

St. Norbert College



Purpose of the Program

St. Norbert College, in cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, offers a professional degree for pastoral ministry for students in New Mexico and neighboring states. The MTS degree grounds students in the Christian tradition as a base from which to address the changing realities of parishes and congregations. Classes are offered Friday evenings and Saturdays for maximum flexibility.

For More Information:

St Norbert College
New Mexico Campus
Master of Theological Studies
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<http://www.eimnm.net>
<http://www.snc.edu/mts>



MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Offered in New Mexico by St Norbert College in cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry (EIM).



WHAT COURSES MUST I TAKE?

Six courses in theology, which form a core, designed to give you the theological tools to analyze your faith experiences and those of your faith community.

Five elective courses designed to deepen a practical theological approach to the ministry in which you are engaged. These courses encourage your application of Scripture and faith to the particular situations you face in pastoral ministry.

The integrative colloquium, bringing together the core courses and your specialization as you prepare to write your thesis. You will see how practical theology encourages the application of Scripture and your faith tradition to the particular situation you face in ministry.

A thesis, beginning with your thesis proposal (prepared in the integrative colloquium) followed by two semesters of writing, working with a director. The thesis addresses contemporary religious thought and a specific pastoral question.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PURSUE A DEGREE, BUT ONLY WISH TO TAKE SPECIFIC COURSES?

If you have a college degree and some background in theology, you may take theological core courses or those in a specialization with the approval of the associate director and the course instructor. All courses are valuable for enrichment or the development of skills. The courses may be taken as a non-degree student or as an auditor.

IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Yes. It is best to inquire early in the application process, as each type of financial aid has specific requirements. Aid streams include federal student loans, denominational funds and St. Norbert College/Ecumenical Institute for Ministry funds.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Check <http://www.snc.edu/mts> for current cost per credit. Note, all core courses are 3-credit courses, while elective courses are 2-credit courses.

WHAT WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE YEAR?

Each semester (fall, spring, and summer) features a core course and an elective. The core courses are offered on two-year rotating basis; elective follow the rotation of practical theology, spiritual formation, liturgy, and worship. From time to time, new elective courses are introduced to meet emergent challenges within pastoral ministry.

WHERE ARE THE CLASSES HELD?

Classes are held at the Nobertine Library. The library, classrooms and worship space provide an ideal setting for theological study and ecumenical discussion. Small classes encourage a strong, supportive community among students and faculty.

Who should pursue an M.T.S. degree?

An M.T.S. is a valuable course of study for those who are, or aspire to be:

- ♦ Pastoral assistants
- ♦ Chaplains
- ♦ Directors of spiritual life
- ♦ Activity coordinators
- ♦ Christian teachers
- ♦ Church staff
- ♦ Directors of liturgy
- ♦ Faith formation directors
- ♦ Youth ministers
- ♦ Religious education directors
- ♦ Campus ministries

And for all those seeking to deepen their understanding of Christianity and the practice of pastoral ministry.

Program Requirements:

What do I need to be admitted to the program?

You need:

- ♦ A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- ♦ At least six credits in theology or religious studies on topics such as Bible or comparative religions; for students who do not have religious studies credits, arrangements can be made for online courses or locally offered classes prior to admission into the program.
- ♦ Three letters of recommendation.
- ♦ A brief essay regarding your motivation to enter the program.

An example of academic writing may be requested.

The admission committee makes decisions based on the above criteria as well as other guidelines it may establish to judge the candidate's readiness for graduate work. Special and auditing students are admitted on an individual basis.

What do I need to graduate?

You will be expected to have successfully:

- ♦ Completed 32 credits, including the core courses, the integrative seminar and a master's thesis.
- ♦ Maintained a 3.0 GPA.
- ♦ Completed a comprehensive examination.
- ♦ Written a master's thesis.

All required courses can be completed in three years; normally, the time limitation on completion of the M.T.S. program is eight years.

Master of Theological Studies

Core Courses: The program has a required core of six (6) 3-credit courses. These classes are offered in the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

MTS 501: Systematic Theology and Theological Method

MTS 502: Historical Development of Christian Tradition

MTS 503: Scripture and Biblical Interpretation

MTS 504: Christian Ethics

MTS 505: Christology

MTS 506: Nature and Mission of the Church

Elective Courses: Elective classes are offered each semester and occasionally during a January term. Arranged and independent classes are offered according to particular needs of the students and by approval of the associate director and the St Norbert M.T.S. policy committee.

Current course descriptions are available on the St Norbert College website. Specific courses offered in New Mexico are on the EIM website. Please call the EIM/MTS office (505-873-4399, Ext 229) for more information.

