes of a Non-Academic Nature

- a. The Registrar is the first arbiter for non-academic disputes between students and students, or between students and faculty (in non-academic matters).
- b. In the event that the Registrar cannot resolve the dispute, then either party may appeal to the DSPT President, whose decision is final.

Complaints and resolution are recorded by the appropriate administrator and recorded in the student file.

STUDENT CONDUCT

In their public conduct, students are expected to comport themselves in a way appropriate to a Roman Catholic Seminary/School of Theology. The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of behaviors that are inconsistent with appropriate behavior at DSPT: sexualized conversation which objectifies another person, flirtatious or seductive behavior, immodest dress, visiting pornographic Internet sites on any School computer, or using any of the School audio-visual equipment for such purposes. Other examples include, falsification of information to DSPT and/or falsification of DSPT records; destruction of property owned or leased by DSPT. Students must consult the DSPT “Handbook for Campus Safety” at the [Campus Safety, Security, and Quality](#) section of the DSPT website for a full set of definitions concerning expectations of conduct related to campus safety. DSPT may impose sanctions up to and including dismissal of any student who seriously violates this code of conduct or the regulations while on campus or at any other facility used by DSPT.

SECTION III: ACADEMIC POLICIES

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Upon acceptance into an academic program, students are normally assigned an academic advisor based upon compatibility of area(s) of research interest. Students may change their academic advisor by submitting a written petition to the Academic Dean. They should normally discuss this change with their current advisor, whose signature on the written petition is required. After their thesis proposal and committee have been approved, MA Thesis Option students are advised by their thesis coordinator. MA students who wish to change their thesis coordinator must petition the respective department.

Academic advisors at DSPT are expected to provide the following services for students:

- Offer encouragement in the pursuit of academic excellence and pastoral expertise;
- Supervise their academic program, which includes assisting in the choice of classes, and ensuring that program requirements are fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion;
- Oversee the student portfolio program requirements, which includes reporting to the department on student progress;
- Bring to the attention of the Academic Dean any special cases or problems.

DSPT Faculty are not obligated to serve during breaks in the academic calendar (i.e., Christmas through January, and summer) as this time is to be dedicated to their own professional research and writing activities.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

DSPT fosters an environment conducive to the free pursuit of learning by both faculty and students. As a Center of Studies of the Order of Preachers, the School is informed by both the Roman Catholic theological and doctrinal traditions and the Dominican intellectual heritage. As such, DSPT recognizes its responsibility to give its students – especially those preparing for ministry in the Catholic Church – a clear exposition and respectful presentation of Catholic Doctrine. In their teaching and writing, members of the faculty should clearly distinguish between their own opinions and the official teachings of the ordinary Magisterium. The faculty has the right to responsibly examine ideas that may diverge from those teachings. Students, likewise, are free to pursue any line of argument or inquiry and to express their views in academically appropriate ways.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Faculty and students of DSPT are expected to maintain ethical standards of honesty in their academic endeavors. Conduct that is contrary to academic honesty is subject to disciplinary action. For students, such conduct includes any activity that is aimed at falsely representing academic performance, such as cheating, plagiarizing, completing course work for another, falsifying records or data, submitting work previously presented in another course (unless authorized), intentionally assisting another student in any of these activities, and all similar

conduct. Three types of misconduct are worth noting: cheating, plagiarism, and inappropriate collaboration, as described below.

Cheating

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from someone else's paper, using notes in an exam (unless expressly allowed by the professor), altering an exam for re-grading, getting an advance copy of the examination, or hiring a surrogate test-taker.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves the use of another's words or ideas without proper citation. The most common examples of plagiarism and related forms of academic dishonesty are:

1. *Using **words** by another person or by artificial intelligence (AI) without proper citation.* Quotation marks must be placed around any text that is a direct quote from another person (whether it is a written or oral source). A footnote, endnote, and/or bibliography explicitly indicating the source of the text must be included. *Both* quotation marks and source citation are required.
2. *Using **ideas** (in whatever form) by another person or by AI and/or borrowing the **structure** used to present those ideas without proper citation.* Proper citation using footnotes must be used to indicate when the essential ideas of another person (or generated by AI) are being used to illustrate, develop, or confirm any aspect of research being presented.
3. *Borrowing all or part of another student's paper or using someone else's outline to write a paper.*
4. *Having someone else do the project for you.* While it is certainly reasonable to have someone review or proofread one's work, it is not acceptable to have someone else do the bulk of that work. Regardless of whether or not payment is exchanged for service, it is a breach of academic honesty to hand in as your own work something created by another individual. Students for whom English is a second language, must be particularly attentive to this distinction.
5. *Unauthorized use of personal work that was previously submitted.* It is inappropriate to submit work done in one course for credit in another course. At times, however, it may be that a topic bears significant relationship to the matter of more than one course. In such an instance, the student must gain permission from the instructor, and the newly submitted work should be significantly different from that previously submitted. In a case where the student would like to use the same text or work for two different courses taken in the same semester, permission must be granted from both professors.

Given the integrating nature of the thesis, it is permissible, in fact even encouraged, for students to use work previously submitted for courses at DSPT. Examples include research papers or other work done in regularly offered courses or in directed reading courses which focus on an aspect of the thesis work. In such a case, it is assumed that the student will revise the work so as to integrate it appropriately into the larger thesis project.

Note: These guidelines also apply to text, information, or ideas from Internet websites. Internet references must be properly cited according to published academic standards.

Students, especially international students, might also wish to consult the most recent edition of *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian.

Inappropriate Collaboration

There is certainly a value to collaboration on a project. Professors often encourage the formation of study groups and/or assigned group projects. Inappropriate collaboration most often occurs when students fail to take personal responsibility in a group endeavor. For example, coming together to create an outline for a paper, and then writing the paper individually could be considered inappropriate; such cases include those in which the final papers may have different wording but they all share the same essential structure and ideas. It could be considered inappropriate because students have failed to create a work that is substantially their own and because they have not properly cited the source(s). For any given course assignment or activity, students should check with the instructor as to whether or how the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted.

A professor who has a student with a proven instance of academic dishonesty will report the instance to the Academic Dean. The submitted work automatically receives a grade of "F." The faculty member will also inform the student of the accusation of academic dishonesty. After a discussion between the professor and the Academic Dean, the faculty member will determine the recourse to be taken, which may include a re-working of the work, or a grade of "F" for the course. In cases where the professor suspects plagiarism, but cannot prove it, the matter is brought before the Academic Dean, who will determine the appropriate course of action. If the student is from another school, the Academic Dean will inform the Academic Dean of that School.

Violation of this policy is prohibited. Upon the first instance of academic dishonesty, the Academic Dean places the students on academic probation for one semester by a written notification of this fact. A record of the incident is kept on file for the duration of the time at the School. A second instance may be grounds for suspension or dismissal of the student by the Academic Dean.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes. There is no formal "exam week" at DSPT, and professors have the right to hold classes during the final week of the semester should they so choose. Students with a serious reason for missing a class are responsible for discussing the absence with the professor beforehand, if possible. Those whose absences exceed twenty percent of the scheduled class sessions will not be given credit for the course without the written permission of the Academic Dean. If this is not obtained, a grade of F (Failure) will be recorded.

AUDITING A COURSE

Auditors may be admitted to classes with the permission of the instructor. Students auditing courses must register and pay 50% of the regular course tuition. No academic credit is earned. However, DSPT students in degree programs, as well as [non-degree programs](#), may audit one course per semester, at a discounted rate (specified at the DSPT Website), if enrolled in at least 9 units taken for credit. Such discounted audits cannot be accumulated. Audited courses appear on the students DSPT transcript.

CAPSTONE EXAMS

Each program with an Exam Option (i.e., for the MAPH and MATH programs) has a final examination as part of its respective capstone: the “Comprehensive Exam” (or “MAPh Capstone Exam”) for the MAPH program, and the “MATH Capstone Exam” (formerly called the “Exam in a Required Area”) for the MATH program. The common elements of the format and requirements for these two exams are described below.

Each Capstone Exam is a three-hour, closed book examination, scheduled once toward the end of each semester, with the date posted on the academic calendar. Students wishing to take the exam in a given semester must register no later than the end of the add/drop period (i.e., the Friday of the second week of that semester).

The examination will be “closed book” and proctored. A standard set of study questions is made available to students, normally at least six weeks in advance of the exam, as a preparation tool. Students are not permitted to use books, notes, or electronic aids during the exam. The responses to the questions are to consist of more than mere bullet points or disjointed paragraphs; rather, the student must write an organized essay in response to each question, demonstrating a coherent thought process. These essays should conform to expected standards of academic writing, including use of proper English, grammar, and spelling. The answers are to be hand-written and then photocopied immediately after the exam. The student will be responsible for transcribing them promptly into a legible format, making only minor grammatical and syntactical changes, but no substantive ones.

Categories for grading are: *pass*, *fail with possibility of retaking the exam*, or *fail without possibility of retaking the exam*. The Department Chair communicates the final result (i.e., *pass*, *fail with possibility of retaking the exam*, or *fail without possibility of retaking the exam*) to the Academic Dean, the Registrar, and the student. In the case of a “fail with possibility...,” the student may petition to retake the exam, answering a new question or questions in place of the ones that were failed, in a single exam period that includes a commensurate amount of time for each question to be answered. Dates for students retaking an exam will be scheduled on an ad hoc basis. In the MATH program, a student may be re-examined no more than two times (for a total of three examinations).

Aspects of the Capstone Exam format and requirements that are particular to either the MAPH or the MATH are described in the degree requirements section of the respective program. The

exams associated with the capstone event for the MDiv program are different from those outlined above; details are offered in the degree requirements section for that program.

CHANGE IN ENROLLMENT

Students wishing to add, withdraw from, or change the grade type requested in a class (e.g., from letter grade to audit or pass/fail) may do so using [Populi](#) during the returning student registration, late registration, or add/drop periods. After the latter, students must complete a *Change in Enrollment* form from the [Student Forms](#) page, obtain all signatures, and pay the appropriate change fees. No changes in registration may be made after the tenth week of the semester except in unusual circumstances with the permission of the Academic Dean.

CHANGE IN PROGRAM

Students who wish to change from their current DSPT degree program to another DSPT program must file a written petition using the General Petition Form with the Academic Dean, who will determine if the petition needs to be reviewed by the Admissions Committee before it is considered by the Department responsible for the degree program in which the student wishes to enroll. Students in either the MA (Philosophy) or MA (Theology) program who wish to switch from the thesis to the exam option, or vice-versa, must first contact their academic advisor, who will present the request to the respective Department. Any change in program takes effect during the time between semesters.

Students who wish to change from a non-degree program (Special Student or certificate) to a DSPT degree program, or to the Concurrent MAPH/MATh option from any program, must apply through the DSPT Admissions Office.

COMPLETION OF PROGRAMS

While acceptance into any DSPT academic program implies that the Admissions Committee has reason to believe that the candidate can and should successfully complete a degree program, such acceptance is not a guarantee of completion. A student may be unable to complete a program for a number of reasons, including failure to maintain the minimum grade point average (GPA) for the program, or failure to fulfill any one of the program requirements.

COURSE SELECTION AND PLANNING

In planning their sequence of studies, with the guidance of their academic advisor, students should check the DSPT website to consult the *Course Descriptions* page for the contents of course offerings and the *Multi-Year Projection for Cycled Courses* (on the [Student Forms](#) webpage) to ascertain the semester during which each course may become available, since certain core courses (i.e., specific courses required for one or more degree programs) are offered only every other year, while others are offered every year. For the particular course offerings available for registration during the current or upcoming semester, they should consult the *Current Course Syllabi & Information* page at DSPT's website. Consulting the *DSPT Guide for Academic Advising Sessions*, students should work with their advisor in planning courses, as outlined both in their program's Degree Program Requirements section of this *Handbook* and in the Program Requirements Checklist (at the DSPT website). They should be especially attentive early in their

program to enroll in those fundamental courses that are recommended or required prerequisites for intermediate and advanced courses in the various subdisciplines, to ensure that they are properly introduced to the methodologies of those subdisciplines and that they will be able to make timely progress in their program. If for any reason DSPT is not offering during the regularly scheduled semester a core course that is needed for the student to make timely progress, the student is to confer with the advisor, who will arrange for an approved substitute, with the assistance and approval of the Academic Dean.

CREDIT HOUR AND COURSE LOAD

At DSPT, the definition of a semester credit hour is based upon the definition formulated by the Department of Education (§600.2). For each credit hour (semester unit) there is to be one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, plus a *minimum* of two hours of outside student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work done over a different period of time (as for example in a Summer Session or Intersession course). Courses that give three units of credit are considered “full courses”; courses that give 1.5 units of credit are considered “half courses.” For the purposes of calculation, an “instructional hour” is fifty (50) minutes.

In determining the credit value of other academic activities, such as the Graduate Seminar and “In Thesis” units, as well as field education, pastoral ministry internships, ministry practicum courses, etc., the same formula will be used to determine an equivalent amount of work. For the Graduate Seminar, the proportion of outside student work to classroom/faculty instruction is greater than 2:1, while “In Thesis” units are entirely composed of student work outside a classroom setting (thesis research, writing, and consultation with faculty). Credit value for studio art courses are based upon the DOE definition as follows: One practice credit hour (supervised clinical rounds, visual or performing art studio, supervised student teaching, field work, etc.) represents 3-4 hours per week of supervised and /or independent practice. This in turn represents between 45 and 60 hours of work per semester. Blocks of 3 practice credit hours, which equate to a studio or practice course, represent between 135 and 180 total hours of academic work per semester.

DSPT uses the following course scheduling system: full courses are scheduled in either of two formats: a) twice a week for 80 minutes each; or b) once per week for 170 minutes. In preparing their weekly schedules, students should estimate that a full course requires at least nine hours of student time per week (includes both in-class and at-home work). A half course requires at least four to five hours of student time per week. Thus, a courseload of 12 semester units requires at least thirty-six (36) hours of student work per week, on average.

Because of the demands of graduate-level courses, full-time graduate students should normally plan to take between 9 and 13.5 units per semester. They are not ordinarily permitted to take more than 15 units per semester, and a written petition must be submitted to the Academic Dean for a course load which exceeds 15 units.

Because some theology courses in the Master of Divinity program are not offered every year,

Master of Divinity students, particularly those not taking the complementary program, may need to take 15 units per semester, depending on the availability of the courses. Students should be aware of the cycle of course offerings and work closely with their advisor to ensure a timely fulfillment of degree requirements.

CROSS REGISTRATION

During the 2026-2027 academic year, all DSPT students, including students in degree programs, Certificate Students, and Special Students, may enroll in non-DSPT GTU courses through their enrollment at DSPT.

Students who wish to take classes at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), must have an undergraduate degree, be enrolled full-time in a graduate degree program at the School, and have the approval of the instructor and of the Academic Dean. Certificate students and Special Students are not eligible for cross registration at UC Berkeley. Master of Divinity students are eligible only after the completion of their first year in their program. Only one class may be taken at UC Berkeley per semester. Summer courses or UC Extension courses are not eligible for cross-registration. Furthermore, certain UC Berkeley courses, such as introductory Spanish courses, are not open to DSPT students. The complete *Cross Registration Agreement and Procedures* are available on the GTU website and from the GTU Registrar. Students who fail to observe UC Berkeley's regulations may not earn credit for a class. Please see the cross registration form with procedures and deadlines on the [Student Forms page](#). Students must realize that permission to cross-register does **not** constitute permission to use a course in partial fulfillment of a program requirement. A student who wishes a course to fulfill a core or distribution requirement must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean for such use.

DISABILITIES: POLICY & PROCESSES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

The DSPT Faculty and Administration believe in equitable student access to educational opportunities, particularly concerning a student's ability to fulfill degree and certificate course and program requirements. Accommodations are not intended to give students with disabilities an unfair advantage, but to remove barriers that prevent students from learning and from demonstrating what they have learned in the context of their formal degree or certificate program.

The Academic Dean serves as DSPT Disabilities Resource Officer (DRO) and will facilitate accommodations and support for students with disabilities on an individual, case-by-case basis, to ensure equal access to DSPT's academic programs and services. The DRO works with students in an individualized and interactive process that requires engagement from both the DRO and the student.

DSPT will do its best to provide the student with his/her preferred accommodations, provided the requested accommodation is reasonable. Accommodations that are considered "unreasonable" include:

1. Accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of a program.

2. Accommodations which lower or substantially modify academic or program standards.
3. Accommodations that would impose undue financial or administrative burden.
4. Accommodations that would pose an appreciable threat to personal or public safety.

For more information on how to request accommodations, please contact the Academic Dean.

EXCEPTIONS DURING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

DSPT acknowledges that it may need to make exceptions to individual students' program requirements in response to extraordinary circumstances such as those occasioned by natural disasters (fire, smoke, earthquake, etc.), health emergencies (e.g., epidemic, pandemic), extended suspension of services, extended civil disturbances, or other situations that significantly disrupt the ability of DSPT to function normally. The COVID-19 pandemic, including the resulting disruptions both in DSPT's in-person operations and in the conditions of daily living, constitute a recent example of such circumstances.

Students facing individual situations (such as personal or family illness) that keep them from completing or progressing through their program of study should work closely with their academic advisor and the Academic Dean to devise an individual plan so that they can continue to make progress in their programs. Students, instructors, and advisors should make use of the existing options, which may include a revised plan of study, leave-of-absence status, or other mechanisms that address the student's situation and ability to progress through the program.

EXTENSION FOR PROGRAM TIME

Students who reach the maximum time limit for their degree program, as defined in the "Academic Programs & Requirements" section of this *Handbook*, must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean for an extension of the program time before being allowed to register. Such a petition should state the reasons for the extension and should provide a reasonable and specific schedule for the completion of the program. Students who reach the maximum time limit are not eligible for financial aid (see "Maintaining Eligibility for Federal Aid" in section V, below).

FACULTY SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Service to students is among the primary responsibilities of the faculty. Although the academic advisor is the student's principal faculty resource, students may also consult other faculty where reasonable. For this purpose, each Regular Faculty member is required to schedule two hours each week as office hours for meeting with students. Students are encouraged to make use of these times. Regular Faculty may also be available at other times by appointment.

Students who have extensive contact with a professor (as in a classroom) may reasonably request a letter of recommendation, whether for DSPT programs, applications to other educational institutions, job applications, or other opportunities. Any request for a recommendation should offer the professor sufficient notice before the due date (at least four weeks), and should include a description of the kind of recommendation needed. For example, a student applying to a graduate program should inform the recommender of the institution

name, the program and department to which application is to be made, all contact details, an account of the student's own goals and reasons for applying, and any other relevant details.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION AND CREDIT

Some linguistic skills are essential for any pursuit of academic philosophy or theology.

Knowledge of more than one language allows the student to engage with and benefit from a broader spectrum of thought, arising from differences of worldview, cultural variations, and various strands of tradition in philosophy and/or theology. The need for students to use foreign language skills is essential whenever the theme of their thesis, in a central way, requires engagement with an author or authors whose important works are not available in English translation. DSPT professors may encourage, at their discretion, their students to use languages other than English in the normal work of their courses. Students are encouraged to use languages other than English for their reading and research, whenever circumstances allow.

Foreign Language Certification Policy. Students in the DSPT MA (Philosophy) *Thesis Option*, in the DSPT MA (Theology) *Thesis Option*, or in the concurrent MA program must demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehension skills in a foreign language. Students in the concurrent DSPT MA option with a **concentration in Thomistic Studies** must demonstrate reading and comprehension proficiency **in Latin**. There is no language requirement for any of the other DSPT degree programs.

Students must fulfill the language proficiency requirement by **October 1st of the third semester** in the program. This requirement *must* be fulfilled **before** students may submit a thesis proposal.

Language certification may be obtained by any of the following means:

- Passing the foreign language certification exam, such as those offered by the GTU each September, February, and May. See the GTU website for what exams are available and how to register. All students must register for language examinations at least three weeks in advance.
- Within the last five years, having completed four semesters (12 units or its equivalent) of a language at an undergraduate level with a grade of B (3.0) or better in the final semester. Students must petition the Academic Dean to use this work for language certification.
- Having studied/lived/worked in a foreign country in an immersive experience for at least a semester, in which the foreign language is used almost daily, e.g. in lectures, written work. Students must petition the Academic Dean to use this experience for language certification.

Students enrolled in a DSPT MA program who wish certification in a language other than Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Greek, or Spanish must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean. The mode of certification is as for other languages.

Foreign students whose native language is not English may fulfill the language requirement by passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL, scores of at least 600 for the paper-based exam or 250 for the computer-based exam) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS, total score of at least 6.5) examination.

Using Foreign Languages Courses for Credit. As a general policy, modern foreign language courses in European languages (French, Italian, German, etc.) taken to fulfill the language requirement, including courses taken to prepare a student for a language exam, **cannot** be counted as electives toward fulfillment of course requirements of a degree program. However, certain advanced-level language courses designed to equip MA students for future research may be counted as electives in some circumstances. Students must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean for approval of such coursework as graduate electives. Types of language courses that **can be** counted as electives toward a degree program are specialized languages (Hindi, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Aramaic, etc.) and classical languages (Greek, Hebrew, Latin).

GRADES

All credit for DSPT courses is given in semester units. Faculty submit grades no later than the third week after the end of each semester. Students may view their grades online by using [Populi](#). Printed grade reports are available upon request from the DSPT Registrar.

The following grading system is used at DSPT:

A (4.0)	Excellent
B (3.0)	Good
C (2.0)	Satisfactory
D (1.0)	Barely passing
F (0)	Failure
P	Pass (Satisfactory)
AUD	Audit
IP	In Progress
I	Incomplete
NC	No Credit
NR	No Report
W	Withdrawn

Grade Points. Grade points are based on a 4-point scale and are assigned as follows: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and F = 0. When attached to the grades A, B, or C, plus (+) grades carry three-tenths of a grade point more per unit, and minus (-) grades carry three-tenths of a grade point less per unit, except for the A+, which carries the same 4.0 grade points per unit as does the A.

Failure. A grade of “F” (Failure) indicates that, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has not fulfilled the minimum course requirements. If the course is required for a degree program, the student may repeat the same course; however, both the failed course with grade “F” and the repeated course with its grade are reported in the student’s record and listed on the transcript.

In extraordinary circumstances, students who receive a grade of “F” in a course may petition the professor to have that grade changed. If the professor agrees, then the student must also petition the Executive Committee of the School for final approval.

Incomplete. Students who are unable to complete their course work by the end of the semester may request a grade of “I” (Incomplete) by submitting an approved [*Petition to Take an Incomplete*](#) no later than the last day of the semester. Incomplete work for each course is due by the third Friday after the end of the semester in which the course is taken. If the work is not made up by this time, the professor will do one of the following:

1. assign a letter grade based upon the work that has been completed;
2. assign a letter grade of “F”;
3. allow the “I” notation to remain on the transcript.

Students should also note and understand the policy on the status of “Satisfactory Academic Progress” (see below), and how that status (and, in turn, financial aid eligibility and the status of current student loans) is affected by a notation of “I” or a letter grade of “F.”

Pass/Fail. In order to count towards the completion of a degree program, courses must normally be taken for a letter grade. Exceptions to this policy require the written permission of the Academic Dean. Certain specific courses that are offered Pass/Fail are excepted from this rule. These include field education courses, Celebration of the Sacraments, and Confessional Ministry. Other exceptions may be granted by written permission of the Academic Dean.

Repeating a Course. Students may repeat a course if desired. In calculating GPA, both the initial and subsequent grades are included on the transcript. However, only the higher grade will be used to calculate GPA.

GRADUATE SEMINAR

The Graduate Seminar is a set of two, two-semester courses, designed to develop skills for master’s-level philosophical and theological research, writing, and professional dissemination. The first course is the two-part introduction, “Graduate Seminar Intro 1” (1.5 units) and “Graduate Seminar Intro 2” (1.5 units), normally taken in the first two semesters of the student’s program. The second two-part course, “Graduate Seminar Capstone 1” (1.5 units) and “Graduate Seminar Capstone 2” (1.5 units), fostering the integrative completion of the MA program, is normally taken in the final two semesters of the student’s program. Both courses are required for all DSPT MA students; the introductory “Graduate Seminar Intro” (1 & 2) is required for students in the MDiv Track. (For students who began their degree program under a previous edition of this *Handbook*, the Graduate Seminar Intro courses can replace the offerings known as the “Academic Research & Writing Salon,” and “Academic Forum Intro” while the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses can replace what had been the “MA Colloquium” And “Academic Forum Capstone.”)

All four Graduate Seminar courses include attendance at the monthly St. Albert’s Seminar. In

these seminars a speaker, usually DSPT faculty or visiting faculty, presents aspects of their research. This is an opportunity for students to get to know active research and to see professional presentation styles.

In Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2, students begin with an introduction to master's-level academic research and the "vocation" of the scholar. They continue to develop research skills with a view toward successful completion of their Research Readiness benchmark.

In Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2, students continue to practice research skills and oral presentation skills.. Based on their program and learning goals, and with approval of the instructor, students are to determine the modality of their capstone (paper, thesis, or project), according to guidelines to be provided. Students then share their preliminary ideas with participants in the forum, and then present a prospectus or plan for their capstone. By the end of the two semesters of the course, all students make a final public presentation of their capstone.

GRADUATION

Check the [DSPT Academic Calendar](#) for deadlines for submitting forms and finishing capstones in order to graduate at the end of a specific semester.

Statement of Intent to Graduate. Prior to the beginning of their final semester, students must complete a [Statement of Intent to Graduate](#). They must discuss the form with their academic advisor and receive the advisor's approval before submitting it. It is due to the DSPT Registrar by the end of the late registration period of that semester. If a student's approved form is not submitted in a timely manner, the Faculty is unable to approve an application for graduation, and the student will not graduate.

As part of the approval process, the student's academic records are reviewed by the student's academic advisor and the Academic Dean to ensure that all degree requirements have been fulfilled. Submission of the *Statement of Intent to Graduate* prior to the last semester of the student's program ensures sufficient time to complete any unfulfilled program requirements. The signature of the Academic Dean on the statement assumes that the student will successfully complete any remaining coursework, and if applicable, the thesis defense or capstone event. Failure by the student to complete coursework or other degree requirements by the end of the final semester may delay graduation.

Graduation Checklist. During their final semester, students must submit the [Graduation Checklist](#) certifying that all financial obligations are discharged. This form is due to the DSPT Registrar by November 1 for fall graduation and by April 1 for spring graduation. Students are charged the [graduation fee](#) when this form is submitted to the Business Office.

JURY DUTY

Jury service (or jury duty) is an important civic responsibility that DSPT supports. The time and

attention that jurors must invest in such service can make it difficult or impossible for a student to serve on a jury while school is in session, due to scheduling conflicts with course sessions and due to the time and attention that studies demand of students. Therefore, DSPT strongly encourages any student who has been called to jury duty to make every reasonable effort to ensure that this service does not interfere with coursework at DSPT (e.g., by asking to the court reschedule the service until a summer or January break, or until after graduation).

Students who are required to serve on jury duty that may interfere with coursework or other academic work should inform their academic advisor, and provide official verification to the Academic Dean as soon as possible. Students must also send documentation which indicate dates and times served on the jury promptly after the service is complete. For any of the student's DSPT courses affected by attendance at jury duty, faculty are to take reasonable measures to ensure that students' academic progress is not unduly compromised. Such measures might include, for example, arranging for recording lectures and discussions, extending deadlines for assignments, extending the time for assignments into the break period (allowing an "Incomplete" grade, with work to be completed at a later, specified time), substituting a paper for an exam, recalculating the weighting of grades from other course assignments or exams, etc. The instructor may use its discretion to determine what constitutes reasonable measures, or whether the absence is of such a great extent that no reasonable measures are available. If a student is forced to withdraw from a course or a term due to a prolonged term of service on a jury, DSPT will work with the student to alleviate any related academic and/or financial hardship, to the extent possible.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students at DSPT who are unable to continue academic work for a period of time may request a leave of absence (LOA) on the grounds of personal, medical, or financial exigency. A leave of absence entails a break in academic work and access to DSPT academic resources, including library privileges, courses, examinations, and interaction with faculty.

Students who are in reserve military service or are veterans and receive benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be permitted short-term LOA if they are required to report for military service. They will be readmitted to their programs, and the time away will not count towards total time in the program.

The [*Petition for a Leave of Absence From Program*](#) form is available on the DSPT website, or from the DSPT Registrar. The petition should be given to the Registrar. The request should specify the reasons for the leave so that the Academic Dean can determine if the DSPT can grant the leave. The Academic Dean will communicate the decision in writing.

Students will not be granted more than four semesters of leave, nor more than two consecutively, in the course of their degree programs. Accrediting agencies require institutions to enforce a reasonable continuity in the program. Note that leaves of absence taken once matriculation in a degree program has begun will **count** toward the total years allowed in the program.

Leave of absence requires an administrative fee for *each* semester – please consult the [list of fees at the DSPT website](#) for details. Students petitioning after the registration deadline are also liable for the late registration fee. This late penalty is an incentive for students to get information submitted on time for required enrollment reports.

Students are advised to consult with the DSPT Financial Aid officer about whether a leave is the best financial decision. Students with educational loans need to understand how a leave may affect the deferment of payment. Payments on all state and federal loans may go into repayment within six months.

MA THESIS/EXAM FILING EXTENSION AGREEMENT

This agreement outlines specific conditions under which a student may defend and file a DSPT MA thesis (or take the Capstone Exam) and graduate in a given term without registering or paying continuing fees for that term. In order to qualify for this opportunity, the student **must complete the form** and return it to the Academic Dean prior to the scheduling of the defense date for the thesis. The [MA Thesis/Exam Filing Extension Agreement Form](#) is available at the DSPT website.

PETITIONS

Students registered in academic programs at DSPT who wish a variance from the requirements of their program should first consult with their academic advisor on the desirability of such a variance. Requests for a variance may include, but are not limited to, an extension of the program time limit, change to part-time status, change in the area of concentration, fulfillment of a degree requirement with a course substitution, credit for previous academic work, or change in academic advisor. If the variance seems appropriate, the student must complete the applicable petition, or a [General Petition](#) if no specific petition applies, clearly stating the variance desired and the reason for it. The petition must be signed by the academic advisor and be submitted to the Academic Dean for a final decision (via email or paper form turned in to the Registrar's Office). Petition forms are available at the DSPT website or from the DSPT Registrar.

PRIMARY FORMATION COMMUNITY

The DSPT presupposes a dynamic learning environment which supports the holistic development of each clerical candidate. The Academic Dean and Faculty at DSPT work collaboratively with other entities, including a clerical student's religious institute and primary formation community, to ground the discipleship of Christ of the clerical candidate in personal maturity, intellectual accomplishment, and pastoral leadership. In addition to the academic requirements of DSPT, the academic policies and expectations of each religious institute that sends its students to DSPT will be found in the plan of studies and formation guidelines of that institute. If questions arise regarding the academic goals and wishes of students who are members of a particular religious institute, the faculty should consult with the Academic Dean and the formation personnel of that institute. In general, exceptions to the academic policies of DSPT are granted by the Academic Dean, and exceptions to the plan of studies of a student's religious institute granted by the formation person(s) so designated by that institute. In cases where concerns arise about a student from a religious institute, faculty members should contact

both the Academic Dean and the formation director for that institute.

QUESTIONNAIRES

All entering and graduating students are required to complete a questionnaire on their academic, social, and personal experiences at DSPT. These questionnaires provide valuable information for the ongoing self-evaluation of the School, its programs, and services. The Registrar will contact all entering students about completing the Entering Student Questionnaire (ESQ) and all graduates about completing the Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ).

RECORDING OF COURSE LECTURES AND OTHER COURSE ACTIVITIES

Students' use of audio and/or video recording technologies of course activities, such as lectures, discussions, presentations, or other course activities, requires the permission of the instructor, and of other participants if they are involved. Sharing these recordings is not permitted without obtaining permission from the instructor and any persons being recorded. Any recorded material must be destroyed/erased at the end of the semester, unless the instructor grants explicit permission otherwise. The instructor retains the right to prohibit recordings of any or all sections of lectures, discussions, or other course content and/or activities. Violation of any these policies constitutes academic misconduct.

Students who have been approved to record lectures as a disabilities accommodation must limit their use of these recordings to personal use; they are not permitted to share these recordings without permission of the instructor and other participants in the class.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Important registration dates are distributed each fall in the enrollment packets and are included on the "DSPT Academic and Administrative Calendar" on the website. The returning student Registration period is available during a given semester for all students planning to enroll for the following semester; **all returning students are required to register at that time**. Typically, the Registration period for the Spring semester occurs in November, while the Registration period for the Fall semester occurs in April.

The Late Registration period is for all incoming (new) students to register, and for returning students to make changes to their schedule. Returning students who had failed to register during the earlier Registration period must pay a fee if they seek to register during the Late Registration period. During the Add/Drop period, registered students may add or drop courses from their schedule without incurring a fee.

All DSPT students in degree programs must do one of the following, **no later than the end of the Late Registration period for each semester** (i.e., the Friday before the first day of the semester): a) register full-time, b) submit a written petition for a leave of absence, c) submit a written petition for part-time status, or d) submit a written petition to withdraw. Students in any of these programs who fail to act according to the instructions above will be administratively withdrawn from their program.

Instructions for registration are available on the DSPT website or from the DSPT Registrar. All of DSPT's current course offerings are available at the DSPT website and in Populi, DSPT's student information program. DSPT course syllabi are also available on Populi.

Registration for Fall, Spring, Intersession, and Summer terms is web-based through [Populi](#). Enrollment is available only during the posted registration dates and is accessible at the Populi website. Login information is distributed to new students at orientation. Students may contact the Registrar if they have forgotten their login information.

A "Registration Block" may be placed on a student's record due to unmet financial obligations, for library fines, or for academic progress issues. Students will not be permitted to register until satisfactory arrangements have been made with the appropriate office; an exception applies for those receiving VA benefits, according to the conditions described in the "TUITION AND FEES" section of this *Handbook*.

DSPT students are required to meet with their academic advisor each semester in order to plan both course selection and program goals, and will be unable to register until this meeting has occurred. If planning to take a restricted class, students must contact the instructor and the DSPT Registrar in order to register.

All registration materials must be returned to the Registrar before the end of the registration period and may include:

- The DSPT Contact Information Update (online form)
- Acknowledgement of Receipt of New Student Orientation Packet
- Consent to Release Grades and Transcripts
- Special Reading Course form

Students may verify their registration in Populi. Prior to and during the first two weeks of the semester, students may make changes in enrollment (adding a class, dropping a class, changing units, or grading option) using Populi. Once the add/drop period ends (on the second Friday of the semester), students no longer have access to the Populi registration schedule change screens. To make enrollment changes after this, students must submit a completed [Change in Enrollment Form](#) to the DSPT Registrar.

Tuition and fees are due upon enrollment in classes. Students may view their account balance in [Populi](#). Tuition and fees may be paid by cash, check, or online using Populi. Checks should be made payable to DSPT and placed in the Chief Financial Officer's mailbox located in the DSPT reception area or mailed c/o Chief Financial Officer to DSPT, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA, 94708. Populi payment options include credit card and e-check. Students with questions about their account balance may contact the Chief Financial Officer (see Section VIII: School Phone Directory, at the end of this *Handbook*).

RELIGIOUS STUDENT FORMATION EVALUATION

Those who are charged with the formation of DSPT students who belong to a particular religious institute may ask the faculty to evaluate their students. Such requests must be made

through the office of the Academic Dean. The request must be submitted by the tenth week of the semester and should include the specific reason(s) for the request. Completed forms, provided by the particular religious institution, will be distributed to the Faculty and then returned to the Academic Dean at the end of the semester and forwarded to the appropriate formation personnel.

REPLACEMENT DIPLOMA

A replacement diploma may be ordered from the Office of the Registrar in situations where the original diploma has been lost or damaged. Replacement diplomas will be reissued in the format currently used and will bear the signatures of the current President and Academic Dean. Please allow for up to 30 days for replacement diploma to arrive from the date the request is received to process. Requestors will be notified via email when the diploma has been mailed.

The name on the replacement diploma will be identical to the name that was listed in the Commencement Bulletin in the year the degree was received. The cost for ordering a replacement diploma is \$40.00 and checks/money orders should be made payable to DSPT and enclosed with the Request form. In addition, a replacement request will not be processed if there are outstanding financial obligations to DSPT.

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

Students who intend to use human subjects as part of their research (e.g., qualitative research, such as interviewing) must develop a "Human Subjects Protocol" to ensure that human subjects will be treated in a manner consistent with their dignity and autonomy, that they consent freely and in an informed manner to participate in the research, and that they are either not at risk or are protected from any risks or harms posed by the research. Consult the Academic Dean for details about the process.

If a protocol is required, students must receive approval from the Academic Dean. Approval must occur prior to beginning the research, normally as soon as possible following certification of foreign language and the formation of the thesis committee, but prior to submitting the thesis proposal for the committee's approval.

RESEARCH READINESS PAPER AND REVIEW

The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) and RRP Review help students, advisors, and Department Faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, the RRP is a prerequisite for submitting any thesis proposal. Students may use the Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2 to assist them in completing the RRP. The RRP Review is conducted as follows:

- a) *Professor review.* The student makes a request to a professor that a 15-20 page paper (i.e., of approx. 3,750 to 5,000 words, not counting notes or bibliography), written as part of the normal class requirements for one of the professor's courses that semester, be designated as the student's RRP. The student should make this request **early** in the semester. At the designated time, the student submits the paper to the professor for review by uploading it in the RRP course in Watermark SLL.
- b) *Advisor review.* The professor returns the graded paper and completed RRP Form to the

student, who gives them to the faculty advisor. If the student's RRP is not satisfactory, the professor must alert the advisor and student. Students whose RRP is deemed unsatisfactory must submit for review a different research paper, and must pass the professor review, before any thesis proposal can be approved.

- c) *Department review.* All items are summarized by the advisor at the Department discussion of the student. Any comments from the Faculty discussion about the RRP will be included in a written summary of the discussion presented to the student and kept in the portfolio.

Students enrolled in any thesis option are encouraged to use the RRP to explore areas of interest related to their thesis research, and may incorporate any parts of their RRP into their thesis, if those parts can appropriately contribute to it.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students are expected to make ongoing progress toward the completion of their degree programs. In order to ensure Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), students are regularly reviewed by the Academic Dean according to the following criteria:

1. Concerning course load: students in the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts (Philosophy), or Master of Arts (Theology) programs must complete an average of at least six units of course work per Fall and Spring semester.
2. Concerning time in the program:
 - a. Students are expected to remain within the maximum time limit for each degree program as defined in the "Academic Programs & Requirements" section of this *Handbook*. Exceptions to this policy may be made for special circumstances (serious illness, etc.) by the Academic Dean.
 - b. Master of Arts students who are registered for "In Thesis" units, whether as part of program requirement or while on "In Continuation" Status, are expected to make regular progress on their thesis. At the end of each Fall and Spring semester, the Academic Dean will consult with the thesis coordinator to ensure that the student has made satisfactory academic progress.
3. Concerning grades:
 - a. When making determinations about Satisfactory Academic Progress, the Academic Dean reviews all coursework that appears on a DSPT transcript.
 - b. In Master of Arts (MA) programs, students must maintain a 3.0 (B) or better GPA. A grade of "B" (3.0) or better is necessary in all courses used to satisfy core requirements in the program.
 - c. In the Master of Divinity program, students must maintain a 2.3 (C+) or better GPA.

- d. A single grade of "I" (Incomplete), if made up within the three-week time allotment at the end of the semester, does not affect Satisfactory Academic Progress or GPA. However, if the work is not made up within the allotted time, Satisfactory Academic Progress may be affected: when two or more reports of "Incomplete," or one "I" plus one grade of "F," or two or more grades of "F" appear on a transcript, students are notified by the Academic Dean of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress.
 - e. Students whose academic reports contain two or more grades of "W" (Withdrawn) will be required to submit a written explanation to the Academic Dean, which will be used to determine whether or not the student meets SAP standards.
 - f. Exceptions to this policy may be made for special circumstances by the Academic Dean.
4. Concerning portfolio requirements: students are responsible for ensuring that all portfolio requirements for each degree program are fulfilled as described in the "Student Portfolio Program" section of this *Handbook*. Portfolios are reviewed annually by the Academic Dean to ensure that they are up to date.

Students are also reviewed periodically by the respective department, as described in the student assessment program.

MA students who are classified as "continuing" students (those who have fulfilled the tuition residency requirement but have not completed all program requirements) are considered to be making satisfactory progress if, at the end of each semester in which they are in "continuing registration status," the Academic Dean, in consultation with their director, certifies this to be the case. The maximum number of semesters of continuing registration status allowed is determined by the remaining time a student has left before reaching the maximum time limit for the program.

For any student not making Satisfactory Academic Progress, the following occur:

- a. The student is automatically placed on academic warning and financial aid warning during the next semester, and is so informed in writing by the Academic Dean. Academic and financial aid warning status lasts for a period of one semester, during which the student may continue to receive financial aid.
- b. If the grade situation is not remedied by the beginning of the next semester, the student is automatically placed on academic probation and is so informed in writing by the Academic Dean. A student on academic probation loses eligibility for aid unless the student successfully appeals for aid eligibility and is placed on financial aid probation. Students on academic probation must submit a written academic plan to the Dean that describes in detail the steps to be taken to remedy the grade situation (see "Maintaining Eligibility for Federal Aid" in section V, below, for information on appeals). Students on academic probation are prohibited from registering for further coursework until this academic plan is approved.

- c. If the grade situation of a student on academic probation in a given semester is not remedied by the close of the late registration period for the following semester, the student is administratively withdrawn from the School, and is so informed in writing by the Academic Dean.

Exceptions to this policy may be made for grave circumstances by the Academic Dean.

DSPT is required by law to submit a report to the Federal Government on the satisfactory academic progress of all students who receive federal assistance. Unsatisfactory progress may affect financial aid eligibility. Students should be aware that the status or report of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress may also affect the status of current student loans (see “Maintaining Eligibility for Federal Aid” in section V, below).

SPECIAL READING COURSES

As an exception to the normal cycle of course offerings, Special Reading Courses (SRCs) may be arranged between an individual student who is enrolled in a DSPT program and a DSPT professor. An SRC is intended to address one of the following issues:

- to allow the student to pursue an area of study of specific interest not normally available in the schedule of regular course offerings; in this case, no more than two such SRC courses are permitted;
- as the means to upgrade a regularly scheduled introductory or intermediate class to an advanced level, by completing additional work assigned by the professor.

Any SRCs for DSPT degree students may proceed only with the approval of the DSPT Academic Dean. Core courses required for a degree program may not be fulfilled by a special reading course, except by special permission of the Academic Dean. Approval by the Academic Dean on the SRC form does not constitute approval for fulfillment of a program requirement. First-year students would not normally receive permission for an SRC course (“upgrades” excluded). For any proposed SRC, the student should contact the professor, make the necessary arrangements, complete the [*Special Reading Course Form*](#), obtain the signatures of the faculty, advisor and DSPT Academic Dean, and submit the form to the DSPT Registrar during the Registration period. Students should register online for the reading course using the course number SRC-9999-01 for an arranged special reading course or course number SRC-8888-01 to upgrade a regularly scheduled course. The special reading course will appear on the transcript as SRC-9999 or SRC-8888.

Students should be aware that a DSPT faculty member receives no additional compensation for offering special reading courses. Therefore, students should not ask a professor to offer a special reading course for a class that the professor regularly teaches. Rather, students should attend closely to the cycling of courses so that core requirements can be properly fulfilled for their degree program. Furthermore, since SRCs ordinarily require substantial attention and work on the part of faculty members in addition to their regular duties, students should not presume that a potential faculty instructor will agree to offer a requested SRC.

STUDENT STATUS

Student Status impacts several things: a) eligibility for Federal grants and loans, and deferment of outstanding student loans; b) eligibility for DSPT scholarship and grant-in-aid awards; and c) health care options.

DSPT offers a Certificate of Philosophical Studies and a Certificate of Theological Studies, and three graduate degrees: Master of Arts (Philosophy), Master of Arts (Theology), and Master of Divinity. Students who matriculate in one of these programs are classified as Regular Students. All other students are classified as Special Students.

Regular students are further classified as either full-time (FT) or part-time (PT) as follows:

1. *For Federal loan and health care purposes*, students who register for 12 units or more per semester (Fall and Spring) are classified as FT. Those who register for less than 12 units are classified as PT. Those who register for 6 units in Fall or Spring are classified as Half Time.

Students who have deferred education loans or who wish to apply for Federal financial assistance **must** be classified as at least Half Time in this category, i.e. register for *at least* 6 semester units. Students enrolled less than Half Time are ineligible for Federal aid and loan payments will be reactivated. To be eligible for Federal Financial Aid for the Summer term, students must be enrolled at in at least 3 units, which is considered Half Time.

For the purpose of loan eligibility, students who wish to take an intersession or summer course and wish to have those units applied towards the total number of units in the semester immediately following, e.g. a 3-unit course offered in a January intersession counted towards the total units of the following spring semester, may do so with the **written permission of the DSPT Academic Dean prior to registration for that course**. No more than one 3.0 semester unit course may be counted in this manner.

Students who are “In Continuation” are not eligible to receive Federal financial aid.

2. *For program completion purposes*, the number of full-time semesters required is calculated based upon completing an *average* of up to 12 units per semester. Students in full-time studies should normally plan to take between 9 and 13.5 units, and normally should take no more than 15 units in any semester. Thus, students who register for at least 9 units or more in a given semester are classified as FT (with respect to program completion); those taking less than nine units in a semester are classified as PT. For example, the Master of Arts program requires 48 units total of coursework and Graduate Seminar work; assuming an average rate of 12 units per semester, the anticipated time to completion is four semesters (2 years). The Concurrent MAPH/MATh option requires 63 units total, counting coursework, Graduate Seminar work, and “In Thesis” credit; since only 60 units can be completed in five semesters at the average rate of 12 units per semester, the overall program requires six semesters (3 years).
3. *For DSPT scholarship and grant-in-aid awards*, institutional aid awarded to a student covers

the stated number of tuition units required for their program (e.g., 48 units for the MAPH program or MATH program, or 63 units for the concurrent MAPH/MATH option). Awards are based on the total required units for their program.

Students in the Master of Divinity program who are doing a pastoral internship year are considered FT. As such, they normally must register for FE 2021 “Pastoral Ministry Internship Part 1” in the Fall semester and FE 2022 “Pastoral Ministry Internship Part 2” in the Spring semester.

Another student status type is called “**Continuing Registration**” (also called “**In Continuation**”). Please see the section “Tuition Residency Requirement and Continuation Status” below for complete details.

Any change in student status (from FT to PT, PT to FT, or to “In Continuation”) must be approved by both the student’s advisor and the Academic Dean. In order to change status, the student must complete a general petition form and submit it to the Dean. DSPT monitors student status according to the above definitions because it is required by law to report the current student status to the Federal Government each semester (see “Satisfactory Academic Progress”).

SUMMER, INTERNSHIP, AND FOREIGN STUDY PROGRAMS

Students who wish to receive academic credit from DSPT for special academic or pastoral programs (summer programs, foreign study, or residency years of supervised pastoral internship work) must have the approval of the Academic Dean before undertaking such activities. For more on foreign study programs, see the section on “Study Abroad Programs” later in this document.

TEACH-OUT POLICY

This Teach-Out policy provides guidance and guarantees fairness and transparency for DSPT faculty, staff, and students in the event that a DSPT program or option is discontinued.

Decisions about discontinuing any program or option of a program will be considered by the appropriate faculty department (Philosophy or Theology Department, as applicable) as well as the Regular Faculty, the Board of Directors, and the President, in a manner outlined in the Statutes and Bylaws of the School.

While a decision is under consideration, new student enrollment will be suspended. When a final vote is taken to discontinue a program, new student enrollment in that program will cease. Marketing will be cancelled and any current campaigns withdrawn. The program will be considered to be in a Teach-Out phase.

The Academic Dean will conduct an audit to ascertain which parts of the program need to be available to ensure that all enrolled students are able to complete the program. The Dean, along with the relevant Department Chair and any Program Coordinator, as applicable, will design a course schedule to allow for program completion; some Special Reading Courses (SRCs) may be

necessary. This schedule will define the maximum completion time and Teach-Out date. Students will be expected to enroll in the courses according to the schedule; DSPT need not offer the courses multiple times.

Students may be unable to complete the program if they fail a course which is then discontinued, or if they are dismissed from the program for failing to make satisfactory academic progress. Students who take a leave of absence must appeal for re-entry, which will be contingent upon the availability of courses to ensure program completion during Teach-Out.

Students in the Teach-Out program may continue to receive student benefits, such as advising and financial aid (if applicable), as long as they are enrolled at the School, according to the usual conditions.

THESIS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Thesis Proposal. The thesis proposal gives students an opportunity to show an ability to organize a project of disciplined inquiry, according to a methodology specific to their program, into a brief, coherent proposal. It is highly recommended, and generally expected, that the chosen topic be related to coursework already done by the student so that there is at least a basic knowledge in the research area. A prerequisite for submission of a thesis proposal is the successful completion of the RRP. Students in a program requiring a thesis enroll in the Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2 (offered in two parts of 1.5 units each), typically during their first year of studies, to assist them in completing the RRP, to help them conduct focused academic research and writing, and to develop their competence in areas in which they intend to develop their thesis proposal and thesis. The thesis proposal must be submitted no later than the **third semester** in the program. Students should consult the degree requirements section for any specific program requirements for the thesis proposal.

Before writing the proposal, students should review and carefully follow the guidelines described in the [Navigating through the Requirements for the MA Programs](#). A detailed description of the proposal format is found in the [Thesis Proposal Guidelines](#), which should be carefully followed. There are also samples of “successful” thesis proposals available for review in the Registrar’s Office.

In addition to the proposal, students must also submit a signed [Thesis Proposal Petition](#), which proposes the thesis committee membership. There must be three faculty on the thesis committee. The coordinator must be a member of the DSPT Regular Faculty. The first and second readers may come from DSPT, the GTU, UC Berkeley, or another accredited institution of higher learning as determined in discussion with the proposed coordinator. For faculty outside of the GTU, a *curriculum vitae* showing the terminal degree earned by the proposed reader should be submitted with the proposal. Students should consult their proposed coordinator to ensure that the proposed committee members have expertise in the areas needed for evaluating the thesis. Faculty consent to serve on a committee, as indicated by their signatures on the *Thesis Proposal Petition*, indicates that they have read the proposal and believe that it is practicable and appropriate for the Master’s level, with a clear thesis statement. For this

reason, faculty must be given sufficient time to review the proposal and offer feedback.

Students submit the proposal and signed *Thesis Proposal Petition* to the Department chair (or, for the CCMA, to the Academic Dean), who submits it to the Academic Dean for filing. The Dean then communicates the result to the student and coordinator. The thesis committee coordinator cannot be changed without the permission of the Department chair (or Dean, for the CCMA). Once approved, the thesis coordinator becomes the student's academic advisor.

Students whose native language is other than English may write their thesis in that language provided that:

- the proposed coordinator of the thesis is competent in the language;
- there are two other committee members who are competent in the language;
- at least one member of the proposed committee is sufficiently competent in the language to correct grammar and syntax.

Students wishing to take advantage of this policy must indicate this fact in their proposal in the description of their suggestions for the faculty director and committee members.

Sometimes, after a proposal is approved, the student's further research changes direction, such that the final thesis submitted does not quite match the project or thesis statement envisioned in the proposed thesis. This is okay, and in this case the student does not need to revise or resubmit a proposal once one has been approved. A change in direction, however, should only be taken under the guidance and approval of the thesis coordinator, who may suggest communicating with the readers.

Thesis and Oral Defense. The two basic goals for a master's thesis are to demonstrate academic research and writing skills, and to argue coherently and conclusively for a thesis. In a most general sense, the student is expected to demonstrate (1) a knowledge of the major works published on the subject matter central to the thesis, and appropriate primary & secondary source materials, including relevant current discussions; and (2) the proper application of this knowledge to argue clearly and convincingly for the thesis.

The thesis is to be written according to the standards prescribed in the most recent edition of *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian. A comprehensive bibliography of the appropriate sources and modern treatments of the subject matter of the thesis should be included in the final copy.

The criteria for evaluation of both thesis and oral defense are listed in the [Master of Arts – Thesis Review Form](#). Students should familiarize themselves with the evaluation criteria listed in these two documents before beginning work on either the thesis proposal or the thesis.

The oral defense provides an opportunity to demonstrate not only acquired knowledge and insight, but also oral communication skills. The written thesis must be successfully defended by

an oral exam conducted by the coordinator and the assigned readers. The defense is expected to be in person. In extraordinary circumstances, a student may petition the dean for permission for a remote defense. Normally, the defense shall not exceed ninety minutes in length. Each thesis is to be defended, passed and filed by the deadlines posted on the [DSPT Academic Calendar](#). Students are responsible to see that a copy of the thesis to be defended is in the hands of the Coordinator and Readers **at least three weeks** before the scheduled defense. Members of a committee are not obliged to meet during breaks in the academic calendar.

In preparing for the oral defense, students must schedule the defense through the DSPT Registrar's Office. The Registrar verifies that defending students have an approved [Statement of Intent to Graduate](#) on file and are in good standing with the Business Office and the GTU Library. Students are reminded that DSPT Faculty are not required to serve during breaks in the academic calendar (i.e., Christmas Break through January, or summer). Students who wish to avoid paying tuition for a subsequent semester must complete the "[MA Thesis/Exam Filing Extension Agreement Form](#)" and successfully defend their thesis by the stated deadline.

Students must print out and bring to the defense the [Master of Arts – Thesis Defense Form](#), and the [Master of Arts – Thesis Review Form](#). These forms should be given to the thesis committee coordinator at the beginning of the defense. The two forms must then be submitted by the coordinator to the DSPT Registrar within 48 hours of the defense.

A student whose thesis and oral defense are deemed outstanding by all three examiners, may be granted the degree "with honors." In cases where there is no simple majority of the members of the committee as to whether or not the requirements for the thesis have been satisfactorily fulfilled, the department chair shall have the deciding vote. If the department chair is a member of the committee, the Academic Dean shall have the deciding vote. (If both the department chair and Academic Dean are on the committee, the President shall appoint another faculty member to cast the deciding vote.)

DSPT Thesis Title Page. Students in a DSPT MA program that requires a thesis must follow all of the formatting guidelines indicated in the [DSPT webpage "Navigating the Thesis Process."](#)

Thesis Format Approval Form. Once all final corrections have been made, the thesis undergoes one final review by the GTU Library Reference Department to ensure that it meets archival standards. Information about library approval for the MA thesis may be found on the GTU Library website. After the final thesis has been reviewed and approved by the GTU Library, an electronic copy must be submitted to the DSPT Registrar, including the title page with signatures of committee. Students must also upload a copy to "ProQuest" per the instructions from the Registrar. The GTU Library maintains a subscription with ProQuest thus making available for research all theses and dissertations of the GTU community. Three copies of the thesis suitable for binding (two for the GTU Library and one for DSPT) are to be submitted to the Registrar, along with the signed *Library Approval of Thesis Format Form* and [the thesis binding fee](#), by the thesis filing deadline of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.

TRANSCRIPTS

The DSPT Registrar sends out only DSPT transcripts. Transcripts received from other schools are included in a student's academic record and are guarded according to FERPA regulations. In order to have a DSPT transcript sent to another school or a potential place of employment, students must submit a completed Transcript Request form (available from the DSPT website) to the Registrar or request a transcript through their [Populi](#) account. The School must have a written request from the student; a phone call or an email is not sufficient because the School must have a signature authorizing the release of personal information.

TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDIT AND CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS ACADEMIC WORK

Students must submit a [Petition for Credit for Previous Academic Work](#) to the Academic Dean (by email or by paper form turned in at the Registrar's Office) to request any of the following types of credit for previous work:

Transfer of credit means that academic work not used toward a previous degree may be included as part of a DSPT degree program. Transferred credits appear on the DSPT transcript and become part of the permanent record. Transfer of credit does not mean that the transferred courses will be counted for specific core course and/or distribution requirements in a DSPT academic program. Rather, all transferred courses are counted as electives unless there is also a petition for advanced standing (see below). Transfer of credit may not normally exceed the following limits: 21 semester units in the MA (Philosophy) program or the MA (Theology) program, 27 semester units in the concurrent MA degree option, and 36 semester units in the MDiv program. Normally, credits more than seven years old may not be transferred. The final determination of eligibility for transfer is made by the Academic Dean.

When transferring quarter units, the total number of quarter units is multiplied by two-thirds to obtain the number of semester units; e.g., 18 quarter units equals 12 semester units. Units transferred from accredited institutions outside of the U.S. will be received based on the institution. In general, credits transferred from institutions using the ECTS system will be calculated on a 2:1 ratio (ECTS : DOE-US).

Credits taken in accordance with the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) and GTU cross registration agreement (see "Cross Registration" below) are not considered transfer credits and do not count toward these limits.

Advanced standing or course waiver means that a student is exempted from one or more specific program core and/or distribution requirements based on prior academic work. By itself, advanced standing only exempts the student from a specified requirement. It does not provide credit toward the degree unless transfer of credit is also requested and granted (see above). Thus, any semester units represented by the requirement from which the student is exempted are to be replaced by elective units earned either in the subdiscipline of the exempted course or in the overall discipline of the degree program (i.e., in philosophy for the MAPH, or in a theological discipline for the MATH or MDiv). The Academic Dean may require the student to take an examination before advanced standing is granted for previous work.

Tuition credit means that transferred credit is counted toward the total number of tuition units required in a certain degree program and thus reduces the total tuition expected for the program.

There are two general categories of transfer: 1) transfer of work done *prior to* matriculation at DSPT; and 2) transfer of work done *while matriculated*, typically through cross registration at one of our partnering schools, namely, UC Berkeley, Angelicum (Rome), Blackfriars (Oxford), or Dominican University (Ottawa). In the former case, transfer evaluation is handled as described in this section, and grades for transferred work are listed on the student transcript but are **not** included in the calculation of GPA. In the latter case, transfer is handled directly through the office of the Academic Dean, and all grades **are included** in the calculation of the student GPA.

Decisions about credit for previous academic work are generally made by the DSPT Admissions Committee at the time of admission, and are communicated in the letter of acceptance. If a request for transfer of credit is made after admission, the same criteria are applied and a decision is made by the Academic Dean, after consultation with the Registrar and the relevant department Chair.

For coursework completed prior to matriculation at DSPT, evaluations are based on the evidence of student transcripts, school catalogues, course syllabi, and examples of the course work, as these items are available. Normally, credits more than seven years old may not be transferred.

In all cases, students must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean that requests the transfer of *individual courses* into the DSPT program. The credited coursework is not automatically transferred, and cannot be done without this written petition.

Criteria for Eligibility. In decisions regarding the awarding of credit for academic work done at other educational institutions, consideration is given to the quality of the institution at which the work was done, the comparability of the content and level of the work to parallel course work at DSPT (where applicable) or to generally accepted academic standards. Consideration is also given to the relationship of the academic work to the program of studies at DSPT. Normally, courses must be from an accredited institution, be graduate level, and equate to 3 semester units. In exceptional cases, courses with lesser (or greater) unit-value and/or upper division undergraduate courses may be transferred to DSPT MA degree programs.

There are three types of institutions from which credits may be transferred:

1. Accredited Institutions. The School readily grants credit for work done at accredited institutions, provided that the work meets generally accepted academic standards and is broadly appropriate to the DSPT program. A higher degree of stringency is exercised when granting permission for transfer of credit (including advanced standing) for core courses than for electives.

2. Non-accredited Institutions. The School does not normally recognize academic work done at non-accredited institutions. Under certain circumstances, however, the School may consider such petitions provided that students are able to provide documentation as to the quality, purpose, and possible reasons for lack of institutional accreditation.

3. Foreign Institutions. The School is particularly concerned to ensure that the quality of academic work accepted for credit from a foreign institution is comparable to commonly accepted standards in the United States. When submitting a petition for transfer of credit from foreign institutions, students must also provide information that allows the Academic Dean to ensure that completed coursework was done at an academic level comparable to DSPT standards. Course descriptions, syllabi, and examples of student work are reviewed as these are available. European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) units are generally accepted at a ratio of 2 ECTS units per 1 semester unit. Grade interpretation should normally be included on the official transcript. In those cases where there is no interpretation provided, the Academic Dean will make the determination according to published tables. In cases of doubt, the School may utilize the evaluation services of the National Association for Foreign Students Affairs, 1860 19th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009.

4. Extra-Institutional and Experiential Learning. The School does not give credit for extra-institutional or experiential learning. It does recognize the General Education Development (GED) Testing Program as a valid way of demonstrating high school equivalency. Other instances of extra-institutional learning, such as credit for courses offered by the military, are determined on a case-by-case basis, making use of the services of the American Council on Education's Office of Educational Credit, where applicable.

TUITION RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND CONTINUING REGISTRATION STATUS

Students in the MA degree programs meet the "tuition residency requirement" once they have registered for and paid tuition equivalent to the 48 required units. Students in the concurrent MA (Philosophy)/ MA (Theology) degree option meet the tuition residency requirement once they have registered for and paid tuition equivalent to the 63 required units.

After having registered and paid the full amount of tuition for all the courses required for their program, students are *automatically* classified in "continuation registration" and remain so until the completion of their program. Students in "continuation registration" are considered part-time and register for 6 semester units of "In Continuation" (MA 5000) until they successfully defend their thesis. Continuing students pay a flat tuition rate each semester. The maximum number of semesters of continuing registration status allowed is determined by the time a student has left before reaching the maximum time limit for the program. If not all course requirements have been met, then students may register for additional course units accordingly, up to 12 units per semester.

Students who have completed program requirements and who wish to avoid paying tuition for a subsequent semester must complete the [MA Thesis/Exam Filing Extension Agreement Form](#) and successfully defend their thesis before the filing deadline indicated on the form. Please see the

section on the Filing Extension Agreement for details.

WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal from a class. To withdraw from a class, a student must complete and obtain all signatures on a [Change in Enrollment](#) form available at the DSPT website, or from the Registrar. Classes dropped after the fourth week of the semester will be recorded on the transcript with a grade of “W” (Withdrawal).

Withdrawal from a program. Withdrawal from a DSPT program is intended to be an irreversible decision, which formally severs the relationship between the student and DSPT. All committees are dissolved, and faculty are under no obligation to continue any working relationship with the student. There are two types of withdrawal: 1) student-initiated withdrawal; or 2) administrative withdrawal.

1. Students may choose to withdraw from a program by completing the DSPT [Petition to Withdraw from School](#) form available at the DSPT website, or from the Registrar. The request should specify the reasons for the withdrawal.

2. Students who fail to register, to request a leave, or to formally withdraw from the program by the end of the Late Registration period will be administratively withdrawn from their program. Students who have failed to make Satisfactory Academic Progress for two consecutive semesters will also be administratively withdrawn (see previous section on SAP). A student who has been administratively terminated may petition for reinstatement within two years. This process will be the same as for withdrawn students.

Request for Reinstatement. Students who have withdrawn or have been withdrawn from a degree program may petition for reinstatement within two years. Such petitions are extraordinary; there is no guarantee of a right to re-enter.

- a) The faculty committee will have been formally dissolved; faculty are under no obligation to return to the committee.
- b) Language exams passed more than seven years prior to reinstatement will have to be re-validated; the process of re-validation is determined by the Academic Dean.
- c) In questions of protocol, it will be assumed that the reinstated student will be bound by the *DSPT Student Handbook* and policies current at the time of reinstatement.
- d) If reinstated, students will be liable for the administrative leave of absence fee for the period of inactivity, as well as the reinstatement fee.

Two years after having withdrawn or been withdrawn, students requesting reinstatement must reapply through the admissions process. They would normally be required to redo or re-certify all work more than seven years old.

Return of Title IV Federal Aid

The Financial Aid Office is required to perform a Return of Title IV (R2T4) calculation when a student withdraws from all coursework prior to the scheduled end date of any given semester/payment period. The standard formula for R2T4 is based on the withdrawal date, calculated on a percentage basis by comparing the total number of days the student completed to the total number of days in the payment period. The payment period is defined as the semester from which the student withdraws. Official and unofficial withdrawal dates are defined as the last documented date of academically-related activity by the student as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. If an R2T4 calculation return creates a balance due on the student's school account, the student will be responsible for payment to the school. The student will not be allowed to reenter or register until the outstanding balance has been paid in full.

In accordance with federal regulations, if a student is eligible for a refund of tuition and fees and housing/meal plan costs, and the student is a Title IV aid recipient for the enrollment period, the refund will be returned to the student aid programs. Returned Title IV Funds are allocated in the following order: 1) Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford loans; 2) Federal Direct PLUS received on behalf of the student.

WRITING FORMATTING POLICIES

Theses and other papers submitted to fulfill portfolio requirements are expected to follow the standards prescribed in the most recent edition of *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian.

Students are required to use Microsoft Word for theses and other portfolio requirements. Faculty may also include in their syllabi a requirement to use Microsoft software to complete course assignments.

SECTION IV: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & REQUIREMENTS

ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO

DSPT has the resources to serve the needs of a wide variety of students by providing graduate degree programs in philosophy, and graduate and professional degree programs in theology.

An integral part of monitoring student achievement is the DSPT student **assessment portfolio**. Each student must complete all portfolio requirements of their degree program in order to graduate. Faculty use the information in the portfolio to monitor student progress and as a guideline for the Faculty Department discussion of each student.

The “success” of the portfolio program relies upon an ongoing interaction between the student and advisor. By emphasizing student-based initiative, these procedures help students take full advantage of the vast resources of DSPT, the Graduate Theological Union, and the University of California, Berkeley.

By providing a structure for clearly articulating and carefully monitoring standards of academic excellence, the portfolio program allows the School to determine program effectiveness and improvement. In this way, the portfolio system becomes a means to dynamically assess the student’s individual needs, and to develop a helpful response to those needs.

Students will gain the most from the relationship with their advisor to the extent that they are knowledgeable of the portfolio program. Each student is personally responsible for ensuring that all elements of the degree program are fulfilled, which includes both academic and portfolio requirements. Students cannot graduate unless all portfolio requirements have been fulfilled. By meeting regularly with the advisor (minimally, during registration and at the beginning of each semester) to review elements of the portfolio, students determine:

- how well they are grasping the learning objectives of their program;
- the particular area(s) of study and/or research that require further focus or attention;
- how well the program is helping them achieve their personal goals.

Student Learning and Licensure (SLL) e-Portfolio. As of Fall 2024, all students are required to use the SLL e-portfolio system provided by Watermark to track and share with their advisor their progress toward satisfying portfolio requirements. Instructions for logging into and using SLL will be provided.

For questions, consult with the Academic Dean or the Registrar.

Meeting with the Academic Advisor. Before the first meeting with their academic advisor, students should review the original statement of purpose from their admissions application. They are also encouraged to use the [*Initial Student Self-Evaluation*](#) as a tool to focus their ideas

about personal hopes in the program, and to use these ideas as the basis for the first meeting with the advisor.

At subsequent meetings, they should always bring a copy of the *DSPT Guide for Academic Advising Sessions* and an updated program requirements checklist for their program. This checklist should be reviewed along with the most recent grade report (provided by the Registrar) in light of the personal goals described at the beginning of the program. In this way, students monitor not only their progress in coursework, but also how the overarching program and institutional goals align with their personal educational objectives.

DSPT Faculty are not required to serve during breaks in the academic calendar, i.e., from the Christmas break through January, or summer.

Maintenance of the Portfolio. Certain elements of the portfolio program are common to many academic degrees offered at DSPT. These are summarized here; detailed descriptions are provided in the documents themselves. Students work together with their advisor, using the Portfolio Checklist corresponding to the student's program, to ensure that these elements are included in the portfolio:

1. An Entering Student Questionnaire (ESQ), which must be completed during the first semester of the student's program (the DSPT Registrar will contact each student).
2. Faculty Department Review. Each student in a degree program will be discussed once in a detailed manner by the Faculty in the department in which the student is enrolled. The small size of DSPT provides Faculty with an opportunity to know students well and to create a common plan to support the development of each one. Focusing on the institutional goals of DSPT, guidelines (rubrics) have been created for these discussions which serve to create a common frame of reference for both Students and Faculty. Students should review the [Rubric for assessing student skills related to Institutional Goals](#) so that they can understand what is expected of them throughout their time at DSPT. Using the [Department Discussion of Student Progress Form](#), the advisor forwards the results of these discussions for filing in the student portfolio, so that the student's progress can be documented.
3. Written Work. By the end of the **first year**, students in the MAPH program or MATH program must submit to their academic advisor a Research Readiness Paper (RRP, described in detail in section III, above), which they believe displays their best work, and which reflects engagement of the DSPT institutional goals and outcomes. A second paper is either the MA thesis (for students in any program option requiring a thesis) or the Capstone Research Paper (for students in the Exam Option of the MAPH or MATH programs).
4. A Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ), which must be completed during the final spring semester of the student's program (the DSPT Registrar will contact each student).

THE MASTER OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHY) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The Master of Arts (Philosophy) program (MAPh) helps students develop knowledge in both the history of philosophy and systematic philosophy. Students learn to place these traditions in critical dialogue with modern and contemporary philosophical thought.

Depending upon their personal goals, students pursue one of two options. Recommended for those with an interest in advanced graduate studies, the *Thesis Option* allows students to explore a focused area of academic research on a particular topic of interest through elective coursework and a written thesis. An oral defense of that thesis provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate skills in oral communication. Students who enroll in the *Exam Option* integrate their knowledge in both history and systematic philosophy with a chosen area of interest; these students also complete the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, providing them an opportunity to examine focused topics of interest in a collaborative learning environment.

The MAPH degree is a two-year program which requires a total of 48 semester units, distributed as described below. The maximum time permitted for the completion of the program is four years computed from the date of initial registration in the program. All students in the MAPH program are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA. A grade of “B” (3.0) or better is necessary in all courses used to satisfy core requirements in the program.

Resources for Planning. In planning their sequence of studies, with the guidance of their advisor, students should check not only this *Handbook*, but also the DSPT website to consult the [Course Descriptions](#) page for the contents of course offerings and the *Multi-Year Projection for Cycled Courses* (on the [Student Forms](#) webpage) to ascertain the semester during which each course may become available. For specific offerings available for registration during the current or upcoming semester, they should consult the [Current Courses](#) page at DSPT’s website and the online [GTU Course Schedule](#). Students should work with their advisor in planning courses as outlined here and in the [MAPh Program Requirements Checklist](#).

Graduate Seminar Courses. All MA Philosophy Students participate in the Graduate Seminar courses in the ways described below for each program option. Meeting periodically throughout the year, the Graduate Seminar provides students with an opportunity, under the direction of Regular Faculty, to discuss their research and engage in philosophical conversation in a collaborative learning environment, to sharpen their listening and communication skills, and to integrate the philosophy program objectives with the mission and goals of the School.

Changing Options. Students in the MAPH program who wish to switch from one option to another must first contact their academic advisor, who will present the request to the Philosophy Department for final approval.

Written Samples for the Assessment Portfolio. As noted above in the section on the assessment portfolio, each student is to submit two research papers during the course of the

academic program: 1) Research Readiness Paper (see section III, above); and 2) either the Capstone Research Paper (for students in the MAPH, Exam Option) or the MA thesis (for those in the MAPH, Thesis Option). These papers must be written according to the standards prescribed in the most recent edition of *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian.

MA (Philosophy), Thesis Option: Detailed Program Description

Program Outcomes. In addition to the stated institutional goals, students in the MA (Philosophy), Thesis Option develop:

1. A comprehensive knowledge of the history of the Western philosophical tradition;
2. A detailed understanding of systematic philosophy;
3. An ability to integrate historical and systematic knowledge in a chosen area of interest.
4. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing.
5. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions.

To demonstrate achievement of program outcomes, students fulfill all its requirements, including the completion of:

1. a thesis proposal that articulates and effectively communicates clear goals and outcomes for the proposed thesis;
2. a well-written thesis of no more than 80 pages that meets specified criteria, e.g. philosophical knowledge, writing skills, etc.;
3. the thesis proposal, Graduate Seminar Capstone course presentation, and oral defense, with the thesis itself, to demonstrate their skills for collaborative learning, and to demonstrate an ability
 - to listen attentively to input from peers and faculty on questions or points of disagreement, and
 - to formulate responses which incorporate issues raised.

Coursework and Other Requirements. Courses and requirements in the Master of Arts (Philosophy), Thesis Option, are sequenced to provide a formation in both Systematic Philosophy and the History of Philosophy. In both areas, an ordered sequence ensures that students proceed from introductory courses to intermediate and advanced work. In Systematic Philosophy, courses that are conceptually introductory precede those that are more intermediate or advanced. In the History of Philosophy, a chronological sequence is followed.

Other degree requirements are likewise ordered to ensure that the student learns basic skills before proceeding to more advanced ones. The following list summarizes the requirements:

Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2	3 units
Systematic Philosophy	12 units
(Students must take at least four of these six three-unit courses from this area)	
Logic (+)	
Philosophy of Nature (+)	
Philosophical Anthropology (+)	
Metaphysics (+)	
Theory of Knowledge (+)	
Philosophical Ethics (+)	
History of Philosophy	6 units
(Students must take at least two of these four three-unit courses from this area)	
History of Ancient Philosophy (+)	
History of Medieval Philosophy (+)	
History of Modern Philosophy (+)	
History of Contemporary Philosophy (+)	
Elective Courses	24 units
Foreign Language Certification	(0 units)
Research Readiness Paper	(0 units)
Thesis Proposal	(0 units)
Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2	3 units
<u>Thesis Defense & Submission</u>	<u>(0 units)</u>
TOTAL	48 units

Normally, the core (+) courses, four in Systematic Philosophy and two in History of Philosophy, are taken during the first year of studies. No more than 24 units of coursework may come from the introductory (1000) level, and at least two courses must be at the advanced (4000) level. Elective courses are chosen by the student, in consultation with the academic advisor and in keeping with all program requirements, so as to align with the chosen area of thesis research. In consultation with their advisor, students may choose elective courses outside the (PH) area. Normally, not more than two of the elective courses (6 units) can be other than PH classes, and these are subject to the approval of the academic advisor. Exceptions need the approval of the Academic Dean.

The following table outlines a typical sequence of courses and fulfillment of requirements for the MAPH, Thesis Option:

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level
1 st	(Systematic Philosophy Course 1+)	3.0	1-2
1 st	(Systematic Philosophy Course 2+)	3.0	1-2
1 st	(History of Philosophy Course 1+)	3.0	1
1 st	Elective 1	3.0	1-4
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1
2 nd	(Systematic Philosophy Course 3+)	3.0	1-2
2 nd	(Systematic Philosophy Course 4+)	3.0	1-2
2 nd	(History of Philosophy Course 2+)	3.0	1-2
2 nd	Elective 2	3.0	1-4
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
2 nd	Foreign Language Requirement	0	1
3 rd	Elective 3	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 4	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 5	3.0	1-4
3 rd	MA-5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4
3 rd	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4
4 th	Elective 6	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 7	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 8	3.0	1-4
4 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4
4 th	MA-5999 MA Thesis Defense	0	4

MAPh, Thesis Option: Typical Sequence of Courses & Fulfillment of Requirements

Foreign Language Certification. Students in the DSPT MA (Philosophy) *Thesis Option* must demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehension skills in a foreign language. See “Foreign Language Certification and Credit” in section III, above, for a description of how the foreign language requirement can be fulfilled.

Research Readiness Paper and Review. The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) helps students, advisors, and faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, a successful RRP is a *prerequisite for submitting a thesis proposal and must be completed by the end of the first year in the program*. For more details, see “Research Readiness Paper and Review” in section III, above.

Thesis Proposal. The thesis proposal gives students an opportunity to show an ability to organize a project of philosophical inquiry into a brief, coherent proposal. It is highly recommended, and generally expected, that the chosen topic be related to coursework already done by the student so that there is at least a basic knowledge in the research area. It must be

submitted no later than the third semester in the program. *No proposals will be considered until the student has successfully completed the RRP.* Other details on the thesis proposal and thesis proposal petition are listed under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Graduate Seminar Capstone Courses. In the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, required for the MAPH program, students participate in discussions that help them develop their thesis, sharing their research and preliminary conclusions for feedback, culminating in a final presentation. For details, see “Graduate Seminar” in section III, above.

Thesis and Oral Defense. Promotion to the degree of Master of Arts (Philosophy), Thesis Option, requires the successful completion of a written thesis and an oral defense of the thesis. The thesis is to be no more than eighty (80) pages in length (approx. 20,000 words, not counting notes or bibliography). Part of the six semester units of “Graduate Seminar” time is set aside for them for researching and writing their thesis. For further details on the Thesis and Defense, see “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Thesis Format Approval Form. See details under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

MA (Philosophy), Exam Option: Detailed Program Description

Program Outcomes. In addition to the stated institutional goals, students in the MA (Philosophy), Exam Option develop:

1. A comprehensive knowledge of the history of the Western philosophical tradition;
2. A detailed understanding of systematic philosophy;
3. An ability to integrate historical and systematic knowledge in a chosen area of interest.
4. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing.
5. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions.

To demonstrate achievement of program outcomes, students fulfill all its requirements, including the completion of:

1. two research papers by the conclusion of their program which meet specified criteria: the RRP and the Capstone Research Paper, described below;
2. the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, including a presentation of a capstone research paper that synthesizes material from the program, to demonstrate skills for effective communication and collaborative learning, specifically
 - to listen attentively to input from peers and faculty on questions or points of disagreement, and
 - to formulate responses which incorporate issues raised.

Coursework and Other Requirements. Courses and requirements in the Master of Arts (Philosophy), Exam Option, are sequenced in order to provide a formation in both Systematic Philosophy and the History of Philosophy. In both areas, an ordered sequence ensures that students proceed from introductory courses to intermediate and advanced work. In Systematic Philosophy, courses that are conceptually introductory precede those that are more intermediate or advanced. In the History of Philosophy, a chronological sequence is followed. Other degree requirements are likewise ordered to ensure that the student learns basic skills before proceeding to more advanced ones.

The following list summarizes the requirements for the MAPH, Exam Option:

Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2 **3 units**

Systematic Philosophy **18 units**

(Students must take **all the following six courses** from this area)

Logic (+)

Philosophy of Nature (+)

Philosophical Anthropology (+)

Metaphysics (+)

Theory of Knowledge (+)

Philosophical Ethics (+)

History of Philosophy **12 units**

(Students must take **all the following four courses** from this area)

History of Ancient Philosophy (+)

History of Medieval Philosophy (+)

History of Modern Philosophy (+)

History of Contemporary Philosophy (+)

Elective Courses* **12 units**

Research Readiness Paper **(0 units)**

Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2 **3 units**

Capstone Research Paper **(0 units)**

Comprehensive Exam (MAPh Capstone Exam) **(0 units)**

TOTAL **48 units**

Normally, the core (+) courses are taken during the first year of studies (with the exception of final two History of Philosophy courses). No more than 24 units of coursework may come from the introductory (1000) level, and at least two courses must be at the advanced (4000) level. Elective courses are chosen by the student, in consultation with the academic advisor and in keeping with all program requirements, so as to align with the student's chosen area of interest. In consultation with their advisor, students may choose *elective courses outside the (PH) area. Normally not more than two of the elective courses (6 units) can be other than PH classes, and these are subject to the approval of the academic advisor. Exceptions need the approval of the Academic Dean.

The following table outlines a typical sequence of courses and fulfillment of requirements for the MAPH, Exam Option:

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level
1 st	PH-1115 Logic	3.0	1
1 st	PH-1056 Philosophy of Nature	3.0	1
1 st	PH-1009 Philosophical Ethics	3.0	1
1 st	PHHS-1050 History of Philosophy: Ancient	3.0	1
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1
2 nd	PH-1065 Theory Of Knowledge	3.0	1
2 nd	PH-2040 Philosophical Anthropology	3.0	2
2 nd	PH-2050 Metaphysics	3.0	2
2 nd	PHHS-1051 History of Philosophy: Medieval	3.0	1
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
3 rd	PHHS-2000 Modern Philosophy	3.0	2
3 rd	Elective 1*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 2*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4
3 rd	Capstone Research Paper	0	4
4 th	PHHS-2001 Contemporary Philosophy	3.0	2
4 th	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 4*	3.0	1-4
4 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4
4 th	MA-5506 MAPH Examination	0	4

MAPh, Exam Option: Typical Sequence of Courses and Fulfillment of Requirements

Research Readiness Paper and Review. The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) helps students, advisors, and faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, a successful RRP *must be completed by the end of the first year in the program*. For more details, see “Research Readiness Paper and Review” in section III, above.

MAPh, Exam Option Capstone. For students pursuing the Exam option, the **Graduate Seminar** Capstone courses, the Capstone Research Paper, and the Comprehensive Exam (MAPh Capstone Exam) constitute the “capstone event” of the program.

Capstone Research Paper. For students in the MAPH, Exam Option, the second research paper of the portfolio is the Capstone Research Paper. The paper must be 20-25 pages in length (approx. 5,000 to 6,250 words, not counting notes or bibliography) and should show “an *ability to integrate historical and systematic knowledge in a chosen area of interest*.” Students engage a DSPT faculty member to serve as the Reviewer for the paper. The paper may be an expanded version of a research paper (other than the RRP) from a DSPT course or a new research project. If the

topic is from work done for a particular DSPT course, then that instructor would normally be the Reviewer.

The student submits the completed paper to the Reviewer along with the *Capstone Research Paper Evaluation* form. The paper must receive a grade of “B” (3.0) or better to fulfill the Capstone Research Paper requirement. If the grade is lower than “B” (3.0), the student may be required either to write a new paper or to improve the present paper so that it is of sufficient quality to receive a “B” (3.0) grade. The paper is integrated into a presentation for the Graduate Seminar Capstone course.

Graduate Seminar Capstone Courses. In the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, required for the MAPH program, students participate in discussions that help them develop their capstone project, seeking insights concerning ideas and preliminary conclusions related to it, leading to a final presentation. For details, see “Graduate Seminar” in section III, above.

Comprehensive Examination (MAPh Capstone Exam). Students must pass a written comprehensive examination that assesses their general knowledge and ability to integrate philosophical ideas, thus ensuring the achievement of an adequate knowledge of systematic and historical philosophy. It is a three-hour, closed-book exam that takes place at the end of the student’s final academic year in the program. See “Capstone Exams,” in section III, above, for further details.

The exam is prepared by the Philosophy Department Chair, who selects one question from a topic in systematic philosophy and one from historical philosophy from among a set of questions submitted by Faculty. Those Faculty whose questions have been chosen also grade the answers to the two exam questions, submitting the final grade to the Department Chair. Categories for grading are: *pass*, *fail with possibility of retaking the exam*, or *fail without possibility of retaking the exam*. In the case of a disagreement between the professors grading the exam, the academic advisor (or, if someone else is needed, a professor appointed by the Department Chair) becomes a third reader, where the agreement of two of the three suffices for grading. In the case of a grade of “*fail with possibility...*,” the student may petition to retake the exam, answering one new question (in 90 minutes) or two new questions (in three hours) in place of any that were failed (the exam having been prepared by the Department Chair). See “Capstone Exams,” in section III, above, for further details.

CERTIFICATE OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

The Certificate of Philosophical Studies (CPhS) is a non-degree program designed for students who wish to further their academic and/or vocational development by engaging in a program of philosophical study that will enrich their understanding of classical, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy, with emphasis on the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, for bringing philosophical thought into fruitful dialogue with theology. Students can use the Certificate program to clarify their educational objectives by investigating whether a DSPT degree program will help them reach their academic and/or vocational goals. Certificate students who subsequently decide to continue their studies and are accepted into a DSPT degree program may petition to have certificate coursework transferred into that program.

Under the guidance of a DSPT faculty advisor, CPhS students select a program of study that is consonant with personal interests and abilities, or to prepare for applying to a degree program. Religious students early in formation, including those considering applying to the MDiv program (see below), are placed in the “Master of Divinity Preparation” (MDiv Prep) track; other students are placed in the “Academic and Vocational Development” (AVD) track. CPhS students may register for courses Pass/Fail, or for a letter grade. However, any CPhS students who wish to have the coursework available for transfer into a DSPT degree program should register for a letter grade.

To receive the Certificate, students must complete at least four courses (12 semester units); at least three courses (9 semester units) must be from DSPT. The courses may be taken for either a letter grade or Pass/Fail. While students enrolled in the Certificate program may audit courses with permission of the instructor, these do not count towards the certificate requirements.

Those students who subsequently wish to pursue a degree program at DSPT must fulfill all the requirements for admission to the particular program. At the time of acceptance, students are informed by the Admissions Committee regarding retroactive credit for coursework and tuition residency requirements. Once accepted into an academic program, students must petition the Academic Dean to have approved coursework entered into the program.

THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Overview

At DSPT, philosophy and theology are partnered to form a system of inquiry to help address the current needs of both Church and society. Even though many individual courses and areas of study in theology do not necessarily rely upon this partnership, DSPT theology programs do. For this reason, the Master of Divinity degree presumes a strong foundation in philosophy, specifically 18 semester units of prerequisite philosophy coursework.

As a center of studies of the Dominican Order located in the Western Dominican Province, DSPT is obligated to the requirements articulated in the formation documents of these two entities, namely the *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* (RSG) and *Ratio Formationis Generalis* (RFG) from the Order, and the *Ratio Studiorum Particularis* (RSP) and *Ratio Formationis Particularis* (RSP) from the Province. The DSPT curriculum also follows the general requirements of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, which governs the preparation of clerical candidates for dioceses in the United States.

Goals and Outcomes

The goal of the MDiv program is to prepare clerical candidates for general apostolic, ministerial, pastoral, and administrative leadership in the Catholic Church of the United States.

As the *PPF* calls for a priestly formation that is “in communion with Jesus,” enabling “participation in his mission” (see *PPF* nos. 7-9), the outcomes for the MDiv program express how the candidates will develop this communion with Christ and participation in his mission, a mission that is understood as a participation in the three-fold office of Jesus Christ the High Priest, who is Prophet, Priest, and King. Furthermore, as a Center of Studies of the Order of Preachers, DSPT places an emphasis on fostering the prophetic element, while also developing the priestly and kingly aspects. The outcomes also relate to the four pillars of formation for clerical candidates articulated in the *Program of Priestly Formation* (*PPF*), namely: a) intellectual; b) pastoral; c) human; and d) spiritual (see also *RFIS*, n. 1, 3). At DSPT, these pillars are viewed through a lens which encourages a human and graced discipleship with Christ in the context of the ordained priesthood.

The overall focus of these outcomes is to inculcate knowledge of the religious and particularly theological heritage of the Roman Catholic Church; to foster the human and cultural contexts of priestly life; to nurture evangelical characteristics of the priestly following of Christ; and to instill a capacity for ministerial and public leadership.

By the end of the program, students will demonstrate ministerial and pastoral competency through the ability:

1. to communicate simply, accurately, and effectively the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church through preaching, teaching, and writing [*communication*];
2. to analyze, assess, and critique theological perspectives and situations through

scriptural, historical, systematic, and pastoral theological methods, and to assist others in doing the same [*evaluation*];

3. to apply Catholic teaching and theology, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas, to pastoral situations, recognizing both the difficulties and the opportunities they present [*application*];
4. to lead and to work collaboratively with others in a just, charitable, and generous manner, respecting the relevant cultural, social, and ecclesial circumstances, all the while maintaining professional, ethical boundaries [*collaboration*];
5. to foster Church communion, demonstrated through consistent dedication to community life, participation in prayer, and leading others in worship and theological reflection [*Church-uniting*].

The Learning Environment and the Primary Formation Community. The MDiv program presupposes a dynamic learning environment which supports the holistic development of each clerical candidate. The Faculty at DSPT works collaboratively with other entities to ground the discipleship of Christ of the clerical candidate in personal maturity, intellectual accomplishment, and pastoral leadership. In addition to the academic learning community found at DSPT, MDiv students are assigned a Primary Formation Community according to their own particular vocation. Students are normally assigned to the Primary Formation Community by their proper ordinary. For students who are members of WDP this community is normally St. Albert Priory. The Primary Formation Community is charged with guiding the candidate in human and spiritual formation as articulated in the respective documents particular to the student's religious institute, e.g., the formation documents of the Dominican Order and WDP that are listed above. Communications among the student, the Academic Dean, the academic advisor, and formators from the student's Primary Formation Community and religious institute foster a coordinated and integrated approach to the student's development in the MDiv program.

Detailed Program Description

The MDiv program is a three-year program which requires 72 semester units of coursework as outlined below. In order to fulfill the requirements of the *RSP*, students of the Western Dominican Province must take an additional 16.5 units of coursework (Complementary Curriculum in Appendix A). Those students who are from other religious communities or dioceses must follow the specific directives of their community superior or bishop. Qualified students may wish to apply this additional coursework towards a concurrent MDiv/MA (Theology) option.

Courses and requirements in the Master of Divinity program are sequenced in order to provide a formation that proceeds in stages in six key areas of study: Philosophical Studies (as preparation), Biblical Studies, Historical Studies, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, and Pastoral Theology. In each of these areas – and in some cases, subdisciplines of these areas – at least one introductory course is required before work can proceed to the intermediate or advanced levels. In the MDiv program, students must maintain a 2.3 (C+) or better GPA.

Preparatory Coursework. As a Dominican institution, DSPT recognizes the close relation between ministerial preparation and scholarly reflection. Accordingly, its MDiv program presupposes the ability to engage in master’s-level academic research. For this reason, MDiv students are required to complete the “Graduate Seminar Intro” course (3 units spread over two semesters of 1.5 units each) to acquire sufficient academic research and writing skills to thrive in our community of scholars.

Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5 units
<u>Graduate Seminar Intro 2</u>	<u>1.5 units</u>
TOTAL	3 units

Furthermore, DSPT’s MDiv program presupposes a basic foundation in philosophy. Consequently, all applicants to the MDiv program should have completed at least these 18 semester units of philosophy as indicated below by an asterisk (*) and in the [MDiv Program Requirements Checklist](#). The RSP requires clerical students preparing to enroll later in the MDiv program take each of the following ten philosophy courses (30 units):

Systematic Philosophy	18 units
(Students take all the following six courses from this area)	
Logic* (†)	
Philosophy of Nature* (†)	
Philosophical Ethics (†)	
Philosophical Anthropology (†)	
Metaphysics (†)	
Theory of Knowledge (†)	
History of Philosophy	12 units
(Students take all the following four courses from this area)	
History of Philosophy: Ancient* (†)	
History of Philosophy: Medieval* (†)	
Modern Philosophy* (†)	
<u>Contemporary Philosophy* (†)</u>	
TOTAL	30 units

Applicants lacking these core (†) prerequisites should enroll in a Certificate Program (CPhS or CTS) while completing them.

The table below, “MDiv Preparation, Typical Course Sequence,” shows the usual sequence in which clerical students at DSPT fulfill these prerequisites, along with the usual sequence of MDiv theology courses they would ordinarily take during their first three years at DSPT:

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Course or Requirement</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>nature of requirement</u>
1 st	PH-1115 Aristotelian Logic	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
1 st	PH-1056 Philosophy of Nature	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
1 st	PH-1009 Philosophical Ethics	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
1 st	PHHS-1050 History of Philosophy: Ancient	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1	MDiv pre-req.
2 nd	PH-1065 Theory Of Knowledge	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
2 nd	PH-2040 Philosophical Anthropology	3.0	2	MDiv pre-req.
2 nd	PH-2050 Metaphysics	3.0	2	MDiv pre-req.
2 nd	PHHS-1051 History of Philosophy: Medieval	3.0	1	MDiv pre-req.
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1	MDiv pre-req.
3 rd	PHHS-2000 Modern Philosophy	3.0	2	MDiv pre-req.
3 rd	BS-1560 Intro to Sacred Scripture	3.0	1	MDiv req.
3 rd	ST-1091 Theology: Nature and Method	3.0	1	MDiv req.
3 rd	MDiv or language course	3.0	1	—
3 rd	FE-1021 Field Education Level I, Part 1	0	1	MDiv req.
4 th	PHHS-2001 Contemporary Philosophy	3.0	2	MDiv pre-req.
4 th	CE-2045 Fundamental Moral Theology	3.0	2	MDiv req.
4 th	PS-1016 Pastoral Counseling: Process and Skills	3.0	1	MDiv req.
4 th	MDiv or language course	3.0	1-4	—
4 th	FE-1022 Field Education Level I, Part 2	1.5	1	MDiv req.
5 th	FE-2021 Pastoral Ministry Internship Part 1	1.5	2	MDiv req.
6 th	FE-2022 Pastoral Ministry Internship Part 2	1.5	2	MDiv req.

MDiv Preparation, Typical Course Sequence

All of the above courses are offered annually. As the table makes clear, students completing this preparatory phase begin to take theology courses during their second year, including Intro to Sacred Scripture, Theology: Nature and Method, Fundamental Moral Theology, Foundations of Preaching, and Field Education Level I, Parts 1 & 2. These courses all serve as introductions to key subdisciplines of the MDiv program. The student ordinarily applies to transfer these courses, and any other applicable courses taken while in the MDiv preparation phase (when enrolled in the CPhS program and/or CTS program), into the MDiv program upon application to it.

Coursework and Other Requirements. The following list provides an overview of the MDiv course requirements.

Sacred Scripture	18 units
Intro to Sacred Scripture	(3)
<i>Any five of these six 3-unit Intermediate MDiv Scripture courses:</i>	<i>(15)</i>
Pentateuch & Histories (<i>cycled</i>)	
Prophets (<i>cycled</i>)	
Wisdom (<i>cycled</i>)	
The Gospels (<i>cycled</i>)	
Pauline Corpus (<i>cycled</i>)	
Acts, Catholic Epistles, & Revelation (<i>cycled</i>)	
History of the Church	6 units
Church History I	(3)
Church History II	(3)
Systematic & Moral Theology	27 units
<i>Systematic Theology</i> (18 units)	
Theology: Nature & Method	(3)
Trinity (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Theological Anthropology (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Patristic Theology: Christology and the Early Church Councils (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Theology of Sacraments (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Ecclesiology (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
<i>Moral Theology</i> (9 units)	
Fundamental Moral Theology	(3)
Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Roman Catholic Social Teaching (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Pastoral Theology	21 units
Foundations of Preaching	(3)
Pastoral Counseling	(3)
Field Education Level I	(1.5)
Pastoral Ministry Internship (Field Ed. Level II)	(3)
Field Education Level III	(1.5)
Foundations of Catholic Liturgy (<i>cycled</i>)	(3)
Intro to Canon Law	(1.5)
Canon Law of Sacraments	(1.5)
Confessional Ministry (<i>cycled</i>)	(1.5)
Celebration of the Sacraments (<i>cycled</i>)	(1.5)
Diaconate Exam	(0 units)
Priesthood Exam	(0 units)
Faculties Exam	(0 units)
TOTAL	72 units

Resources for Planning. In planning their sequence of studies, with the guidance of their advisor, students should check not only this *Handbook*, but also the DSPT website to consult the

[Course Descriptions](#) page for the contents of course offerings and the *Multi-Year Projection for Cycled Courses* (on the [Student Forms](#) webpage) to ascertain the semester during which each course may become available. For specific offerings available for registration during the current or upcoming semester, they should consult the [Current Courses](#) page at DSPT's website and the online [GTU Course Schedule](#). Students should work with their advisor in planning courses as outlined here and in the [MDiv Program Requirement Checklist](#). Unless otherwise noted (as "cycled"), the MDiv courses listed above are normally offered annually. See below, "Concurrent Degree Options," under the subheading "Master of Divinity (MDiv)/Master of Arts (Theology)," for a typical course sequence for a student in the MDiv program who is concurrently completing a MATH degree.

Pastoral Formation and Field Education

Ministry and public leadership are essential to the role of the Catholic priest. While many courses provide opportunities to integrate theological principles with practical apostolates or ministry situations, the pastoral theology courses focus closely on this integration. More specifically, the Field Education program helps students build these fundamental skills by (1) direct ministry experience, with (2) regular onsite supervision, that together promote (3) regular theological reflection.

The Field Education curriculum organizes this three-fold work according to a four-year pattern. During the first year, students normally engage in 1.5 to 3.0 hours of ministry per week (or an equivalent distributed another way), plus regular onsite supervision, also participating in regular class sessions which introduce basic skills for theological reflection and provide peer opportunity to practice those skills. The second year of Field Education is fulfilled through completion of a year-long, supervised Pastoral Ministry Internship at a ministry site (Parts 1 and 2, FE 2021 and FE 2022, respectively), involving at least 20 hours per week of ministry. During the following two years, having returned to the DSPT campus, students again engage in 1.5 to 3.0 hours of ministry per week with regular onsite supervision, developing more advanced apostolic and leadership skills. Throughout the four years, students meet periodically (in person or via electronic means), with one another and with a Field Education instructor, for theological reflection on their apostolates and on their roles within those apostolates.

Examinations

Students in the MDiv program are required to pass three examinations in order to fulfill the program requirements: a) diaconate, b) priesthood, and c) faculties exams. These exams are developed and administered by the formation personnel from the student's religious institute, with the assistance of study guidelines from DSPT that ensure coverage of MDiv content and skills. Results are reported to the Academic Dean by the formation person responsible for administering the examinations, and a record is kept in the student portfolio. DSPT Faculty review the exam format on a regular basis as part of the general program review. The study guidelines for each exam are available at the DSPT website. Students should confer with the formation personnel from their religious institute for any further exam requirements particular to their institute, and for scheduling these exams.

MDiv Concurrent Options

MDiv students may also enroll simultaneously in an MA (Theology) or an MA (Philosophy) degree program. For details, see the program descriptions under Concurrent and Articulated Degree Options.

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The Master of Arts (Theology) program (MATH) provides students with a fundamental knowledge of theology, the ability to communicate that knowledge effectively to others, and the research tools needed for advanced academic research. Students tailor their program by choosing an area of concentration that aligns with their own academic interests. A complete list of areas of concentration offered by DSPT faculty is available at the DSPT website. Students must declare their area of concentration at the time of application, and may switch this area by submitting a written petition to the Academic Dean.

Because the approach to theological inquiry at DSPT relies heavily upon philosophical principles, all MA (Theology) students are required to complete at least the two required courses in philosophy (see below). It can also be useful to review some of the philosophical texts from the recommended reading list located on the DSPT website as a means of familiarizing themselves with important philosophical principles which form the basis for theological inquiry at DSPT.

Depending upon their personal goals, students pursue one of two options. Recommended for those with an interest in advanced graduate studies, the *thesis option* allows students to explore a focused area of academic research on a particular topic of interest through elective coursework and a written thesis. An oral defense of that thesis provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate skills in oral communication. Students who enroll in the *exam option* demonstrate their knowledge in key theological disciplines by choosing an area of concentration that is of particular interest (Primary Concentration), and second area of concentration (Secondary Concentration) that is distinct from the first, taken from one of the three required areas (biblical studies, systematic theology, or moral theology), which becomes a focus for the Capstone examination.

The MA (Theology) degree is a two-year program which requires a total of 48 semester units. For those students who choose the *thesis option*, they must complete 42 units of coursework in theology as described below, complete the Graduate Seminar Intro courses (3 units) and the RRP, fulfill a foreign language proficiency requirement, complete the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses (3 units), and write and successfully defend the thesis. Students who choose the *exam option* must complete the Graduate Seminar Intro courses, the core and elective requirements as described below, and the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses. They demonstrate program competency through the RRP, the Capstone Research Paper, and an examination based on DSPT coursework, as described below. The maximum time permitted for the completion of the program (in either option) is four years computed from the date of initial registration. All students in the MATH program are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA. A grade of "B" (3.0) or better is necessary in each course used to satisfy core requirements in the program.

Changing Options. Students in the MATH program who wish to switch from one option to another must first contact their academic advisor, who will present the request to the Theology

Department for final approval.

Area of Concentration for Studies in Theology

DSPT offers certain focused areas of concentration based on its course offerings and faculty expertise. These concentrations represent an institutional commitment in areas in which DSPT has sufficient resources for its students to explore them in greater depth. A full list of [areas of concentration](#) is available at the DSPT website.

Whether in the thesis option or the exam option, all theology students must designate one area as their Primary Concentration, in which they take at least four courses, which may be any combination of both required and elective courses that is consistent with other requirements of the program. Each Exam Option student in addition designates at least two courses in a different area, which becomes the student's Secondary Concentration; this area must be Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, or Moral Theology. Both courses are to be duly completed; afterward, the student is to take a single Capstone Exam covering both courses. By providing students with a second opportunity for ongoing, disciplined reflection on important material to which they have been introduced and in which they are interested, students will demonstrate competence in a second area, distinct from their Primary Concentration. Students should consult carefully with their academic advisor to ensure that they understand and can meet these concentration requirements. Some areas of concentration further specify what courses must be taken. For example:

Resources for Planning. In planning their sequence of studies, with the guidance of their advisor, students should check not only this *Handbook*, but also the DSPT website to consult the [Course Descriptions](#) page for the contents of course offerings and the *Multi-Year Projection for Cycled Courses* (on the [Student Forms](#) webpage) to ascertain the semester during which each course may become available. For specific offerings available for registration during the current or upcoming semester, they should consult the [Current Courses](#) page at DSPT's website. Students should work with their advisor in planning courses as outlined here and in the [MATH Program Requirements Checklist](#).

MA (Theology), Thesis Option: Detailed Program Description

Program Outcomes. In addition to the stated institutional goals, students develop:

1. A foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (Biblical Studies, historical theology, dogmatic theology, and moral theology);
2. A specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (area of concentration) chosen by the student;
3. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing;
4. The ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions;
5. The ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, and where possible with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Students demonstrate achievement of program outcomes by fulfilling all its requirements, including:

1. Maintaining a GPA of 3.0 in the program, while attaining a grade of B (3.0) or better in every core requirement;
2. Producing a thesis proposal which articulates and effectively communicates clear goals & outcomes for the proposed thesis;
3. Producing a well-written thesis that meets specified criteria, e.g. theological knowledge, writing skills, etc.;
4. Using the thesis proposal, thesis, and thesis defense to demonstrate their skills for collaborative learning, including the ability:
 - to listen attentively to input from faculty on questions or points of disagreement, and
 - to formulate responses that incorporate issues raised.

Coursework and Other Requirements. The Master of Arts (Theology), Thesis Option curriculum follows a standard ordering among subdisciplines of theology, with philosophy as a foundational discipline, so that there is an integration and progression of both methodologies and content over the time in the program. In general, the order is as follows: philosophy, Sacred Scripture (Biblical studies), church history, systematic theology, and moral theology. In certain subdisciplines, the program provides a required, introductory course to be taken early in the program, allowing for the student, through approved electives and the thesis, to undertake intermediate and advanced studies in that area. In particular, the course “Intro to Sacred Scripture” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in Biblical Studies; “Theology: Nature & Method” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in systematic theology, and “Fundamental Moral Theology” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in moral theology. Students should therefore plan to take those courses during their first two

semesters. Students should be attentive to other prerequisites required or recommended for any intermediate or advanced courses they may plan to take. The following list provides an overview of the requirements for the MA (Theology), Thesis Option:

Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2	3 units
Philosophical Studies	6 units
Philosophical Ethics(+)	(3)
Metaphysics(+)	(3)
Sacred Scripture	3 units
Intro to Sacred Scripture(+)	(3)
History of the Church	6 units
Church History I(+)	(3)
Church History II(+)	(3)
Systematic & Moral Theology	6 units
<i>Systematic Theology</i> (3 units)	
Theology: Nature & Method(+)	(3)
<i>Moral Theology</i> (3 units)	
Fundamental Moral Theology(+)	(3)
Interreligious or Non-Christian Religion Elective	3 units
Other Elective Courses*	18 units
Foreign Language Certification	(0 units)
Research Readiness Paper	(0 units)
Thesis Proposal	(0 units)
Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2	3 units
<u>Thesis Defense & Submission</u>	<u>(0 units)</u>
TOTAL	48 units

Note: Of the above courses, at least four must be taken in the Primary Concentration. At least two courses must be taken at the 4000-level.

Course Selection. The student normally completes core courses (+) during the first year of studies. Besides the “Interreligious or non-Christian religion” elective, a total of 18 units of elective courses* are chosen. Elective courses are chosen by the student, in consultation with the academic advisor and in keeping with all program requirements, so as to align with the Primary Concentration and thesis research. At least one-third of the total coursework must be taken at DSPT. At least two advanced (4000-level) courses, preferably in the Primary Concentration, must be completed by the end of the program. No more than 24 units of coursework overall may come from the introductory (1000) level. In consultation with their advisor, students may

choose elective courses outside a theological discipline, although normally not more than two of the elective courses (6 units) can come from a non-theological discipline, subject to the approval of the academic advisor. Exceptions need the approval of the Academic Dean.

The following table outlines a typical sequence of courses and fulfillment of requirements for the MATH, Thesis Option:

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level
1 st	PH-1009 Philosophical Ethics	3.0	1
1 st	BS-1560 Intro to Sacred Scripture	3.0	1
1 st	HS-1196 Church History I	3.0	1
1 st	ST-1091 Theology: Nature and Method	3.0	1
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1
2 nd	PH-2050 Metaphysics	3.0	2
2 nd	HS-2196 Church History II	3.0	2
2 nd	CE-2045 Fundamental Moral Theology	3.0	2
2 nd	Elective 1: 4000-level*	3.0	4
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
2 nd	Foreign Language Requirement	0	1
3 rd	Elective 2: 4000-level*	3.0	4
3 rd	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 4*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4
3 rd	MA-5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4
4 th	Interreligious or non-Christian religion Course*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 5*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 6*	3.0	1-4
4 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4
4 th	MA 5999 MA Thesis Defense	0	4

MATH, Thesis Option: Typical Sequence of Courses and Fulfillment of Requirements

Written Samples for the Assessment Portfolio. As noted above, the assessment portfolio requires each student to submit two research papers during the course of the academic program: 1) Research Readiness Paper (RRP, submitted at the end of the first semester); and 2) the MA thesis. These papers must be written according to the standards prescribed in the most recent edition of *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian.

Research Readiness Paper and Review. The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) helps students,

advisors, and faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, a successful RRP is a *prerequisite for submitting a thesis proposal and must be completed by the end of the first year in the program*. For more details, see “Research Readiness Paper and Review” in section III, above.

Foreign Language Certification. Students in the DSPT MA (Theology) *Thesis Option*, or in any concurrent DSPT program that includes this degree, must demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehension skills in a foreign language. See “Foreign Language Certification and Credit” in section III, above, for a description of how the foreign language requirement can be fulfilled.

Thesis Proposal. The thesis proposal gives students an opportunity to show an ability to organize a project of theological inquiry into a brief, coherent proposal. It is highly recommended, and generally expected, that the chosen topic be related to coursework already done by the student so that there is at least a basic knowledge in the research area. It must be submitted no later than the third semester in the program. *No proposals will be considered until the student has successfully completed the RRP*. Other details on the thesis proposal and thesis proposal petition are listed under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Graduate Seminar Capstone Courses. In the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, required for the MATH program, students participate in discussions that help them develop their thesis, sharing their research and preliminary conclusions for feedback, culminating in a final presentation. For details, see “Graduate Seminar” in section III, above.

Thesis and Oral Defense. Promotion to the degree of Master of Arts (Theology), Thesis Option, requires the successful completion of a written thesis and an oral defense of the thesis. The thesis is to be no more than eighty (80) pages in length (approx. 20,000 words, not counting notes or bibliography). The Graduate Seminar Intro (3 units) helps students conduct focused academic research and writing and to develop their competence in areas in which they intend to develop their thesis. Much of the three semester units of “Graduate Seminar Capstone” time is set aside for them to conduct further research and to write their thesis. For further details on the Thesis and Defense, see “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Thesis Format Approval Form. See details under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

MA (Theology), Exam Option: Detailed Program Description

Program Outcomes. In addition to the stated institutional goals, students develop:

1. a foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (reflected in the required core areas);
2. a specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (Primary Concentration) chosen by the student;
3. the ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly research and writing;
4. the ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, especially with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Students demonstrate achievement of these outcomes by fulfilling all program requirements, including:

1. maintaining a B (3.0) or better average in coursework throughout the program, while attaining a grade of B (3.0) or better in every core requirement;
2. passing a closed-book, written examination in the Secondary Concentration;
3. producing a 20- to 25-page Capstone research paper (i.e., of approx. 5,000 to 6,250 words, not counting notes or bibliography) with a grade of B (3.0) or better.

Coursework and Other Requirements. The Master of Arts (Theology), Exam Option curriculum follows a standard ordering among subdisciplines of theology, with philosophy as a foundational discipline, so that there is an integration and progression of both methodologies and content over the time in the program. In general, the order is as follows: philosophy, Biblical studies, church history, systematic theology, and moral theology. In certain subdisciplines, the program provides a required, introductory course to be taken early in the program, allowing for the student, through subsequent, approved electives, to undertake intermediate and advanced studies in a chosen area of concentration (Primary Concentration), as well as in the Secondary Concentration, chosen from the three required areas and different from the Primary Concentration, so as to provide breadth of knowledge and competence. In particular, the course “Intro to Sacred Scripture” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in Biblical Studies; “Theology: Nature & Method” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in systematic theology, and “Fundamental Moral Theology” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in moral theology. Students should therefore plan to take those courses during their first two semesters. Students should be attentive to other prerequisites required or recommended for any intermediate or advanced courses they may plan to take.

The following list provides an overview of the requirements for the MA (Theology), Exam Option:

Graduate Seminar Intro 1 & 2	3 units
Philosophical Studies	6 units
Philosophical Ethics(†)	(3)
Metaphysics(†)	(3)
Sacred Scripture	6 units
Intro to Sacred Scripture(†)	(3)
<i>Sacred Scripture elective (with OT, NT, or BS code)</i>	(3)
History of the Church	6 units
Church History I(†)	(3)
Church History II(†)	(3)
Systematic & Moral Theology	12 units
<i>Systematic Theology (6 units)</i>	
Theology: Nature & Method(†)	(3)
<i>Systematic Theology elective (with ST code)</i>	(3)
<i>Moral Theology (6 units)</i>	
Fundamental Moral Theology(†)	(3)
<i>Moral Theology elective (with CE code)</i>	(3)
Interreligious or Non-Christian Religion Elective	3 units
Other Elective Courses*	9 units
Research Readiness Paper	(0 units)
Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2	3 units
Capstone Research Paper	(0 units)
<u>MATh Capstone Exam</u>	<u>(0 units)</u>
TOTAL	48 units

Note: Of the above courses, at least four must be taken in the Primary Concentration. Two courses taken in the Secondary Concentration are designated as the courses for the Capstone Exam. At least two courses must be taken at the 4000-level.

Course Selection. The student normally completes core courses (†) during the first year of studies. Besides electives within a specific distribution requirement, a total of 9 units of elective courses* are chosen. Elective courses are chosen by the student, in consultation with the academic advisor and in keeping with all program requirements, so as to align with the student's interests and chosen Primary Concentration. At least two advanced (4000-level) courses, preferably in the Primary Concentration, must be completed by the end of the

program. At least four courses must be taken in the Primary Concentration. No more than 24 units of coursework overall may come from the introductory (1000) level. In consultation with their advisor, students may choose elective courses outside a theological discipline, although normally not more than two of the elective courses (6 units) can come from a non-theological discipline, subject to the approval of the academic advisor. Exceptions need the approval of the Academic Dean.

The following table outlines a typical sequence of courses and fulfillment of requirements for the MATH, Exam Option:

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level
1 st	PH-1009 Philosophical Ethics	3.0	1
1 st	BS-1560 Intro to Sacred Scripture	3.0	1
1 st	HS-1196 Church History I	3.0	1
1 st	ST-1091 Theology: Nature and Method	3.0	1
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1
2 nd	PH-2050 Metaphysics	3.0	2
2 nd	HS-2196 Church History II	3.0	2
2 nd	CE-2045 Fundamental Moral Theology	3.0	2
2 nd	Elective 1: 4000-level*	3.0	4
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
3 rd	Systematic Theology Elective*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Moral Theology Elective*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Biblical Studies Elective*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4
3 rd	Capstone Research Paper	0	4
4 th	Interreligious or non-Christian religion elective*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 2: 4000-level*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4
4 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4
4 th	MA-5700 MATH Capstone Exam	0	4

MATH, Exam Option: Typical Sequence of Courses and Fulfillment of Requirements

Research Readiness Paper and Review. The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) helps students, advisors, and faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, a successful RRP *must be completed by the end of the first year in the program*. For more details, see “Research Readiness Paper and Review” in section III, above. For the MATH Exam Option, either the RRP or the Capstone Research Paper must be in the student’s Primary Concentration.

MATh, Exam Option Capstone. For students pursuing the Exam option, the “capstone event” of the program is constituted by the following three elements: the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, the Capstone Research Paper, and the Capstone Exam.

Capstone Research Paper. For students in the MATh, *Exam Option*, the second research paper of the portfolio is the Capstone Research Paper. The paper must be 20-25 pages in length (approx. 5,000 to 6,250 words, not counting notes or bibliography). Students engage a DSPT faculty member to serve as the Reviewer for the paper. The paper may be an expanded version of a research paper (other than the RRP) from a DSPT course or a new research project. It must be in the student’s Primary Concentration if the student’s RRP was not in that area. If the topic is from work done for a particular DSPT course, then that instructor would normally be the Reviewer.

The student submits the completed paper to the Reviewer along with the *Capstone Research Paper Evaluation* form. The paper must receive a grade of “B” (3.0) or better to fulfill the Capstone Research Paper requirement. If the grade is lower than “B” (3.0), the student may be required either to write a new paper or to improve the present paper so that it is of sufficient quality to receive a “B” (3.0) grade. The paper is integrated into a presentation for the Graduate Seminar Capstone course.

Graduate Seminar Capstone Courses. In the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, required for the MATh program, students participate in discussions that help them develop their capstone project, seeking insights concerning ideas and preliminary conclusions related to it, leading to a final presentation. For details, see “Graduate Seminar” in section III, above.

MATh Capstone Exam. In addition to choosing an area of concentration for coursework (Primary Concentration), students also choose an area for examination from one of the three following disciplines: Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, or Moral Theology, which becomes the student’s Secondary Concentration. Students wishing to take the exam in a given semester must register no later than the close of the add/drop period of that semester (i.e., on the second Friday of that semester). A student may register for the MATh Capstone Exam only after having completed 24 units of coursework for the degree. The exam is a three-hour, closed book, written examination on two courses, chosen by the student and approved by the student’s advisor, taken from the chosen examination area. These are ordinarily to be courses taught by DSPT faculty. The required area in which the student chooses to take the examination must be different from the Primary Concentration in order to ensure a breadth of knowledge and the opportunity to integrate principles from different areas of theological inquiry. The examination questions will be drawn from study questions provided by the faculty for those courses which reflect the material of the specific semester and year in which the student took each course. There will be five to six study questions per course. The two questions presented to the student for each course will be determined by the professors prior to the exam. The professor of each course will evaluate the answers and assign a grade of “pass” or “fail” for each question. To receive a “pass” for **the exam** requires passing *each of the four questions*. A student failing the MATh Capstone Exam who successfully petitions to retake it will be offered a new exam with a

new question in place of each failed question, in a single exam period that allots 45 minutes for each question to be answered. These new questions will also be chosen by the professor of the course from which they are taken. See “Capstone Exams,” in section III, above, for further details.

CONCURRENT AND ARTICULATED DEGREE OPTIONS

Concurrent Enrollment in Ecclesiastical Degree Programs

DSPT students may, with appropriate approvals, simultaneously enroll in an ecclesiastical degree program offered through St. Albert's Institute (SAI). Ecclesiastical degree programs (e.g., the Baccalaureate of Theology, STB) are canonical degrees granted under ecclesiastical authority and are distinct in purpose, structure, and oversight from DSPT's academic degree programs. Those who wish to enroll simultaneously in a DSPT program and an SAI program must apply and be accepted to each separately. Students must remain in good academic standing in all programs in order to continue concurrent enrollment. Each degree is awarded independently upon completion of its respective requirements.

Application of Coursework Across Programs. Because of the unique nature of ecclesiastical degrees, courses completed to satisfy requirements of a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree may also be applied toward requirements of an ecclesiastical degree such as the STB, where such courses meet the expectations of the ecclesiastical program. This application of coursework reflects the parallel and complementary nature of the academic and ecclesiastical curricula and the distinct degree requirements and authorities under which each credential is granted. Such coursework application does not constitute double-counting of credit within a single academic program, but rather represents the fulfillment of requirements in two distinct degree systems (civil/academic and ecclesiastical/canonical).

Articulated Master of Divinity (MDiv)/ Master of Arts (Philosophy)

DSPT students may, with appropriate approvals, simultaneously enroll in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and the Master of Arts in Philosophy (MAPh). Students enrolled in both degrees must complete the full requirements for each degree, including foreign language certification and capstone requirements, where applicable. This articulated degree program does not involve shared or double-counted credits; courses taken to satisfy a requirement for the MA may not be taken to satisfy a requirement for the MDiv or *vice versa*. (Note however, that courses taken to satisfy an MA requirement may also fulfill an MDiv prerequisite). Typically, the distribution requirements for the MA are completed first and are used to satisfy MDiv prerequisites.

To pursue both degrees, students must be admitted to both programs and will be assigned advising to ensure appropriate sequencing and timely progress. Each degree is awarded upon completion of its respective requirements. So, one degree may be completed before the other or both degrees may be completed in the same semester depending on when all the requirements for each degree are completed. For students enrolled in both the MDiv and MAPH, the maximum time permitted for the completion of both degrees is the sum of the maximum time for each degree, that is, ten years computed from the date of the initial registration.

Concurrent Master of Divinity (MDiv)/Master of Arts (Theology)

Students enrolled in the MDiv program may choose to enroll concurrently in the DSPT MA (Theology) program. The concurrent MDiv/MA (Theology) option allows students the opportunity to explore in greater depth a theological topic of interest, and/or the relationship between theological topics and ecclesial ministry.

Students accepted into the concurrent MDiv/MA (Theology) Option work carefully with their advisors to plan a sequence of studies that ensures fulfillment of the requirements central to each program, including all core, distribution, and concentration requirements. In no case can the two degrees be completed in less than four years (eight semesters). The maximum time permitted for the completion of the program is eight years computed from the date of the initial registration.

Coursework. Both degrees are conferred in their integrity after a four-year progression of studies, comprising a total of 96 semester units: 72 units for the MDiv degree and an additional 24 units for the MA degree. Students must fulfill the breadth requirements of the MA program. Normally, this is accomplished by using up to 24 units of the course requirements from the MDiv program to fulfill the breadth requirements of the MA program, then choosing theology electives in order to fulfill remaining requirements for the MA component. No more than 24 units may be used to satisfy the requirements for both degrees. For the MA program, at least one-third of the total coursework must be taken at DSPT. At least one-half of the coursework must be from offerings above the introductory (1000) level. At least two advanced courses (4000-level), preferably in the student's Primary Concentration, must be completed by the end of the program. Also, over the course of the concurrent program, at least four courses must be taken in the student's Primary Concentration. For the MA Exam Option, two courses must be taken in the Secondary Concentration and designated as courses for the exam.

Please consult the [MDiv Program Requirements Checklist](#) to assist in planning to fulfill the MDiv/MA (Theology) course requirements.

The following two tables illustrate a typical sequence in which a student may fulfill the requirements for the MDiv/MATh, for the Thesis Option or the Exam Option, respectively. They constitute projections for those beginning the MDiv in Fall of an odd year; since most of the required courses listed are offered only every two years, the sequence will look somewhat different for students beginning in an even year. Note that the first six semesters are normally used to fulfill philosophy requirements and some MDiv/MA requirements while enrolled in the CPhS and CTS in the MDiv Track; see the table "MDiv Preparation, Typical Course Sequence," under "THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS," above. The theology courses taken during those first six semesters can then be transferred into the MDiv/MATh program. In such cases, students would begin in the MDiv/MATh program no sooner than the seventh semester of studies at DSPT, as the following tables suggest.

Academic Programs & Requirements

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level	required by
7 th	OT-2098 Pentateuch & Histories	3.0	2	MDiv
7 th	HS-1196 Church History I	3.0	1	MDiv
7 th	STHS-2500 Patristic Theology: Christology and the Early Church Councils	3.0	2	MDiv
7 th	Elective 1: 4000-level*	3.0	4	MA
7 th	FE-3021 Field Ed Level III Part 1	0	3	MDiv
8 th	OT-2149 Prophets	3.0	2	MDiv
8 th	HS-2196 Church History II	3.0	2	MDiv
8 th	STHS-2650 Systematic Christology	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
8 th	Interreligious or non-Christian religion: 4000-level*	3.0	4	MA
8 th	FE-3022 Field Ed Level III Part 2	0	3	MDiv
8 th	Research Readiness Paper	0	2	MA
8 th	Foreign Language Requirement	0	1	MA
9 th	STPH-3095 One Creator God	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
9 th	STSP-3036 Ecclesiology: Foundations	3.0	3	MDiv
9 th	HM-1073 Foundations of Preaching	3.0	1	MDiv
9 th	Elective 2	3.0	1-4	MA+
9 th	FE-3023 Field Ed Level III Part 3	0	3	MDiv
10 th	OT-2600 Wisdom Literature	3.0	2	Comp. Curr.
10 th	NT-2550 The Gospels	3.0	2	MDiv
10 th	ST 2300 Trinity	3.0	2	MDiv
10 th	CE 3050 Catholic Social Teaching	3.0	3	MDiv
10 th	FE-3024 Field Ed Level III Part 4	1.5	3	MDiv
11 th	CE-2003 Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics	3.0	2	MDiv
11 th	FT 1400 Introduction to Canon Law	1.5	1	MDiv
11 th	HM-2230 Liturgical Preaching	3.0	2	Comp. Curr.
11 th	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4	MA+
11 th	MA 5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4	MA
12 th	NT-2531 Acts, Catholic Epistles, & Revelation	3.0	2	MDiv
12 th	ST-3128 Theological Anthropology	3.0	3	MDiv
12 th	LSRA-1500 Foundations of Catholic Liturgy	3.0	1	MDiv
12 th	FT-2333 Canon Law of Sacraments	1.5	2	MDiv
12 th	FT 2325 Canon Law of Marriage	1.5	2	Comp. Curr.
12 th	Diaconate Exam	0	4	MDiv
13 th	ST-3067 Theology of Sacraments	3.0	3	MDiv
13 th	CEFT-2000 Confessional Ministry	1.5	2	MDiv
13 th	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4	MA
13 th	Elective 4*	3.0	1-4	MA+
14 th	NT-2526 Pauline Literature	3.0	2	MDiv
14 th	ST-3071 Sacraments: Eucharist & Orders	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
14 th	LSFT-2404 Celebration of the Sacraments	1.5	2	MDiv
14 th	Priesthood & Faculties Exams	0	4	MDiv
14 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4	MA
14 th	MA 5999 MA Thesis Defense	0	4	MA

MDiv/MATh, Thesis Option, Typical Sequence of Courses & Requirements

Academic Programs & Requirements

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level	required by
7 th	OT-2098 Pentateuch & Histories	3.0	2	MDiv
7 th	HS-1196 Church History I	3.0	1	MDiv
7 th	STHS-2500 Patristic Theology: Christology and the Early Church Councils	3.0	2	MDiv
7 th	Elective 1: 4000-level*	3.0	4	MA
7 th	FE-3021 Field Ed Level III Part 1	0	3	MDiv
8 th	OT-2149 Prophets	3.0	2	MDiv
8 th	HS-2196 Church History II	3.0	2	MDiv
8 th	STHS-2650 Systematic Christology	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
8 th	Interreligious or non-Christian religion: 4000-level*	3.0	4	MA
8 th	FE-3022 Field Ed Level III Part 2	0	3	MDiv
8 th	Research Readiness Paper	0	2	MA
9 th	STPH-3095 One Creator God	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
9 th	STSP-3036 Ecclesiology: Foundations	3.0	3	MDiv
9 th	Elective 2 *	3.0	4	MA
9 th	HM-1073 Foundations of Preaching	3.0	1	MDiv
9 th	FE-3023 Field Ed Level III Part 3	0	3	MDiv
10 th	OT-2600 Wisdom Literature	3.0	2	Comp. Curr.
10 th	NT-2550 The Gospels	3.0	2	MDiv
10 th	ST 2300 Trinity	3.0	2	MDiv
10 th	CE 3050 Catholic Social Teaching	3.0	3	MDiv
10 th	FE-3024 Field Ed Level III Part 4	1.5	3	MDiv
11 th	CE-2003 Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics	3.0	2	MDiv
11 th	FT 1400 Introduction to Canon Law	1.5	1	MDiv
11 th	HM-2230 Liturgical Preaching	3.0	2	Comp. Curr.
11 th	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4	MA
11 th	MA 5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4	MA
12 th	NT-2531 Acts, Catholic Epistles, & Revelation	3.0	2	MDiv
12 th	ST-3128 Theological Anthropology	3.0	3	MDiv
12 th	LSRA-1500 Foundations of Catholic Liturgy	3.0	1	MDiv
12 th	FT-2333 Canon Law of Sacraments	1.5	2	MDiv
12 th	FT 2325 Canon Law of Marriage	1.5	2	Comp. Curr.
12 th	Diaconate Exam	0	4	MDiv
13 th	ST-3067 Theology of Sacraments	3.0	3	MDiv
13 th	CEFT-2000 Confessional Ministry	1.5	2	MDiv
13 th	Elective 4*	3.0	1-4	MA
13 th	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4	MA
13 th	Capstone Research Paper	0	4	MA
14 th	NT-2526 Pauline Literature	3.0	2	MDiv
14 th	ST-3071 Sacraments: Eucharist & Orders	3.0	3	Comp. Curr.
14 th	LSFT-2404 Celebration of the Sacraments	1.5	2	MDiv
14 th	Priesthood & Faculties Exams	0	4	MDiv
14 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4	MA

MDiv/MATh, Exam Option, Typical Sequence of Courses & Requirements

The electives* must be chosen such that all MATh requirements are fulfilled, including concentration requirements, and the requirement that at least 2 courses be at the advanced level (numbered 4000) or above. The 4000-level courses may be taken early in the program, as suggested, or later, if need be. Students should confer with their academic advisors and formation personnel from their religious institute to ensure that their choice of coursework is helping them to reach the academic and apostolic goals set by themselves and by their institute.

Master of Arts (Philosophy)/Master of Arts (Theology)

DSPT Faculty are committed to creating a learning environment that engenders conversations between philosophy and theology. Many of our faculty are trained in both fields and serve in both departments. Courses in philosophy frequently anticipate the work of theology and derive a number of their philosophical concepts from theological sources. Courses in theology frequently have significant philosophical content. Thus, the entire atmosphere at DSPT is suffused, as it were, with this cross-disciplinary approach.

Over and above this context, there is the opportunity for students who are uniquely qualified to engage in a more rigorous and intentional interdisciplinary study. The concurrent MA option allows students to select a thesis topic that particularly lends itself to integration of philosophy and theology.

A student matriculated in a DSPT MA program may wish to apply for the concurrent MA option for any of the following reasons:

- to broaden professional skills for employment as a teacher at the secondary level by gaining expertise in two complementary academic fields;
- to explore a complex topic with roots in both philosophy and theology with a view towards applying for a focused doctoral program in either, or in a third, related field.

On the practical level, the concurrent MA option allows students to complete two degrees in a three-year period, with an expanded thesis up to 120 pages (approx. 30,000 words, not counting notes or bibliography).

Both degrees are conferred in their integrity after a three-year plan of studies comprising a total of 63 semester units: 54 units of coursework, plus 3 units for the Graduate Seminar Intro courses, 3 units for the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, and 3 units of “In Thesis” work. In no case may the two degrees be completed in less than 6 semesters. The maximum time permitted for the completion of the program is six years computed from the date of initial registration. All students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA. A grade of “B” (3.0) or better is necessary in all courses used to satisfy core requirements in the program.

Coursework. The concurrent MAPH/MATh option requires a total of 18 courses: 6 in philosophy, 6 distribution requirements in theology, and 6 electives in philosophy and/or theology. This option follows a standard ordering among subdisciplines of philosophy and theology, so that there is an integration and progression of both methodologies and content over the time in the program. In general, the order is as follows: systematic philosophy, history of philosophy, Sacred Scripture (Biblical studies), church history, systematic theology, and moral theology. In some subdisciplines, the program provides an introductory course to be taken early in the program, allowing for the student, through approved electives and the thesis, to undertake intermediate and advanced studies in a concentration that is in that area. In theology in particular, the course “Intro to Sacred Scripture” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in biblical studies; “Theology: Nature & Method” is normally a

prerequisite for taking further courses in systematic theology, and “Fundamental Moral Theology” is normally a prerequisite for taking further courses in moral theology. Therefore, students are advised to take those courses during their first two semesters. Students should be attentive to other prerequisites required or recommended for any intermediate or advanced courses they may plan to take.

Graduate Seminar 1 & 2	3 units
Systematic Philosophy	12 units
<i>(Students must take at least four of these six three-unit courses from this area)</i>	
Logic (†)	
Philosophy of Nature (†)	
Philosophical Anthropology (†)	
Metaphysics (†)	
Theory of Knowledge (†)	
Philosophical Ethics (†)	
History of Philosophy	6 units
<i>(Students must take at least two of these four three-unit courses from this area)</i>	
History of Ancient Philosophy (†)	
History of Medieval Philosophy (†)	
History of Modern Philosophy (†)	
History of Contemporary Philosophy (†)	
Sacred Scripture	3 units
Intro to Sacred Scripture(†) <i>or course coded OT, NT, or BS</i>	(3)
History of the Church	6 units
Church History I(†) <i>or course coded HS</i>	(3)
Church History II(†) <i>or course coded HS</i>	(3)
Systematic & Moral Theology	6 units
<i>Systematic Theology (3 units)</i>	
Theology: Nature & Method(†) <i>or course coded ST</i>	(3)
<i>Moral Theology (3 units)</i>	
Fundamental Moral Theology(†) <i>or course coded CE</i>	(3)
Interreligious or non-Christian religion elective	3 units
Elective Courses	18 units
Foreign Language Certification	(0 units)
Research Readiness Paper	(0 units)
Thesis Proposal	(0 units)
Graduate Seminar Capstone 1 & 2	3 units
In Thesis	3 units
Thesis Defense & Submission	(0 units)
TOTAL	63 units

At least one-third of the total coursework must be taken at DSPT. No more than 27 units (one-half of the coursework) may be from offerings at the introductory (1000) level. Each student

must choose a theology concentration from among the areas of concentration listed at the DSPT website. A total of four courses must be taken in this concentration, which may be a combination of both core requirements and electives. For some areas (such as Thomistic Studies), specific courses are required; above, this *Handbook* specifies those requirements in detail. At least two advanced courses (4000-level), preferably with at least one in the student's theology concentration, must be completed by the end of the program. The following table illustrates a typical sequence in which a student may fulfill the requirements for the Concurrent MAPH/MATh Option:

Semester	Course or Requirement	Units	Level
1 st	(Systematic Philosophy Course 1)	3.0	1-2
1 st	(History of Philosophy Course 1)	3.0	1-2
1 st	Intro to Sacred Scripture <i>or scripture course</i>	3.0	1
1 st	Theology: Nature and Method <i>or ST course</i>	3.0	1
1 st	MA-1101 Graduate Seminar Intro 1	1.5	1
2 nd	(Systematic Philosophy Course 2)	3.0	1-2
2 nd	(History of Philosophy Course 2)	3.0	1-2
2 nd	Fundamental Moral Theology <i>or CE course</i>	3.0	2
2 nd	Elective 1: 4000-level	3.0	4
2 nd	MA-1102 Graduate Seminar Intro 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
2 nd	Foreign Language Requirement	0	1
3 rd	(Systematic Philosophy Course 3)	3.0	1-2
3 rd	Church History I <i>or HS theology course</i>	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 2: 4000-level	3.0	4
4 th	(Systematic Philosophy Course 4)	3.0	1-2
4 th	Church History II <i>or HS theology course</i>	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 3	3.0	1-4
4 th	MA-5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4
5 th	Interreligious or non-Christian religion elective	3.0	1-4
5 th	Elective 4	3.0	1-4
5 th	Elective 5	3.0	1-4
5 th	MA-4101 Graduate Seminar Capstone 1	1.5	4
6 th	Elective 6	3.0	1-4
6 th	MA-5000 MA In Thesis	3.0	4
6 th	MA-4102 Graduate Seminar Capstone 2	1.5	4
6 th	MA-5999 MA Thesis Defense	0	4

Concurrent MAPH/MATh Option: Typical Sequence of Courses & Fulfillment of Requirements

Resources for Planning. In planning their sequence of studies, with the guidance of their advisor, students should check not only this *Handbook*, but also the DSPT website to consult the [Course Descriptions](#) page for the contents of course offerings and the *Multi-Year Projection for Cycled Courses* (on the [Student Forms](#) webpage) to ascertain the semester during which each course may become available. For specific offerings available for registration during the current or upcoming semester, they should consult the [Current Courses](#) page at DSPT's website and the online [GTU Course Schedule](#). Students should work with their advisor in planning courses as outlined here and in the [Concurrent MA \(Philosophy\) and MA \(Theology\) Program Requirements Checklist](#).

Area of Concentration for Studies in Theology

DSPT offers certain focused areas of concentration based on its course offerings and faculty expertise. The concentrations supported by DSPT represent an institutional commitment in areas which DSPT has sufficient resources for its students to explore them in greater depth. A full list of [areas of concentration](#) is available at the DSPT website.

Students in the MAPH/MATh program are to designate one these areas of concentration as their Primary Concentration, in which they take at least four courses, which may be any combination of both required and elective courses that is consistent with other requirements of the program. Students should consult carefully with their academic advisor to ensure that they understand and can meet these concentration requirements. Some areas of concentration further specify what courses must be taken. For example:

Salesian Studies Concentration. Through its affiliate member, the Institute of Salesian Studies at Don Bosco Hall, DSPT offers MATh students the opportunity to explore the history and charism of the Salesian Order. In order to ensure a sufficient breadth of theological knowledge, students may not use Salesian Studies courses to fulfill core requirements. Students must ensure that they have a total of four courses in the area of spirituality (SP), which may come from either the Salesian Studies curriculum or a combination of Salesian Studies courses and other SP courses.

Thomistic Studies. The Thomistic Studies area of concentration is available only to those enrolled in the Concurrent MAPH/MATh Option. Those with a concentration in Thomistic Studies will receive the broadest exposure to the thought and methodology of St. Thomas Aquinas. Thus, in addition to following the normal course requirements for this concurrent MA option, these students' thesis work is expected to focus on a philosophical, theological, or historical issue in the study of St. Thomas, the Thomistic School, or Thomism as related to contemporary theology or philosophy. They are also directed to the following specific course offerings.

Students in this concentration must take 5 courses from systematic philosophy (1 more than required for the core requirements). Because the content in philosophy courses builds sequentially, students are strongly advised to follow the order listed below.

PH 1115 Logic
PH 1056 Philosophy of Nature
PH 2050 Metaphysics
PH 2040 Philosophical Anthropology
PH 1065 Theory of Knowledge

From the other area requirements, students should take:

- History of philosophy (6 units)
- PHHS 1051 History of Philosophy: Medieval
- A second course in the history of ancient, modern, or contemporary philosophy, or on a topic in the history of philosophy during any period.
- HS 1196 Church History I, or a suitable substitute approved by the academic advisor.
- While students may choose any course in a non-Christian religion, one with a strong anthropological component is recommended.

Substitutions may be made upon approval from the coordinator of the Thomistic Studies concentration.

Foreign Language Certification. Students in the concurrent DSPT MAPH/MATh degree program must demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehension skills in a foreign language. Students in the concurrent DSPT MAPH/MATh option with a **concentration in Thomistic Studies** must demonstrate reading and comprehension proficiency **in Latin**. See “Foreign Language Certification and Credit” in section III, above, for a description of how the foreign language requirement can be fulfilled.

Research Readiness Paper and Review. The Research Readiness Paper (RRP) helps students, advisors, and faculty assess and refine student research skills. As such, a successful RRP is a *prerequisite for submitting a thesis proposal and must be completed by the end of the first year in the program*. For more details, see “Research Readiness Paper and Review” in section III, above.

Thesis Proposal. The thesis proposal gives students an opportunity to show an ability to organize a project of theological inquiry into a brief, coherent proposal. It is highly recommended, and generally expected, that the chosen topic be related to coursework already done by the student so that there is at least a basic knowledge in the research area. It must be submitted no later than the third semester in the program. *No proposals will be considered until the student has successfully completed the RRP*. Other details on the thesis proposal and thesis proposal petition are listed under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Graduate Seminar Capstone Courses. In the Graduate Seminar Capstone courses, required for the MAPH/MATh program, students participate in discussions that help them develop their thesis, sharing their research and preliminary conclusions for feedback, culminating in a final presentation. For details, see “Graduate Seminar” in section III, above.

Thesis and Oral Defense. Promotion to the degrees of MA (Philosophy) and MA (Theology) concurrently requires the successful completion of a written thesis and an oral defense of the

thesis. The thesis is to be no more than one hundred twenty (120) pages long (approx. 30,000 words, not counting notes or bibliography). The Graduate Seminar Intro (3 units) helps students conduct focused academic research and writing and to develop their competence in areas in which they intend to develop their thesis. Part of the three semester units of “Graduate Seminar Capstone” time is set aside for them to conduct further research and to write their thesis. For further details on the Thesis and Defense, see “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

Thesis Format Approval Form. See details under “Thesis Policies and Procedures,” in section III, above.

CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) is a non-degree program designed for students who wish to engage in a systematic program of theological study in order to enrich their understanding of the Catholic tradition, and to clarify their academic and/or vocational goals. Students can use the Certificate program to clarify their educational objectives by investigating whether a DSPT degree program will meet their educational and vocational needs. Certificate students who subsequently decide to continue their studies and are accepted into a DSPT degree program may petition to have certificate coursework transferred into that program. The CTS program is also ideally suited for those seeking a sabbatical through the Institute of Salesian Studies (ISS), an affiliated institution of the DSPT.

Under the guidance of a DSPT faculty advisor, CTS students select a program of study, with a concentration, that is consonant with personal interests and abilities, or to prepare for applying to a degree program. Students may take any courses offered at the DSPT. They may choose to specialize in one of the noted [areas of concentration](#) for the Master of Arts (Theology). Religious students early in formation, including those considering applying to the MDiv program (see below), are placed in the “Master of Divinity Preparation” (MDiv Prep) track. Other students are placed in the “Academic and Vocational Development” (AVD) track. CTS students may register for courses Pass/Fail, or for a letter grade. However, any students who wish to have the coursework available for transfer into a DSPT degree program should register for a letter grade.

To receive the Certificate, students must take at least four courses (12 semester units); at least three courses (9 semester units) must be from DSPT. The courses may be taken for either a letter grade or Pass/Fail. While students enrolled in the Certificate program may audit courses with permission of the instructor, these do not count towards the certificate requirements.

Those students who subsequently wish to pursue a degree program at DSPT must fulfill all the requirements for admission to the particular program. At the time of acceptance, students are informed by the Admissions Committee regarding retroactive credit for coursework and tuition residency requirements. Once accepted into an academic program, students must petition the Academic Dean to have approved coursework entered into the program.

SPECIAL STUDENT STATUS

Special Student Status provides opportunities to participate in continuing education and sabbatical studies for personal or professional enrichment. This status is ideal for those seeking a context for study, renewal, and reflection, or for those not yet ready to enroll in a degree or certificate program.

Special Students are admitted on a yearly basis. They may continue in that status for another academic year by submitting a written petition to the Academic Dean for renewal. No application fee is charged for this yearly petition. Renewal is not guaranteed.

Special Students may not cross-register at the University of California, Berkeley. They receive credit for their coursework but are ineligible to receive academic degrees from the School. If

they decide at a later date to apply to a DSPT degree program, Special Students must fulfill all the admissions requirements for the particular program. No application fee is charged. At the time of acceptance, applicants are informed by the Admissions Committee regarding retroactive credit for coursework and tuition residency requirements. Once accepted into a degree program, students must petition the Academic Dean to have previous coursework fulfill degree program requirements.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

DSPT has relationships with certain Dominican institutions whereby DSPT students in degree programs may enrich their learning by studying for up to a year at one of those institutions. The availability of a study abroad semester or year is not guaranteed.

Residency Program at the Angelicum (Rome). In cooperation with the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (PUST, or “Angelicum”), DSPT offers a semester of study in Rome for students in the DSPT Master of Arts (Theology) program. To qualify for this opportunity, students must have completed at least 24 semester units of coursework in the MA (Theology) program at the Berkeley campus.

Residency Program at Blackfriars Hall/Oxford University (England). DSPT students in the Concurrent MAPH/MATh option have sometimes been able to have a study abroad year at Blackfriars at Oxford University. Students interested in pursuing a study abroad year in England should contact the DSPT Academic Dean during their first semester at DSPT.

Students seeking to participate in any of these study abroad programs should inquire with the DSPT Academic Dean about how to apply. Students will need to confer with officials from the other institution and with their DSPT academic advisor and the Academic Dean to ascertain how the work done at the other institution will contribute suitably to their academic progress. Before departing to the other institution, students must develop an individualized, written plan, subject to approval by the advisor and Dean, outlining how their studies at the other institution are to be credited toward the completion of their degree requirements.

Students enrolled in one of these study abroad programs are considered enrolled at DSPT for the purpose of applying for financial assistance under Title IV. During their time abroad, students normally register for MDV 3050, “Dominican Exchange Program.” Because of the time involved in procuring necessary documentation, interested students must begin the application process at least **twelve months** before the anticipated time of study. This extensive amount of time is necessary both for devising the individual plan for their studies at the other institution, and for completing the extensive and time-sensitive administrative steps involved, including those required in preparation (selection of courses, enrollment, visa applications, etc.) and for transfer of credit (e.g., requesting transcripts, filing the petition for credit transfer, etc.). After their period of study abroad, students must ensure that they take all steps required for the transfer of credit to DSPT, including requesting that official copies of transcripts from work at the other institution be sent to DSPT (ordinarily within one month after the grades at that institution have been finalized).

Academic Programs & Requirements

For more information, interested students should contact the DSPT Financial Aid Officer and their academic advisor. All plans are subject to approval by the academic advisor and the Academic Dean. In addition, students who are members of a religious institute should confer also with their institute's formation personnel for any needed permissions and/or guidance.

SECTION V: TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

DSPT SCHOLARSHIPS

DSPT offers different kinds of scholarships for full-time DSPT students. They typically involve obligations on the part of the student, ranging from the more modest, such as attendance at events related to stewardship, to those requiring more substantial time commitments that further the student's scholarly and professional development. For information and application forms regarding [DSPT scholarships](#), see the DSPT website.

GOVERNMENT AID PROGRAMS

Information is available from the DSPT Coordinator of Financial Aid that explain various government loan programs and the rights and responsibilities of the students.

Those eligible for benefits from the U.S. **Department of Veteran Affairs** should speak with their local VA representative. Information about VA educational benefits may be found at the [VA website](#).

Students are encouraged to investigate loan programs, ask questions of the Coordinator of Financial Aid, and pay particular attention to the appropriate deadlines for submitting applications for aid. Some students, not realizing that they are eligible for financial aid, consequently fail to go through the financial aid application process, thereby missing a valuable opportunity to help finance their education.

1. Process

Students must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year in order to be eligible for Financial Aid. Financial Aid Application forms are available on DSPT's Financial Aid webpage, at [Educational Funding](#). More detailed information regarding financial aid policies and procedures, including the current priority deadlines, is also available at the aforementioned webpage.

Once notified of an award and accepting it, students participate in an entrance interview, at which the rights and responsibilities with respect to loan repayment are outlined. Student must participate in this interview before the funds can be disbursed.

2. Maintaining Eligibility for Federal Aid

In order to maintain financial aid eligibility, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress in the chosen degree program (see "Satisfactory Academic Progress" in Section III, above). The DSPT Registrar and the Academic Dean review student transcripts each semester. Unsatisfactory progress may affect a student's federal student loan eligibility. Specifically, students who have been placed on academic warning because of unsatisfactory progress will be placed on a Financial Aid Warning status for the duration of the semester, during which the student may retain eligibility for federal aid.

Students who do not regain their satisfactory academic progress after the one-semester

academic warning / financial aid warning period will lose their aid eligibility unless they successfully appeal and are placed on Financial Aid Probation. Before any appeal will be heard, students on academic probation must submit an academic plan to the Dean which describes in detail the steps to be taken to remedy the grade situation.

Students that reach the maximum time limit for their degree program, as defined in the “Academic Programs & Requirements” section of this *Handbook*, will not be certified as making satisfactory academic progress and will not be eligible for financial aid.

Appealing for Reinstatement of Aid Due to Failure to Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Students who fail to meet satisfactory academic progress standards or who reach duration of aid limits and lose their financial aid eligibility may appeal this decision. The appeal must be made in writing and be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. Appeals should be submitted to the DSPT Academic Dean. An appeal must explain the reason(s) the student failed to make satisfactory progress and what has changed in the student’s situation that will allow him/her to make satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation.

Acceptable reasons for appeal include serious injury or illness of the student, illness or death of an immediate relative of the student, or other special circumstances.

If the Academic Dean determines that the student should be able to meet the academic progress standards after the subsequent semester, or if the Dean and student develop an academic plan that, when followed, will ensure that the student will meet the academic progress standards by a specific time, the Academic Dean may then grant the appeal and place the student on financial aid probation. Financial aid probation lasts for a period of one semester, during which time the student may continue to receive financial aid.

A student who fails the satisfactory academic progress review after the end of the financial aid probationary semester may only continue to receive aid if the student successfully appeals, the Academic Dean and student develop an academic plan, and the student is meeting its requirements. If a change to the academic plan is required, the student must appeal to change the plan. The appeal must explain what has happened to make the change necessary and how the student will be able to make academic progress.

3. Repaying Loans

At graduation, or if a student withdraws from the School, the DSPT Financial Aid Officer will contact the student regarding loan exit counseling, which covers important information concerning the repayment of loans.

The U.S. Government is concerned about the high default rate on student loans and has taken steps to encourage prompt repayment. In addition to contacting delinquent students, the Government also gives each school a list of students who have attended that school in the past and who have defaulted on their loans. At the same time, the government informs each school of its default rate. If the school’s rate reaches 25%, that school’s financial aid program can be terminated. In the case of a small school such as DSPT, a rate of 25% can be reached if only two

or three students default on their loans. Consequently, DSPT cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of repaying loans promptly, particularly when one considers the consequences. Deserving students may not get the educational funds they need if previous students do not repay their loans on time.

Students planning to graduate must arrange an exit interview with the DSPT Financial Aid Officer. Participation in this interview is a requirement for graduation and receipt of the diploma.

4. Return of Title IV Funds

See “Withdrawal” in section III, above.

TUITION AND FEES

A detailed explanation of [tuition, fees, and expected academic year expenses](#) may be found on the DSPT website. Tuition and other student fees are due and payable seven days after the end of the add/drop period. Students may view their account balance in [Populi](#). Tuition and fees may be paid by cash, check, or online using Populi. Checks should be made payable to DSPT and placed in the Office Manager mailbox located in the DSPT reception area or mailed c/o Office Manager to DSPT, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA, 94708. Populi payment options include credit card and e-check. Students with questions about their account balance may contact the Chief Financial Officer (see Section VIII: School Phone Directory, at the end of this *Handbook*).

Students with outstanding financial obligations to DSPT or any GTU affiliate may not register for classes or graduate. An exception to this policy applies to students using VA benefits, including the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits (CH31) or Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (CH33), according to the following conditions. Such students will be allowed to enroll in courses, to attend them, and to access campus facilities while the campus awaits payment for tuition and fees from the VA. While awaiting receipt of funds from the VA, DSPT will not impose any penalty, charge late fees, or require an eligible student to borrow additional funds to cover tuition or fees. This waiting period begins the date the student registers for courses and continues either until funds are received from the VA or until 90 days after the School Certifying Official (the DSPT Registrar) has certified the student’s enrollment for tuition and fees. To demonstrate current eligibility and intent to use Chapter 31 or 33 benefits, a student must provide the following documents: (1) VA Form 28-1905 (Authorization and Certification of Entrance or Reentrance into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status); **or** (2) Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or Education Enrollment Status form (printed from the VA website); **and** (3) any additional information requested by the School Certifying Official to properly certify enrollment to the VA. For more information regarding this policy, contact the DSPT Registrar. (GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.)

TUITION INSTALLMENT PLAN

Students enrolled in six or more units who are unable to pay the full tuition on the due date may wish to take advantage of a tuition payment plan option. Students who would like a Payment Plan should contact the Chief Financial Officer (see Section VIII: School Phone

Directory, at the end of this *Handbook*).

The completed application, processing fee, and down payment are due no later than the last day of the add/drop period.

TUITION REFUND

A full tuition refund will be granted to students who drop a course by the Friday of the second week of the semester. A 50% tuition refund will be granted to students who drop a course after the Friday of the second week of the semester but by the Friday of the fourth week of the semester. No refund of any amount will be made for units dropped after that time.

SECTION VI: STUDENT SERVICES

CAREER SERVICES

The Professional Development Program (PDP) at the GTU helps students develop academic and non-academic skills that contribute to professional success. The PDP offers workshops throughout the year, a regular newsletter, and online resources that prepare students to be leaders in communities and the academy. Several workshops focused on topics such as crafting CVs and cover letters, writing teaching statements and diversity statements, interviewing, and networking are held throughout the semester.

CAMPUS MAILBOXES

All students are assigned a campus mailbox in the DSPT reception area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication between students, faculty, and administration is an important key to student success. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that the DSPT Registrar's Office has the most current contact information including mailing address, telephone and email. When attempting to distribute official communications to students, DSPT is not responsible if and when items are returned to the School because of incorrect contact information.

EYE CARE

Because it is open to the general public, the UC Berkeley optometry clinic operated by the School of Optometry, the Meredith W. Morgan University Eye Center, is available to DSPT students. Services are provided by students of optometry under the supervision of registered professionals. Consequently, fees are considerably lower than at commercial locations. Visit the School of Optometry website to determine which of the three clinics of the Eye Center will meet your present needs.

HOUSING

DSPT is under no obligation to provide housing for any DSPT students. DSPT Administration may be able to help connect students to available (non-DSPT) housing resources, such as those leased by WDP or GTU schools.

ID/ LIBRARY CARD

The ID/Library Card officially identifies the students' affiliation with the DSPT and GTU. New students are issued a photo ID/Library Card during Orientation Week. Students may contact the Registrar if they have lost their ID/Library card; a \$25 card-creation fee will be charged.

LITURGY

DSPT celebrations of the liturgy are governed by the customs and norms of the Roman Catholic Church. Participation by those outside the DSPT community is welcome. Students are also welcome to join the Dominican Community of St. Albert Priory, located at 5890 Birch Court, Oakland, for the community liturgy. St. Albert Priory's liturgy schedule may be found at www.opwest.org/sap/.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT and REPRESENTATION

In order to foster our community of scholarship, the school supports and sponsors the DSPT Student Council, a representative body whose bylaws are approved by the President. The Student Council coordinates and promotes student-led activities, encouraging spiritual life and fellowship among students while fostering interaction among administration, faculty, and the student body. The Student Council helps DSPT address students' interests while representing them in areas of academic concern. The Student Council is elected by the students of the DSPT, according to the manner indicated in the Student Council bylaws.

DSPT students choose two Student Council delegates who serve as student representatives to the monthly meetings of the Regular Faculty (with voice, but not vote).

TEXTBOOKS

Students will find details about textbooks for DSPT courses as well as faculty publications and recommendations located in the specific course syllabi. Please consult the most recent version of the course syllabus for the correct ISBN and pricing details.

Many professors create readers for their courses and direct students to them. Both students and professors are required to follow copyright laws concerning use of materials – for both printed readers and electronic distribution, including Moodle. Guidelines on “Fair Use” (sec. 107) and “Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act of 2002” (sec. 110) exemptions of the Copyright Law (U.S. Code, title 17) are available at the [GTU Moodle website](#).

SECTION VII: GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION (GTU) CAMPUS & ENVIRONMENT

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Students may join the Downtown Berkeley YMCA in downtown Berkeley (for a fee). For information, visit the [Berkeley YMCA website](#).

CAMPUS SECURITY

In an effort towards having a crime-free environment, common sense safety precautions are the responsibility of each member of the DSPT community – on campus and in the surrounding area. DSPT urges students to report any incidents that occur. Crime reporting forms are available from the Title IX Coordinator or at the DSPT website. It is everyone's responsibility to be alert to the potential for criminal activity and the reporting of crimes is the responsibility of every campus of the GTU. The annual Campus Security report may be found at the DSPT website.

DSPT does not have a campus law enforcement staff. Law enforcement is provided by the Berkeley Police Department at (510) 981-5900. For emergencies only, dial 911, or cellular phone users should dial 510-981-5911 to quickly reach a Berkeley Police Dispatcher.

DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM

Several drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs are available to GTU faculty, students, and employees while the DSPT is a member of the GTU during the 2026-2027 academic year. Independently, all students may reach the Merritt Peralta Institute's (MPI) Chemical Dependency Department at (510) 869-8850 for help in dealing with a drug or alcohol dependency problem. The initial consultation is free and includes an assessment of the problem and the recommendation of a treatment plan. A local Alcoholics Anonymous may be reached at (510) 839-8900 and a Narcotics Anonymous program may be reached at (510) 444-4673.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the location of emergency exits in all of the facilities where classes are held.

In case of a fire, depart through the nearest emergency exit as quickly as possible. All emergency exits are clearly marked. Emergency information is posted and fire extinguishers are available on every floor of the main DSPT building.

FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Services are provided to those with disabilities as the need arises. Since facilities for the motor-impaired vary among the member seminaries in which classes are held, the GTU Registrar arranges for courses in which motor-impaired students are enrolled to be scheduled in accessible classrooms. Students with visual or auditory disabilities receive services as their circumstances require.

FOOD AND DRINK

Eating and drinking is permitted in the lounge, offices, meeting rooms and some of the classrooms of DSPT (food is not permitted in Classroom 1). However, liquids in Classroom 1 must be in a covered container. Please be careful to clean up after yourself.

GTU LIBRARY

While the DSPT is affiliated with the GTU during the 2026-2027 academic year, registered students and regular faculty of the DSPT automatically have full privileges at the [GTU Flora Lamson Hewlett Library](#). Please check the Library website for information about hours of operation.

Alumni who are auditing a class may request, for a minimal fee, a library pass directly from the GTU library. Visiting scholars and adjunct faculty of the DSPT may request library access through the office of the Academic Dean.

The library is located on the GTU campus at 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Students and regular faculty may also obtain a free library card for borrowing books and other materials from the UC Berkeley Library. See the GTU Library website for complete details.

At the beginning of the academic year, GTU librarians offer instructional tours of the Library. Workshops are available throughout the year. Both are very worthwhile, and can save students much frustration by acquainting them with research tools essential for successful achievement as a graduate student.

Be sure to note that unpaid library fines will affect a student's ability to register and graduate.

APPENDIX A: COMPLEMENTARY CURRICULUM

The Complementary Curriculum is a set of courses that is not required by the Master of Divinity degree but are offered at DSPT to allow clerical students to complete the four years of theological study canonically required for ordination in the Roman Catholic Church as outlined in the *Program of Priestly Formation (PPF)* and the formation documents of the Western Dominican Province.

Since these courses are not required by any DSPT degree or program, clerical and religious students should follow the guidance of their formators as to whether these courses are required for their academic formation. They may be used to meet MA elective requirements. The complementary curriculum consists of five courses (15 units):

<i>Intermediate-level Sacred Scripture course</i>	3.0 units
<i>(whichever of the six intermediate-level MDiv Scripture core courses is not used for the MDiv)</i>	
Canon Law of Marriage	1.5 units
The One Creator God	3.0 units
Systematic Christology	3.0 units
Sacraments: Eucharist & Orders	3.0 units
<u>Liturgical Preaching</u>	<u>3.0 units</u>
TOTAL	16.5 units

APPENDIX B: SCHOOL PHONE DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION	Phone (area code 510)
Reception Desk	849-2030
President (Albert Duggan, OP: president@dspt.edu)	883-2083
Academic Dean (Paschal Strader, OP: dean@dspt.edu) Contact for questions, issues, or petitions relating to academic programs or student life.	883-2068
Chief Financial Officer (Jess Alvarado: jalvarado@dspt.edu) Contact for questions concerning tuition or fees.	883-7160
Director of Facilities Operations (Robert Boggs: rboggs@dspt.edu) Contact for questions or problems concerning facilities.	849-7153
Director of Recruitment and Communications (Victoria Soria-Guzman: vsoria-guzman@dspt.edu) Contact for questions concerning DSPT recruitment of prospective students or DSPT communications and advertising.	883-2073
Registrar and Coordinator of Financial Aid (Rebecca Hinkley: registrar@dspt.edu) Manages student records, transcripts, and course registration. Contact the Registrar for enrollment verification, registration questions, and questions regarding the academic calendar. Also contact for questions about financial aid.	883-2056
Title IX Coordinator for Campus Security & Quality (Rebecca Hinkley) Contact for questions on campus security, Title IX policy or to report a complaint related to Title IX or the policy prohibiting unlawful harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and hazing.	883-2056

REGULAR FACULTY	Phone (area code 510)
Bradley Elliott, O.P., Professor of Theology	(849-2030)
Marianne Farina, C.S.C., Professor of Philosophy and Theology	(849-2030)
Justin Gable, O.P., Professor of Philosophy	(849-2030)
Michael Glowasky, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology	(849-2030)
Peter Hannah, O.P., Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies	(849-2030)
James Kintz, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy	883-2055
Dennis Klein, Assistant Professor of Theology	883-2079 (voicemail only)
Bryan Kromholtz, O.P., Professor of Theology	883-7151
Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P., Assistant Professor of Theology	(849-2030)
Anselm Ramelow, O.P., Professor of Philosophy / Philosophy Department Chair	(849-2030)
Christopher J. Renz, O.P., Professor of Liturgical Studies	883-2084
Raphael Mary Salzillo, O.P., Assistant Professor of Philosophy	(849-2030)
Ambrose Sigman, O.P., Assistant Professor of Theology	(849-2030)
Paschal Strader, O.P., Assistant Professor of Philosophy	883-2068
Matthew J. Thomas, D. Phil., Associate Professor of Biblical Studies / Theology Department Chair	(849-2030)
Marga Vega, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy	883-2072