



St. John Vianney College Seminary

Addendum to Catalog 2016-2019



St. John Vianney
College Seminary
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1. Accreditation

St. John Vianney College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate and masters degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of St. John Vianney College Seminary.

2. Institutional Mission

The fundamental purpose of St. John Vianney College Seminary is to provide undergraduate and graduate education and formation for those students whose stated objective is to discern a call to serve the Catholic Church as priests. The institution assumes, as its specific responsibility, the academic, spiritual, pastoral, and human formation of college seminarians within a bilingual (English-Spanish) and multicultural setting. The college seminary is also committed to provide academic opportunities, both on-campus and online, for laity and others who may be enriched by its services.

3. Financial Information

Tuition, food and housing fees 2016-2019 (for

Seminarians): Tuition \$23,100.00
Room & Board \$12,100.00
Total: \$35,200.00

The Archdiocese of Miami, and the Florida Bishops are committed in financially helping their Seminarians, as they discern their call to the priesthood, by giving them a 75% grant towards their tuition, room and board. The remaining 25% is the responsibility of the seminarian and his/her parents. Undergraduate seminarians need to apply for Financial Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The fees shown above represent the total cost of tuition, room and board for each year. There are no additional fees than the ones described here. The annual per student cost at St. John Vianney is in excess of \$35,100 per seminarian. The greater part of this cost is underwritten as a subsidy by the Archdiocese of Miami out of interest earnings on the seminary burse fund. Benefactors to the seminary throughout the history of the Archdiocese have allowed the Archdiocese to operate the seminary and cover operating costs over and above the income derived from tuition.

Tuition for part-time Undergraduate courses is \$300 per semester hour credit. The tuition for class auditing is \$250 per course. Tuition for Online Graduate courses is

\$575.00 per semester credit. Tuition charges are subject to change.

A student who is in debt to the College Seminary at the end of any given semester is not entitled to take the final examinations for his/her registered courses until his/her indebtedness has been discharged. Arrangements for payment of tuition, room and board must be made prior to or at the time of registration.

4. Refund Policy

Refunds of tuition, room and board for students withdrawing from the college seminary are based on the following schedule: during the first week, 100 percent; during the second week, 80 percent; during the third week, 60 percent; during the fourth week, 40 percent; during the fifth week, 20 percent. There is no tuition, room and board refund after the fifth week.

If a student is entitled to a refund of tuition and fees, the refund will first be applied to any sources of financial aid from which the student may have been awarded. Once all balances owed to SJVCS have been satisfied, any excess funds remaining will be refunded to the student.

Refunds will generally be delivered to students in the form of a check unless the student has a valid Direct Deposit Authorization on file or payment has been made by credit card or gift card, in which case the excess credit will be returned to the card.

Students receiving federal and state financial aid should consult a financial aid counselor before dropping or withdrawing from courses to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for satisfactory academic progress (SAP).

Request for refunds should be submitted via e-mail to the business office at ekelly@sjvcs.edu.

Refunds of tuition, room and board for students withdrawing from the College Seminary adheres to the following conditions:

- a. Refunds shall be made within 30 days of the date that the institution determines that the student has withdrawn.
- b. Nonrefundable fees regarding admission and registration of Florida students shall not exceed \$150.
- c. All monies will be refunded if the school does not accept the applicant or if the student cancels within three (3) business days after signing the enrollment agreement and making initial payment.
- d. Cancellation after the third (3rd) Business Day, but before the first class, results in a refund of all monies paid, with the exception of the nonrefundable fees.
- e. If the student withdraws before the end of the drop/add period, the student will be refunded all tuition and fees, as well as any funds paid for supplies, books, or equipment which can be and are returned to the institution.
- f. The refund policy shall provide for cancellation of any obligation, other than a book and supply assessment for supplies, materials and kits which are not returnable because of use, within 3 working days from the student's signing an enrollment agreement or contract.

5. Veteran's Financial Assistance

Veteran's Attendance Policy

- Early departures, class cuts, tardies, etc., for any portion of a class period will be counted as absence.
- Students are allowed a maximum of 3 absences a semester which would be 7.5% a semester. Per calendar month any student exceeding 1.87% total absences will be terminated from their VA benefits for unsatisfactory attendance.
- In order to show that the cause of unsatisfactory attendance has been removed, students must show good attendance for one calendar month after being terminated for unsatisfactory attendance. After such a time, the student may be recertified for VA education benefits.
- The student's attendance record will be retained in the veteran's file for USDVA and SAA audit purposes.

Standards of Academic Progress for VA Students

- Students receiving VA educational benefits must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.0 each semester, will be placed on academic probation for a maximum of two consecutive terms of enrollment. If the VA student's CGPA is still below a 2.0 at the end of the second consecutive term of probation. The student's VA educational benefits will be terminated.
- A VA student terminated from VA educational benefits due to unsatisfactory progress may petition the school to be recertified after attaining CGPA of 2.0.

Veteran's Credit for Previous Education Training

- Students must report all education and training. The school must evaluate and grant credit, if appropriate, with the training time shortened, the tuition reduced proportionately, and the VA and student notified.

VA Pending Payment Compliance

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11

G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;

- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

6. Complaints and Appeals Procedures

The student may initiate a complaint or appeal any decision related to a requested accommodation or auxiliary aid to the Academic Dean. Such an appeal must be made in writing to the Dean no later than 10 days following the decision as to a requested accommodation or aid. Any position paper, brief, medical documentation or other written material, which the student desires to be reviewed by the Dean, shall be submitted together with the notice of appeal. The Academic Dean shall investigate and respond to the notice of appeal in writing, stating his or her decision, together with the reasons for either affirming or reversing the previous decision as to accommodation, or, auxiliary aid. A student may, within 10 days of the Dean's written decision on a student's appeal, file a second appeal with the Rector/President.

The decision of the Rector/President shall be in writing and shall be final and binding upon the student and the college seminary. All records of students' complaints and appeals are stored in the office of the Rector/President. Unresolved conflict should be referred to:

SACSCOC

1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097
Telephone number: 404-679-4501
<http://www.sacscoc.org/>

or the **Commission for Independent Education** at:

Florida Department of Education
Commission for Independent Education 325
W. Gaines Street, Suite 1414
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0400
Telephone number: 1-850-245-3200
<http://www.fldoe.org/>

7. Pre-Theology Program

St. John Vianney College Seminary offers a special two-year Pre-theology program for candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood who have completed their baccalaureate degrees, in a discipline other than philosophy, and are preparing to enter graduate studies in theology. The Pre-theology program provides the requirements for the philosophy and theology courses laid down by the *Program of Priestly Formation* and the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis*.

Before entering this program, students whose first language is other than English must attain a minimum score of 60 on the test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). If the student is unable to meet this requirement, he will first matriculate in the Propaedeutic ESL program described in the ESL Section of this catalog.

The Pre-theology program is designed as a two-year experience in philosophy, theology, Spanish for Ministry and priestly formation. Students who are proficient in Spanish, will be excused from the Spanish for Ministry requirement. However, they are still subject to the total credit requirement for their degree, which they can fulfill by completing two elective courses (6 credits) of their choice. At the completion of the Pre-theology program the student will be awarded a Bachelor of Philosophy degree (B.Phil.) or a Master of Arts (M.A.), depending on the program they follow. The credit hour requirement (60 credits) for the Bachelor of Philosophy (B. Phil) is outlined in the **Plan of Studies** in the *Catalog*. The credit hour requirements (48 credits) for the pre-theologians pursuing the M.A. in Philosophy are outlined in the **Plan of Studies** in the *Catalog*.

St. John Vianney's Pre-Theology program also aims to allow the seminarian to deepen and expand his understanding of the Catholic Faith by introducing him to the uniqueness, breadth and all-encompassing character of the heart and mind of Catholicism.

Mission. The Pre-theology program is designed to serve the needs of students who come to the College Seminary with the same goals as the rest of the students, but who have already earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at another institution and have majored in a discipline other than philosophy. It is the mission of the Pre-theology program to guide those students so that they may reach the academic student outcomes set out by the Mission Statement of the institution.

Admission Requirements. In addition to the Admission requirements stated on pages 16-17, candidates to the Pre-theology program must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Official transcripts of high school, undergraduate and graduate credits sent directly by the school(s) attended.
2. Non-English speaking students will be tested for English language proficiency. Their test scores will determine whether they enter the Pre-Theology Program directly or whether they must first complete the Propaedeutic ESL Program as described in the ESL Curriculum.
3. Biography describing the genesis of commitment to the priesthood and to theological studies.

General Education Requirements. All candidates to the B.Phil must have completed a minimum of 30 credits in general education to be admitted to the program, which include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/ fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics.

Transfer Policy. The previous college credit from an accredited institution will be accepted, provided that the grade for the course submitted was C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better, and provided that the courses are compatible with the College Seminary's degree requirements. Transfer credit from a non-accredited institution will be considered on an individual basis. Grades and grade point averages (GPA) will not be transferred, nor will they appear on the College Seminary transcript.

For transfer policy in the Major, please refer to the Philosophy Department Section in the catalog. Evaluation and acceptance of academic credit rests with the Academic Dean. Transfer of credit from this institution is at the discretion of the receiving institution.

The course requirements for the fulfillment of the B. Phil degree are restricted to three disciplines, philosophy (42 hours), theology (12 hours) and Spanish for ministry (six hours). In those instances when a student admitted to the program has already earned college credit in any of the courses required for the degree, the requirement to complete the required course(s) in the seminary is waived. A maximum of twelve (12) credits will be accepted as transfer credits.

Student Learning Outcomes of B.Phil Program. The Pre-theology program, in order to carry out that responsibility, has adopted for itself a set of expanded student outcomes that combines the institutional student learning outcomes as refined and operationally defined by the Philosophy Department and by the General Education program. Those refined and operationally defined student learning outcomes are as follows:

1. Students who are knowledgeable in the general history of Western philosophy.
2. Students who are grounded in the tradition of Catholic perennial philosophy and who are familiar with its terminology, its approach, and its major figures.
3. Students who demonstrate knowledge of systematic philosophy, in keeping with the Catholic tradition.
4. Students who are grounded in philosophy for theological studies at the graduate level.
5. Students who demonstrate knowledge of the Old and New Testaments.
6. Students who demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Studies in Philosophy

The Pre-Theology Program at St. John Vianney sees intellectual formation at this stage in a young college graduate's life as a venue meant to prepare him to better understand and appreciate the intellectual, most especially the philosophical, foundations of Catholic Theology.

As such, the academic component of St. John Vianney's Pre-Theology Program represents a "Study of Philosophy for Understanding Catholic Theology" – this is in keeping with the seminary's orientation (as envisioned by *PDV* and the present *PPF*) to form future pastors of the Church. Since even at this stage in his formation, everything a seminarian does is meant to prepare him to become a shepherd and minister of the Gospel, St. John Vianney's Pre-Theology Program envisions a closer relationship between Intellectual and Pastoral Formation.

Students in the Pre-theology program will take a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours in philosophy. Additional hours may be necessary depending on the student is enrolled the B. Phil or the M.A. program. The individual needs of the student and the expectations of the theologate for which they are ultimately bound may also impact the number of hours required. Students in the B. Phil must maintain a GPA of 2.0. Students in the M.A. must maintain a GPA of 3.0 in their philosophy courses to stay in the program.

Studies in Theology

Pre-theologians, whether enrolled in the B. Phil or in the M.A. program are required to take a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours in theology. Given the greatly varied background of those entering as pre-theologians, this program uses an adult learning model which is an integrated process of basic theological learning with personal, spiritual, communal and apostolic development. The program's theology curriculum consists of courses which are introductory in nature and of courses specifically offered to address the needs of pre-theologians. In both cases, the curriculum serves the worthwhile purpose of giving students a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the rich tradition and teaching of Roman Catholicism.

Formation

Formation in all its dimensions (Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral) is an essential component of pre-theology. Students of this program participate in the common formation program offered to all seminarians, but they have their own residence and their own director. This director works closely with the College Seminary's Academic Dean and the directors of formation in overseeing the different components of the program.

Seminary formation is ultimately geared towards forming kind, loving, and dedicated shepherds after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd himself.

Formation at St. John Vianney seeks to achieve this goal by laying a strong foundation on which the subsequent stages of formation are meant to build. This endeavor begins with a young man being given the opportunity - in a community of brothers dedicated to reflection, prayer and study - to "sit at the Master's feet", that is, to grow in understanding and appreciation of himself even as he is gradually initiated into a relationship of true discipleship and intimacy with Christ.

Besides participating in the common formation program offered to all the seminarians, the pre-theology students will be offered additional opportunities in various spiritual activities which will assist them in their spiritual development.

Pre-theologians have two formal evaluations during the school year: one in the fall and one in the spring. These evaluations follow the format of the St. John Vianney College Seminary evaluation for its degree-seeking seminarians.

Bachelor of Philosophy (B. Phil) Plan of Studies:

First Year

Fall Semester

PHI 105 Intro to Philosophy & Logic (3)
 PHI 301 Pre-theology Survey on
 the History of Philosophy I (6)
 SPA 153 Spanish for Ministry I (3)
 THE 255 Intro to Scriptures I (3)

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Spring Semester

PHI 302 Pre-theology Survey on
 the History of Philosophy II (6)
 PHI 437 Aquinas in 20th Century (3)
 SPA 154 Spanish for Ministry II (3)
 THE 256 Intro to Scriptures II (3)

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Second Year

Fall Semester

PHI 401 Metaphysics (3)
 PHI 406 Philosophy of God (3)
 PHI 460 Fundamental Ethics (3)
 PHI 461 Social Ethics (3)
 THE 417 Pre-The Seminar
 in Theology (3)

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Spring Semester

PHI 404 Phil. Anthropology (3)
 PHI 405 Epistemology (3)
 PHI 407 Philosophy of Nature (3)
 PHI 496 Integrative Seminar
 in Philosophy (3)
 THE 408 Vatican II and Church Tradition (3)

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Total Credits for Graduation: 60 Credits.

7. Course Description

PHI 105T- INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC (3) (REQUIRED)

Introduction to the study of philosophy. It aims to introduce the students to the central themes of philosophy and to philosophy's own proper mode of study.

PHI 301AB- PRE-THEOLOGY SURVEY ON THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I

(6cr) (REQUIRED) A survey study of the major philosophers and schools of the Ancient and Medieval periods. Special analysis of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Anselm and St. Thomas Aquinas.

PHI 302AB- PRE-THEOLOGY SURVEY ON THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II

(6cr) (REQUIRED) A survey study of the major philosophers and schools of the Modern and Contemporary periods. Special analysis of Descartes, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl and Heidegger.

PHI 401- METAPHYSICS (3) (REQUIRED) A study of basic metaphysical questions regarding the nature of reality and the relationship of God, the world, and man; in keeping with the Catholic philosophical tradition and contemporary reflection.

Phi 203, Phi 206, Phi 310 and Phi 320 are pre-requisites, or approval of Chair.

PHI 404- PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (3)(REQUIRED) A study of the question of man's self-understanding in the light of the Catholic philosophical tradition and of contemporary reflection. Emphasis on the questions of man's nature or identity; personhood, intellect, will, freedom and intentionality. A reflection on the role of work, play, friendship, love, and sexuality.

Phi 203, Phi 206, Phi 310, Phi 320 and Phi 401 are pre-requisites, or approval of Chair.

PHI 405- EPISTEMOLOGY (3) (REQUIRED) A study of human knowledge. Reflection upon the questions of truth, evidence and meaning in keeping with the Catholic Philosophical tradition and contemporary reflection. Includes discussion of the notion of method, the relationship between history, truth, and knowledge; and between reason, language, truth, and knowledge. The issues of relativism, subjectivism and the proper understanding of truth are discussed.

Phi 401, Phi 404 and junior standing are pre-requisites, or approval of Chair.

PHI 406- PHILOSOPHY OF GOD (3) (REQUIRED) A course in theodicy in keeping with the Catholic philosophical tradition and contemporary reflection. It expands on the themes developed in Metaphysics, Philosophical Anthropology and Epistemology, and includes reflection on the ways to discover God as ground through philosophical discourse, and on the language about God. The relationship between art and religion is explored.

Phi 407- PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE (3) (REQUIRED) A study of the philosophical reflection on Nature in keeping with the Catholic philosophical tradition. It includes a detailed study on the various understanding of Nature in the Western tradition as well as contemporary developments in the understanding of Nature in its relation to the human being and God.

PHI 437- AQUINAS IN THE 20TH CENTURY (3)(REQUIRED) The purpose of this course is twofold, first to increase and help mature the student's understanding of Aquinas' thought which was first introduced in Phi 206(Medieval); second to guide the student through the rediscovery of Thomistic thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The historical thread leading from the German and Italian seminaries of the 19th Century to the Second Vatican Council is unfolded and discussed. Readings will be selected from Gilson, Maritain, Blondel, Marechal, Rahner and Lonergan. The course will be held in seminar style, and it will encourage the students to do intensive reading, reflection and presentations. General participation in seminar discussions is expected.

Phi 203, Phi 206, Phi 310 and Phi 320 are pre-requisites, or approval of Chair.

PHI 460- FUNDAMENTAL ETHICS (3) (REQUIRED) A philosophical reflection upon fundamental ethical issues in the tradition of natural law. This course depends and draws heavily upon the philosophical synthesis developed earlier in the other systematic courses.

Phi 401 and Phi 404 are pre-requisites, or approval of Chair.

PHI 461- SOCIAL ETHICS (3) (REQUIRED) A study of the social dimension of ethics with special stress in the philosophical thread inherent in the statements of the magisterium on the social, economic and political problems of our times. An analysis of the philosophical foundations of the major papal documents from Rerum Novarum to Centecimus Anno is undertaken and attention is also paid to relevant statements of episcopal conferences such as Economic Justice for All. Contemporary issues are discussed in seminar fashion.

Phi 401 and Phi 404 are pre-requisites and Phi 460 is a co-requisite.

PHI 496- INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY (CAPSTONE PROJECT) (3)(REQUIRED) This is a specially designed undergraduate course in philosophy for pre-theology students. This seminar will serve several ends: first, it will serve as a clearing house for philosophical questions and problems arising from other courses being taken by the pre-theologians; second, it will help them become aware of the philosophical presuppositions implicit in the major disciplines of their respective prior degrees and guide them in examining those presuppositions in the light of the Catholic philosophical tradition; third, it will help the student come to a first and basic philosophical integration as underpinning of his journey to personal maturation and wisdom; and finally, it should provide basic help in the student's transition to graduate theological work at the theological seminary. To help them achieve these goals students will write a 15 pages paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. This paper will be considered the capstone project for the philosophical dimension of the pre-theology program.

THE 255T- INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURES I (3) (REQUIRED) This course serves as an introduction to Divine Revelation in Sacred Scripture for the Pre-Theology students. After presenting the topics of a theology of revelation and the question of the canon, the course will introduce various methods of studying scripture, with an emphasis on the historical-critical method. Applying the historical-critical method, the students will conduct a brief overview of the Old Testament: the Pentateuch, the Prophets, Wisdom Literature and the Historical Books. The course will come to a close with the consideration of the Canonical question of the Christian Bible and the role of Biblical Hermeneutics.

THE 256T- INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURES II (3) (REQUIRED) This course serves as an introduction to Divine Revelation in Sacred Scripture for the Pre-Theology students. After presenting socio-political and theo-philosophical overviews of the New Testament times, the course will introduce various methods of studying scripture, with an emphasis on the historical-critical method. Applying the historical-critical method, the students will conduct a brief overview of the New Testament: This will include the Synoptic Gospels, The writings of John, the Acts of the Apostles, the Pauline Writings, other Epistles and Pastoral Writings. Intro to Scriptures I is a pre-requisite.

THE 417 PRE-THEOLOGY SEMINAR I (3) (REQUIRED) This course serves a theology seminar for pre-theologians and will cover themes pertaining to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, with particular emphasis on The Profession of Faith and The Celebration of the Christian Mystery. It will utilize a colloquial model that lends itself to reflection and integration.

THE 408- VATICAN II AND THE CHURCH TRADITION (3) (REQUIRED) This course considers the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The main themes found in these documents are studied in relation to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Council's influence on Catholic doctrine and life.

SPA 153T- SPANISH FOR MINISTRY I (3) (REQUIRED) This course is designed to provide the student with the linguistic tools necessary for ministry with Spanish speakers. It emphasizes ministry oriented vocabulary and phrases, pronunciation, Scriptural readings in Spanish taken from the Liturgical year, religious songs and basic catechetical lessons. In addition, a brief background of countries from Latin America will be presented, with the intention of providing the students with a basic knowledge of the history, culture and traditions of the diverse countries.

SPA 154T- SPANISH FOR MINISTRY II (3) (required) A continuation of SPA 153T

8. Master of Arts in Philosophy

Note to Prospective Students: St. John Vianney's College Seminary's M.A. in Philosophy is offered 100% On-line and on Campus.

Mission Statement

The two-year M.A. program at St. John Vianney College Seminary is aimed to give students a solid, graduate level knowledge of Philosophy. The program emphasizes the narrative character of philosophy, i.e., the idea that philosophy has a 'story' that continuously evolves and mirrors the human person's ongoing search for meaning. This narrative character of philosophy is particularly "catholic" in the true meaning of the word, i.e., capable of being open to truth in all its manifestations, embracing it in a way that synthesizes all that is true, good, and noble in what the tradition has passed on to us while also pushing this legacy forward to bring about something that is genuinely "novel."

Length of Program

A limit of five calendar years is the maximum time allotted for the completion of all the requirements for the Master's degree. Graduate students who have not registered for a course in five years will be classified as "inactive" in the program.

Interrupted Program of Study

If a student engaged in graduate study leaves the College for a significant period before completing the degree, courses will be counted toward the program of study only if the time period of interrupted study is less than 5 years. That is, the period between the last and present (or new) enrollment does not exceed 5 years.

In special circumstances, courses completed more than 5 years previously may, at the discretion of the Academic Dean, be counted toward a degree, if, in the judgment of the dean, the College's curricular requirements and the content of those courses have not undergone significant change during the period of interrupted study.

Courses completed 5 or more years previous to any current enrollment will not be counted in the student's grade point average, unless the Academic Dean has made specific course exemptions from this policy. The transcript will indicate separate sets of courses, those completed 5 or more years previous to a new or continued enrollment and those registered after the student's return to the College.

Admission Requirements

1. Entering MA students must have a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Students who have no background in Philosophy at the undergraduate level, must first complete the Historical Sequence of courses before proceeding to register for the systematic courses.

2. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0.
3. An application, and application fee and two letters of recommendation testifying to the student's aptitude for graduate studies from professors familiar with the student's undergraduate work.

Degree Requirements and Required Coursework

30 hours of graduate coursework (10 courses) are required for all MA programs in the Philosophy Department. Students who choose to write a Thesis must complete 27 credit hours of course work and 3 credits for the Thesis. Students who do not choose to write a thesis must complete 30 credit hours of course work and successful completion of a Comprehensive Examination. In either case, coursework for all students must include the 12 credits of the Historical Sequence (PHI 501, PHI 502, PHI 503, PHI 504) as well as the following courses: Metaphysics (PHI 511), Philosophical Anthropology (PHI 512), Epistemology (PHI 513), and 20th Century Thomism (PHI 515). Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

Comprehensive Examination

Toward the end of the MA course of studies, the student who has decided not to write a Thesis must pass a Comprehensive Examination.

The Comprehensive Examination is a written exam generated by the Philosophy Department aimed to evaluate the student's competence and knowledge of the History of Philosophy as well as of the systematic areas required in the curriculum: Metaphysics, Philosophical Anthropology, Epistemology, and 20th Century Thomism. During the last semester of studies, at least six weeks before the actual date of the exam, students following the Comprehensive Examination track will be given a Study-guide of topics out of which the department will generate the Comprehensive Examination. The students will be given three hours to complete the proctored exam. The philosophy faculty will evaluate the exams and will grade it either as Pass or Fail. Students will have three opportunities to pass the comprehensive examination. No student can graduate without earning a passing grade in the Comprehensive examination.

Thesis

Students may choose to write a Thesis if they secure the recommendation of the faculty. If approved, they are not required to take the Comprehensive Examination. Students writing a Thesis must have a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Students writing a thesis will need to decide on a topic and an advisor early in the first semester of their second year of studies (after completing the Historical Sequence courses). The thesis must be at least 60 pages long. The department will provide the student with instructions on how to submit the thesis. Two readers will evaluate the thesis and grade it as Pass or Fail. No student can graduate without earning a passing grade in the thesis.

Transfer Policy

A maximum of six graduate courses from an accredited institution will be accepted for transfer, provided that the grade for the course submitted was B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better, and provided that the courses are compatible with the program's degree requirements. Evaluation and acceptance of academic record rests with the Academic Dean, who conducts the evaluation using transcripts and catalog descriptions of the courses to be accepted as transfer credit.

Language Requirement

There is no language requirement or other research tool requirement for an M.A. degree in the Philosophy Department.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the M.A. Program in Philosophy, the student

1. Students will demonstrate their capacity for philosophical research and writing.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major figures, movements, positions and issues in the Western philosophical tradition from the Ancient to the Contemporary period.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the main issues, debates, and traditions in Western Metaphysics.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the main issues, debates, and traditions in Western Philosophical Anthropology.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the main issues, debates, and traditions in Western Epistemology.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the main issues, debates, and traditions in 20th Century Thomism.

Assessment

The Learning Outcomes of the program will be assessed via a rubric developed by the department. The evaluators of the Comprehensive Examination and the Thesis will use the rubric to assess them. In addition, the *Alumni Survey* already in existence (with appropriate modifications) to evaluate the undergraduate program will also be used to determine student satisfaction with the graduate program for pre-theologians. In the case of the online students, an *Online Program Student Survey* will be administered to assess student satisfaction.

Master of Arts Plan of Studies for Non-seminarians:

1. Students are advised to follow the following course of studies:

Semester 1

PHI 501 (3 cr.)
PHI 502 (3 cr.)

Semester 2

PHI 503 (3 cr.)
PHI 504 (3 cr.)

Semester 3

PHI 511 (3 cr.)
PHI 512 (3 cr.)
Elective (3 cr.)

Semester 4

PHI 513 (3 cr.)
PHI 515 (3 cr.)
Thesis or Elective (3 cr.)

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 30 credits.

Master of Arts Plan of Studies for Pre-theologians

SEMESTER 1

PHI 501T Readings in Ancient
Philosophy (3)
PHI 502T Readings in Medieval
Philosophy (3)
THE 255T Introduction to Scriptures I (3)
SPA 153T Ministerial Spanish I (3)

SEMESTER 2

PHI 503T Readings in Modern
Philosophy (3)
PHI 504T Readings in Contemporary
Philosophy (3)
THE 256T Intro to Scriptures II (3)
SPA 154T Ministerial Spanish II (3)

SEMESTER 3

PHI 511 Metaphysics (3)
PHI 512 Philosophical Anthropology (3)
PHI Elective (3)
THE 417 Pre-The Seminar in Theology (3)

SEMESTER 4

PHI 513 Epistemology (3)
PHI 515 20th Century Thomism (3)
Thesis or Elective (3)
THE 408 Vatican II and Church
Tradition (3)

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 48 credits.

Course Descriptions

PHI 501 – Readings in Ancient Philosophy (3 cr.). A graduate level study of the main themes and concerns of ancient philosophy. Selected readings from Plato and Aristotle will frame the investigation.

PHI 502 – Readings in Medieval Philosophy (3 cr.). A graduate level study of the main themes and concerns of medieval philosophy. Selected readings from Augustine and Aquinas will frame the investigation.

PHI 503 – Readings in Modern Philosophy (3). A graduate level study of the main themes and concerns of modern philosophy. Selected readings from Descartes, Hume and Kant will frame the investigation.

PHI 504 – Readings in Contemporary Philosophy (3 cr.). A graduate level study of the main themes and concerns of contemporary philosophy. Selected readings from thinkers from Kierkegaard to Gadamer and Derrida will frame the investigation.

Phi 511 –Metaphysics (3 cr.). A graduate level study of metaphysical questions regarding the nature of reality and the relationship of God, the world, and human being in keeping with the Catholic philosophical tradition and contemporary reflection.- Being and beings; ontological and ontic; the analogy of Being; the ontological difference; being and time; Absence and Presence. Being and Language.

Phi 512 - Philosophical Anthropology (3 cr.). A graduate level study of human nature and self- understanding in the light of the Catholic philosophical tradition and of contemporary reflection. Emphasis on the questions of personhood; reason, will, intentionality, freedom and the natural law. A reflection on the role of love, work, play, sexuality and friendship.

PHI 513 – Epistemology (3 cr.). A graduate level study of questions regarding the nature and sources of knowledge and related questions of Truth, Meaning, Evidence, Reason, and Method. Selected readings from representative figures of the Western tradition from Plato to Gadamer will frame the investigation.

PHI 514 – Ethics (3 cr.). A graduate level study in ethics and related concerns in keeping with the Catholic tradition and contemporary reflection, special attention will be paid to discussions of value, virtue ethics, deontology, eudaemonism and the relation of faith to morality.

PHI 515 - 20th Century Thomism (3 cr.). Graduate level studies in the dialogue between Thomism and modernity in the twentieth century by a careful reading of major thinkers in the Transcendental Thomist tradition, *e.g.*, Rousselot, Marechal, Rahner and Lonergan, leading to and serving as a foundation for the theology of Vatican II.

PHI 516 – Studies in Political Philosophy (3 cr.). A graduate level study of questions regarding the nature of social and political governance and related questions of Justice, Liberty, Equality, Authority, the Common Good and Human Rights. Selected readings from representative figures of the Western tradition from Plato to Rawls and Habermas will frame the investigation.

PHI 517 - Philosophy of Religion and Natural Theology (3 cr.). A graduate level study to the philosophical approach to the question of God in line with the Catholic tradition and contemporary discussions.

PHI 518 – Aesthetics (3 cr.). Graduate level studies in aesthetics in keeping with the Catholic tradition and contemporary reflection – special attention will be given to the relation of Beauty to Truth and Meaning. Also, the relation of Beauty to God.

PHI 550 – Major Thinkers (3 cr.). A graduate in-depth study of a single, major philosopher from the Western tradition.

PHI 590 – Thesis (3 cr.).

Online Per Credit Hour Tuition Costs

1. **Standard Rate: \$575 Per Credit Hour**
2. **Discounted Rate for Inaugural Year Students: \$300 Per Credit Hour**
 - The student is encouraged to spread the word about the program.
3. **Discounted Rate for Archdiocese of Miami Employees: \$300 Per Credit Hour**
 - Tuition Discount at St. John Vianney College Seminary (online only) for Archdiocesan Employees
 - Eligible: All regular part- and full-time (30 hours or more per week) employees who have been employed by the Archdiocese of Miami for at least one year.
4. **Discounted Rate for Archdiocese of Miami Teachers: \$293.25 Per Credit Hour**
 - Teachers of ADOM schools who enroll in the online Master of Arts will pay 51% of the entire tuition cost.
 - The seminary's online programs were conceived as a way of responding to Pope Francis' encouragement for Catholics to "go out into the existential peripheries" of our age and be instruments of evangelization.
 - The online programs are intended to be means of sharing the Church's intellectual life at a very low cost.
5. **Discount rate for those interested in pursuing ministry: \$200 Per Credit Hour**
 - The seminary can offer a partial scholarship for those who are interested in pursuing ministry, at least for the first group of students enrolling in the program.
 - The only conditions for this are:
 - I) The student signs up for the first year and commits to finishing the degree (2 years minimum, 5 years maximum).
 - II) The student is looking to serve the Church and people through ministry either at present or later.
 - III) The student helps the seminary by promoting and advertising the program and is able to bring in at least 2 other students in the course of his studies.

The MA Online Program was conceived as a way of serving the larger faith community and using the seminary as means of evangelization and the promotion of Catholic Philosophy. Hence, the accommodation for anyone who isn't able to pay full tuition.

