

## **Admissions Requirements for the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS) Program**

### **General Norms for Admissions at SVDP**

SVDP, wishing to fulfill its mission of preparing “future leaders” for the Church, carefully considers applications for admission, determining whether the applicant is prepared for the academic program and, in the case of seminarians, for the program of priestly formation at SVDP. The Rector admits applicants, relying on the recommendation of the Admissions Committee, which is composed of the four Deans (Academic, Human Formation, Pastoral Formation, and Spiritual Formation) and the Rector. The requirements for admission to each degree program, as specified below, are also published in the *Seminary Catalog* under the description of the program. Transfer students are subject to the same admissions requirements as any potential applicant to SVDP. All applicants to SVDP are subject to the requirements below, regardless of whether they may take some courses via distance education or off campus.

### **Requirements for Admission to Any Academic Program at SVDP**

SVDP admits qualified students prepared for graduate-level study in their program. All candidates for admission at SVDP are required to meet the following requirements and/or provide the following documents:

1. completed application form;
2. bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent of that level of academic achievement (to be demonstrated by an official transcript from each college, university, or seminary that the candidate attended, sent directly to the Registrar and/or additional documentation to demonstrate equivalency and competence to complete a graduate-level program as indicated below; exceptions for admissions to the M.Div. program are noted below);
3. if applicable, copies of immigration documents (visa, passport, etc.);
4. if required in an individual case, scores for the Graduate Record Examination and/or the Miller Analogy Test;
5. for applicants whose undergraduate degree is from a non-English speaking country, the TOEFL-iBT score may be required as described below;
6. an interview with faculty members representing the Admissions Committee, or in the case of the permanent diaconate candidate for the MATS program, with the (arch)diocesan admissions committee;

### **Degree Equivalency**

In accord with its mission, which indicates that “the seminary distinguishes itself in offering a comprehensive bilingual formation program, preparing future priests for ministry in both English and Spanish while cultivating a rich and diverse multicultural community,” SVDP recognizes the need to evaluate carefully the applications of students who have studied outside the United States.

To evaluate whether a prospective student who has earned credits abroad has the equivalency of a US bachelor’s degree, for acceptance into the M.Div., MAPS, or MATS programs, an evaluation by a recognized agency, such as World Education Service, is used.

The Bachelor of Philosophy from Pontifical institutions is recognized as equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US institution. In the case of other degrees or studies taken at Roman Catholic seminaries outside of the US, the Academic Dean may examine the course of study, and if it materially

matches the course of study at a US college seminary, the requisite undergraduate (or graduate) philosophy and theology credits are included in the program, and the total credits are the equivalent of a total of 120 or more semester hours of study, SVDP may recognize its equivalency to an earned bachelor's degree.

### **Admission on Probation**

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to require an academic entrance examination of a student, and/or admit him/her on probation, when the institution from which he/she transfers is not accredited or when his/her scholastic record is below average (below an average grade of C or a 2.0 GPA for the M.Div. and below 3.0 for the MATS and MAPS). A student must achieve good academic standing, as defined for each program of studies (2.0 for the M.Div., 3.0 for the MATS and MAPS) in the first semester of studies to end such probation. In the interest of either the student or the seminary, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary reserves the right to refuse to admit or readmit any student at any time.

### **Requirements Specific to the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MATS) Program**

#### **Categories of Admission**

Nonresident students may be admitted into one of two possible categories:

1. degree-seeking students;
2. non-degree-seeking, credit-earning students (Students in this category can take up to nine semester credit hours before they must officially declare in writing their intent to enroll in the MATS degree program; this option is primarily designed to accommodate degreed catechists and Catholic school teachers taking courses as part of ongoing professional development.)

#### **Requirements Specific to the MATS Program**

In addition to the general requirements listed in "Requirements for Admission to Any Academic Program at SVDP" above, the following items are required:

1. evidence of at least six semester credit hours of philosophical studies in an official transcript sent directly to the Registrar (students lacking these prerequisite philosophy courses may take noncredit courses offered at the seminary);
2. three letters of recommendation expressing the applicant's suitability for the MATS program;
3. a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a four-point scale\*;
4. autobiography.

\*If the institution from which a student transfers is not accredited or if a student's undergraduate GPA was under 3.0, a student may be required to take an academic entrance examination or may be admitted on probation. A student must achieve a 3.0 GPA in the first semester to end such probation.

#### **Language Requirements for Non-native Speakers**

For applicants whose undergraduate degree is from a non-English-speaking country, the TOEFL-iBT may be required. The TOEFL-iBT score required for the MATS program is 75 or higher.