



LEADING THE CONVERSATION.

Seminary of the Southwest
Master Of Divinity Degree Program



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

AN EPISCOPAL SEMINARY



We live in a world of change.

Almost everything around us seems to be in constant motion—technology, demographics, culture. More movement means more diversity. And greater religious diversity means new ideas of faith, new ways of believing, new concepts of spirituality. Our 21st-century global town square is an ever-shifting landscape, where it's difficult to navigate and easy to feel dislocated, disconnected and disengaged.

Which is why we need the Church more today than ever.

Today, we need an active Church, open-eyed and open-hearted, alive to grace and devastation alike. Serving and representing God's love in today's world requires faithful, courageous, generous and informed cultural engagement. *This is the essence of education at Seminary of the Southwest.*

At Seminary of the Southwest, our programs prepare you to read the changing signs of the times, while providing you with a centering core of Christian theology and tradition.

We nurture the common spirituality that unites us all and strengthens our love for God—through:

- shared worship and prayer;
- devotional encounter with the Scripture;
- communications across cultural boundaries; and
- hands-on experience in pastoral care, counseling, preaching and teaching.

In a world of change, Christianity must be a daily conversation.

At Seminary of the Southwest, we prepare you to lead this ultimate conversation of the spirit every day—in the Church and in your life.



Our roots.

Seminary of the Southwest is one of eleven accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church. Begun in Austin, Texas over 50 years ago, we endeavor to be a seminary for the whole Church—honoring our past, living in the present and thinking forward for the future.

We believe ministry is the call for all Christians—whether it manifests in ordination, chaplaincy, volunteerism or scholarship. We strive to foster Christian ministers at all levels who are faithful, imaginative and skilled.

At Seminary of the Southwest, we are: *a community for developing Church leadership through robust academics, strong financial support and an exceptional learning environment that ensures educational excellence.*

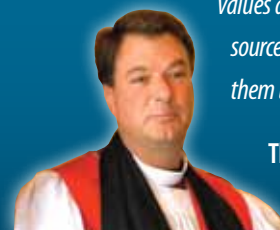
Our work.

At Seminary of the Southwest, we teach students how to engage and integrate faith and practice in a complex contemporary culture.

We believe preparation for ordained ministry means immersing ourselves in the disciplines of daily Christian life in order to transform the way we pray, think, and interact with other people and the world around us. We seek to cultivate a deep well of Christian knowledge and understanding within our students, so that they might lead with clarity, wherever they're called.

At Seminary of the Southwest, this is what we do: *form men and women—intellectually, spiritually, personally and professionally—for ministerial service of Christ both within the Church and in society.*

"I know from much personal experience that Seminary of the Southwest shares our diocese's values and expectations for its clergy. And so it is, for me, a trusted source for building upon the gifts our students bring, and sending them back prepared to lead this Church in the 21st century."



The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, '96
Bishop, Diocese of Olympia

Your call.

Students pursuing ordination are the core—the heart—of Seminary of the Southwest.

Our Master of Divinity is a normative degree program designed to prepare students for ordained ministry. It can also be used for students pursuing general pastoral and religious leadership positions—both inside and outside the Church—as well as doctoral religious studies.

We developed our Master of Divinity degree to be academically serious and stimulating, and to tap into the deep center of the Church—focusing in on the most essential and enduring elements of Christianity, nurturing new knowledge through shared prayer and worship, and exploring diverse perspectives through respectful, inquiring conversation.

We also developed our Master of Divinity program to be wholly translatable into the real world—featuring a field-education component that offers students an unparalleled opportunity to develop skills for ministry to



the often messy, prickly and taxing realities of daily life for many within our community and our world.

Building expertise.

In order to lead a conversation, you must first be fluent in the language.

At Seminary of the Southwest, we ensure a comprehensive theological education—from the creeds to the hymns, from ancient teachings to modern methodologies, from scripture and tradition to finding your own place within the Christian story.

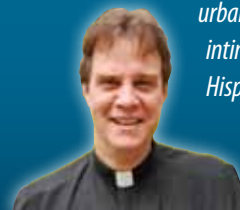
We help you build expertise not only intellectually, but also spiritually—readying you to approach the conversation of Christianity at any level, in any circumstance.

Gaining experience.

Fluency in a vacuum isn't enough; in order to lead a conversation, you must converse.

At Seminary of the Southwest, we make sure you practice what you preach. Our experiential ministry requirement is uniquely intensive—letting students interact with the greater Austin area and beyond through parish and community organization placements, clinical pastoral education, brief multicultural missions, and exercise in counseling.

We help you gain the experience you need to lead not only the Christian conversation, but also any Christian congregation—whether it's within the sanctuary of the Church or out among others in need.



"I chose Seminary of the Southwest because I was interested in an urban cross-cultural ministry. The seminary was a beautiful and intimate place, yet we were in the middle of a city with great Hispanic ministry."

The Rev. Jaime Case, '94
Canon for multicultural ministry, Diocese of Texas

The curriculum.

Seminary of the Southwest's Master of Divinity degree program requires a total of 104 credit hours, typically completed with three years of full-time coursework; a four-year program is also available. A deep concentration in field education helps put our degree program apart and above—students spend two full years in field-education placements within Central Texas' myriad community organizations and the 30+ Episcopal parishes within the Austin area.

As Master of Divinity students follow their sacred call to ministry, Seminary of the Southwest prepares them to:

- examine the seven canonical areas of study required for ordination in the Episcopal Church;
- serve as ordained clergy or lay ministers across a diversity of contexts;
- interpret and preach the Gospel;
- work with an understanding of and sensitivity to the global character of the Anglican communion;
- engage intellectual and ethical challenges with integrity and insight;
- lead Church communities, teaching and fostering lay ministry and religious leadership; and
- exemplify a brave Christian discipleship.

"It was during a tour of Christ Chapel that I knew that Seminary of the Southwest would be my home for the next three years. Two things struck me: the cross outside the chapel reminding us that the work of the church is in the world, and the shape of the chapel as a Bedouin tent to remind us that we are all just travelers here passing through. When I left the seminary, I took with me a desire to make sure that church is relevant to more than itself and not to hold onto anything too tightly, as God is always calling us to move."



The Rev. Canon Cara Spaccarelli, '06
Rector, Christ Church

CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Seminary of the Southwest also offers its Master of Divinity degree with a Hispanic Church Studies Concentration, a specialization program to equip students for ministry in America's growing Latino communities. Seminary of the Southwest provides support for this concentration through a Spanish-language initiative, library resources, special summer programs, worship and cultural activities both on and off campus, and ministry opportunities with Central Texas' significant Hispanic community.

Additionally, Seminary of the Southwest offers a Diploma in Anglican Studies (DAS), an individually designed year in the Anglican ethos for clergy coming into the Episcopal Church. This program provides a rare opportunity to study Anglicanism in the classroom while experiencing spirituality and ethos in an Episcopal community. The DAS is intended for those pursuing Episcopal ordination who either have completed a Master of Divinity in a non-Episcopal school or have studied for ordination in a diocesan school or program.



Curriculum structure.

Year 1—Junior Year

FALL SEMESTER [16.5 Credit Hours]

- Biblical Languages for Preaching and Teaching
- History and Hermeneutics I
- Introduction to Theological Research and Writing
- Liturgical Music I
- Liturgy I: Introducing Christian Worship in the Anglican Tradition
- Spiritual Formation for the Person
- Text and Context: Tools for Experiential Learning
- *Elective*

JANUARY TERM [0 Credit Hours]

- Mission in a Multicultural Context

SPRING SEMESTER [16 Credit Hours]

- History and Hermeneutics II
- Liturgical Music II
- The Making and Remaking of Christianity I
- Missiology in a Multicultural Context
- Theology I: God and Creation
- *Elective*

SUMMER TERM [6 Credit Hours]

- Clinical Pastoral Education

Year 2—Middler Year

FALL SEMESTER [16 Credit Hours]

- Biblical Interpretation for Preaching
- Liturgical Music III
- Parish Field Education
- Sermon Design
- Theological Ethics
- Theology II: The Body of Christ
- *Elective*

JANUARY TERM [0 Credit Hours]

- Community Field Education

SPRING SEMESTER [18 Credit Hours]

- Anglican Studies
- Homiletics Lab
- Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Parish Field Education
- Topics and Cases in Ethics
- *Elective*

Year 3—Senior Year

FALL SEMESTER [18 Credit Hours]

- Liturgy II: Liturgical Ministry of the Episcopal Church
- The Making and Remaking of Christianity II
- Parish Field Education
- Pastoral Theology: Church Leadership
- *Elective*
- *Elective*

SPRING SEMESTER [13.5 Credit Hours]

- Introduction to Christian Education
- Parish Field Education
- Spiritual Formation for the Parish
- *Elective*
- *Elective*



Other offerings.

Financial aid.

At Seminary of the Southwest, over two-thirds of our students receive financial aid. We are dedicated to working with students to make sure they graduate with little or no debt incurred, so we do not offer student loans, nor do we participate in federal student-loan programs. We offer financial assistance to all who need it through an assortment of scholarship grants and work-study assignments.

Qualified students receive grants ranging from 80 to 100 percent of full tuition, depending upon need. And, in determining financial need, we do not typically consider assets like home equity, retirement accounts, life-insurance policies, or college funds for children. We do not want students to deprive themselves or their families of such vital assets in order to pursue seminary education.

Superb faculty.

At Seminary of the Southwest, our faculty and associated faculty are superior scholars and mature Christian leaders, who serve as wholesome examples to study and emulate. They use interdisciplinary methods to teach the fundamentals of theological inquiry, including a deep discussion element in every course. Several classes also benefit from the collaborative approach of team-teaching.

For complete faculty listing and profiles, please visit our website at www.ssw.edu/faculty.

School community.

At Seminary of the Southwest, our five-acre open-grounds campus—centrally located in a university neighborhood—illustrates our dynamic and welcoming ways to the world around us. We work to sustain a hospitable community for all students, as they share a common life of prayer, worship, study, work and creativity, that sees God's glory and serves God's will.

Finding home.

For married students who have children and who also qualify for financial aid, Seminary of the Southwest has a limited number of houses available for rent. Houses range from 2-bedroom/1-bath to 3-bedroom/2-bath, with rent ranges from \$435 to \$1,130 per month, plus utilities.

For single students who qualify for financial aid, Seminary of the Southwest has two apartment buildings available. These efficiency apartments rent for \$400 per month, plus utilities. Security deposits are required, and pets are permitted with an extra, nonrefundable deposit.

Getting there.

Getting to Austin is easy enough—the city hosts its own international airport, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). Getting around Austin can be a little trickier—about 75 percent of commuters drive their own cars alone, about 15 percent carpool, while only 4 percent use mass transit.

About Austin.

Austin is a unique and vibrant blend of capital city, college town and cultural mecca. With a thriving population of about one-million and an average 225+ days a year of sunshine, the Live Music Capital of the World is an active and attractive locale for just about anyone.

- **#1 City for the Next Decade** (*Kiplinger's*, JULY 2010)
- **#2 Best American City to Relocate to** (*Forbes*, MARCH 2009)
- **#10 Fittest American City**
(*American College of Sports Medicine*, MAY 2009)
- **#10 Greenest U.S. City** (*Mother Nature Network*, JULY 2009)
- **#11 Best American City for the Outdoors** (*Forbes*, MAY 2009)

And economically, Austin is holding its own—the city's cost of living is currently almost 4% lower than the U.S. average, its unemployment rate is almost 3% lower than the national average, and future job growth over the next decade is forecast to be more than 32%.

At Seminary of the Southwest,

we believe in acknowledging and accepting that as human beings who are children of God and sinners, we share sameness and difference. Reconciling it all is Christ's work. Our educational programs unite faith and practice in order to do this work—which begins and ends with the daily conversation of Christianity, and those who lead it.

If you feel called to Seminary of the Southwest, welcome. We're eager to help you learn the faith and practice necessary for Christian leadership. **For more information about our ordained ministry programs or to begin the application process, please go to www.ssw.edu/admissions or email us at admissions@ssw.edu.**



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