



ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

Established 1898

Admissions Policies and Information

Admissions policies at St. Patrick's Seminary conform in every respect to *The Program of Priestly Formation* (PPF #66) which states:

“Applicants must undergo a thorough screening process appropriate to the admission process. Personal interviews with the applicants, evaluations from their pastors and teachers, records and evaluations from a previous seminary or institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life if applicable, academic records, standardized test scores, psychological evaluations, and criminal background checks are all components of an effective admission program, and they are weighed together with an assessment of the applicant's motivation. Those who do not fulfill minimal thresholds for admission must not be admitted.”

An aspirant seeking admission to St. Patrick's Seminary requires the sponsorship of his respective diocesan bishop or religious superior. An aspirant should contact his local Vocations Office, where the Vocation Director of the diocese can acquaint the prospective aspirant with the necessary steps to be admitted by the diocese and for application to the seminary. Admission to STPSU is open only to aspirants to the priesthood, though non-degree-seeking students may take classes at STPSU with approval from the Rector and/or Academic Dean.

According to *The Program of Priestly Formation, Sixth Edition* (PPF #79), “If an applicant has never been in a formation program, then he must complete a propaedeutic stage lasting not less than one calendar year and a discipleship stage lasting not less than two years.” For admission directly into the graduate-level theology program, St. Patrick's Seminary requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution and two years of prior formation. In addition, the completion of 30 units of philosophy and 12 units of religious studies is required (PPF #306). If these requirements have not been met, the applicant will be placed in the Propaedeutic Program or the Pre-Theology Program prior to entering Theology I.

All applicants go through an extensive screening process, including medical and psychological assessments performed within the last two years prior to application submission. Applicants must also undergo an interview process with the Admissions Committee.

The specific required documents for admissions are as follows:

1. A carefully completed online application.
2. A letter of sponsorship from the applicant's (Arch)diocese or religious community.
3. Official transcripts from all colleges and theologates attended. One set of official transcripts should be requested by the applicant to be sent to the Vocations Office and one to be sent directly to the seminary Registrar.
4. Five letters of recommendation are required:
 - Two letters from priests: your pastor, principal, or religious superior (as applicable);
 - One letter from a professor;
 - One from an employer;
 - One letter, a character reference, from a friend or colleague (i.e., non-family member).
5. For students whose native language is not English, TOEFL minimum score of 550, paper-based; 215, computer-based; 80, Internet-based.
6. A detailed autobiography (not to exceed 10 pages) describing:
 - Chronological history of the applicant's life;
 - Relationships with his family members, friends, teachers, and other important persons in your life;
 - School achievements, and /or difficulties;
 - Social life;
 - Faith experience;
 - Work experience;
 - Your greatest strengths and weaknesses;
 - Reason for applying to St. Patrick's Seminary.
7. A comprehensive professional psychological assessment completed within the last two years.
8. A completed Physical Exam with a copy of all laboratory results attached.
9. Written evaluations in English from seminaries or religious communities previously attended and if applicable, a document stating reasons for leaving.

11. Certificates of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion.
12. Certificates of any ministries received or Candidacy.
13. If applicable, Marriage Annulment documents or Death Certificate of the former spouse.
14. If applicable, for those returning to the Catholic Church after having been a member of another denomination or religious, documentation verifying re-entry into the Catholic Church.
15. A copy of Live Scan Form or equivalent Criminal Background Check Form.
16. A recent photograph of the applicant.

All documents submitted in the application process become the property of St. Patrick's Seminary and the right to retain these is reserved. The Seminary also reserves the right to require students to sign a waiver regarding information sought for purposes of admission. Confidentiality of the psychological test results is assured.