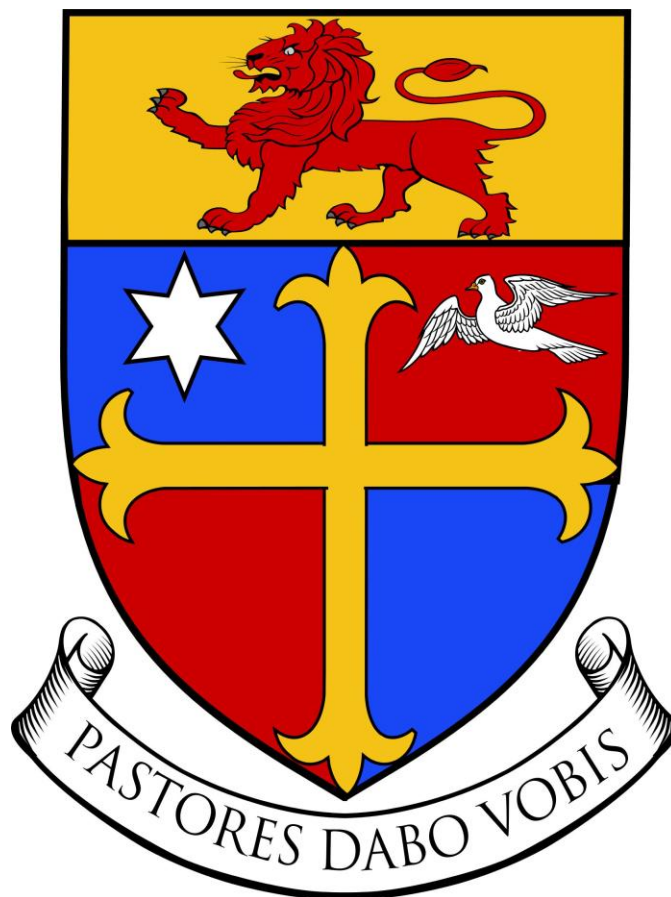


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SEMINARY



**CATALOG
2026-2027**



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SEMINARY

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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gregory the Great Seminary forms Catholic men as disciples of Jesus Christ and assists their discernment of a priestly vocation to serve God and His Church.

VISION STATEMENT

St. Gregory the Great Seminary provides formation for seminarians according to the teaching and discipline of the Catholic Church by an integrated program of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. This formation is provided on behalf of the Catholic Bishop of Lincoln, as well as other archdioceses, dioceses, and religious communities. St. Gregory the Great Seminary prepares students for entry into theological studies through an undergraduate college education or pre-theology program and seeks to develop the natural gifts of the seminarians as men of faith committed to Jesus Christ and His Church. St. Gregory the Great Seminary also offers its resources to the larger community as such need is discerned in collaboration with the Catholic Bishop of Lincoln.

GOALS

The overall goals of St. Gregory the Great Seminary may be summarized as follows:

1. To assist and guide the seminarian's discernment of a vocation to the Catholic priesthood, and to foster a mature commitment to that vocation.
2. To foster personal growth and balance in virtue, self-knowledge, leadership, and the natural human qualities that will enable one to be a man of faith and to serve as a Catholic priest.
3. To foster personal spiritual growth in the Christian life, within the tradition of the Church's spirituality and theology.
4. To provide a liberal arts education with a solid philosophical foundation, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree, and to ensure readiness for graduate study in theology.
5. To develop a spirit of apostolic service in the mind and heart of the seminarian by fostering an understanding of the pastoral work of the Church.
6. To integrate the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of priestly formation in the experience of each seminarian.

ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

St. Gregory the Great Seminary is a fully accredited member institution of the Higher Learning Commission (www.hlcommission.org; 800-621-7440). St. Gregory Seminary completed a comprehensive visit in 2015 and was renewed in its accreditation by the Institutional Actions Council through the 2025-2026 school year.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary is an approved institution of higher education in the State of Nebraska by the Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education. It is also a member of the National Association of College Seminaries.

HISTORY OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SEMINARY

Since the establishment of the Diocese of Lincoln in 1887, the men preparing for the priesthood have been educated in various seminaries throughout the United States and abroad. As the Church developed in Southern Nebraska, the advantages of a local seminary became increasingly evident.

The insights of the Second Vatican Council as well as changing social and economic conditions strengthened the Church's awareness that her mission of training men for the priesthood must be both doctrinal and pastoral. This idea is developed in the first chapter of the *Decree on Priestly Formation* of the Second Vatican Council. This dual aspect is emphasized with the statement that priestly formation should "always answer the pastoral needs for the area in which the ministry is to be exercised."

The dream of having a diocesan seminary began to be realized when Bishop Glennon P. Flavin authorized a two-year college program that began operation in September of 1984. The men enrolled in that program lived at Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly, Nebraska. They registered at the University of Nebraska for the secular subjects in their curriculum while the ecclesiastical subjects and spiritual formation were provided at the seminary.

The desire for a free-standing diocesan seminary persisted. In 1996, Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz appointed a task force to study the possibilities of such a project and then to find a suitable site. The site that finally seemed to fulfill most of the requisites for a seminary was the former Rivendell Hospital located south of Seward. Its proximity to Lincoln offered the advantages of a municipality, while the spacious campus and sturdy building with its kitchen, dining area, private rooms, gymnasium, and courtyard provided a quiet and appropriate atmosphere conducive to priestly formation. After careful reflection and consultation, Bishop Bruskewitz submitted a bid for the property. This bid of \$1.35 million was accepted in April 1997.

The seminary was named in honor of Saint Gregory the Great, who was born in Rome about 540 and died on March 12, 604. During the thirteen years that he served the Church as Pope Gregory I, he summarized the teachings of the earlier Fathers of the Church into one harmonious whole, and he worked diligently to form the clergy of his time for service to Christ and His Church. He also emphasized the fact that the See of Peter is the one supreme and decisive authority in the Catholic Church. Not without reason did the Church bestow on him the seldom-granted title of "the Great." The epitaph on his tomb in Saint Peter's in Rome expresses it well: "After having conformed all his actions to his doctrines, the great consul of God went to enjoy eternal triumphs."

On June 16, 1997, the Very Reverend John C. Rooney was appointed Pro-Rector of Saint Gregory the Great Seminary, which was to be opened in August 1998. With the assistance of several planning committees, Father Rooney immediately began to assemble a faculty and staff, to develop the formation program, and to commence a plan of building renovation and expansion.

After a year of intense preparation, Father Rooney obtained approval from the State of Nebraska for the Seminary to operate as a degree-granting institution of higher education. Bishop Bruskewitz

formally blessed and dedicated Saint Gregory the Great Seminary on August 23, 1998 with a crowd of two thousand people in attendance. Twenty-three students for the Diocese of Lincoln enrolled in the college and pre-theology programs, constituting the first student body of Saint Gregory the Great Seminary. At the end of that inaugural year, the first graduating class of the Seminary received their diplomas on May 8, 1999.

Since opening its doors in 1998, the fruitfulness of Saint Gregory the Great Seminary has become evident. In years that followed, the Seminary began to serve the Church outside of the Diocese of Lincoln by welcoming students from several dioceses and religious orders. Echoing the words of the Second Vatican Council, Bishop Bruskewitz has referred to Saint Gregory the Great Seminary as the “heart of the Diocese” where men will be formed for priestly service in the Diocese of Lincoln and beyond.

On June 16, 1999, Bishop Bruskewitz appointed the Very Reverend John T. Folda as Rector, and in that same month, a planned expansion project was launched. Construction began on a new chapel, library, classrooms, and offices; this continued through the Jubilee Year 2000. Finally, on November 19, 2000, in the presence of over a thousand visitors, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, dedicated and blessed Immaculate Conception Chapel, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Library, and the new classrooms and offices.

April 23, 2002 saw the groundbreaking for construction of a bell tower, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus Bell Tower was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Bruskewitz on May 3, 2003, and it has become a landmark in the local community and in the Diocese of Lincoln.

After having served as Assistant Professor and Academic Dean, Very Reverend Jeffrey R. Eickhoff was appointed Rector on June 1, 2013. Under his guidance, the programs and facilities continued to grow. With the increase of numbers of seminarians, dioceses, and religious congregations sending men to St. Gregory Seminary, the Board of Trustees decided in 2014 to expand the scope and size of the Seminary to accommodate greater numbers as it was becoming a regional seminary. A new *Strategic Plan* was drafted and approved which included a master plan for expansion of the facilities. The kitchen facilities were updated and expanded in 2014, and other spaces within the building were converted to student rooms because of immediate need. Phase I included additional student rooms, resident priest suites, classrooms, and new utilities, including ground-source geothermal heating and air conditioning. This phase was completed during the 2017-2018 school year, and the new building addition was blessed by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, on April 22, 2018.

On June 14, 2021, Very Reverend Brian P. Kane was appointed as Rector, continuing with the success and growth of St. Gregory the Great Seminary with a particular emphasis on human formation and implementation of the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* and the *Program for Priestly Formation*, 6th Edition. During his tenure, additional dioceses began to be served, and the number of seminarians has increased dramatically. Under his guidance and under the direction of Fr. Ben Holdren, the Propaedeutic Stage has provided excellent initial human and spiritual formation that provides a foundation upon which the academic work of the Discipleship Stage can be built and integrated.

On June 1, 2026, the Very Reverend James J. Morin began his service as Rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary as assigned by the Most Reverend James Conley, Bishop of Lincoln.

Soon after opening the Seminary, the Faculty and Administration began to work towards academic accreditation in accord with the expectations of the Program of Priestly Formation. After several years of self-study and evaluation, as well as site visits by evaluation teams, the Seminary was granted Initial Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission on November 4, 2010. This accreditation was renewed after another formal visit by the Commission in 2026, which granted full accreditation through the 2035-2036 school year.

The opening and continued growth of Saint Gregory the Great Seminary demonstrates that the present time is a time of hope, not only for the Diocese of Lincoln, but also for the Universal Church.

Founded during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, the Seminary is formed in the light of his apostolic exhortation on priestly formation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, from which the Seminary has taken its motto. Pope Benedict XVI declared in his inaugural homily, “The Church is alive. The Church is young!” Saint Gregory the Great Seminary is but one sign of the youthfulness and vitality of the Church, which is ever ancient and ever new.

AREAS OF PRIESTLY FORMATION

Through human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation, St. Gregory the Great Seminary seeks to “protect and develop the seeds of a priestly vocation, so that the students may more easily recognize it and be in a better position to respond to it” (John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 63). As they discern the authenticity of God’s call to the priesthood in their lives, the seminarians are prepared by the Seminary program of formation to pursue theological studies in preparation for ordination to the sacred ministry.

Stages of Formation: Propaedeutic and Discipleship

Following the promulgation of the *Ratio Fundamentalis* and the 6th Edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, St. Gregory the Great Seminary has established two distinct but complementary stages of seminary formation. Due to a variety of factors facing young men in the 21st Century, the Church has deemed it necessary to institute an initial preparatory stage of formation (see *PPF*, 17-22). This initial stage, entitled the Propaedeutic Stage “seeks to provide seminarians with the basic groundwork they need to engage in priestly formation.” (*PPF*, 119) The Propaedeutic Stage, which focuses in large part on the human and spiritual dimension of formation, nonetheless has intellectual and pastoral components. The coursework of the Propaedeutic Stage will provide seminarians with a basic understanding of the Catholic Faith, prayer, and fundamental components of applied psychology. The duration of this first stage of formation is to be one year. The integration of formation into a seminarian’s life and his suitability for advancement to the Discipleship stage is to be judged according to the benchmarks provided in the *Program of Priestly Formation*.

The Discipleship Stage of formation follows the Propaedeutic Stage. In the Discipleship Stage, the seminarian is to continue the growth begun in the Propaedeutic Stage. The four dimensions of formation take on a more balanced presence in this second period of formation. The Discipleship Stage encompasses what was previously the 2 or 4 years of priestly formation provided by St. Gregory the Great Seminary. The goal of this stage is to provide a systematic and rigorous formation that has at its core the goal of growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the life of meditation and contemplation, as well as the training of one’s character in Christian virtue, so as to lay a solid foundation for future stages. The study of philosophy occurs during the discipleship stage.” (*PPF*, 132). As in the Propaedeutic Stage, seminarians in the Discipleship Stage are judged suitable for advancement to the next stage of formation, the Configuration Stage insofar as they have satisfactorily achieved the Discipleship Stage benchmarks in all four areas of formation.

Human Formation

Human formation is the “necessary foundation” of priestly formation. (*PDV*.43). Through regular conferences, the guided experience of community life, and the study of the liberal arts with its ability to integrate the student’s understanding of the human experience, the students are assisted in their growth as human persons and as followers of Jesus Christ. They are helped to understand their humanity, their strengths, and their need for growth as they progress in personal and spiritual maturity. They are aided in discerning the reality of God’s call to the priesthood, and their willingness and ability to answer this call. Seminarians are challenged to explore the demands of priestly life and ministry and to develop those natural and supernatural virtues that will be required.

Guidance by formation advisors in individual meetings and collectively in the annual review will help provide insights and recommendations to assist the seminarians in their growth.

Spiritual Formation

Seminarians at St. Gregory the Great Seminary are assisted in a process of ordered growth in their relationship with God, whom they aspire to serve as priests. Spiritual formation is centered in the Word of God and the sacramental life of the Church. The celebration of the Eucharist is the high point of each day in which the seminarians encounter the Lord in Word and Sacrament. The daily praying of portions of the Liturgy of the Hours establishes a rhythm of the community at prayer. The regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation assists the continual call to conversion of life by personal repentance and ready recourse to the mercy of God. Devotional and private prayer in the rich heritage of the Catholic Church is provided and encouraged in order to foster in the seminarian a deep personal attachment to the Lord and His Church. Such devotions include Eucharistic Adoration, meditation on the Word of God, and devotion to Mary and the saints. Spiritual conferences and personal spiritual direction provide the seminarian with guidance and necessary information as he enters more deeply into a relationship with God.

Intellectual Formation

St. Gregory the Great Seminary provides an academic program of study for undergraduate students. Through a liberal arts curriculum, the students are challenged with a breadth of understanding of past and present deeds, words, and ideas, and their interpretation within the heritage of the Catholic Church. Philosophy is the major field of study for all students. In conformity with the directives of the Second Vatican Council and the practice of the Church, the students study philosophy in light of the moderate realism of St. Thomas Aquinas. In this way, they are prepared appropriately for the study of theology at the graduate level. The study of history, literature, theology, modern and ancient languages, as well as courses in science, mathematics, education, and fine arts, join with philosophy to provide a well-rounded undergraduate program of study which culminates in the awarding of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary also provides an integrated and focused program of study for those who have already earned an undergraduate degree from a non-seminary college. The core of this pre-theology program will be the study of philosophy with emphasis on the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Also included are other areas of study necessary or beneficial for graduate theological study. This program culminates in the awarding of the Bachelor of Philosophy degree.

Pastoral Formation

Students aspiring to the Catholic priesthood are preparing for the time when they will enter the pastoral ministry. St. Gregory the Great Seminary provides for practical preparation for the ministry through a suitable pastoral apprenticeship. Through assignments in pastoral work appropriate to their level of formation, seminarians are given opportunities to exercise the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, to give of their time and energy in service, and to grow in their understanding of the role of the priest in service to the People of God. The program of pastoral formation provides a plan of apostolate assignments, appropriate supervision, evaluation, and theological reflection to facilitate the connection of their pastoral experience with their studies, formation, and discernment of a priestly vocation.

CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

Location

The campus of St. Gregory the Great Seminary, distinctively marked by its Chapel and Bell Tower, is located three miles south of Seward, Nebraska along Highway 15 and approximately twenty miles west of the city of Lincoln. Interstate 80 passes three miles south of the Seminary and offers easy access. The city of Lincoln and the community of Seward offer many cultural and social attractions, including concerts, museums, and athletic events.

Surrounded by Nebraska farmland, the brick and stone structure is set on a 60- acre site with lawns, wooded prairies, and a pond. Built in the Romanesque style, Immaculate Conception Chapel and the Knights of Columbus Bell Tower are prominent landmarks and make the Seminary visible for miles around. The single integrated building includes classrooms, student residence halls, library, chapel, dining facilities, gymnasium, recreational areas, guest accommodations, and administrative offices.

Library

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Library is an integral part of St. Gregory the Great Seminary's educational programs. Since its inception in 1998, the library has grown to over 50,000 catalogued volumes, several on-line electronic collections, numerous periodical subscriptions, and a significant audiovisual collection. The library's collection emphasizes the fields of philosophy, theology, Sacred Scripture, spirituality, history, and literature, and supports the liberal arts curriculum of the Seminary's academic program.

The library is open every day of the week to the Seminary's students and staff for study and research. Other patrons may gain access to the library by request. Study carrels, comfortable seating and lighting, computer access, and its ample and growing collection make the library an inviting place for study and research.

Students also have access to Concordia University in Seward, five minutes from the Seminary. Convenient access to more extensive resources is provided by the OCLC Network.

Recreational Facilities

The Seminary features a gymnasium and exercise room for group and individual athletic and fitness activities. Outdoor playing fields are also available for softball, football, soccer, and other outdoor sports. The Seminary grounds and surrounding countryside also offer ample space for jogging, walking, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

The community room is convenient places for socializing and relaxation, which offers pool, ping-pong, foosball, space for visiting and playing games, a kitchenette, and a music room for vocal and instrumental use. A television room is nearby. The St. Therese and Marian lounges, located at the juncture of Aquinas, Gonzaga, and Francis Halls, offer quiet places for reading and study.

Technology

The Seminary has an institutional computer network that offers Internet access and desktop workstations for faculty, student and staff use. Students have access to this network through Wi-Fi connections as well as in the Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Library. All classrooms are equipped with LCD projectors as well as whiteboards. Seminary laptop computers are made available to faculty members and for students as needed, especially those in the Propaedeutic Stage.

STUDENT LIFE AND ACTIVITIES

Spiritual Life

The Sacred Liturgy is at the core of the seminarian's day. All seminarians participate in daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, namely, Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer. Seminarians also participate in a variety of other liturgical services and devotions such as Eucharistic Benediction, individual and communal Reconciliation, and the Rosary. Personal prayer and meditation are essential components of spiritual growth, and these will be regular features of the seminarian's daily life.

Seminarians share responsibility for planning and organizing the community spiritual exercises. The Seminary *schola cantorum* and individual cantors plan and practice weekly for the music that is so important to the celebration of the Liturgy.

Community Life

The essential work of the seminary takes place in the context of community. At St. Gregory the Great Seminary, the seminarians live, pray, study, recreate, and work together to be formed for the priesthood. During their seminary years, seminarians prepare themselves to be qualified and ordained heralds of the Good News of salvation and ministers of the Christian mysteries. This high purpose separates St. Gregory the Great Seminary from other educational institutions and makes unique demands of self-education on the seminarians themselves.

The rules and directives of the Seminary are related to the program goals of the institution: the development of seminarians into educated, mature persons in genuine relationship of communion with Christ and His Church. Within the Seminary community, the Administration and Faculty are committed to the necessary work of priestly formation. The Seminary has clear structures of discipline that must be squarely faced by potential candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood. A mature response to the structures entails authentic free choice, personally motivated and prompted from within. While recognizing that freedom is crucial in the personal development of the individual seminarian, the Seminary is cognizant of the fact that community accountability is also a component in each seminarian's vocational maturity. Considerations for accountability are heightened when the goal of St. Gregory the Great Seminary is understood: the preparation of men as priests dedicated to the service of God and His Church.

Seminarian Council

The Seminarian Council consists of elected student members from each class who meet regularly with the Dean of Men. These representatives serve as liaisons between their classes and the Administration. The Seminarian Council will often assist in the planning and organization of major events at the Seminary, and they offer input to the Administration on ordinary and extraordinary issues of Seminary life.

Social and Cultural Activities

The Seminary community regularly attends and participates in parish-based or local community events. Both on- and off-campus opportunities are offered for attendance at concerts, theater productions, movies, and sporting events. Lectures and other educational events are also made available. Students take a leading role in organizing these activities.

Seminarians also regularly participate in student-organized athletic events, e.g. basketball, soccer, football, and softball. Individual exercise and use of the Seminary recreational facilities is strongly encouraged.

Bookstore

Students of St. Gregory the Great Seminary purchase books and supplies for their courses through the Seminary Bookstore. Other available items include stationery, personal supplies, and Seminary apparel. Purchases are on a cash basis, or billing can be arranged through the administrative office.

Money Service

A non-profit seminarian-operated money service provides check-cashing and the sale of stamps for seminarians.

Laundry

Washing machines and dryers are available for seminarian use in the laundry rooms located in the residence area. These are coin operated (\$.50 each for wash and dry) and students are responsible for their own laundry supplies.

Health Care

The Seminary maintains a supply of non-prescription medical supplies for those suffering from minor illness. For more serious health needs, the Seward Family Clinic and Memorial Hospital are within five minutes of the Seminary. A student infirmarian is designated to assist members of the community with ordinary needs in case of illness. Individual medical expenses are to be met by the seminarian or his family; thus, every student is required to enroll in a program of health insurance, either a family or diocesan plan.

Student Involvement

Every student is assigned a particular task that is his responsibility for the duration of the school year, e.g. master of ceremonies, sacristan, music director, kitchen prefect, etc. Each student has an important part to play in the ordinary daily life of the Seminary. Students also assist weekly with the upkeep and maintenance of the Seminary grounds and living quarters.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Tuition and Fees

Cost per seminarian for tuition, room, and board is set each academic year (Fall and Spring Semesters combined).

Tuition for 2026-2027:	\$23,146
Room and Board for 2025-2026:	\$15,431
Total:	\$38,577

The cost for the propaedeutic year will include an additional \$1050 fee to help cover the additional costs of retreats and the pilgrimage.

Each diocese or religious community is responsible for full payment to St. Gregory the Great Seminary each semester for its seminarians. Statements for each semester are sent out in August and January to each diocese or religious community as well as to the seminarians. The fees stated above are for the 2026-2027 academic year and are subject to change for subsequent academic years.

Each diocese and religious community has its own policy regarding the seminarian's obligations to pay for his seminary training. This information should be available from the vocation director for that diocese or religious community.

It is the obligation of each seminarian to pay for his own books and supplies. Seminarians may apply to join the health care plan of the Diocese of Lincoln at the time the plan permits. Membership in this or some similar health insurance plan is required. Medical care expenses must be met by the seminarian or his family.

Federal Guaranteed Student Loans are not available. Seminarians may apply for deferments from their student loans while they are enrolled as full-time students at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. Forms should be acquired from financial institutions and brought for completion to the Seminary's finance office.

Refund Policy

Refunds for tuition, room, and board are made when a seminarian withdraws from all courses or applies for a leave of absence within the first five weeks of a semester. Refunds must be requested in writing. The total amount refunded is determined by the following schedule, starting from the first day of class:

	Amount Refunded
Up to two weeks	80%
Between two and three weeks	60%
Between three and four weeks	40%
Between four and five weeks	20%
Over five weeks	None

In the case of a seminarian's withdrawal or leave of absence, written notification of the effective date of withdrawal will be issued by the Seminary upon request.

Loan Deferment Policy

The seminary will verify full-time enrollment in order for seminarians to defer payment of student loans that were taken before acceptance to the seminary. Contact the finance office.

Veterans and Those Receiving Veterans Benefits

Veterans initially enrolling at St. Gregory the Great Seminary should contact their local Veterans Administration Office regarding eligibility of VA educational benefits.

Consistent with the *Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018*, Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, Section 103 ®, St. Gregory the Great Seminary will not impose any penalties due to the delayed disbursement of a payment by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs on recipients of Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 VA Benefits. Further, St. Gregory the Great Seminary will permit any covered individual to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides the Seminary a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33, and ending on the earlier of the following dates: 1) The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution or 2) 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the COE (Certificate of Eligibility).

Additionally, St. Gregory the Great Seminary will not require that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the Seminary due to the delayed disbursement of funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapter 31 or 33. "A Covered Individual is any individual who is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation, or chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, and has been verified by the school certifying official as benefit eligible. This requirement is limited to the portion of funds paid by VA." A copy of the full *Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018* can be found at: https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/transition_act.asp and can be accessed from the Seminary website.

"GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)".

St. Gregory the Great Seminary will provide individuals with veterans benefits with a shopping list that will include the estimated cost of tuition, room and board, and books as well as the estimated diocesan payment toward the tuition, room, and board.

Due to the nature of the seminary, various factors, most notably vocational discernment, determine whether a seminarian will complete the program. Our rate of graduation is approximately 65%.

Students who are enrolled members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components of the National Guard can be readmitted if they are temporarily unavailable or suspend enrollment by reason of serving in the Armed Forces. Students who are required to be absent for short absences due their service in the Armed Services will be accommodated as much as possible, but they are asked to schedule such absences as much as possible at times that will not disrupt their formation at the seminary.

The point of contact for covered individuals regarding benefits is Fr. John Rooney. The point of contact for guidance through the program of study, as well as personal guidance and referral to counseling as necessary is the Formator who is assigned to the individual seminarian.

ADMISSIONS

Catholic men who are seriously considering preparation for the Roman Catholic priesthood and priestly service within a particular diocese or religious community are eligible to seek admission to St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and complies with all applicable non-discrimination laws not contrary to the religious mission of the Seminary.

Applicants for the Diocese of Lincoln

Any man who discerns that he is called to priestly service in the Diocese of Lincoln should contact or be referred to:

Vocation Director
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
320 North 16th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

The vocation office will arrange for interviews with the applicant and will provide the applicant with an application packet to start the admission process. The requirements of the year-round diocesan formation program will be outlined for the applicant. All applications and required documents must be in the vocation director's office by July 15 for admission to St. Gregory the Great Seminary for the fall semester.

Applicants for other (Arch) Dioceses and Religious Communities

Candidates for admission to St. Gregory the Great Seminary are usually admitted only if sponsored by an archdiocese, diocese, or religious community. Any man who wishes to study at St. Gregory the Great Seminary for service in another archdiocese, diocese, or religious community must contact the proper vocation director.

With the approval of the Bishop of Lincoln, applicants for other dioceses and religious communities are welcome to make application by writing to the St. Gregory the Great Seminary admissions office for information and application forms. All applications and required documents must be submitted to St. Gregory the Great Seminary admissions office by July 15 for admission to the Seminary for the fall semester.

All Applicants

All applicants, whether for the Diocese of Lincoln, another diocese or religious community, must be high school graduates and must give clear evidence that they have the ability to meet scholastic requirements. Applicants are required to have taken the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board or an equivalent (SAT, ACT, CLT) and should have the results of these tests sent directly to the Seminary's Admission Office.

College courses already successfully completed are evaluated by the Academic Dean in the light of the curriculum of St. Gregory the Great Seminary and, wherever possible, credits already earned are transferred into the Seminary's college program, in keeping with policies stated later in this catalog. Transcripts should be sent from each educational institution attended directly to the Seminary's Admissions Office.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary intends to comply fully with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended. Copies of this act will be found on file in the Registrar's Office.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary is interested in determining that an applicant be of high moral character and imbued with the right intention of studying for the priesthood. St. Gregory the Great Seminary admissions office relies heavily on the judgment of the respective vocation director and bishop concerning the suitability of applicants. Serious attention is given to recommendations attesting to the exemplary standing of each applicant within his parish community. Similarly, careful consideration is given to factors indicative of a developed sense of responsibility within the personal life of each applicant.

If a man has left seminary formation and wishes to return, he must reapply for admission to the program, however, he may be allowed to include material from his previous application depending on the situation and time involved.

The Admissions Committee of St. Gregory the Great Seminary will review each completed application promptly and will inform the applicant of acceptance or non-acceptance as soon as possible.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary
Admissions Office
800 Fletcher Road
Seward, NE 68434-8145

Application and Interview Process

A man who wishes to be considered for admission as a seminarian at St. Gregory the Great Seminary must supply each of the following items sent directly to the Rector at the Seminary.

- Completed application for admission form
- Letter of sponsorship from a diocese or religious community, if not a student for the Diocese of Lincoln
- Church Documents: (All church documents should include the name and seal of the church where the sacrament was received.)
 - Baptismal certificate issued within the last six months
 - Confirmation certificate
- Academic Data:
- Official academic transcripts from each secondary school and college previously attended
- Results of standardized tests: ACT, SAT, CLT
- Letters of Recommendation from:
 - Principal or guidance counselor from the last school attended
 - Applicant's pastor
 - Rector of seminary previously attended (if applicable)
 - Director of vocations or bishop, if not a student for the Diocese of Lincoln
- Doctor's physical examination recorded on the St. Gregory the Great Seminary form, including all immunization data
- Results of psychological testing

When the above documentation is complete, an admissions interview may be scheduled with the Seminary Admissions Committee.

Credit Transfer Policy

It is the responsibility of the student entering St. Gregory the Great Seminary to authorize and request academic records and transcripts to be sent to the Seminary. In light of the Seminary curriculum, the Academic Dean evaluates college courses already successfully completed. All transfer credits:

1. Represent work that is applicable to the student's course of study.
2. Represent work that is equivalent to the work for which it is to be substituted at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.
3. Have a passing grade of C or better.
4. Will have the name of the approved institution recorded on the transcript.
5. Will not affect the student's GPA.
6. Must be approved by the Academic Dean.

Enrolled students who wish to pursue work at other institutions and to have the credit transferred into their degree program at St. Gregory the Great Seminary must obtain prior approval from the Academic Dean. This approval is required for all credits transferred by correspondence work, summer schoolwork, and work through the mass media.

Students Applying to St. Gregory the Great Seminary Who Have Been Home-Schooled

St. Gregory the Great Seminary encourages men who have been home-schooled to make application. These students typically do not have a traditional high school diploma or transcript; therefore, the application process will vary. Several documents must be sent to St.

Gregory the Great Seminary:

- Submit a completed St. Gregory the Great Seminary application form.
- Submit a test score from the ACT, SAT, or CLT.
- Submit a certificate of completion of an approved home school academic program. In the absence of such a certificate the primary teacher or administrator of the home school must provide:
 - A typed transcript (semester format) of the courses the student completed in the home school environment. Grades or averages earned in each course must be included on the transcript.
 - Textbook information listed by course (including titles and authors) along with a brief description of each of the courses.
- Students who completed courses in a school other than their home school (traditional high school or college) must have an official copy of their academic transcript from that school sent to the Admissions Office.
- Home school students are strongly encouraged to submit passing test scores on the GED (General Equivalency Diploma.) Exam results should be sent to the Admissions Office at St. Gregory the Great Seminary directly from the GED testing center.

Admittance of Students who are not United States Citizens

St. Gregory the Great Seminary accepts students who are not citizens of the United States. This school is authorized under Federal Law to enroll nonimmigrant students.

Those who are not United States citizens must have applied and acquired an F-1 (student) visa from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security for a period sufficient to complete their studies. This documentation along with a current, valid passport from their respective country of citizenship must be brought to the Registrar's Office immediately after having arrived at the Seminary.

Students with English as a Second Language

St. Gregory the Great Seminary accepts students whose first language is not English. Accommodations to the Seminary's academic program can be made to help these students attain the proficiency they need to pursue their vocation.

Those who wish to apply should submit, in addition to the other required materials, test scores from a standard, English proficiency exam such as TOEFL or COMPASS and/or evaluations from previous ESL programs. Generally, students must obtain a TOEFL score of 75 or higher.

The Academic Dean, in consultation with the English department and others, will develop a program of studies for these students according to their abilities and needs. This may include ESL classes in other local colleges, remedial studies within the Seminary, or tutoring that will help the students to complete the Seminary's academic program.

Placement Testing

To help assure success of students in the academic program, testing may be employed to determine proficiency and skills needed for college work. An English Essay Writing test may be given to help determine proficiency and skill.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Academic Year

The academic year is divided into two semesters of approximately 15 weeks each. The fall semester starts in August and ends in December. The spring semester starts in January and ends in May. All courses are taught on a semester basis. Credits are earned in terms of semester hours.

Student Load

The normal load permitted during a semester is 12 to 18 semester hours. Special permission must be obtained from the Academic Dean for additional work. Such permission is usually granted only if the student's cumulative grade-point average is 3.0 or over. The minimum load is 12 semester hours; however, in isolated instances, at the discretion of the Academic Dean and for a limited number of semesters, a student may be permitted to carry a course load of fewer than 12 hours.

Enrollment in classes

Seminarians are enrolled in classes according to the program of study in which they are accepted. The individual sequence of classes is prepared by the Academic Dean taking into account previous credits that are accepted into the program and reviewed with the seminarian. Adjustments in the program of study are done with the approval of the seminarian. Students are not automatically re-enrolled in classes.

Class Attendance

St. Gregory the Great Seminary requires attendance at all classes and laboratories at the assigned times. Multiple unexcused absences may result in a docking of the grade or a loss of academic credit. When a student's absences, even though justifiable, exceed one-third of the class periods in a course, the student cannot ordinarily receive a passing grade in that course. When credit is lost due to repeated absences, a student will need to repeat the course. Repeated failure may make one liable to dismissal.

Academic Assistance

For those students who are deficient in certain skills required for doing college work, arrangements can be made in individual cases for assistance.

Student Assessments

Assessments are given at mid-semester and at the end of each semester. The stipulation concerning mid-semester assessment is met if the instructor has given at least one major examination or other project assessment at some point during the first seven weeks of the course. All other assignments, such as presentations, projects, or written papers, are to be assigned to be completed at least one full week before final examinations take place.

Final examinations in all courses are held on the dates and in the places designated on the final examination schedule. No seminarian is excused from an examination unless an exception is granted by the Academic Dean. A seminarian who, for illness or another serious reason, is or will be absent from a final examination may request permission from the Academic Dean to reschedule the examination. The seminarian is responsible for making the necessary arrangements with the appropriate professor. If an

examination has not been taken within two weeks, a failing grade (F) will be given for the course. Extensions can be granted only by the Academic Dean.

Grading Policy

Letter grades are used to indicate the quality of a seminarian's performance in a course. Professors assign grades as the result of class participation, written work, reports, research papers, examinations, or a combination of the above.

Grading System

The following grading system is used for all courses.

Letter	Percentage	Description	Grade Point
A+	99-100		4.000
A	95-98	Excellent	4.000
A-	93-94		3.667
B+	91-92		3.333
B	87-90	Very Good	3.000
B-	85-86		2.667
C+	83-84		2.333
C	79-82	Satisfactory	2.000
C-	77-78		1.667
D+	75-76		1.333
D	72-74	Passing	1.000
D-	70-71		0.667
F	Below 70	Failed	0.000
P		Pass	0.000
AU		Audit	0.000
I		Incomplete	0.000
W		Withdrawal	0.000
NC		No Credit	0.000

Audit of Courses

Courses may be audited by students in classes that are not required as part of their program. A student must either meet all prerequisites or receive special permission from the instructor as well as from the Academic Dean. Instructors will require attendance, stipulate reading, and establish standards of performance from an auditing student. The transcript will show an "AU" for an audited class. No credit or grades will be awarded for a course that is audited.

Incomplete

Any student receiving an Incomplete in any course has four weeks following the end of the academic semester to complete the work. After four weeks, the student will receive a grade of F in the course, which is computed into his GPA. The Academic Dean in consultation with the instructor may grant an extension.

Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from courses during the first three weeks without academic penalty with the permission of the Academic Dean. After the first three weeks of the course, withdrawal may be permitted only for serious reasons and with the Academic Dean's permission in consultation with the instructor. If after the three-week period and before the end of the semester, a student believes that he must withdraw from a course and should not receive a failing grade, he must submit a written petition to the Academic Dean stating the special circumstances that warrant withdrawal from the course without penalty. The Academic Dean will seek the recommendation of the instructor and the Rector before granting or denying the petition.

Unit of Credit

The unit of credit is the semester hour; one semester hour is normally earned by one 50-minute period of classroom instruction or by one two-hour laboratory period per week for one semester. Units of credit are awarded for courses in which the student's achievement is graded above failing.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A student's grade point average is determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of semester hours attempted. Grade points apply only to semester grades. Grade points are not granted for Pass/Fail Courses, nor do these courses affect the semester or cumulative averages.

Report of Grades

A formal report of the student's academic achievement is made at the end of each semester. Copies of the report are mailed to the student, to his respective bishop, and to his respective vocation director. At the request of the student, a copy may be mailed to his parents.

Dean's List

At the end of each semester, the names of those students who have achieved a grade-point average for the semester of 3.50 or above and have no grade lower than a C will be posted on the Dean's List.

Standard of Progress

Every student must make satisfactory progress toward approved educational and formational objectives. The standard for progress is determined by not only academic expectations (usually a 2.0 GPA), but also goals set by the Church in the different areas of formation. The academic goals contribute to a student's pace, program length, and expected time of completion, but formational goals must also be

taken into account. A seminarian's attendance, conduct, and affective maturity must all be considered in evaluating the progress of a student through the Seminary's program.

Academic Probation

A seminarian ordinarily will be placed on academic probation by the Academic Dean if his cumulative average or his individual GPA for a semester falls below 2.00. The Academic Dean may also place a seminarian on academic probation if, in the opinion of the instructors teaching him, he is not working to his ability. If probationary academic status is not removed by the end of the succeeding semester, the decision to allow for continued matriculation for the ensuing semester (as well as for any subsequent semesters) will be made by the Academic Dean and the Rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary. New students who have been admitted conditionally (because they have not met the academic requirements for unconditional acceptance) will be reviewed at the end of their first semester. Conditional students will be subject to the same policies regarding continued matriculation as students on academic probation.

Policy on Academic Honesty

An important sign of one's sincerity in committing his life to the service of the Lord and of the Church is the seminarian's observance of total honesty in the pursuit of his formal studies. Instances of cheating, including plagiarism or falsification of course work, examinations, or academic records will be treated according to the discretion of the administration.

Cheating refers here to any type of dishonesty in one's academics for a fraudulent gain. This can take the form of: inappropriately giving to or receiving from another answers to a test, assignment, or other course work; fraudulently fabricating or altering one's academic work or records; using artificial intelligence technology to assist with or generate written work for courses; submitting the same work in separate courses without the permission of the professors involved; assisting other students in cheating; or other actions that would compromise the integrity of academic work submitted.

Plagiarism is a type of cheating in which one takes someone else's work and passes it off as his own. This may be seen in such actions as: lifting portions of or entire articles from another source and failing to cite the source, using other students' work as one's own without the permission of the student and/or the professor, and paraphrasing another's ideas in such a way as to make them sound as one's own without giving proper credit to the original source.

The seminarian is to understand the use of assistive AI technology and generative AI in the light of academic honesty. In short, one should avoid the use of AI for the sake of an indispensable training in study, learning, reflection, reasoning, and articulation of ideas. The limiting of technology is for the sake of a training and a flourishing in the fullness of the humanity of the seminarian, body and soul, cognitive and appetitive powers. Thus, the use of generative AI (ex. ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Grok) to produce original texts is understood as a form of plagiarism.

This includes uses of generative AI for homework includes requesting translations of foreign language, calculations for math and science work, or summaries of assigned readings. Additionally, unacceptable uses of generative AI for papers includes seeking at least partial assistance with research, reflection, summarizing texts, outlining documents, drafting texts, and/or producing a work suitable for submission. Instead of using the assistance of AI for research, the student should make use of those resources already available through the Seminary which are more objective and reliable and more suited to the authentic intellectual formation of the student, namely, the library catalog search (destiny.cdolinc.net), EBSCOHost, and JSTOR. Proofreading texts can suitably be done using word processing software such as MS Word and Google docs or with the assistance of another person, so long

as the proofreading does not involve the software or other individual rewriting texts on behalf of the student. All members of the Seminary community (faculty, staff, and students) should not use AI for image generation as it can unnecessarily involve one in immoral cooperation, even in some small fashion, necessitating that others be subjected to immoral and disturbing content (cf. *Magnifica Humanitas*, 173).

Because of the rapidly-developing nature of AI technology, the Seminary cannot produce a definitive policy regarding the use of such technology. For that reason, the Seminary recognizes its responsibility to continually update this policy. Further, it reserves the right to determine whether particular cases adhere to or violate this policy. For more explanation on the Seminary policy regarding AI, consult the Appendix of the Seminary *Rule of Life*.

Repetition

A student may repeat any course taken at St. Gregory the Great Seminary by receiving permission from the Academic Dean and registering for the course. The previous grade will be replaced by the letter NC (no credit) on the transcript; then the more recent grade will be counted as credit earned toward graduation requirements and in the cumulative grade-point average.

Due Process

If a seminarian believes that the grading by an instructor is unfair, he may offer an appeal in writing to the Academic Dean. If the seminarian disagrees with the decision of the Academic Dean, he may appeal to the Rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary within 30 days of the Dean's decision; the appeal must be presented in writing, and the Dean must present the rationale for the appealed decision in writing to the Rector. The decision of the Rector will be final.

Transcripts

Transcript requests must be submitted with a signed release of information to the Seminary. One copy of a transcript is furnished free of charge upon the completion of the program of study. Additional transcripts are issued upon payment of a fee of \$10 per transcript, payable in advance. No transcript is issued until all outstanding financial obligations have been met.

Credit by Examination

Degree credit by examination may be granted to seminarians through:

- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- College Board Advanced Placement Examinations (AP Examination)
- Institution Examination (IE)

The Academic Dean, in consultation with the Rector, will determine the courses for which CLEP, AP, or IE will be awarded. The seminarian must meet the score requirements set by the examining agency.

These credits will be treated as upgraded transfer credits and are not considered in calculating the student's cumulative average. A seminarian may earn a maximum of 30 semester hours of such credit to fulfill degree requirements at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

Specific Regulations for Credit by Examination

No student may attempt credit by examination for an introductory course in any area in which the student has earned college credit for more advanced courses.

No student is permitted to postpone a required course in the Seminary curriculum on the supposition that the requirement will be absolved by examination at a later time. For example, entering freshmen who do not have credit by examination for English 101 are expected to enroll in English 101.

All possible exceptions to and variations from the foregoing policies will be decided by the Academic Dean in consultation with the Rector.

Comprehensive Examination

As part of the graduation requirements of the Bachelor of Arts and (Pre-Theology) Bachelor of Philosophy programs, each seminarian in his final year of studies will complete a comprehensive examination. This examination seeks to demonstrate the student's ability to synthesize and apply the philosophical knowledge he has acquired in his studies at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. Therefore, the examination will cover the core philosophy courses taken by the seminarian and will be conducted by the faculty members of the Seminary's Philosophy Department.

The Aquinas Award

This Award is given to a graduating student of St. Gregory the Great Seminary who has demonstrated outstanding academic work in philosophy, excellent research and study skills, and an integral and committed approach to his seminary studies. This Award honors St. Thomas Aquinas, a Doctor of the Church and an academic who exemplified in his life the qualities that are prized by this Award. The Aquinas Award will consist of a framed certificate and blessed medal representing St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as a cash prize of \$100.

Qualifying Requirements:

1. The student must be completing his final year of studies at St. Gregory the Great Seminary (either the college or pre-theology program).
2. The student must have maintained at least a 3.75 grade point average in philosophy courses and at least a 3.50 overall grade point average in all courses.
3. The student must exemplify good study habits, careful research, and excellent academic work, especially in philosophy courses.
4. The student must demonstrate in the Comprehensive Examination that he has synthesized his philosophy studies and integrated them into his other studies.

Process of Selection:

First, the Academic Dean will determine during the spring semester which students, if any, meet the first two requirements listed above and will communicate this to the Philosophy Faculty. Secondly, after the Comprehensive Exams have been administered, the Philosophy Faculty will meet to determine if those who met the first two requirements also meet the third and fourth based on the performance in both philosophy classes and the Comprehensive Examination. Finally, the Academic Dean will present the names of any students who have been determined by the Philosophy Faculty to have met all four requirements to the Rector for final approval of the granting of the Award, which will take place at Graduation.

BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM

General Education Requirements

The general education requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy includes a broad range of coursework to develop the seminarian as a well-educated man. The major in philosophy provides a thorough background in the subject with a particular emphasis on the philosophy of Saint Thomas Aquinas. The program is typically completed in five years, encompassing both the Propaedeutic and Discipleship stages of formation. This major provides the most suitable preparation for theological study in formation for the Catholic priesthood.

General Education Courses	Semester Hours
Integrated Humanities	10
English	12
History	3
Mathematics	6
Sciences	6
Latin	14
Greek	6
Spanish	12
Education	3
Theology	12
Electives	12
Philosophy Core Courses	Semester Hours
Logic	3
Philosophy of Nature and Knowledge	3
Philosophy of Man	3
Metaphysics I & II	6
Ethics	3
History of Philosophy	12
Capstone Seminar	3
Total	129

To be eligible for graduation, the student must complete a minimum of 128 semester hours of academic work leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Degree. Academic courses completed at a college other than St. Gregory the Great Seminary and graded C or higher may, at the discretion of the Academic Dean, be counted toward meeting this requirement. At least 30 (including at least six in philosophy) of the 128 credit hours must be taken at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, a graduate will be able to:

1. Read and interpret philosophical texts critically.
2. Comprehend and articulate the role philosophy has played in the development of Christian theology and culture.

3. Identify historical, social, and cultural influences on philosophical systems, interpretations, and expressions.
4. Explain and use sound philosophical principles in order to engage in graduate theological studies.
5. Analyze and respond to contemporary issues and situations with a philosophical and a Catholic perspective.
6. Cultivate a desire for lifelong learning in philosophy, theology, and the liberal arts.

Classification of Students

Class Standing	Program Semester Hours
Freshman	0-31
Sophomore	32-67
Junior	68-97
Senior	98 and above

Credit Review

A credit review (analysis of credit requirements the seminarian has met) is performed by the Academic Dean during the Fall Semester of the Senior year and the Second year for a Pre-Theology seminarian. Each seminarian will meet with the Academic Dean for the credit review.

Grade Point Average

The number of grade points required for graduation shall amount to no fewer than twice the number of hours undertaken at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. The student's cumulative grade point average, therefore, must be at least 2.0, and this average, in the case of students with transfer credits, is determined exclusively on the basis of courses taken at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

Students with no failures (grade of F), who have attained the following cumulative grade point average, and who have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours at Saint Gregory the Great Seminary, are graduated with honors:

Cum Laude	3.50
Magna cum Laude	3.70
Summa cum Laude	3.90

Variations within the Program

Directed Independent Study Courses

Directed independent study courses may be available to students with the permission of the Academic Dean and the consent of a faculty director. In all but exceptional cases, the Dean shall observe the following guidelines when allowing such courses:

- No student may register for more than one such course per semester.
- Each such course must have a syllabus, a copy of which is to be given to the registrar and the Academic Dean no later than three days after the beginning of the semester during which the course is offered. The responsibility for preparing an acceptable in-depth syllabus falls to the student, in consultation with the faculty director. The syllabus is to be signed by the student, the director, and the Academic Dean.

- These courses are not subject to the official policy pertaining to semester examinations.

Program Deviation

Students who wish to request a deviation in the academic requirements for graduation must present a request to the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will make a decision on the exception after consultation with the appropriate faculty.

PRE-THEOLOGY / BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The pre-theology program is available to those considering a priestly vocation who have already completed at least a bachelor's degree in some other institution of higher learning but who lack the prerequisites for entry into a graduate theological program. Participation in this program provides a background in philosophy, theology, and other appropriate areas of study to prepare students for the study of theology in preparation for becoming a Catholic priest. The program is typically completed in three years, encompassing both the Propaedeutic and Discipleship stages of formation. It also offers a Bachelor of Philosophy (B.Phil.) degree for those who successfully complete the Comprehensive Exams.

The pre-theology program consists of a course of study, which satisfies the academic expectations of Canon Law and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Program of Priestly Formation as preparation for the student's continuation of priestly formation in the Configuration Stage involving graduate theological studies.

The pre-theology program includes this academic preparation along with the formation that is part of the life at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

General Education Courses	Semester Hours
Latin	8
Greek	6
Spanish	6
Theology	12
English	6
Philosophy Core Courses	Semester Hours
Logic	3
Philosophy of Nature and Knowledge	3
Philosophy of Man	3
Metaphysics I & II	6
Ethics	3
History of Philosophy	12
Capstone Seminar	3
Total	71

To be eligible for Bachelor of Philosophy degree, the student must complete a minimum of 33 semester hours of Philosophy, the above-listed General Education courses, and have already achieved a Bachelor degree at another approved academic institution. At least 21 of the 33 credit hours of Philosophy and 6 hours of Theology must be taken at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. A passing grade must also be achieved on the Comprehensive Exam and Senior Research paper.

Learning Outcomes

Those who successfully complete the pre-theology/B.Phil. program will be able to:

1. Read and interpret philosophical text critically.

2. Comprehend and articulate the role philosophy has played in the development of Christian theology and culture.
3. Explain and use sound philosophical principles in order to engage in graduate theological studies.
4. Analyze and respond to contemporary issues and situations with a philosophical and a Catholic perspective.
5. Cultivate a desire for lifelong learning in philosophy, and theological studies.

Classification of Pre-Theology Students

Class Standing	Program Semester Hours
Pre-Theology I	0-31
Pre-Theology II	32 and above

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



NEWMAN
INSTITUTE
FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT AND CULTURE

The Newman Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture is an apostolate of the Diocese of Lincoln and St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. Accredited academic courses with emphasis in the Humanities are offered at the Newman Center on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since the fall of 2016, for-credit courses have been accredited through St. Gregory the Great Seminary. Course selections and times will be scheduled and published under the guidance of the Director of the Newman Institute with the approval of the Academic Dean of St. Gregory the Great Seminary. These courses are open to all college-age students who apply to the Institute and pay the requisite tuition and fees.

The Newman Institute offers courses in the humanities drawing from the classical canon of Western civilization and its tradition, in dialogue with contemporary experience and scholarship. Participants will be exposed to the greatest thinkers and greatest writers of literature, history, philosophy, theology, art, and music that encapsulates the history of Western civilization.

Courses regularly-offered

HUM 266	Foundations of the Human Experience: Athens and Jerusalem
HUM 267	The City and Civilization: Rome and Its Successors
HUM 268	Renewing the Mind: Medieval & Early Modern Renaissances
HUM 269	Crisis and Identity: The Making of the Modern World

Other courses recently-offered

PHL 261	Philosophy of the Human Person
PHL 265	Faith & Reason
PHL 290	The Person in the World: Ethics in Theory & Application
THL 272	Conversion: Human Transformation
THL 431	Introduction to the Symbolic Worldview of the Church Fathers



As expressed in its mission statement, St Paul's Newman Center serves “the NDSU campus as a ‘home away from home’ for students making the transition into adulthood, preparing them to receive the gift of their vocation, and equipping them to live a dynamic Catholic life.” One way that St. Paul’s fulfills that mission is through offering courses in Catholic studies. These courses qualify as general education courses in the areas of humanities, philosophy, theology, and history. Since the fall of 2024, St. Gregory the Great Seminary has accredited these courses offered at St. Paul’s.

Through this partnership, St. Gregory the Great Seminary oversees and accredits college-level courses offered by suitably-qualified and approved instructors. These course align with the requirements of the Seminary’s general education program. Additionally, these courses are designed to introduce

students to Catholic culture and the Catholic view on personal and interpersonal realities as well as those events which have shaped the Catholic perspective. Below is a list of some for-credit courses currently offered at the St. Paul's Newman Center.

Courses regularly-offered

HUM 282	Catholic View of Salvation History
HUM 284	Catholic View of the Person
HUM 285	Fundamentals of Catholic Bioethics
HUM 286	Catholic Social Doctrine



To prepare its students for greater academic success after high school, Pius X annually offers dual credit courses to its students. Through its partnership with St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Pius X High School introduces its students to “the best that has been thought and said” throughout history. To do so, students are introduced to a wide variety of literature and taught to engage the most fundamental questions asked by mankind through literature, art, and the humanities. St. Gregory the Great Seminary also oversees and accredits college-level courses offered by suitably-qualified and approved instructors who also teach at Pius X High School.

Courses regularly-offered

HUM 155	Survey of the Humanities
HUM 161	Classical Literature I
HUM 162	Classical Literature II

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Education

EDU 103

PRINCIPLES OF FORMATION I (1.5 Credit Hours)

This course provides credit for the intellectual work done in formation conferences. By looking one's identity - past, present, and future - one will be better equipped for being the kind of person who can live by his authentic identity in Christ.

EDU 104 (3 Credit Hours)

PRINCIPLES OF FORMATION II

A continuation of EDU 103, this course provides credit for the intellectual work done in formation conferences. By looking one's identity - past, present, and future - one will be better equipped for being the kind of person who can live by his authentic identity in Christ.

EDU 205 (1 Credit Hours)

HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING

This one-credit hour course is designed to satisfy the Nebraska Department of Education requirement for obtaining a teaching certificate. The course provides students with an understanding of human relations from a Catholic perspective. Students will learn about the importance of valuing diversity, recognizing and addressing dehumanizing biases, developing interpersonal skills, examining instructional materials, and respecting human dignity and individual rights. The course will equip students with the necessary attitudes, skills, and techniques to effectively relate to individuals and groups in a pluralistic society.

EDU 206 (1 Credit Hours)

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING AND LAW

This one-credit hour course provides an in-depth exploration of special education and inclusive practices, focusing on the exceptional needs of students with disabilities as defined under the Special Education Act. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks, practical strategies, and legal considerations, students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to create inclusive learning environments that meet the diverse needs of all learners. The course also covers pre-referral and assessment processes, the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and placement considerations for students with disabilities.

EDU 403 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

This course introduces the underpinnings of teaching and learning from a historical perspective. Primary texts that examine the philosophical principles of education will be read. Students will also study the philosophical and historical roots of Catholic education and schools in the United States.

English

ENG 101 (3 Credit Hours)

ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

This is an introductory writing course, which will address many of the practical problems that writers face regardless of format or audience. Seminararians will experiment with different strategies for various stages of the writing process, such as brainstorming, drafting, revising, and proofreading. Seminararians will also look at common challenges such as selecting/narrowing topics, facing writer's block, getting organized, and writing strong thesis statements.

ENG 104 (3 Credit Hours)

RESEARCH WRITING AND SPEECH

In the first half of the semester seminararians will practice the conventions of academic prose by writing a research paper using Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers*. In the second half of the semester seminararians will develop their public speaking skills. *Prerequisite*: ENG 101 or equivalent.

ENG 191/192 (1-3 Credit Hours)

ACADEMIC USAGE / WRITING REFRESHER COURSE

This is a one to three hour course designed to enhance a student's standard English usage and writing skill. Common usage problems will be addressed as well as the mechanics of the written word.

ENG 215 (3 Credit Hours)

LITERATURE AND THE CATHOLIC IMAGINATION I

This course is meant to introduce the student to important works of Catholic literature, particularly those which highlight the joys and challenges of virtue and priestly holiness as well as the effects which result from living a life of sin, apart from God and His plan for one's life.

ENG 216 (3 Credit Hours)

LITERATURE AND THE CATHOLIC IMAGINATION II

This course is meant to introduce the student to important works of Catholic literature, particularly those which highlight the joys and challenges of virtue and priestly holiness as well as the effects which result from living a life of sin, apart from God and His plan for one's life.

ENG 390 (3 Credit Hours)

SELECTED TOPICS IN ENGLISH

ENG 391 (3 Credit Hours)

MODERN MYTH-MAKERS: CHESTERTON, LEWIS AND TOLKIEN

This course invites students to consider the relationship of imagination to truth by studying some of the classics of Christian fantasy by Chesterton, Lewis, and Tolkien.

Foreign Languages

GRK 401 (3 Credit Hours)

ELEMENTARY GREEK I

This course serves as an introduction to basic Greek grammar, with special emphasis on Koine Greek. The vocabulary, and exercises are designed to provide the seminararians with the necessary grounding for reading the New Testament. The instructional method includes lecture, as well as some written and oral exercises.

GRK 402 (3 Credit Hours)

ELEMENTARY GREEK II

Ability to read the New Testament in Greek; general intellectual values through study of Greek grammar, vocabulary and exercises including readings from the New Testament and the Septuagint. *Prerequisite:* GRK 401 or equivalent

LAT 105 (4 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTORY LATIN I

This course serves to introduce the seminarian to the Latin language. Grammatical instruction will be emphasized as well as reading and translating elementary texts. The instructional method includes lecture as well as some written and oral exercise.

LAT 106 (4 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTORY LATIN II

This course is a review of basic grammar with exercises and reading based on classical and Christian themes. *Prerequisite:* LAT 105 or equivalent

LAT 205 (3 Credit Hours)

INTERMEDIATE LATIN I

A continuation of the first year course, with grammatical emphasis and readings in Classical and Christian Latin, especially the Gospel according to Mark. The instructional method includes lecture as well as some written and oral exercises. *Prerequisite:* LAT 106 or equivalent

LAT 206 (3 Credit Hours)

INTERMEDIATE LATIN II

This course is a continued study of Latin, completing study of grammar and translating selected texts in classical and Christian literature. *Prerequisite:* LAT 205 or equivalent

SPA 301 (3 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTORY SPANISH I

An introduction to the fundamental elements of the Spanish language in a cultural context. There is a focus on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in real-life situations. Seminarians will gain a basic knowledge of Hispanic pastoral ministry in a cultural context.

SPA 302 (3 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTORY SPANISH II

As a continuation of Spanish 301, seminarians will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in real-life situations and the Hispanic ministry. *Prerequisite:* SPA 301 or equivalent

SPA 401 (3 Credit Hours)

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I

As a continuation of Spanish 302, seminarians will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in real-life situations and the Hispanic ministry. *Prerequisite:* SPA 302 or equivalent

SPA 402 (3 Credit Hours)

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

As a continuation of Spanish 401, seminarians will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in real-life situations and the Hispanic ministry. *Prerequisite:* SPA 401 or equivalent

SPA 490 (1-3 Credit Hours)

SELECTED TOPICS IN SPANISH

Mathematics

MAT 101 (3 Credit Hours)

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Students will learn algebra starting with set theory and sets of numbers continuing with the introduction of relations and functions and the ways they are represented in graphs and equations. The emphasis will be on Mathematics as a language of relationships. Linear expressions and equations will be examined with a focus on developing skills and solving practical problems by relating to the verbal expression to mathematical expressions. Higher degree expressions and equations will be studied with the development of tools to solve the equations. This will extend to equations with rational exponents, exponentials and logarithms.

MAT 104 (3 Credit Hours)

CONTEMPORARY MATH

This course is about real-world applications of mathematics. The study of probability and statistics will provide understanding of the process of performing studies to make broader statements about larger populations and ways to evaluate the claims. The students will learn about financial transactions, documentation, recording, and reporting. The study will begin with personal finance and will continue with theory and practice of financial accounting for parishes. As time allows, other areas may include coding, game theory, and a basic study of encryption.

Philosophy

PHL 203 (3 Credit Hours)

LOGIC

This course studies the art of defining, forming, and critiquing arguments principally in the Aristotelian tradition. Topics covered in the class include: proper definitions, categorical propositions, syllogistic arguments and informal fallacies. There will also be an introduction to symbolic logic, including the translation of arguments into symbolic language.

PHL 211 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

This overview of the beginning of philosophical thought will cover various significant writings from the time of the ancient Greeks up to the Romano-Hellenistic period. This survey will emphasize the western tradition found in such authors as Plato, Aristotle and Plotinus.

PHL 212 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

A study of the development of philosophical thought from the time of the early Christian writers through the faith-reason synthesis found in the High Middle Ages. This course will especially focus on philosophy's relationship to the Christian Faith in such authors as St. Augustine, St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas, and William of Ockham.

PHL 240 (3 Credit Hours)

PHILOSOPHY OF MAN

A study of man as a rational substance. Topics will include: thought as a spiritual operation, proofs for the soul's immortality, the notion of person, embodiment and appetite, and happiness and the soul's spiritual destiny.

PHL 242 (3 Credit Hours)

PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE AND KNOWLEDGE

Within the context of the Philosophy of Nature, this course examines the nature of human knowing with particular emphasis on the moderate realism of St. Thomas Aquinas. Topics include: the principles of nature, and of animate being, the origin of human knowledge, the process of knowing, the nature of truth and certitude, and knowledge as wisdom. Along the way the student will be presented with evidence of the immortality of the rational soul from the nature of human knowledge. *Prerequisite:* PHL 203

PHL 301 (3 Credit Hours)

METAPHYSICS I

Examination of being under the themes: metaphysical vs. empirical attitude, intelligibility, substance, accidents, causality, form and matter, existence and essence, analogy, the one and the many, participation, the transcendentals, the being of the "world", and God as Pure *Esse*.

PHL 302 (3 Credit Hours)

METAPHYSICS II

Emphasis on God as the center of being under the themes: ontological vs. cosmological proofs for God's existence, the "five ways" of St. Thomas Aquinas, the nature of God, God the Creator, God's transcendence and immanence, the eternity of God, the problem of evil in the light of God's goodness, and the relation of natural theology and the theology of Revelation. *Prerequisite*: PHL 301

PHL 313 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

This survey of modern thought examines the relationship between different philosophies from the time of the Late Middle Ages to the Enlightenment period. Some major movements to be covered include: Continental rationalism, British empiricism, French and German idealism.

PHL 314 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

A course studying some of the recent movements in philosophy in the last 150 years. Topics to be covered include: atheistic nihilism, phenomenology, existentialism, revivals of Scholasticism, and secular humanism.

PHL 403 (3 Credit Hours)

ETHICS

This is a study of Thomistic natural moral law in its principles and application. It will include a study of the source of human morality, the relationship between the activity of reason and will, the evaluation of moral actions, the function of conscience and law, and the role of natural virtues in human activity. The course will conclude with an application of these principles to contemporary problems in areas such as medical ethics, sexuality, life issues, social justice, and war. *Prerequisite*: PHL 240

PHL 404 (3 Credit Hours)

CAPSTONE SEMINAR

This course is specifically designed to assess the students' acquisition of the desired learning outcomes of those completing a bachelor degree in Philosophy. Classic and modern texts from Philosophy, Theology and Literature will be read with a critical eye in order to examine common themes and articulate the role and relationship of Philosophy to Christian Theology and culture. A major research paper on a topic common to these fields will be written in order to identify historical, social and cultural influences upon philosophical systems, interpretations and expressions. Finally, both written and oral comprehensive examinations will be administered to show the student's ability to explain the philosophical principles and application to contemporary issues and situation learned in previous courses.

PHL 452 (3 Credit Hours)

PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Beginning with a brief review of the faculties of man according to the philosophical anthropology of man, students will be exposed to the thought of several schools of psychology. Each will be evaluated in light of St. Thomas's understanding of the human person and what constitutes health. *Prerequisite*: PHL 204

PHL 456 (3 Credit Hours)

AESTHETICS

An investigation and appreciation of the meaning of art. Among topics to be discussed: the notion of creativity, the role of inspiration, artistic purpose, classical vs. modern art, art and the sacred.

PHL 457 (3 Credit Hours)

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE WRITINGS OF JOHN PAUL II

A study of the philosophical and historical background and influences of the official papal writings of Pope John Paul II. The students will be engaged in the reading, presentation, and discussion of such papal writings as: *Redemptor Hominis*, *Laborem Exercens*, *Familiaris Consortio*, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, and *Evangelium Vitae*.

PHL 458 (3 Credit Hours)

READINGS IN PLATO'S DIALOGUES

This course will entail the reading of several Platonic dialogical works. Assigned readings will be discussed and lectures on the central ideas of Plato's dialogues will be presented from the following works: *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Sophist*, *Symposium*, *Gorgias*, *Meno*, *Republic*, *Phaedrus*, *Phaedo*, *Critias*.

PHL 459 (3 Credit Hours)

HISTORY OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Traces the philosophical origins of government from the times of the ancient world through the 20th Century. The course will cover some of the most important authors in this area, including: Aristotle, St. Augustine, Machiavelli, Marx, Camus, and the Second Vatican Council.

PHL 490 (3 Credit Hours)

SELECTED TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY

Science

SCI 201 (3 Credit Hours)

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

The study of human body in its structure and function. This course is designed to give the student a working, practical knowledge of the human body by studying each body system. This will help one better to understand pertinent medical and moral issues of the day.

SCI 202 (3 Credit Hours)

PHYSICS IN THE MODERN WORLD

This course provides a general study of physics with a focus on understanding physical principles at the conceptual level. Areas of study will include mechanics, harmonic motion, heat, electricity and magnetism, sound, light, and topics in modern physics such as relativity, nuclear physics, and quantum physics. In addition, the student will learn the method of scientific study, as well as its relevance, implications, and scope. Connections with philosophical and theological study will also be treated. The ability to use algebra will be presumed. *Prerequisite*: MAT 101

SCI 203 (3 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY

This course is an introduction to the concepts of inorganic chemistry: the common elements, and their compounds. Selected topics in organic chemistry, polymer science, selected topics of biochemistry and food chemistry, and industrial applications of chemistry. This course is intended for students with limited experience in chemistry.

SCI 491 (3 Credit Hours)

ASTRONOMY

This course offers a study of the heavens. The students will learn the tools and methods of Astronomy and the kinds of information that can be gained through these means. The students will learn about the objects in the heavens, moving out from the Earth to the planets, asteroids, and other items in the solar system,

the Sun, other stars, galaxies, and the structure of the universe. The story of the formation of the universe and its development as is understood according to the current theories will be presented. The current areas of mysterious unknowns will be described. The student will learn and discuss the relationship of science and faith to gain the proper understanding of both areas of knowledge and why there is not innate conflict between them. Evenings for viewing the heavens will be planned.

Social Sciences

HUM 101 (3 Credit Hours) **INTEGRATED HUMANITIES I**

This unique course looks at western history, particularly ancient history, through the writings of the authors who lived it. By reading and discussing works of fiction and non-fiction, this course will provide the student with a rich sense of western history through eyes of the great works of the western intellectual tradition.

HUM 102 (3 Credit Hours) **INTEGRATED HUMANITIES II**

This unique course looks at western history, particularly medieval history, through the writings of the authors who lived it. By reading and discussing works of fiction and non-fiction, this course will provide the student with a rich sense of western history through eyes of the great works of the western intellectual tradition.

HUM 103 (3 Credit Hours) **INTEGRATED HUMANITIES III**

This unique course looks at western history, particularly modern and contemporary history, through the writings of the authors who lived it. By reading and discussing works of fiction and non-fiction, this course will provide the student with a rich sense of western history through eyes of the great works of the western intellectual tradition.

HUM 104 (3 Credit Hours) **INTEGRATED HUMANITIES IV**

This unique course looks at western history, particularly United States history, through the writings of the authors who lived it. By reading and discussing works of fiction and non-fiction, this course will provide the student with a rich sense of western history through eyes of the great works of the western intellectual tradition.

HUM 354 (3 Credit Hours)

A SYNOPTIC HISTORY OF WESTERN MUSIC

In addition to the positive and practical effects of musical formation, music is of great value and worth itself. The beauty of great music can penetrate to the core of our being in a unique manner, unlike the beautiful objects of sight, eliciting a deep pleasure and emotional response. Music can also serve as an expression of the highest human aspirations, and thus its historical role in divine worship. The Synoptic History of Western Music elective will give students the opportunity to listen to a wide range of

instrumental and vocal genres from Medieval to Modern. Students will then be expected to identify composer, musical style, and salient characteristics of music from various periods and genres.

Theology

THL 101 (3 Credit Hours)

CATHOLIC CATECHISM I

An overall perspective on the principles which guide Catholics in recognizing Christian truth and will provide the introduction to a discussion of the basic elements of the Catholic faith through the study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

THL 102 (3 Credit Hours)

CATHOLIC CATECHISM II

A continuation of the study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. *Prerequisite*: THL 101 or equivalent

THL 110 (1 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE I

This course, offered during the Propaedeutic Stage, gives an introduction to various elements of the Christian Spiritual Life. Topics include engagement in the Sacramental life of the Church, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, meditation with Scripture, private devotions, and a living of the evangelical counsels. These topics and others are considered from the rich tradition of the Church and notable, Catholic spiritual writers.

THL 111 (3 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE II

This course, offered during the Propaedeutic Stage, continues the introduction to various elements of the Christian Spiritual Life. Topics include engagement in the Sacramental life of the Church, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, meditation with Scripture, private devotions, and a living of the evangelical counsels. These topics and others are considered from the rich tradition of the Church and notable, Catholic spiritual writers.

THL 130 (1 Credit Hours)

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE PSALMS

This course explores how these inspired and exquisite poems are intended to draw us into a deep and living relationship with our Lord, through our receptive listening to their message and through out liturgical and personal responses in prayer, song and meditation.

THL 140 (1 Credit Hours)

READINGS IN THE FATHERS AND THE SAINTS

This course allows the man to be formed by the profound spiritual direction of St. Francis de Sales, one of the foremost directors of the Church's rich spiritual tradition.

THL 303 (3 Credit Hours)

INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

A literary and theological examination of New Testament literature in the context of the history of Israel with an overview of the Synoptic Gospels, Pauline writings and Johannine literature, and a consideration of historical background, literary forms and theological perspectives.

THL 308 (3 Credit Hours)

SPIRITUALITY IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION

An introductory consideration of the origin and development of the history of Christian Spirituality in the Catholic tradition. After a brief examination of the origin of Catholic spirituality and its main

characteristics, the history of some of the major developments and emphases in the living of that spirituality in different times and places will be traced through the centuries up to modern times.

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B.A., St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward 2012
S.T.B., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome 2015
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B.A., University of Kansas 1976
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B.S., University of Dallas, Dallas 1982

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