

GUIDELINES
for
DEACONS



DIOCESE *of*
COLUMBUS

7000 SERIES

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Diaconate School of Theology of the Diocese of Columbus has as its principal objective to provide quality human, intellectual, spiritual, pastoral, and personal education that will prepare the candidate to undertake diaconal ministry. This ministry and education is outlined in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) 2021 document, *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of the Permanent Deacons in the United States, Second Edition*.

A formation program that assists the candidate to develop diaconal identity, spiritual growth, family support, and the capacity for leadership in the contemporary church integrates the academic and pastoral preparation.

Therefore, the Diaconate School of Theology for the Diocese of Columbus is:

- Theologically, pastorally, spiritually, and academically sound and well-integrated
- Adapted to meet specific needs and local resources.
- Respectful of the deacon candidate's personal life, whether married or single.
- Respectful of the spouse and family involvement in the overall development of the Deacon candidate.
- Designed to prepare candidates for receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders and for functioning as deacons in the Roman Catholic Church.

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL LEARNING

Formation will be directed by the Office of the Diaconate. Individual courses and other learning opportunities (e.g., Formation Weekends) will involve a combination of in-person and virtual formats. In-person opportunities will be led by priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and laity of the Diocese of Columbus. Virtual learning will be offered in partnership with the Josephinum Diaconate Institute at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

HUMAN AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Several general criteria govern the Human and Intellectual Development of Deacons:

- The school is designed to prepare candidates to exercise the Order of Deacon. The theological studies component is therefore oriented toward ministry, providing the candidate with the knowledge and appreciation of the faith that he needs in order to carry out his ministry of Word, Altar, and Charity. An increasingly educated society demands that the deacon be a knowledgeable and reliable witness of the faith and spokesperson for the Church's teaching. It promotes the deacon's lifelong effort to reflect on his ministry in the light of faith.
- Theological formation takes into account the need for diaconal service in the communities for which one is to be ordained. The candidate should be helped to evaluate society and culture in light of the Gospel and to understand the Gospel in light of the particular features of the society and culture in which he will be serving. This requires a certain amount of latitude in the construction of theological programs and in the evaluation of a candidate's performance.
- Since a candidate enters the program as a mature individual and since he is usually married and engaged in secular occupations, the theological formation makes use of the methods and processes of adult education. The candidate should draw and reflect upon his adult life and faith experience. This is taken into account in determining the types of courses offered and the types of educational experiences employed.
- The School of Theology is designed to communicate knowledge of the faith and church traditions so deacons will be able to carry out this vital ministry.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR THE HUMAN AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

A. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY:

1. The ongoing study, critical interpretation, and exegesis of the Old and New Testaments, (especially the Gospels and Epistles)
2. The relationship between Scripture and Tradition
3. Homiletics
4. Preaching the Lectionary
5. How to use the Scriptures in preaching, catechesis, prayer, and counseling.

B. SYSTEMATIC/DOGMATIC THEOLOGY:

1. The sources, themes, and methods of theology
2. Revelation, faith, and reason
3. The mystery of God the Creator and Redeemer
4. Christology
5. Ecclesiology
6. The Blessed Virgin Mary
7. Christian anthropology
8. Sacramental Theology
9. Theology of Diaconate and Ordained Ministry

C. MORAL THEOLOGY:

1. Christian morality in both its personal and social dimensions
2. Social teachings and documents of Roman Catholic Church
3. The Roman Catholic approach to thinking about Moral questions

D. PASTORAL THEOLOGY:

1. Overview of Canon Law
2. Marriage Preparation and Annulment Procedures
3. Pastoral care of the Sick; Ministry in Hospitals and Prisons
4. Parish Internships, Mentoring Program and Methods
5. Catechetical Techniques and Sacramental Preparation

E. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH:

1. Early History of the Church
2. Middle Ages to Trent
3. Trent to Present (with emphasis on the American Catholic Experience)

F. SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY:

1. Spirituality of the deacon
2. Spirituality of the deacon's family

G. LITURGICAL PRACTICES:

1. Presiding Techniques
2. Leading and/or Assisting at Liturgies
3. Ministry of Lector
4. Ministry of Acolyte

7002.0

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The entire formation program has the following pastoral focus:

- To provide the necessary knowledge, sensitivities, and skills for those who will be ordained to the Order of Deacon, and who will be officially and publicly recognized for this by the Church.
- To build upon the previous experience and talents, which have made them likely candidates.
- To give the candidate a greater awareness of the needs and mission of the local parish and diocese and assist in the discernment and development of his own particular talents and gifts.
- To make the candidate aware, as part of pastoral development, that the needs of the Church remain central in his future ministry.
- To provide the opportunity for theological reflection as well as occasions to translate theory into practice.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

1. LITURGICAL SKILLS:

- Bringing out the meaning of liturgy and symbol
- The proper administration of liturgical rites, sacraments, sacramentals and devotions
- Proper and effective proclamation of the Word
- The deacon's role in assisting at the Eucharistic liturgy
- Practical exercises on effective preaching.

2. IMPLEMENTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS:

- Parish social ministry
- Providing direct assistance to the needy in a respectful manner.
- The deacon in the workplace

3. PASTORAL CARE:

- Methods of pastoral care for individuals and groups
- Recognition of the need for referral for professional attention and particular attention to the local parish and diocesan situation.

4. PARISH INTERNSHIP:

The candidate will satisfactorily complete a two-year period of a Parish Internship supervised by the pastor and published, as such, to the parish community. Therefore, the Parish Internship should:

- Provide training in the necessary canonical, administrative and pastoral skills for parishes and other communities.
 - Provide knowledge about social service agencies, such as Catholic Charities and Family Life Bureaus, as a point of referral and a source of training, as well as a potential field for active ministry.
- Demonstrate pastoral skills by the candidate (a crucial element in the evaluation of his fitness for ordination).

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The deacon is prepared in such a way that his life as an ordained minister forms an integrated whole of professional skills and personal commitment and devotion to Christ and the Church. As with all other Christians, the deacon's spiritual life, founded on his baptism, is centered in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Reading and meditating on the Scriptures constantly nourish his faith. His activity is enlivened and strengthened by regular participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His personal Christian life has a strong ecclesial and communal dimension. Since he is an ordained minister, the deacon's spiritual life has a powerful ministerial dimension.

Therefore, the program of spiritual development:

- Builds upon the candidate's previous adult Christian experiences and commitments in the case of married deacons, especially their commitments to spouse and families. The varying qualities and depths of these experiences are taken into account in helping candidates grow in self-knowledge, in their commitment to Christ and his Church, and in their dedication to service.
- Assists the candidate in achieving a spiritual integration of his life and ministry. Most candidates are married men who also have secular occupations. The ministry they undertake has to be carried out in a way that draws upon the riches of their family life and respects their duties at home and at work, and for this, they need a spiritual life in which ministry, family, and occupation enrich and confirm one another. For this reason, the spouse and family of candidates are encouraged to be involved in activities for spiritual development. This common participation in the program strengthens and enriches their marriages.
- Offers candidates a variety of prayer and retreat experiences. These will be helpful, not only in giving them opportunities to test the various traditional and contemporary approaches to the spiritual life, but also in enriching the spiritual ministry they will be able to offer others.
- Introduces the candidates to praying the Liturgy of the Hours as the official prayer of the Church and the source of a firm liturgical direction for their prayer. Although they are not bound by the universal church law to say the whole of this prayer every day, deacons do not hold themselves lightly excused from the obligation they have to pray morning and evening prayer. They are expected to know the nature and structure of the Liturgy of the Hours and to develop the capacity to lead it publicly.
- Provides, with the help of the Diaconal Community, a mentor(s) to give the candidate spiritual and educational support as he pursues his life as an ordained deacon.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The objectives of the spiritual development component are:

- To assist the candidate, with the help of his spiritual director and those responsible for the program, in discerning whether or not he has a vocation to the diaconate.
- To deepen and cultivate the candidate's commitment to Christ and the Church.
- To help the candidate integrate his new ministerial commitment with his continuing commitments to family and to work.
- To strengthen the personal and ministerial charisms the candidate has already demonstrated in his life.
- To develop the personal qualities and abilities that will be needed in the candidate's ministry.
- To help the candidate grow in self-knowledge and to develop the habit of repentance and self-criticism in light of the Gospel and of his ministerial responsibilities.
- To deepen the candidate's prayer-life: personal, familial, communal, and liturgical.
- To strengthen the candidate's knowledge of the Catholic spiritual tradition, especially as reflected in classic spiritual writings and in the examples of the saints.
- To strengthen the candidate for the challenges of spiritual leadership that his ministry will entail.
- To provide the candidate with a mentor who is an ordained deacon in our diocese to help the candidate meet the components in spiritual and theological development.
- To promote a healthy and transparent relationship with the candidate's spiritual director
- To develop a strong diaconal spirituality that persists after ordination.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**Bi 7004.1****Pentateuch and Historical Writings**

A methodological introduction to Hebrew Scripture study and a survey of the Priestly History (Genesis to Numbers) and the Deuteronomistic History (Deuteronomy to Kings).

Bi 7004.2**Wisdom and Prophetic Literature**

An examination of the books, ideas and methods of the Wisdom Tradition, their place in the Old Testament and their importance for Biblical thought. A study of the origin, character, and development of Israelite prophecy, with special emphasis on major theological themes in the literature.

Bi 7004.3**Synoptic Gospels**

Introduction to the gospel tradition and to pastoral exegetical method, with particular attention to the distinct theologies of Matthew, Mark, and Luke-Acts.

Bi 7004.4**Johannine Writings**

The themes, structure, and theology of the Gospel according to St. John. Current themes on authorship, background, and structure. Special attention to the theological content of the letters.

Bi 7004.5**Pauline Corpus**

Examination of the letters which have been attributed to St. Paul. Current views concerning authorship, background, and structure. Special attention to the theological content of the letters.

Bi 7004.6**Homiletics: Theory and Practicum**

History, theology, and practice of preaching. Nature and function of the homily in the liturgical assembly. Principles of effective communication. Methods of homily preparation and delivery. Audiovisual recording will be used.

Bi 7004.7**Preaching the Lectionary**

Effective proclamation of scriptural texts and the preaching of liturgical homilies. Supportive evaluation of reading and preaching. The preparation and preaching of homilies for special occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Audiovisual recording will be used.

SYSTEMATIC/DOGMATIC THEOLOGY

Do 7005.1 Theology of the Diaconate and Ordained Ministry

The theology of the Diaconate as seen in Scripture, the Fathers of the Church and later theological development. The Life and Ministry of the Deacon in the contemporary Church. The relationship of the Deacon with the Bishop and Priest in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Do 7005.2 Foundations of Systematic Theology

Systematic Theology studies the mysteries of faith in their biblical sources and as they are further illumined by the writings of the Fathers, the liturgy of the Church, teachings of the magisterium, contributions of theologians and contemporary experience. This course is an overview of Christian theology.

Do 7005.3 Ecclesiology

The Church in the New Testament. The developing ecclesiology through the patristic, medieval, reformation and modern periods. Systematic study of the nature, attributes, structure, and mission of the Church. Ecumenical perspectives. Selected questions in Mariology.

Do 7005.4 Christology

Origin of faith in the full humanity and divinity of Christ. Early heresies and the developments of Christological dogma through the centuries. Survey and critique of some modern Christology.

Do 7005.5 Sacramental Theology

Sacramental principles and the sacramental nature of the Church. Origin and institution of sacraments. Biblical, historical, and systematic questions concerning Baptism and Confirmation. The Eucharist in Scripture and the early Church. History of Eucharistic theology. Selected questions concerning the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders. Ecumenical perspectives.

Do 7005.6 Patristics: An Introduction to the Church Fathers

The early Church Fathers addressed fundamental questions about the Church in their writings. Included are texts on Christology, the Trinity, the sacraments, and other topics. Writings from the Eastern and Western Fathers will be read to understand better how the Church currently “breathes with both lungs.”

MORAL THEOLOGY

Mo 7006.1

Fundamental Moral Theology

Moral Theology shows how faith casts a light on how we are to conduct our Christian life in the world. This course gives an overview of the contribution of faith to moral thinking. Morality and happiness. Human acts and freedom. Eternal and Natural Law. The object, ends, and circumstances of action.

Mo 7006.2

Personal Moral Theology

Moral theology encompasses the whole life to which God calls His people from the first steps on the path of virtue to final union with God. This course deals with the theological virtues and contemporary challenges that a Deacon must confront pastorally. It is a focus on faith and vocational commitment. Hope and possibilities of social and personal change. The gifts of the Spirit and the call to holiness.

Mo 7006.3

Specific Moral Issues and Catholic Social Teaching

This course presents and studies documents embodying the Church's social teaching from Pope Leo XIII to the present. Applies this teaching to the contemporary scene.

7007.0

PASTORAL STUDIES

Pt 7007.1

Spirituality of the Diaconate

Principles of the spiritual life; the process of spiritual growth; goals in spiritual growth; means of spiritual growth in the ascetical tradition; prayer - personal and communal; spiritual reading (as differentiated from the study of scripture and usual modes of reading); the value of personal spiritual direction.

Pt 7007.2

Diaconal Life: Family, Job, and Ministry

This course focuses on the lifestyle of the Deacon in the United States. It will provide the Deacon Candidate, his spouse, and family with an opportunity to discuss and evaluate the challenges of blending family life with diaconal ministry.

Pt 7007.3

Canon Law I: Principles and Development

Introduction to canon law in the Latin rite. Ecclesiastical laws, customs, general decrees and instructions, individual administrative acts, physical and juridic persons, the power of governance and hierarchical constitution of the Church, in canons 1-203 and 330-494.

Pt 7007.4

Canon Law II: Sacramental Requirements

Introduction to liturgical law. Canons pertinent to the Sacraments with an emphasis on the pastoral-canonical approaches for reconciliation of persons in failed marriages. Defect of form and ligamen, Privilege of the Faith, grounds for formal nullity, the internal forum solution and questions concerning administration of sacraments to those in irregular unions.

Pt 7007.5

Deacon Internship

To be determined at a later time during the third year of diaconal formation. Internship is developed on an individual basis with the full cooperation of the candidate's pastor and parish staff.

Pt 7007.6

Principles of Catechesis

A study of the pastoral role of the Church as educator through the analysis of the various learning methods helpful in communicating the Faith message; familiarization with catechetical documents, educative trends, catechetical materials, aids, and resources, especially those relating to adult learning.

Pt 7007.7

Pastoral Care of the Sick I: Theory and Practicum

An introduction to the qualities, understandings, and skills helpful to the ordained deacon so that he might respond to the needs of the people for support, healing, reconciliation, and growth in situations of stress. This course is in collaboration with Pt 7007.8 in which the candidate is provided with practical guidelines to promote growth through interpersonal interaction; comparison and contrast with other kinds of helping; procedures and resources; specific counseling/helping skills; attending and listening skills; helpful ways to respond to the needs of the sick and dying, family crisis situations, prison ministry, the depressed, the aged, those in personal crisis, and those in need of more professional assistance and referral.

Pt 7007.8

Pastoral Care of the Sick II: Verbatim and Review

A continuation of Pt 7007.7 where the candidates meet in seminar setting to discuss, critique and offer helpful suggestions on pastoral care practicum situations.

Pt 7007.9

Introduction to Latino Ministry

This aspect of formation is designed to help the deacon candidate begin to understand and appreciate the Hispanic culture. It serves as an introduction to the Spanish language, heritage, and culture in order to help the deacon candidate minister the various sacraments as well as assist at a Mass in Spanish. This class will be continued after ordination and become part of the requirement for post-ordination formation.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**Ht 7008.1****The Early Church: Pentecost to Middle Ages**

The life, structures, and self-understanding of the Church from Apostolic times to the end of the Patristic period, including a brief introduction to some of the principal writers and theological developments.

Ht 7008.2**The Medieval Church: Middle Ages to Trent**

Significant spiritual, intellectual, and institutional developments in the Church throughout the Middle Ages, with special emphasis on the medieval synthesis and the causes of division within Christendom.

Ht 7008.3**The Modern and Contemporary Church: Trent to Present**

Various religious/spiritual movements of the 16th-18th centuries, as well as the impact of the Enlightenment, French Revolution, and World Wars on the Church; ecumenism, and development of a European Church into a world-wide Church. This class will have a specific focus on The American Catholic Experience.

Note – *The History of the Catholic Church* is a prerequisite course prior to candidacy. It will help with various classes that require a historical perspective.

Ht 7008.4**The American Catholic Experience**

This course will introduce the deacon student to the history of American Catholicism from the period of Mission and Colonial Catholicism to the present. It will focus on the central questions raised by the encounter of Catholicism with American constitutional values, the American political system and a predominantly Protestant religious pluralism.

LITURGICAL PRACTICE

| | | |
|----|--------|---|
| Lt | 7009.1 | Ministry of Reader: Deacon as Minister of the Word |
| Lt | 7009.2 | Ministry of Acolyte: Deacon as Minister of the Altar |
| Lt | 7009.3 | Liturgical Practicum: Presiding and Assisting Techniques with an emphasis on Rites of Initiation |
| Lt | 7009.4 | Liturgical Practicum: Preparing and Presiding at Marriages |
| Lt | 7009.5 | Liturgical Practicum: Vigil, Funeral, and Burial Rites |
| Lt | 7009.6 | Liturgical Practicum: Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. |
| Lt | 7009.7 | Ordination Rehearsal and Preparation: The Theology of the Ordination Rite for Deacons |
| Lt | 7009.8 | Liturgical Practicum: Rites of Initiation, Holy Week |
| Lt | 7009.9 | Liturgical Practicum: The Deacon at Episcopal Liturgies |

All courses have a practical study of liturgy from historical, anthropological, and theological viewpoints. All practicums should have an audio-video recording component, as well as a seminar setting to discuss various styles of presiding, liturgical movement and protocol.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

7010.1 Attendance

7010.2 Grading Scale

7010.3 Candidate Evaluation and Academic Status

7010.4 Waiver of Academic/Theology Class

7010.5 Scheduling of Classes

7010.6 Academic Advisor



7010.1

ATTENDANCE

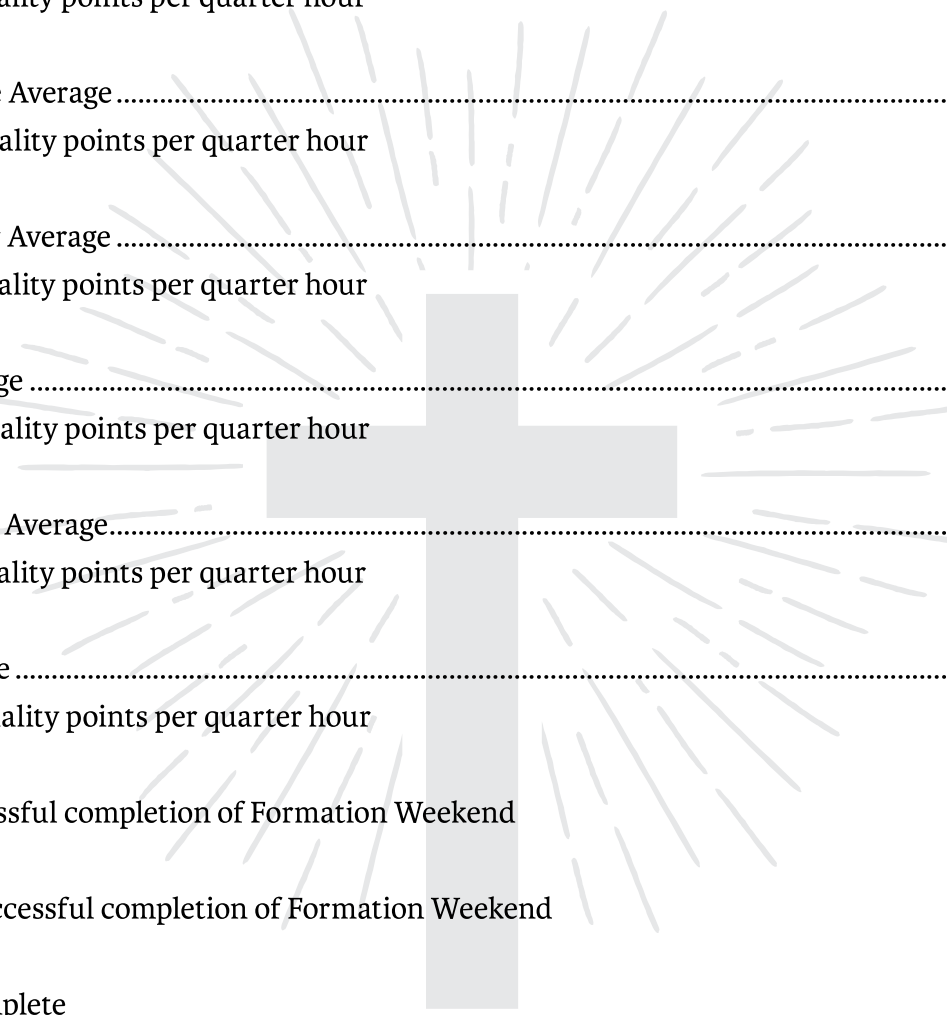
All academic courses and formation weekends require mandatory attendance. Please notify the Director of Diaconal Formation in case of a problem or emergency.

Housing and meals related to in-person formation activities can be provided for all candidates at no cost to the candidate. Deacon candidates will receive a course syllabus prior to the start of the academic class and an agenda prior to the formation weekend.

All academic classes will have a syllabus with Course description, textbook list, skill objectives, methods and calendar for assignments and tests.

Wives are always invited but not required to attend all academic classes and formation weekends. Arrangements will be made for wives to be in residence with their candidate spouse for scheduled weekends. There is no charge for lodging and food for formation weekends. Charges for food and lodging for wives attending academic study weekends at times may be shared by the deacon and his parish.

GRADING SYSTEM



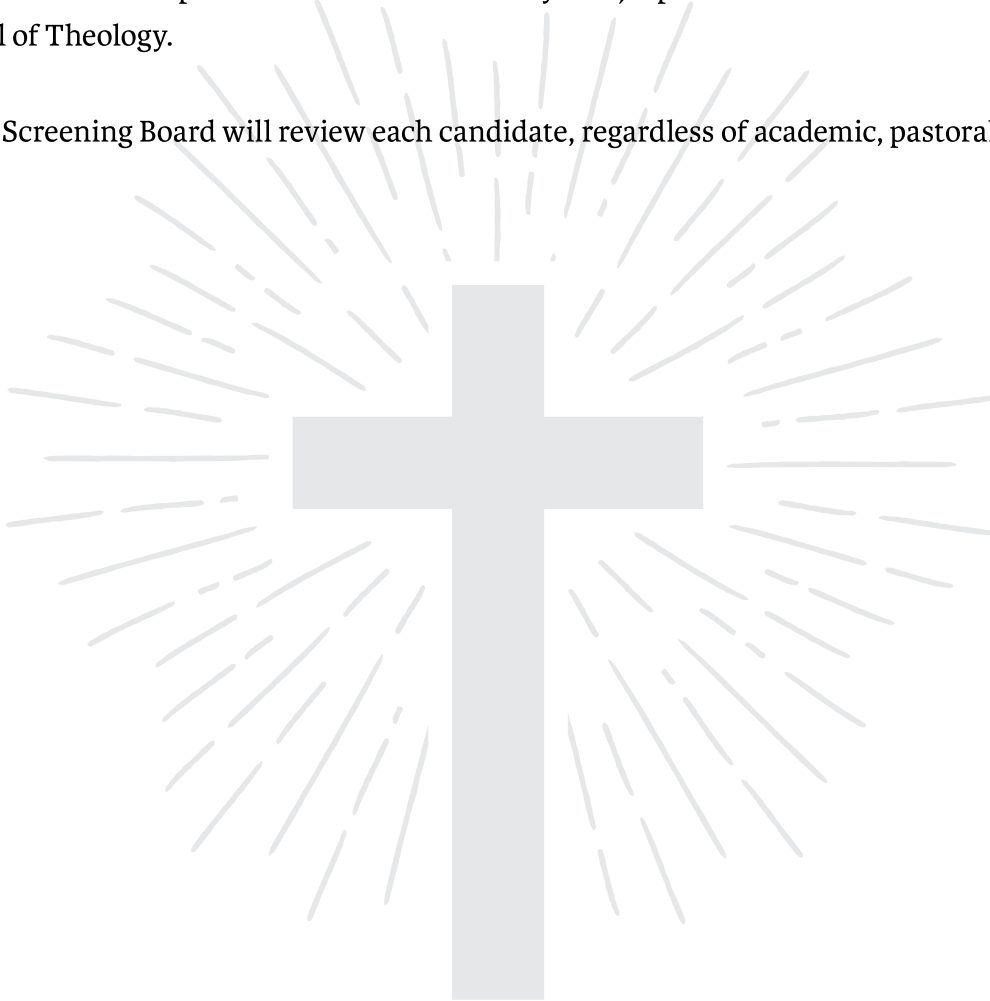
| | | |
|----|--|--------|
| A | = Superior | 93-100 |
| | 4.0 quality points per quarter hour | |
| B+ | = Excellent | 90-92 |
| | 3.5 quality points per quarter hour | |
| B | = Above Average | 85-89 |
| | 3.0 quality points per quarter hour | |
| C+ | = Upper Average | 82-84 |
| | 2.5 quality points per quarter hour | |
| C | = Average | 77-81 |
| | 2.0 quality points per quarter hour | |
| D | = Below Average | 70-76 |
| | 1.0 quality points per quarter hour | |
| F | = Failure | 0-69 |
| | 0.0 quality points per quarter hour | |
| P | = Successful completion of Formation Weekend | |
| U | = Unsuccessful completion of Formation Weekend | |
| I | = Incomplete | |
| * | = Audit or Independent Study | |

CANDIDATE EVALUATION AND ACADEMIC STATUS

Each faculty member makes a formal report and evaluation of the candidate's academic achievement at the end of the quarter. The report is sent to the candidate, the candidate's pastor and kept on file at the Office of the Diaconate for review by the Director of Diaconal Formation and the Candidate Screening Board.

Candidates must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to maintain favorable academic status. Below 2.0 or unsuccessful completion of the course of study will jeopardize the candidate in remaining in the Diaconate School of Theology.

The Candidate Screening Board will review each candidate, regardless of academic, pastoral, or spiritual ability each year.



WAIVER OF ACADEMIC/THEOLOGY CLASS

Since the Diaconate School of Theology is not certified, at this time, to grant degrees or diplomas, it will accept completion of a graduate-level theology course taken at a Roman Catholic College or University. The candidate must provide a file with course description and syllabus; list of text(s); notes, papers, assignments, and tests completed; and a certified transcript with grade.

All candidates, regardless of their advanced theological background, will have a formation program developed to meet the specific skills necessary to function as an ordained deacon and will be a minimum of a four-year period.

SCHEDULING OF CLASSES

In-person academic classes are scheduled six times a quarter for a total of 18 in-class clock hours. Each class will have built in the necessary assignments, readings, and research to maintain a quality educational experience. Virtual classes at the Josephinum Diaconate Institute offer a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities within the same timeframe and difficulty.

Formation weekends are scheduled from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. These will occur during the same weekend as an in-person class if at all possible. The instructor determines academic class assignments. The Office of the Diaconate determines formation weekend agendas.

Mandatory group candidate retreats will be held during the summer term of Year 1 and Year 2 of the candidacy sequence. The candidate will take an individual 5-day canonical retreat during the Spring or Summer of Year 3.

Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours and are central to in-person classes/weekends/retreats. Candidates will have the opportunity to learn through observation, and, as formation progresses, preside and participate in a manner appropriate to their stage of formation.

ADVISING, FORMATION ADVISING, AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Each candidate will meet regularly with the Director of Diaconal Formation, the Associate Director(s), their assigned mentor(s), or the specific consultants assigned by the Director of Diaconal Formation. They will serve as academic advisors and formation candidate leaders. The candidate is also expected to meet regularly with their Spiritual Director.

7011.0

ACADEMIC POLICIES

7011.1

EXPLANATION OF POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

In order to meet the basic standards in quality education, the Office of the Diaconate and Faculty have established some general policies and guidelines.

7011.2

CLARIFICATION OF STUDY AND DIRECTION

These policies and guidelines are meant to help administrate, facilitate, and clarify the course of study and future direction for the Diaconate School of Theology.

7011.3

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Bishop of Columbus, the Vicar for Clergy, the Director of Diaconal Formation and Associate(s) of the Office of the Diaconate, the Formation Policy Board and a sub-committee of the Diaconate Council review the program of study annually.

7011.4

COST SHARING

The Diocese of Columbus hopes that parishes that sponsor a Deacon Candidate will help defray the costs of books, travel, and/or specific academic needs that may develop on a case-by-case basis.

The Diocese of Columbus will provide all program costs, (e.g., housing, classroom rental and meals) for Deacon Candidate on academic weekends and for the Deacon Candidate and his wife on formation weekends.

CANDIDACY SCOPE AND SEQUENCE CHART

| | ACADEMICS | FORMATION SEMINARS AND RETREATS | OTHER FORMATION ACTIVITIES & RITES |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| YEAR 1 Spring | Second Vatican Council/ Ecclesiology (Virtual/JDI) Theology of the Diaconate and Ordained Ministry (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 1: Introduction to Candidacy Formation/Liturgy of the Hours Formation Weekend 2: Balancing Family Life, Job, and Ministry | Mentorship Program |
| Summer | Synoptic Gospels (Virtual/JDI) Ecclesiology (Virtual/JDI) | Formation Weekend 3: Presiding and Assisting Techniques Formation Weekend 4: Candidate Group Retreat: Mary and the Church | Mentorship Program |
| Fall | Pentateuch and Historical Books (Virtual/JDI) Homiletics: Theory and Practicum (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 5: Introduction to Hispanic & Latino Ministry I Formation Weekend 6: Ministry of Lector/Deacon of the Word | Mentorship Program Ministry of Lector |
| YEAR 2 Spring | Johannine Writing (Virtual/JDI) Pastoral Care (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 7: Introduction to Parish Internship (with Spouses and Pastors) Formation Weekend 8: Charity in the Diocese of Columbus | Mentorship Program Parish Internship |
| Summer | Moral Theology (Virtual/JDI) Christology (Virtual/JDI) | Formation Weekend 9: Introduction to Hispanic & Latino Ministry II Formation Weekend 10: Candidate Group Retreat: Homiletics and the Lectionary | Mentorship Program Internship Conference with Director of Formation, Spouse and Pastor |
| Fall | Canon Law I: Principles and Development (Virtual/JDI) Social Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 11: Deacon of Charity and Justice II (Catholic Medical Morality) Formation Weekend 12: Ministry of Acolyte/ Deacon of The Altar | Mentorship Program Internship Ministry of Acolyte |
| YEAR 3 Winter | Sacramental Theology (Virtual/ JDI) Canon Law II: Marriage, Annulment, and the Diocesan Tribunal (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 13: Sacrament of Matrimony; Pre- Marital Preparation and Assessment Individual Canonical Retreat Formation Weekend 14: Baptism Preparation and Sacrament of Baptism | Mentorship Program Internship Personal Interview with the Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus |
| Summer | Pauline Corpus (Virtual/JDI) The Prophetic Writings (Virtual/JDI) | Formation Weekend 15: Order of Christian Funerals Individual Canonical Retreat Formation Weekend 16: Theology of Ordination Rite | Mentorship Program Internship Diaconal Student's Wife Retreat (optional) Ordination |
| Fall (Post- Ordination) | Wisdom Literature (Virtual/JDI) Patristics (In-Person) | Formation Weekend 17: Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. Formation Weekend 18: Rites of Initiation, Holy Week | Mentorship Program |