



REGIS COLLEGE

ECCLESIASTICAL DEGREE
HANDBOOK

Approved by the Ecclesiastical Degree Committee: May 28, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Regis College is an Ecclesiastical Faculty of the Society of Jesus in Canada and is governed by the provisions of *Veritatis gaudium*.¹ This handbook provides guidelines for the Ecclesiastical Degrees of Regis College, which are done jointly with one of Regis College's civil conjoint degree programs.

Ecclesiastical studies at Regis College are organized according to three cycles. In the First Cycle, a general instruction in theology is imparted, providing a coordinated presentation of all the disciplines, along with an introduction to scientific methodology. This cycle leads to the **Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB)** (see Section B). In this cycle, special attention is given to formation for ministry in the Church, with stress on both disciplined theological scholarship and training towards a reflective and professional exercise of pastoral ministry.

The Second Cycle offers a more profound study of one of the disciplines of theology and an opportunity to practice scholarly research more fully, and leads to the **Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL)** (see Section C).

The Third Cycle calls for progress towards scientific maturity, especially through a written dissertation which makes a genuine contribution to the advance of theology and leads to the **Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD)** (see Sec. D).

SECTION A **GENERAL POLICIES**

Since all students in ecclesiastical degrees must also be jointly registered in one of Regis civil conjoint degrees, they are also subject to the policies of the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* (MDiv only) or the *GCTS Graduate Conjoint Degree Handbook* (ThM, MA, PhD only), all found on the TST website. These policies and guidelines include the Code of Student Conduct, the Code of

¹ Regis College's degree programs were previously governed by the Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia Christiana* (1979). Regis' *Canonical Statutes*, revised under *Veritatis gaudium* (2018), were approved by the college for submission to the Superior General by Regis' Governing Council on April 23, 2019.

Behaviour on Academic Matters and Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FLUENCY

Students must be able to communicate effectively in English for studies at Regis College. Applicants from outside Canada whose primary language is not English and who were educated in a university outside Canada where the primary language of instruction and examination in the full academic program is not English, must demonstrate English proficiency to acceptable standards through an acceptable language proficiency test (described below). Evidence of an earned degree of at least two full years in duration from a recognized post-secondary institution, where the language of instruction and examination is English, may also be deemed as evidence of English proficiency.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The TOEFL examination is offered in two formats: the traditional paper-based format and the Internet-based format. Applicants registering for the paper-based TOEFL must include the Test of Written English (TWE) component. The Internet-based test must include the writing and speaking sections. All applicants must satisfy the minimum TOEFL score requirements.

- Paper-Based Test (TOEFL PBT) and TWE: Overall score: 580 / Minimum score: TWE: 5.
- Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) Including Writing and Speaking Sections: Overall score: 93 / Minimums Score Writing: 22; Speaking: 22.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Required score: 7.0 (Academic Format)

University of Toronto Courses: Academic English Level 60

School of Continuing Studies, UofT

Web: <http://english.learn.utoronto.ca>

Required score: B

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

In order to demonstrate skill in a language, students in biblical studies must achieve or surpass minimum grades in coursework or exams for biblical languages according to the following levels: Competence: B+; Proficiency:

B+; and Expertise A-. For students fulfilling modern language requirements and students not specializing in biblical studies, competence is defined as achieving a minimum grade of B-. Competence requires at least two semesters of university level courses, while proficiency requires at least four semesters of university level courses. Expertise may only be demonstrated by exams established by the Graduate Centre for Theological Studies (Toronto School of Theology).

GRADING SYSTEM

First cycle, basic degree grades use both a letter and numerical equivalent to determine an annual grade point average, which then determines the Latin degree honour. Second and third cycle grades only use a letter grade to determine annual grade point average, which then determines the Latin degree honour.

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Further qualities expected of students
<i>A RANGE Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic & synthetic ability, critical evaluation, broad knowledge base</i>				
Summa Cum Laude				
A+	90-100	4	Profound & creative	Strong evidence of original thought, analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; extensive knowledge base
A	85-89	4	Outstanding	
Magna Cum Laude				
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking and of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base
<i>B RANGE Good: Student shows critical capacity & analytic ability; understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature</i>				
Cum Laude				

B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature
Probatum				
B	73-76	3	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory for post-baccalaureate level	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet above criteria
NCR	none	0		

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition schedules for degree programs are found at:

<https://regiscollege.ca/admissions/tuition/>

Regis College financial assistance is sourced from a number of bursary and scholarship accounts established by generous donors and the Society of Jesus. The Regis College Awards Committee considers financial need, service to the college, academic scholarship and commitment to theological education when granting these awards. For more information consult: <https://regiscollege.ca/admissions/financial.>

APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

Appeals for work associated with program requirements for civil conjoint degrees (such as coursework, examinations, program approvals) are subject to the policies of the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* (MDiv only) or the *GCTS Graduate Conjoint Degree Handbook* (ThM, MA and PhD only), all found on the TST website. Appeals solely regarding the requirements of the STB, STL and STD, not part of civil conjoint degrees, fall under the jurisdiction of Regis College policies.

SECTION B
BACCALAUREATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY (STB)
(Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus)

The STB is an introductory or “first-cycle” ecclesiastical degree which promotes a comprehensive understanding of theology as a discipline, and of the Catholic tradition within it, by focusing on the major areas of systematic theology, the exegesis of Sacred Scripture, the principles and issues of moral theology, the history of the Church and the development of doctrine. It also helps prepare students for ministry and leadership within the Church by equipping them with the skills necessary to engage in various ministries in the Church and society. The STB is a pre-requisite degree to the Licentiate in Sacred Theology degree (STL).

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The possession of an appropriate bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the United States and Canada, or a course of studies judged equivalent, with a minimum grade of B- (2.7).
- Prior to admission to the STB program, students must have devoted the equivalent of four semesters to systematic philosophy, history of philosophy and auxiliary disciplines.
- International students must meet minimum TOEFL scores for English proficiency before they can be admitted to the program.
- Three reference letters.
- An admission interview with the college Basic Degree Director.

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.i. Courses

The STB degree program requires the successful completion of either six full-time semesters or thirty (30) course credits. The courses will entail lectures, seminars and tutorials, depending on current pedagogical practice and the requirements of each discipline. There will be a greater emphasis on lecture courses in the introductory phases of the program. During this program theology is taught in such a way that what is presented is an organic exposition of the whole of Catholic doctrine together with a foundational introduction to theological scientific methodology.

The courses are divided according to the current specializations of the Toronto School of Theology: Biblical (Old Testament, New Testament, Biblical Languages); Historical (Church History and Patrology); Theological (Systematic and Moral Theology, Interdisciplinary Theological Studies); Pastoral (Canon Law, Liturgy, Spirituality, Pastoral Psychology, Pastoral Theology). The following are considered to be the principal disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Patrology, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Canon Law, Liturgy and Spiritual Theology.

In all of these courses, students are to be helped to see more profoundly how faith and reason give harmonious witness to the unity of all truth. In addition, due consideration of the dogmatic and pastoral constitutions of Vatican II is to be given as appropriate according to the subject matter of each course,

2.ii. Pastoral Competencies

The STB degree program also requires the successful completion of supervised pastoral training and participation in formation components of the program (including entry assessment and annual reflection processes).

2.iii. Research Languages

Students must know enough Latin to profitably use sources and documents of the Church and must have demonstrated this knowledge in the course of their STB program. Biblical languages may be taken for credit.

2.iv. Comprehensive Oral Examination

The comprehensive process is led by a faculty mentor, selected in consultation with the student. The mentor guides the students through the completion of either six (6) short papers (1,800 to 2,400 words) or one major essay (15,000 words including bibliography), chosen from a list of theological topics. These essays are submitted at least two weeks before the final oral examination.

The theological topic areas include: Revelation, God one and triune, Christology, Sin, Grace, Eschatology, Ecclesiology and Sacramental Theology, as well as the biblical and historical foundations together with the pastoral implications of these topics. In addition, the connection with ecumenical and inter-faith themes are expected, alongside an ethical component.

The comprehensive examination lasts for one hour, with equal time allotted to each examiner. The three examiners include the mentor plus two additional ecclesiastical faculty. Oral exams shall be taken no later than six years after initial registration and typically take place in late spring. For a complete description of the oral exam process, see the "Master of Divinity Comprehensive Examination Regulations" [web link].

3. OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

3.i. Grade Requirements

A passing grade of B- (2.7) or better is required in each of the thirty course units, including a passing grade in the theological field education units and comprehensive examination. An overall cumulative average of B- (2.7) is required.

3.ii. Program Length and Residency

One year of full-time residency (two consecutive sessions; enrolled in a minimum of four courses units in each session). The maximum program length is six years.

3.iii. Transfer Credits

Transfer credits are permitted in certain cases, and are governed by the policies of the TST *Basic Conjoint Degree Handbook*. At least half of the total program credits must be completed at Regis College.

4. PROGRAM ROUTES

4.1. Combined Master of Divinity (MDiv) and STB

The STB follows the program and pastoral competency requirements of the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. Students apply to Regis College simultaneously for both degrees. For more information, see the Regis College *M.Div. Degree Handbook*.

SECTION C
LICENTIATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY (STL)
(Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatius)

The STL is an advanced (graduate) or “second-cycle” ecclesiastical degree which follows the “first cycle” Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree (STB). To obtain the STL degree the student must complete four semesters beyond the six semesters required for the STB.

The courses and the thesis topic will be chosen according to one of the following specializations: Systematic Theology, Church History, Moral Theology, Pastoral Theology, Biblical Studies, or ecumenical and inter-faith areas and other areas for which resources become available to Regis students.

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The possession of a STB degree, or its equivalent, with a minimum average of B+ (3.3) or its equivalent. The STB must have included a comprehensive exam with an oral defense.
- Two academic reference letters affirming the applicant’s ability to undertake graduate theological studies and the potential to teach theology.
- International students must meet minimum scores for English proficiency before they can be admitted to the program.
- A Statement of Intent, which outlines the applicants intended area of specialization and academic preparation.
- One modern or ancient research language.
- An admission interview (which may be conducted over the phone or videoconference).

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.i. Courses

Student must complete a total of seven (7) course units selected from the course offerings of Regis College and the Toronto School of Theology. At least four of the courses must be taken at Regis College. Courses must be taken at the 5000 and 6000 (and rarely 7000) levels, or equivalent in the School of Graduate Studies (University of Toronto).

2.ii. Language Requirements

Students must successfully demonstrate proficiency in two languages for research purposes, with at least one being a modern research language, before their thesis proposal can be approved. The ancient language is normally Latin, unless Greek or Hebrew is appropriate because of a student's research interests. Courses taken to fulfill the language requirement do not count towards the seven required courses for the STL degree. Students focusing on the study of Scripture may include in their seven required courses a maximum of two specialized language courses (at the intermediate level or higher and beyond the language requirement that all students must meet).

2.iii. Thesis Proposal and Thesis

Prior to the writing of the actual thesis, each student must submit a thesis proposal (4,000 words + bibliography) which will state the thesis topic; provide an appropriate methodology; propose a structure of argumentation; and describe any implications of the topic. This proposal forms the basis of the writing of a thesis of 20,000 to 35,000 words (including bibliography). Both the thesis proposal and written thesis are examined by three faculty members.

2.iv. Oral Examination

Upon completion and submission of the thesis for examination, the student notifies the Director, Ecclesiastical Programs in order to schedule an oral examination. The length of the oral exam is one hour, with an equal time given for each of the three examiners (who must be Regis College faculty). The grade for the oral examination takes into account the student's written thesis and oral defence.

3. OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

3.i. Grades

Students must maintain a minimum average of B+ (3.3), with no course grades lower than B- (2.7). The final ecclesiastical honours standing is based on the GPA of the courses and thesis plus the oral exam grade.

3.ii. Program Length and Residency

The STL requires two years, or four consecutive semesters of full-time study, for its completion. A minimum of two semesters must be spent in residence in Regis. The maximum allowable program length is six years.

3.iii. Transfer Credits

Under certain conditions, a maximum of two transfer credits is permitted.

4. PROGRAM ROUTES

Since students must also be jointly enrolled in a civil conjoint degree, Regis College offers a number of program routes for the STL. Students must apply separately to the Graduate Centre for Theological Studies (Toronto School of Theology) for the civil degree. The following are possible joint program routes:

4.i. Combined Master of Theology (ThM) and STL.

Fulfil all the admissions and program requirements (including six courses, languages, thesis stage) of the ThM, and the additional admission and program requirements of the STL, namely:

- one additional course in Catholic theology (see 2.i).
- the STL language requirements (see 2.ii).
- an oral examination (see 2.iv).

4.ii. Combined Master of Arts (MA in Theological Studies) and STL¹

Fulfil all the admissions and program requirements of the MA (including six courses, Master's Research Paper), and the additional admission and program requirements of the STL, namely:

- one additional course in Catholic theology (see 2.i).
- the STL language requirements (see 2.ii).
- The Master's Research Paper must be a minimum of 20,000 words (including bibliography (see 2.iii)).
- an oral examination (see 2.iv).

Since the MA does not require any languages (except for biblical studies), students must ensure they have fulfilled the STL program language requirements. One of the program languages must be Latin, with the exception of students specializing in biblical studies or other specializations requiring a different language.

¹ The provisions of Sec. 4.ii are subject to review in Fall 2023. The MA "Option II: Course-Only" is not eligible for the STL since it does not include a major written project.

4.iii Combined PhD (Theological Studies) and STL.

Fulfil all the admissions and program requirements of the conjoint PhD, and the additional admission and program requirements of the STL, namely:

- one additional course in Catholic theology (see 2.i).
- the STL language requirements (see 2.ii).
- an oral examination (see 2.iv).

SECTION D
DOCTOR OF SACRED THEOLOGY (STD)
(Sacrae Theologiae Doctor)

The STD prepares Regis College students on a rigorous level to teach Catholic theology and pursue a program of advanced research and study.

The STD courses and the thesis topic will be chosen according to one of the following specializations: Systematic Theology, Church History, Moral Theology, Patristics, Pastoral Theology, Biblical Studies, or ecumenical and inter-faith areas and other areas for which resources become available to Regis students.

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The possession of a licentiate in sacred theology (STL) or its recognized equivalent with an A- (3.7) standing.
- Two references affirming the applicant's ability to undertake advanced graduate theological studies and the potential to teach theology.
- A Statement of Intent, which outlines the applicants intended area of specialization and academic preparation.
- One research language relevant to the applicant's intended area of study.
- An admission interview (which may be conducted over the phone or videoconference).

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.i. Courses

The STD program requires a minimum of eight course units, done in a minimum of two full-time semesters of coursework, seminars and/or tutorials at the advanced level at Regis College and the colleges of the Toronto School of Theology in preparation for writing a dissertation. At least four of the courses must be taken within Regis College. Courses must be taken at the 5000 and 6000 (and rarely 7000) levels, or equivalent in the School of Graduate Studies (University of Toronto).

2.ii. Language Requirements

Demonstration of proficiency in two languages for research purposes, with at least one being a modern research language. Students must successfully demonstrate proficiency in their languages before their thesis proposal can be approved. The ancient language is normally Latin, unless Greek or Hebrew is appropriate because of a student's research interests. Courses taken to fulfill the language requirement do not count towards the eight required courses for the STD degree. Students focusing on the study of Scripture may include in their eight required courses a maximum of two specialized language courses (at the intermediate level or higher and beyond the language requirement that all students must meet).

2.iii. General Examinations

To demonstrate that they are prepared to undertake a project of specialized original research, and that they have an understanding of their primary and secondary areas of study necessary for that project, students will be required to write two General Examinations, both of which will be defined with respect to the student's proposed research area, followed by an Oral Examination. The examinations are based on approved reading lists comprising a global total of 25-35 books (or their equivalents in chapters and journal articles), and include a reasonable amount of material that can be researched and assimilated within a 6-8 month period. The general examinations are overseen by the student's thesis supervisory committee.

2.iv Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation

Prior to the writing of the actual dissertation, students submit a thesis proposal (4,000 words + bibliography) which will state the thesis topic; provide an appropriate methodology; propose a structure of argumentation; and describe any implications of the topic. Both the thesis proposal and thesis are examined by three faculty members. The thesis supervisor is normally a member of the ecclesiastical faculty.

This proposal forms the basis of the writing of a thesis of between 50,000 and 80,000 words in length and is defended before five examiners, at least one of whom must be external to Regis College. The completed dissertation must also be deposited in T-Space.

Students shall be approved for graduation with the STD when the published copy of the thesis (or a significant portion of the thesis), in a refereed publication, has been deposited with the Registrar of Regis College for delivery to the Regis College Library. At least a principal part of the thesis (the whole or at least two thirds in peer reviewed journals) must be readied for publication to the satisfaction of the Ecclesiastical Degree Committee before the degree is awarded. A contract for publication of the thesis is not sufficient. These requirements must be met before the end of August in the year in which the student wishes to graduate. A printed copy of the publication will be forwarded to the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education.

3. OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

3.i. Grades

Students must maintain a minimum average of A- (3.7), with no course grades lower than B- (2.7).

3.ii. Residency and Program Length

Minimum two years full-time residency as a Regis College student. The maximum program length is six years.

3.iii. Transfer Credits

Under certain conditions, a maximum of two transfer credits is permitted.

4. PROGRAM ROUTES

4.i Combined PhD (Theological Studies) and STD

Students concurrently fulfill all the program requirements of the civil conjoint PhD (Theological Studies), along with the additional requirements of the STD (including the publication of the dissertation). Students must apply separately to the Graduate Centre for Theological Studies (Toronto School of Theology) for the civil degree.

SECTION D
MASTERS IN SACRED THEOLOGY (STM)
(Sacrae Theologiae Magister)

For the STM degree, in addition to the course requirements for the STB fulfilled at Regis College, or equivalently through a first-degree theology program (e.g. Master of Divinity with the relevant philosophy pre-requisites and the comprehensive exam) at another institution, the student must take two additional semesters of basic and advanced level courses and complete additional supervised pastoral training as required by the regulations of the College.

** This degree is currently in abeyance.*

SECTION E
ECCLESIASTICAL FACULTY

All of Regis College's faculty members are also members of the ecclesiastical faculty.