

Program Outcomes Assessment Report 2024

Bachelor of Theology

Institutional Mission Statement:

The Saint 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 65% or higher on the Theology component of the exam.	At enrollment: 52% At graduation: 77%	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: 88%	
	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: 96%	
	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>)	keystone paper in Biblical Studies (e-portfolio); class presentations and term papers (e-portfolio)	An average score of 70% or higher on the Biblical component of the exam.	At enrollment: 63% At graduation: 82%	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: 98%	
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 65% 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: 66% At graduation: 68%	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: 97%	
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, serving in the altar and reading.	The courses related to Liturgies have been grouped as a unified curriculum, throughout which faculty collaborate with one another and with the Seminary Chapel choir director, who ensures continuity between the courses and the services in the chapel. A new choir director was assigned, and this is the same individual who teaches the first three segments of the Liturgies sequence.
	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, participated in Thankful Thursdays to thank donors of the Seminary.	A mission trip to an out-of-state parish is organized on an annual basis. In preparation for this visit, students work together to plan a missionary activity or offering for the parish. They implement their plan at the parish under the supervision of Seminary administrators.
	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, as well as their home parish. Examples include sewing liturgical vestments, preparing traditional eucharistic bread, providing hospitality for the Seminary, monastic and parish visitors, and providing church history lectures for the faithful at their home parish.	An internship program is being considered for summer internships at parishes around the country. Select students are given the opportunity, as representatives of the Seminary, to travel to parishes around the United States to serve in the choir, altar, or as readers.
	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: 95%	