

# VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## MASTER'S LEVEL PROGRAMS



## TRADITIONAL FORMATION FOR INNOVATIVE MINISTRY

- Master in Divinity
- Master of Arts
- Diplomas in Anglican Studies and Theology
- Non-Degree Study





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## Live and Worship on a Beautiful Campus

Located in historic Alexandria, Virginia, just across the river from our nation's capital, Virginia Theological Seminary provides a remarkable opportunity for students to study and worship as part of a vibrant, Christ-centered community, while gaining the greatest possible exposure to the political, social, and cultural trends that influence the fabric of life in the United States and inform our faith and our ministries. VTS offers on-campus housing, cutting-edge classroom facilities, a refectory





and coffee shop, beautiful grounds on which to gather and relax, and the opportunity to take courses offered by a consortium of over a dozen other theological schools in the D.C. metro area. Those who participate in Contextual Ministry placement enjoy the freedom to choose a congregation from among a robust group of participating churches whose settings, sizes, and liturgical styles mirror the diversity of the Episcopal tradition.

## Build Lifelong Relationships with Renowned Faculty

Our faculty are exceptional scholars in their disciplines and represent the best in theological education. Twenty-two full-time faculty and additional adjunct instructors fully engage in students' education and formation for ministry, living on campus and establishing strong relationships with students through fellowship at meals in the refectory, worship services in chapel, and hosting students for worship and discussion in their homes on a weekly basis.

The educational experience at VTS begins with a core curriculum of Bible, Church & Witness, Worship, and Practical Theology, and expands to include electives and experiences that unite theory with practice. This integrative approach makes the curriculum come alive as students use their classroom learning in the field.





## Academic Formation for Ministry

### MASTER IN DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

The Master in Divinity degree is the classic professional degree for ministry. With particular focus on the preparation of persons for ordained ministry, the three-year M.Div. program at Virginia Theological Seminary also provides for those preparing for non-ordained ministry.

The M.Div. program aims to promote knowledge and growth in the following areas:

- Religious heritage
- Ministerial and public leadership
- Personal and spiritual formation
- Liturgical formation and leadership
- Understanding of cultural context

The program is designed with the assumption that students will be enrolled on a full-time basis and, in addition to completing the academic requirements, will be part of worship and community life at the Seminary. The degree requires 78 credits, consisting of required courses as well as Contextual Ministry and electives. For students who would like to focus their studies in distinctive areas, we offer two concentrations within the M.Div. program:

- *New Mission Practices*, to equip leaders with critical and constructive competencies for creative ministries in local, national, and international contexts, and at the edges of traditional ministry;
- *Christian Spirituality*, to explore the cultivation and growth in holiness as the foundation for contemporary Christian spiritual practices. Against the background of biblical and classical texts and schools of Christian spirituality, special attention is given to the Anglican ascetical tradition and its enrichment through ecumenical and interfaith engagement.



## M.Div.

78 credits: required courses,  
Contextual Ministry, and electives



# M.A.

48 credits:  
core courses in chosen  
discipline and electives

## MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

The Master of Arts degree program aims to prepare students academically for advanced research and/or professionally for service to the Church. In the equivalent of two years of full-time study, students pursue a program which emphasizes disciplined focus (the majority of credits are devoted to the field of study and a summative capstone project) and supports cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary engagement via cross-cultural programs and electives.

The Master of Arts is a 48-credit program specialized in one of three disciplinary areas:

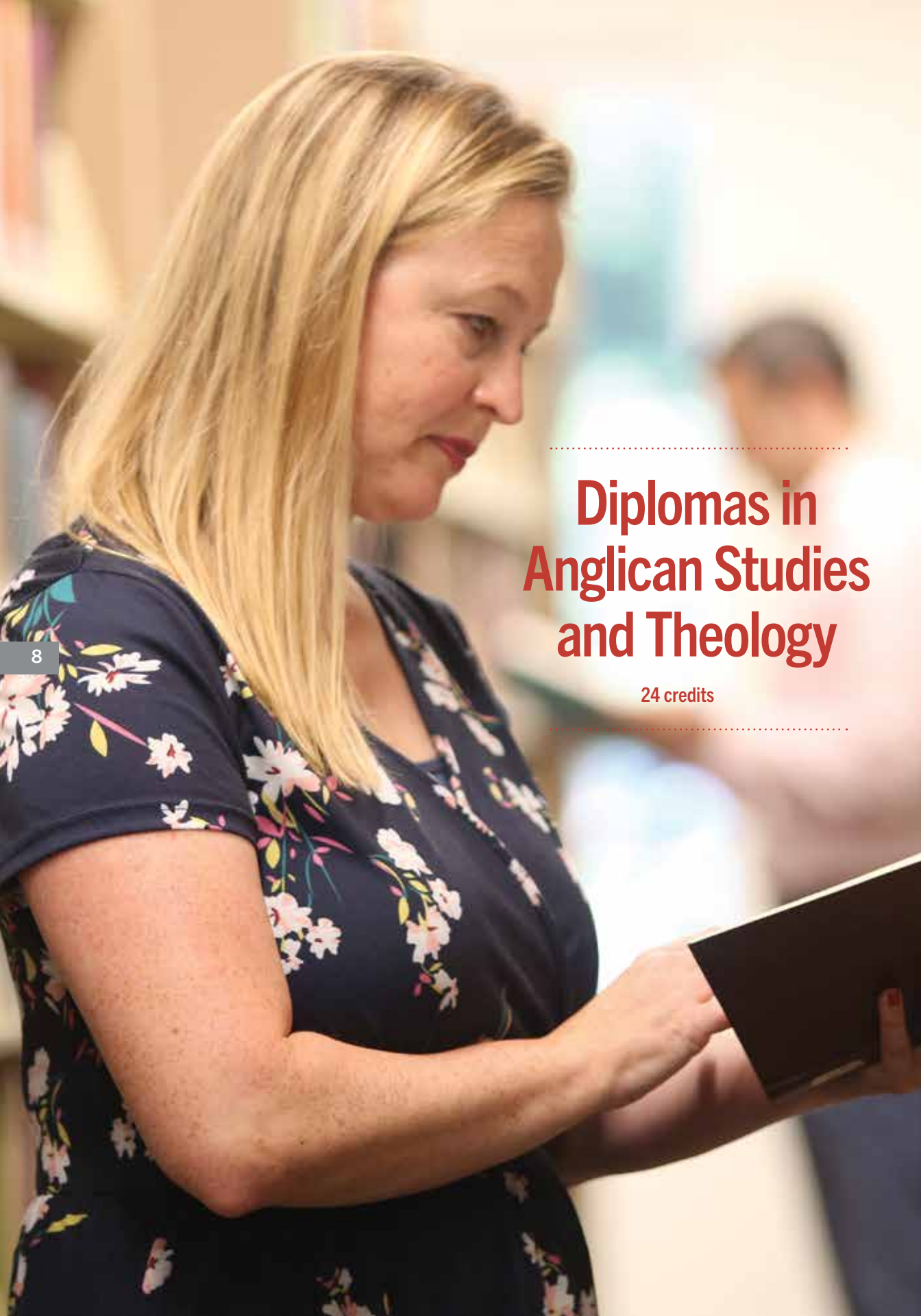
- *The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies* aims to prepare students academically by an in-depth focus on the field of biblical languages and interpretation;
- *The Master of Arts in Church and Witness* aims to prepare students academically by an in-depth focus on the fields of theology, history, and ethics;
- *The Master of Arts in Christian Formation* aims to prepare students academically and professionally by an in-depth focus on the fields of practical theology and worship.



The M.A. program is intended to:

- Equip individuals for thoughtful, skillful, faithful, and wise leadership in complex systems;
- Challenge students to develop knowledge and wisdom through rigorous theological study, research, and practical engagement in the field of their choice;
- Expose students to the richness and complexity of the traditions, texts, contexts, languages, and practices that inform and shape Christian ministry;
- Reflect on the faith in light of a diverse and complex society with special sensitivity to the dynamics of racism;
- Integrate theological education and ministry for life.

The M.A. can be earned through part-time study, full-time residency, or a combination of the two. The degree can be completed in a minimum of two years up to a maximum of seven years.



# Diplomas in Anglican Studies and Theology

24 credits



### DIPLOMA IN ANGLICAN STUDIES

The Diploma in Anglican Studies program meets the needs of those who have received a graduate degree from another seminary and are preparing for ordination in The Episcopal Church. Applicants for this program should be postulants or candidates for Holy Orders or have the permission of their bishop to attend. The application procedure is the same as for the master's degree programs.

Students have the option to pursue this program on a full- or part-time basis. If pursued full-time, the program can be completed in one year, and includes regular daily attendance at worship and joining students, faculty, and staff on weekdays for lunch in the refectory. Required courses for this diploma are scheduled Wednesday–Friday to allow students the flexibility to reside on campus full-time, or commute to campus for courses. All Anglican Studies students meet regularly in formation groups and participate in worship leadership.

To receive the Diploma in Anglican Studies, a student must successfully complete at least 24 credit hours.

### DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

The Diploma in Theology program allows for the greatest amount of flexibility in the design of a program of theological study that will meet the student's overall goals for study and academic interests.

The program can be pursued on either a full- or part-time basis. Those who choose full-time study can complete the program in one year. The application procedure is the same as for the master's degree programs.



## **PATHWAY TO MINISTRY**

Offering one year of study to students who have not yet engaged a discernment process but wish to pursue a formal theological education at Virginia Theological Seminary, Pathway to Ministry is a perfect option for those who wish to discern and study in an academically rigorous and spiritually nurturing environment.

During this year at VTS, students: enroll in a selection of courses that provides a well-rounded foundation of theological knowledge; participate in a structured program of discernment; are eligible to receive the Diploma in Theology at the end of one year, with the option to apply to continue for a second year (earning a Master of Arts degree), or for a third year to earn the Master in Divinity. Any of these three degree/diploma options is open to any student in the program regardless of canonical status.

Students enrolled in Pathway to Ministry are required to live on-campus and may apply for the standard financial aid package available to students in other master's-level programs.



### NON-DEGREE STUDY

Virginia Theological Seminary welcomes applicants who wish to explore theological education but do not currently want to pursue a degree or earn a diploma. For those who would like to study on a part-time basis by taking one or two classes per semester, it is possible to apply for admission as a Non-Degree student.

To be eligible for this program, one must hold a Bachelor's degree, complete a brief application process, and have an interview with the Director of Admissions. Non-Degree students may continue in this capacity until they have accumulated 24 credit hours of study. Credits earned in this program can be transferred into a degree program at a later date.

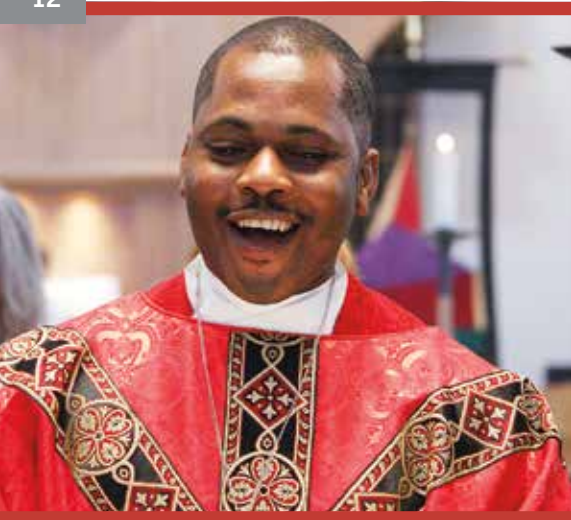


## Join with Us to Study and Worship in a Vibrant, Christ-Centered Community

The rhythm of daily life for students and faculty includes three elements: study and participation in class, attendance at one worship service each day, and sharing lunch in the refectory. This communal life deepens the formation of our Christian discipleship and reinforces our understanding that growth in Christ is not something to be accomplished on one's own, but in the give and take of life together.

The VTS community is diverse in age, gender, race, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, socio-economic background, family structure, and many other ways. This diversity is a great blessing to VTS and is nurtured by how we live together. Intentionally building a communal life means having mutual respect and regard for one another at all times and in all places. Academic freedom and expression of ideas are also important values at VTS, especially when we disagree. During the course of the academic year, opportunities are provided to engage the diversity within our community and in the wider world.

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At VTS, the communal act of thanksgiving and praise of God is the center around which all of our other efforts and actions revolve. Gathering together daily to be in communion with the living God strengthens and emboldens us for our work in the world.

As a seminary of The Episcopal Church, Virginia Theological Seminary embraces a full range of worship opportunities. The VTS community gathers every weekday for worship that can include Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, and Compline. Innovative, multicultural,

contemplative, intergenerational, and ecumenical services are also a regular part of the VTS worship experience. Student teams led by faculty members help plan worship, and all students can serve in worship.

The spiritual and worship life of students at VTS is further enriched by opportunities to engage in Spiritual Direction and to enter into the reflective opportunities provided by a Quiet Day each semester.







47

on-campus apartments  
in 1-, 2-, and 3-  
bedroom layouts



14



66

individual residence  
hall rooms





## WELCOME HOME

The core of the VTS experience is living on campus and fully engaging with our diverse community of students and faculty. Living and learning in such an environment allows for a particularly rich and deep formational experience, and encourages the application of acquired knowledge outside the classroom. This educational model supports those who reside off-campus as well. Whether or not you live at the Seminary, you are sure to develop lifelong friendships here and become an active and valued member of our lively community; for example, students have the option of coming from work to join Evening Prayer before class, or sharing a meal or a cup of coffee with others after class. In addition, because VTS has been situated on the same property for nearly 200 years, we have developed deep connections to our community, and our long-standing dialogue with local schools and service agencies means that these institutions consider our students and their families to be partners in their work.

VTS has two distinct opportunities for students to live on campus:

- Students coming to campus on their own may live in single student accommodations within residence halls;
- Students coming to campus with family members may live in on-campus apartments.



## ADMISSIONS

Information and application materials can be found online at [www.vts.edu](http://www.vts.edu).

Applications are accepted throughout the academic year with the following deadlines (note that Pathway to Ministry applications will be considered only in the February 1 Round):

- December 1—All programs except Pathway to Ministry (decision notification by January 30);
- February 1—Pathway to Ministry and all other programs (decision notification by March 15);
- May 1—All programs except Pathway to Ministry (decision notification by June 1).

While our master's-level programs may be pursued on a part-time basis, students in the Master in Divinity program must complete the last two years in residence full-time.

An integral part of the application process is visiting the VTS campus. Visit days are available throughout the year and provide the opportunity to meet one-on-one with an admissions/financial aid officer, attend classes, eat lunch with students, and engage with all aspects of VTS life. Please contact [admissions@vts.edu](mailto:admissions@vts.edu) to schedule a visit.

## KEEPING YOUR SEMINARY EDUCATION AFFORDABLE

Virginia Theological Seminary offers a comprehensive financial aid program that allows eligible full-time residential students to have their costs of education covered. All admitted students applying for financial aid with a combined adjusted gross income (single/family) less than \$150,000 annually and combined assets less than eight times the respective Cost of Residency category (see below) will receive a package that covers:

- Tuition;
- On-campus housing;
- Meal plan (three meals per weekday for students in single dwelling housing; weekday lunch only for all others).



Students must apply for financial aid in order to be considered for this award package. Assets to be considered for the Cost of Residency requirement are: Cash and Cash Equivalents, Stocks, Bonds, and Real Estate Holdings. Primary Residence and Pension/Retirement accounts will not be considered. Cost of Residency categories are defined as follows:

- Students living in single room: \$20,200;
- Students living in a one-bedroom apartment: \$30,100;
- Students living in a two-bedroom apartment: \$32,500;
- Students living in a three-bedroom apartment or house: \$34,900.

Any student electing to live off-campus when on-campus housing is available will be considered a “commuter student” and will receive an award to cover tuition, fees, and lunch-only meal plan. Commuter students will not receive housing subsidy/allowance.

Each student will be required to present an annual budget of living expenses. This budget should clearly identify the sources that will be used to meet all non-Seminary financial obligations during residency. Students must also provide up to three years of financial documentation to confirm asset holdings. In addition to the VTS financial aid package, students are encouraged to explore other potential sources of financial support (diocese, parish, family, friends, private scholarships) as needed.





## Go in Peace To Love and Serve the Lord

After graduation from VTS, nearly all students go on to serve in a variety of professional roles, both lay and ordained. Some recent examples of positions to which our students have been called following graduation include:

- Curate, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont, TX
- Associate Rector, St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC
- Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kent, CT
- Curate, Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island, WA
- Lecturer at the Theological College of Lanka, Church of Ceylon, Sri Lanka





95%

placement rate  
after graduation

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- Associate Rector for Pastoral Care, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Charlottesville, VA
- Curate, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cleveland, OH
- Curate, Reimagining Curacies Program, Diocese of North Carolina

Graduates continue to stay connected to VTS by becoming part of our extensive alumni network. Continuing education opportunities are available to alumni on campus, online, and through our Alumni Regional Chapters around the country. Also offered to support VTS graduates in their first years of ministry is Launching into Ministry, a program which features resources for integrating theological education into the practice of ministry and spiritual leadership.



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For more information, visit [www.vts.edu](http://www.vts.edu)  
or email [admissions@vts.edu](mailto:admissions@vts.edu).

