

Program Outcomes Assessment Report 2022

Bachelor of Theology

Institutional Mission Statement:

The St. Photios Orthodox Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning that prepares candidates for service to the Orthodox Church in a clerical or teaching capacity.

| Mission Reference | Institutional Goal | Program Objective | Assessment Methods & Criteria for Success | Intended Outcome | Assessment Results | Actions/Recommendations Taken |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| an institution of higher learning | to cultivate a lifelong study of Orthodox theology; to teach the Orthodox Faith | A. accurate knowledge of traditional Christian theology, as held and confessed by the Orthodox Church (<i>BTS: IG 1, IG 2</i>) | Diagnostic Exam | An average score of 60% or higher on the Theology component of the exam. | At enrollment: 43% At graduation: 68% | Further review of the Diagnostic Exam to make the questions more reflective of course content. |
| | to cultivate a lifelong study of Orthodox theology; to teach the Orthodox Faith | B. a comprehensive and clear understanding of traditional Christian theology, as held and confessed by the Orthodox Church (<i>BTS: IG 1, IG 2</i>) | keystone paper in Patristics (e-portfolio); class presentations and term papers (e-portfolio) | A passing review of the keystone Patristics paper by the Exit Interview Committee, and also of other relevant papers and presentations in the e-portfolio. | Cumulative average: 94% | Streamline the keystone assignment review process for more timely completion and evaluation. |
| | to cultivate a lifelong study of Orthodox theology; to teach the Orthodox Faith | C. proficiency in theological thinking, with spiritual discernment, regarding the Orthodox Christian Tradition (<i>BTS: IG 1, IG 2</i>) | keystone paper in Patristics (e-portfolio); class presentations and term papers (e-portfolio) | A passing review of the keystone Patristics paper by the Exit Interview Committee, and also of other relevant papers and presentations in the e-portfolio. | Cumulative average: 94% | Streamline the keystone assignment review process for more timely completion and evaluation. |
| | to cultivate a lifelong study of Orthodox theology; to teach the Orthodox Faith | D. an accurate knowledge of Holy Scripture (<i>BTS: IG 1, IG 2</i>) | Diagnostic Exam | An average score of 60% or higher on the Biblical component of the exam. | At enrollment: 50% At graduation: 70% | Further review of the Diagnostic Exam to make the questions more reflective of course content. |
| in a clerical or teaching capacity | to cultivate a lifelong study of Orthodox theology; to teach the Orthodox Faith | E. a deep understanding of Holy Scripture (<i>BTS: IG 1, IG 2</i>) | keystone paper in Biblical Studies (e-portfolio); class presentations and term papers (e-portfolio) | A passing review of the keystone Biblical Studies paper by the Exit Interview Committee, and also of other relevant papers and presentations in the e-portfolio. | Cumulative average: 92% | Streamline the keystone assignment review process for more timely completion and evaluation. |
| for service to the Orthodox Church | to teach the Orthodox Faith; to foster Church growth through missionary work | F. an appreciation of the rôle of Christianity, and especially of the Orthodox Church, in the historical, intellectual, and cultural development of mankind (<i>GS: IG 2, IG 3</i>) | Diagnostic Exam; public lecture (e-portfolio) | An average score of 50% or higher on the General Studies component of the exam. A passing review of the keystone public lecture by the Exit Interview Committee. | At enrollment: 39% At graduation: 55% | Further review of the Diagnostic Exam to make the questions more reflective of course content. |
| that prepares candidates for service | to teach the Orthodox Faith; to foster Church growth through missionary work | G. an understanding of the world around us from an Orthodox Christian perspective. (<i>GS: IG 2, IG 3</i>) | public lecture (e-portfolio) | A passing review of the keystone public lecture by the Exit Interview Committee. | Cumulative average: 92% | Streamline the keystone public lecture review process for more timely completion and evaluation. |
| that prepares candidates for service to the Orthodox Church in a clerical or teaching capacity. | to foster Church growth through missionary work; will either celebrate the Mysteries (Sacraments), if or when ordained to the Priesthood, or take an active part therein as lay persons. | H. the ability to understand and celebrate or take an active part in the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church (<i>PS: IG 3, IG 5</i>) | fulfillment of the graduation requirement to regularly attend and participate in divine services throughout the degree program (e-portfolio); | A statement from the Director of Spiritual Life confirming fulfillment of this requirement. | All students attended Divine Services regularly barring extenuating circumstances. They participated in divine services through attendance as well as chanting in the choir | The courses associated with learning the Divine Services have been restructured and incorporated into a more integrated and traditional sequence for learning and continued practice within the divine services at the Seminary. |
| | to foster Church growth through missionary work; to care for those in need, both within and outside the parish community | I. the capacity to undertake pastoral work in the context of a parish or mission (<i>PS: IG 3, IG 4</i>) | participation in the activities of the Ministry Formation Program | A statement from the Director of Ministry Formation confirming fulfillment of this requirement. | All students attended Ministry Formation meetings when held, and participated in community outreach by helping with the local Meals on Wheels program, as well as regularly visiting with elderly individuals. | Ministry Formation has partnered with the development team. The students meet weekly with the Director of Ministry formation. Additionally, programs such as "Thankful Thursdays" have been incorporated, in which students write thank-you cards to donors of the Seminary. |
| | to foster Church growth through missionary work; to care for those in need, both within and outside the parish community | J. the capacity to serve a parish or mission through practical skills (<i>PS: IG 3, IG 4</i>) | participation in the practical management and maintenance of the local parish and monastic communities as demonstrated through the e-portfolio. | A statement from the Director of Student Services confirming fulfillment of this requirement. | All students demonstrated the application of practical skills gained during their degree program for the service of the local parish and monastic communities. Examples include sewing liturgical vestments, preparing traditional eucharistic bread, and helping to maintain parish and monastery properties through landscape and repairs. | An internship program is being considered for summer internships at parishes around the country. |
| | to foster Church growth through missionary work; to care for those in need, both within and outside the parish community | K. the capacity to teach Orthodox Christian doctrine both to parishioners and to those seeking to enter the Orthodox Church (<i>PS: IG 3, IG 4</i>) | homilies (e-portfolio) | A passing review of the homily by the Exit Interview Committee. | Cumulative average: 91% | In partnership with an online educational initiative of our Church, we hope to incorporate internship and assitant teaching opportunities for students to directly target this objective. |