

STUDENT RETENTION AND COMPLETION

Saint John's Seminary is fully committed to the quality, integrity, and effectiveness of its academic programs. The rector, administration, and faculty continuously endeavor to offer effective programs in preparing candidates for ordained and lay ministry, and participation in the life and work of the Catholic Church. It is important to note that retention and completion rates below for degrees in both Pre-Theology and Theology Programs signify the completion of academic as well as human, spiritual, and pastoral formation for the Catholic priesthood. Moreover, there are specific factors at a Catholic seminary, such as vocational discernment, which may significantly impact completion rates. A less-than-perfect completion rate may be a sign of appropriate vocation discernment with the conclusion that a particular candidate is not called to the priesthood simply, or not called to serve a particular sponsor.

Pre-Theology Program

The Pre-Theology Program is a two-year program typically leading to the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy (B.Phil.). The B.Phil. is awarded to seminarians in the Pre-Theology Program who already possess an accredited bachelor's degree prior to acceptance at Saint John's. Students who transfer in from another institute of higher learning but have yet to earn a bachelor's degree may have the opportunity to complete the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (B.A., Phil) in the two years of the Pre-Theology Program if they arrive with sixty credits or more in the appropriate disciplines, which are identified in the Seminary's Academic Policies. The degree requirements specifically fulfilled at Saint John's are the same for both degree programs.

In the past five years (2015-20), 82 seminarians entered the Pre-Theology Program, and 70 seminarians returned after their first year, indicating a first-to-second year retention rate of 85%. In the past five years (2015-20), 67 seminarians completed the program, leading to a completion rate of 82%. The principal goal of the Pre-Theology Program is to prepare seminarians for the Theology Program. 54 of those 67, or 81%, went on to continued formation in the Theology Program.

Theology Program

The Theology Program, leading to the degree of Master of Divinity (M.Div.), is a coherent, comprehensive, four-year program offering intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral formation for candidates to the Catholic priesthood. In the past five years (2015-20), 94 students entered the Theology Program, and 83 returned after their first year, indicating a first-to-second year retention rate of 88%. In the past five years (2015-20), 94 students have entered the Theology Program, and 62 students have completed it, which results in a completion rate of 66%. With successful completion of the Theology Program, seminarians are then ordained to the Catholic priesthood with a 100% job placement rate throughout New England and beyond.

The M.A.M. and M.T.S. Degree Programs of Saint John's Seminary

The Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) completed its twentieth year in May 2020 and has awarded degrees to 219 men and women. Most students of the M.A.M. program pursue the degree part-time, and completion rates manifest this reality. In the last five years (2015-20), 55 students graduated. 4% graduated within two years; 38% graduated in three to four years; 31% graduated in five to six years; 27% graduated in six to ten years. Of those who graduated in May 2019, 8 out of 11, or 73%, reported that within six months of graduation they were employed in their chosen field.

The Master of Theological Studies for the New Evangelization (M.T.S.), which only began in 2011, has had thirty-three students successfully graduate from the program. Similar to the MAM program, most students of the MTS degree pursue the degree part-time. Of the thirty-three graduates since program inception, 25 students enrolled in the program with no prior transfer credit. Of those 25, 4% graduated within two years; 36% graduated in three to four years; 20% graduated in five to six years; 40% graduated in six to nine years.