Living Theology.
Transforming Our World.
The frontiers of culture and religion – where diverse traditions and cultures intersect, where religion engages science and other secular disciplines, where people of faith confront an increasingly a-religious or agnostic world – these are the frontiers we probe in our classes, in formation for ministry, in scholarship, and in daily actions. These are the frontiers students inhabit to prepare for service to the Church and the world.

Serving People Through...

...Social Justice

Recognizing in themselves a deep desire to follow the Gospel call to work for justice and knowing that this work requires formation of the whole person, JST students:

- engage in scholarly study current justice issues with world-renowned faculty in theology, biblical studies, ethics, morality, religion and culture, and interreligious studies;
- actively participate in justice work through ministerial field education placements, advocacy, research, internships, and active participation in the Ignatian Solidarity Network’s annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice; and
- deepen the integration of spirituality, study and action in their own lives through liturgy, prayer, and reflection.
...Global Engagement

JST is committed to the culturally contextualized study of theology in the Roman Catholic tradition, emphasizing the living experience of faith in a pluralistic world. The diversity of our student body is a hallmark of our programs and provides a rich atmosphere in which to discuss the intersection of faith and culture and its academic, practical, ministerial, and theological implications. Across eight degree and two non-degree programs, our students’ unique experiences are at the very heart of the JST culture. Global and interfaith engagement opportunities include:

- a cycle of interreligious immersions to Nepal, India, and Indonesia;
- innovative courses incorporating pilgrimages to places such as Jerusalem and the Camino Ignaciano in Spain;
- ministerial experiences with the diverse cultural communities of the San Francisco Bay Area; and
- courses that intentionally address questions emerging from ministry in an increasingly globalized context.

...Faith Traditions in Dialogue

JST is a member school of a rich ecumenical and interfaith consortium, the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). Students may seamlessly cross-register in courses offered by the eight schools and four centers of the GTU and experience theological study alongside students from dozens of faith traditions. The GTU also boasts one of the finest theological libraries in the world. Traditions represented at the GTU include:

- American Baptist
- Buddhist
- Disciples of Christ
- Eastern Orthodox
- Episcopal
- Evangelical Lutheran
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Jain
- Jewish
- Presbyterian
- Roman Catholic
- Sikh
- Unitarian Universalist
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church

“The formation of women and men for ministry in the 21st-century Church and world cannot be confined to a classroom; adequate preparation warrants a rigorous contextual education where the village, the local firehouse, the migrant camp, the prison...all serve as sites of engagement for lively theological discourse.”

Gina Hens-Piazza, PhD
PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES
Formation of the whole person

At JST, we commit ourselves to the formation of the student as a whole person. Central to our mission is a Latin phrase, *cura personalis*, meaning “care for the whole person.” We believe this care extends our responsibility to each student far beyond our commitment to academic excellence. All JST students engage in rigorous academic work and, depending on the academic program of study, formation also includes: ministerial experience and reflection; spiritual practice and deepening; participation in an active faith community; and leadership development and practice.

Rigorous Academic Study

Twenty JST faculty and 12 JST adjunct faculty members provide superior academic research, mentorship and instruction in the areas of: systematic theology; biblical studies; ethics; moral theology; Christian spirituality; historical theology; pastoral theology and ministry; art history and religion; religion and society; and liturgical theology.

- For coursework, research, and mentorship, students have immediate access to 100 faculty members throughout the GTU and the University of California, Berkeley.
- Each academic degree program’s curriculum is strategically designed to provide a student with a path towards successful degree completion, appropriate exposure to both broad and specialized theological study, and the appropriate knowledge for a successful career in ministry and/or academia.

Leadership

As a small community, JST offers an abundance of formal and informal leadership opportunities. At JST, students:

- lead and/or coordinate liturgy;
- participate in faculty meetings as representatives of the student body;
- facilitate classroom discussions and presentations;
- work as graduate assistants alongside both faculty and staff;
- serve on boards and coordinating committees for national organizations; and
- contribute to blogs, social media conversations and traditional print publications.
Ministerial Experience

For those students called to ministry, JST provides formation, field experience, and reflection in both formal and informal ministerial settings.

- Students in the Master of Divinity program engage in supervised formal field education in a variety of settings. They reflect on these experiences with both classmates and faculty.
- Coursework in ministry is extensive. In the classroom students encounter ministerial best practices, explore principles of ministerial engagement and presence, discuss the challenges of ministry and acquire tools for a successful career in ministry.
- All students are invited to participate in liturgy: as coordinators, leaders, facilitators and participants.
- For students preparing for an academic career, there are ample opportunities to assist faculty in teaching and research.

Spiritual Reflection within a Faith Community

JST students have many opportunities for faith development.

- **Engage in spiritual direction**: Spiritual direction is provided at no cost to students with either lay or vowed religious directors.
- **Participate in faith sharing groups**: Open to all students, small faith-sharing groups take a variety of forms and creative formats as students accompany one another in building their relationship with God and developing their spirituality.
- **Live in intentional community**: Lay students have the option of living in community with other students, creating a space for faith sharing and forging a rich community experience.
- **Attend prayer days and retreats**: Optional retreats and days of prayer occur at various times throughout the year, often in relation to the liturgical calendar.
- **Celebrate daily Mass**: All are welcome at daily Mass, celebrated in the beautiful Gesù Chapel, both in the mornings and evenings.
- **Tuesday community night**: After Tuesday evening Mass, the entire community is welcome for a meal often accompanied by a presentation, lecture or conversation.
Sustained Commitment to Academic Excellence

JST is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) for our non-ecclesiastical degree programs, the MDiv, MA*, MTS, and ThM. Accreditation ensures that an institution maintains a high standard of quality, consistency, and continuous improvement.

JST is the only institution in the western United States with an ecclesiastical faculty, approved by the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, to grant degrees in the name of the Pope: the bachelor, licentiate, or doctorate in sacred theology.

Degrees Offered

**MASTER’S DEGREES:**
- Master of Arts in Theology (MA)*
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
- Offered as residential or online

**ADVANCED DEGREE:**
- Master of Theology (ThM)

**ECCLESIASTICAL DEGREES:**
- Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB)
- Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL)
- Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD)

**NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS:**
- Sabbatical Program: New Directions
- Summer Program: Instituto Hispano
- Non-Degree Program: Special Students

* The Master of Arts in Theology, or common MA, is a degree conferred by the GTU (an accredited institution). It is offered jointly by the faculties of the member schools. The GTU also offers a PhD.
Master’s Degrees

Master of Arts in Theology (MA)

The MA program focuses on preparing students for further graduate study in PhD programs. The MA is an academically rigorous program in which students specialize in an area of study with simultaneous exposure to broad course offerings in theology, religious and interreligious studies, and interdisciplinary studies. Offered in cooperation with the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), the MA student has the unique experience of being a student at both JST and the GTU. While this two-year, 48 credit hour program is excellent preparation for further graduate study in doctoral programs, it also provides a robust academic theological foundation for a variety of professional careers or personal interests. In addition to PhD studies, graduates of the MA pursue work as university professors of theology and religious studies, high school religious studies teachers, community organizers, and non-profit administrators.

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

The MDiv is a ministerial degree with both an academic and professional focus that offers each student a comprehensive exposure to theology. This three-year, 81 credit hour degree provides students with the necessary tools – academically, spiritually, theologically, culturally, pastorally, and ethically - to minister in a variety of settings within the global church as well as to continue for doctoral level study. The MDiv at JST offers a distinct experience of lay-religious collaboration, study of the interplay between faith and culture, diverse ministry involvement in the San Francisco Bay Area, liturgical leadership opportunities for all lay students, spiritual direction, and a supportive community in which each student is invited to pursue his or her individual vocational calling. Alums of the MDiv program serve in parish ministry, high school and collegiate campus ministry, chaplaincy, teaching, diocesan ministry, retreat ministry, and general social service settings.

Who Attends JST?

- Lay Men
- Lay Women
- Diocesan Men
- Men Religious
- Women Religious
- Jesuits

1 Priests, brothers and sisters of other religious institutes in which members pronounce public vows and lead a life in common (Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans, etc.)

2 Priests-in-formation and priests who commit to a certain geographical area, and are ordained into the service of the citizens of a diocese.
Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

The MTS program allows students to select an area of academic concentration in combination with courses that provide a broad understanding of the Catholic theological vision. Degree completion requires 48 credit hours and is possible as a full-time (two year) or part-time (up to four years) program. The online MTS enables students who cannot relocate to Berkeley to complete the degree in 2 - 4 years through online coursework and 2 intensive 1-week summer sessions during their studies.

The MTS is an ideal program for persons already engaged in ministry who desire the professional development of a Master's degree, for those seeking theological enrichment and a rewarding exploration of their faith, and for those who may consider further graduate studies in the future. Alums of the MTS program include: teachers and administrators at primary and secondary schools, campus ministers, religious education directors, parish and diocesan ministerial staff, administrators at non-profits and volunteer organizations.

Advanced Degree

Master of Theology (ThM)

The ThM is an advanced academic program of theological study. This one-year, 24 credit hour program allows students to focus on one of many specialized areas of study. Applicants must have an earned Master’s degree in Theology, Theological Studies, or divinity. Students may choose to pursue a research ThM, which requires the completion of a thesis, or a pastoral ThM, which requires the completion of a synthesis project or thesis. While some students enter into the ThM shortly after completion of the MDiv as an opportunity to dive further into research and academic study, others opt to return to the ThM after some years of ministerial service as a means to acquire further competence in an area of professional and theological development. Students seeking an intensive and specialized year of study in which they build upon their Master of Divinity degree will be well-suited for the ThM program.
Preparing a Living Theology in Academics, Spirituality, and Pastoral Care

The Ignatian tradition of spirituality and discernment permeates every aspect of JST. An abundance of opportunities to exercise and reflect on real-world pastoral applications abound; students practice what they learn in class. Each student may participate in daily liturgy, regular spiritual direction, retreats, many offerings in Ignatian spirituality, and other opportunities for spiritual growth. Faithful to the Catholic tradition, with guidance from world-class faculty, students learn to think critically about theology and how to live a faith that does justice in service of the Church and the world.
JST offers three Ecclesiastical Degrees: the Bachelor, Licentiate, and Doctorate of Sacred Theology. These degrees are part of a very specific academic path for students who desire a degree accredited by and granted in the name of the Holy See. The JST faculty is uniquely recognized by the Vatican Congregation of Catholic Education as an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Theology. These degrees must be pursued sequentially, though a student who has completed the Master of Divinity may be considered for admittance directly into the Licentiate program. Graduates of the Ecclesiastical degree programs will provide service to the Roman Catholic Church as teachers in Catholic seminaries or as ordained or lay leaders within Catholic settings.

**Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB)**

The STB program is a three year, 105 credit hour degree which focuses on developing a general knowledge of theology and methods of theological research. This degree culminates in the writing of a research synthesis paper and a comprehensive examination.

**Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL)**

The STL is an advanced academic program of theological study. This two-year, 33 credit hour degree allows students to focus on one of many specialized areas of study. This degree culminates in writing of a thesis or extended research paper paired with a comprehensive examination.

**Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD)**

The STD is meant to complete a student’s formal theological studies. This 2 - 4 year, 16 credit hour degree allows students to study one area of theology in depth and demonstrate specialized, original research within the field. The STD student’s coursework culminates in writing and defense of a doctoral dissertation which shows a critical knowledge of the theological method.
JST offers a number of non-degree programs. These programs offer unique opportunities for those that would like to deepen their spiritual and theological understanding.

**The New Directions Sabbatical Program (ND)**

The New Directions program is a 1 or 2 semester-long sabbatical for both religious and lay, women and men. This program focuses on personal reflection, relaxation, renewal, and deepening one’s spiritual and theological understanding. This experience is flexibly designed to allow the participant a variety of options, including auditing two academic courses per semester. Participants often use this sabbatical to prepare for the next phase in their ministerial lives.

**Instituto Hispano**

The Instituto Hispano program is a two-week-long summer program for those who are actively engaged in or are preparing for ministry in Hispanic communities. Students take courses in pastoral ministry and theology taught entirely in Spanish. Participation in three consecutive years earns the student a Certificate in Hispanic Theology and Pastoral Studies.

El Instituto Hispano es un programa que provee cursos de formación para ministros laicos o personas que se están preparando para trabajar con el ministerio hispano. Los cursos se ofrecen cada verano y duran dos semanas. Los estudiantes toman cursos de teología pastoral. Después de participar por tres años consecutivos se les otorga un certificado en teología hispana y estudios pastorales. Todos los cursos se ofrecen en español.

**Special Student Status**

Special Student Status is granted to students who wish to study graduate-level theology without the structure of a formal degree program. This status is recommended for students seeking general theological and pastoral renewal or for those deciding if they want to enroll in a formal degree program.

**Berkeley and the Bay Area**

JST is located in the heart of Berkeley, California. This area boasts a vibrant academic and cultural life, offering students all the beauty and energy of the San Francisco Bay Area. Our unique location creates opportunities for students to engage with a diverse array of urban, cultural, religious, academic, ministerial, and natural settings.

**Housing**

The Jesuit School of Theology is pleased to offer a variety of fully furnished housing options for students. Possibilities include studio apartments, one and two-bedroom apartments, and lay intentional communities. All housing at JST is offered below the market rate and includes utilities and wireless internet. Housing may also be available for JST students through other member schools of the Graduate Theological Union.
Life in Berkeley