

Assessment Results

4.a. Graduates demonstrate an ability to evaluate critically theological issues

2023-2024 Academic Year

MA Goal 1: To understand and integrate the theological disciplines within the Roman Catholic faith and tradition.

- ▶ 1.i. To demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of Catholic theology, both in its tradition and its contemporary perspectives.
- ▶ 1.ii. To display an ability to evaluate critically theological issues.
- ▶ 1.iii. To demonstrate an ability to reflect on human experience within the context of Christian faith.

Previous Review of MA Goal 1

- ▶ Last reviewed in 2017-2018
- ▶ Overall agreement that students are meeting goal
- ▶ Students ranked highest in knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition and in relating topic to human experience.
- ▶ Students ranked slightly lower, but still acceptable, in research skills
- ▶ Students ranked lowest (but still acceptable range) in reflection on topic
- ▶ Recommendations for improvement of student writing skills
- ▶ Actions taken:
 - ▶ Revision of course description for IS 505
 - ▶ Essay grading rubric implemented

- ▶ Indicator: Knowledge of Catholic Theology
- ▶ Tool type: Direct, Internal
- ▶ About this tool: 14 question multiple choice quiz which tests general knowledge of Catholic theology covered in ST 650 Trinity and Christology course. This is a core course for both the MA and MAPS degrees.
- ▶ Administered through Google forms for both online and seated courses.

**Evidence: MA6
- ST 650 Select
Questions**

Evidence: MA6 - ST 650 Select Questions

Current Results, 2021-2022

- Total administrations: 6
- Average Score: 85%

Previous Results, 2018

- Total administrations: 15
- Average Score: 94%

Evidence: MA Thesis Rubric Results

	Level of Achievement			
	High Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Fail
Thesis guidelines	Thesis fully adheres to Turabian and SHMS thesis guidelines (length, appropriate citation methods, correct font and layout).	Thesis generally adheres to Turabian guidelines and SHMS thesis guidelines.	Thesis partly adheres to Turabian and SHMS thesis guidelines.	Thesis fails to adhere to Turabian and SHMS thesis guidelines.
Quality of writing	Thesis communicates very accurately and persuasively, with good use of language and correct grammar, syntax and punctuation.	Thesis communicates accurately and persuasively, with only minor lapses in grammar, syntax and punctuation.	Writing is somewhat unfocused or vague; several errors in grammar, syntax and punctuation.	Style is poor or tone inappropriate; major errors in grammar, syntax and punctuation.
Organization	Thesis is very well organized, with clear progression of argument.	Thesis is generally well organized.	Some peculiarities in ordering.	Thesis is disorganized.
Knowledge of the subject	Thesis demonstrates thorough knowledge of the subject.	Thesis demonstrates good knowledge of the subject.	Thesis partly misunderstands subject or presents it in a superficial or confused manner.	Thesis largely misunderstands subject or is missing important content.
Knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition	Thesis demonstrates thorough knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition.	Thesis demonstrates good knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition.	Thesis demonstrates some gaps in knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition.	Thesis demonstrates inadequate knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition.
Pastoral insight and reflection	Thesis demonstrates excellent pastoral insight and reflection on the topic's importance for Christian life.	Thesis demonstrates good pastoral insight and reflection on the topic's importance for Christian life.	Thesis demonstrates limited pastoral insight or reflection on the importance of the topic for Christian life.	Thesis demonstrates little or no pastoral insight or reflection on the importance of the topic for Christian life.
Oral defense	Oral defense consistently demonstrates clarity and cogency in presenting the topic.	Oral defense generally demonstrates clarity and cogency in presenting the topic.	Oral defense demonstrates limited clarity and cogency in presenting the topic.	Oral defense demonstrates little or no clarity or cogency in presenting the topic.

- ▶ Indicator: Knowledge of Catholic Theology
- ▶ Indicator: Ability to evaluate theological issues
- ▶ Indicator: Ability to reflect on human experience within the context of faith
- ▶ Tool type: Direct, Internal
- ▶ About this tool: Administered with capstone thesis for MA, evaluated by faculty
- ▶ Current Results: Combined Totals, 2017-2022

Evidence: MA1 - MA Thesis Results

Statistics							
		Thesis Guidelines	Research Skills	Knowledge of the subject	Knowledge of Catholic faith and tradition	Insight and reflection	Oral defense
N	Valid	54	54	54	52	54	53
	Missing	0	0	0	2	0	1
Mean		3.46	3.28	3.35	3.19	3.15	3.30
Median		4.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Mode		4	4	4	3	3	3
Std. Deviation		.693	.834	.756	.742	.711	.668

Key: High Distinction = 4, Distinction = 3, Pass = 2, Fail = 1

Thesis Guidelines

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	31	57.4
Distinction	17	31.5
Pass	6	11.1
Fail	0	0
Total	54	100.0

Research Skills

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	28	51.9
Distinction	13	24.1
Pass	13	24.1
Fail	0	0
Total	54	100.0

Knowledge of the Subject

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	28	51.9
Distinction	17	31.5
Pass	9	16.7
Fail	0	0
Total	54	100.0

Knowledge of the Catholic Faith and Tradition

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	20	38.5
Distinction	22	42.3
Pass	10	19.2
Fail	0	0
Total	52	100.0

Insight and Reflection

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	18	38.5
Distinction	26	42.3
Pass	10	19.2
Fail	0	0
Total	54	100.0

Oral Defense

	Frequency	Percent
High Distinction	22	41.5
Distinction	25	47.2
Pass	6	11.3
Fail	0	0
Total	53	100.0

- ▶ Indicator: Knowledge of Catholic Theology
- ▶ Indicator: Ability to evaluate theological issues
- ▶ Indicator: Ability to reflect on human experience within the context of faith
- ▶ Tool type: Indirect, External
- ▶ About this tool: Administered to all MA and MAPS Graduates in final year of study. Offers comparative data with other ATS schools.

Evidence:
MA12- ATS GSQ

Measure of Educational Effectiveness and Personal Growth

	SHMS MA Totals	MA Totals - All Schools
	2017 - 2023	2022-2023
	n=37	n=1203
Insight into troubles of others	3.9	4.1
Concern about social justice	3.4	3.9
Empathy for poor and oppressed	3.7	4.1
Source: ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire, Table 14 1=Not at all effective 2=Not very effective 3=Somewhat effective 4=Effective 5=Very effective		

Educational Effectiveness in Facilitating Skill Areas

	SHMS MA Totals	MA Totals - All Schools
	2017 - 2023	2022-2023
	n=37	n=1203
Ability to relate social issues to faith	4.1	4.3
Ability to think theologically	4.8	4.6
Ability to use and interpret Scripture	4.6	4.5
Knowledge of Church doctrine and history	4.6	4.3
Knowledge of church polity/canon law	4	3.8

Source: ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire, Table 14

1=Not at all effective 2=Not very effective 3=Somewhat effective 4=Effective 5=Very effective