

Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

Post-graduate students who have successfully completed the *Path to M.Div. Equivalency*, who have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0 and are recommended by the Academic Dean and at least two additional faculty members, are automatically accepted into the Doctor of Ministry Program.

(Note: *Once admitted formally into the Doctor of Ministry Program, students pay the D.Min. tuition rate as approved for the current year.*)



How can the
Path to M.Div. Equivalency
help you meet your ministry
goals?



Mission of Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology

To prepare men for the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the Diocese of Cleveland and to serve as a center for advanced theological education.

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Path to M.Div. Equivalency



Pre-requisite for admission to the
Doctor of Ministry Program



**Saint Mary Seminary
and Graduate School of Theology**
Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

From M.A. to M.Div. Equivalency to D.Min. Degree Program

Are you thinking that a Doctor of Ministry degree might be in your future? You may be asking yourself how you can continue your graduate theological education and eventually be ready to begin the Doctor of Ministry program.



Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology announces a new "Path to M.Div. Equivalency" designed to help Master of Arts Graduates earn the necessary 72 graduate credits for a Master of Divinity Degree equivalency to be eligible for admission to the D.Min. program.*

This new cohort of post-graduate learners at Saint Mary Seminary will have both the flexibility and guidance to meet their learning needs and accommodate their ministry situation, while remaining focused on the goal of admission to the Doctor of Ministry program.

If you would like to discuss whether the *Path to M.Div. Equivalency* is right for your ministry goals, please

contact the Office of the Academic Dean or the Registrar for an appointment.

(*Note: The *Path to M.Div. Equivalency* does not confer a certificate or M.Div. degree but is intended solely to advise the post-graduate student in achieving M.Div. equivalency according to ATS standards and preparing to begin the Doctor of Ministry program.)

Equivalency Components:

Pre-requisite:

- A Master of Arts in Theology Degree consisting of a minimum of 44 graduate credit hours;*
- A cumulative GPA in the Master's degree courses of at least 3.0;
- Recommendations for the *Path to M.Div. Equivalency* by two faculty members.

In addition, the post-graduate student will:

- present a statement of ministry involvement from the pastor or supervisor.;
- complete a Letter of Intent to pursue the Path to M.Div. Equivalency;
- Complete a Financial Agreement.

(*While this plan is designed for the SMS Master of Arts graduate, transcript analysis is available for students who have earned their MA theology degree from an accredited institution elsewhere.)

28 Graduate Credit Hours distributed as follows:

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|---|--------------------|
| Post-Graduate Electives | 12 - 16 cr. |
| Onsite; electives selected from the regular semester course offerings which were not taken during the Master of Arts program and other electives periodically offered by the seminary. | |
| Supervised Ministry Field Experience | 8 cr. |
| Performed in the student's place of ministry, under the direction of one's ministry supervisor. | |
| Independent Study or Online Courses | 4 - 8 cr. |
| With prior approval of the Academic Dean; Online courses or seminars must be in graduate level Catholic theology, not already taken in the MA program, and offered from an accredited Catholic university such as Catholic Distance University. Instead of online courses, the student may elect to take additional electives at Saint Mary Seminary. | |

Time for Completion

The focused post-graduate student would be able to complete the *Path to M.Div. Equivalency* in approximately two (2) calendar years, i.e. four academic semesters and two summers.

Financial Obligation

Post-graduate students pursuing the *Path to M.Div. Equivalency* are financially responsible for the special post-graduate rate of \$4900 for the entire *Path to M.Div. Equivalency*. This represents a further discount on the already discounted rate for students in full-time ministry. Payment may be made according to a payment plan arranged with the Finance Office. Published financial policies of Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology as posted on the seminary website apply to post-graduate students. (Note: If online courses are taken at other approved universities, the student must meet the application procedures and financial obligations of the university. In this case the Saint Mary Seminary cost per credit does not apply. Official transcripts of online courses must be received by Saint Mary Seminary.)

