

2. FORMATION PROGRAMS

2.1 PRIESTLY FORMATION

2.1.1 INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

2.1.1.1 COLLEGE SEMINARY – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Department of Humanities & Science)

last updated on August 10, 2026

Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program in Communications requires the completion of four three-credit courses, usually taken in the first two years of study at the Seminary. Together, these courses provide theoretical and practical instruction in communication that is written (composition and information literacy), interpersonal (speaking/listening in a variety of contexts), professional (public speaking and dialogue/debate), and pastoral (liturgical proclamation and social media literacy).

These courses pertain to the General Education Core Curriculum required of all undergraduate seminarians:

ENG 110 RHETORIC & COMPOSITION I

This course explores the effectiveness of communication in terms of both reading and writing. Skills for critical thinking, reflective reading, and expressive writing will be developed in the context of informative, analytical, and persuasive modes of discourse. Reading strategies and writing skills will focus on communication at the basic level of sentences, paragraphs, blogs, essays, and reflections.

ENG 111 RHETORIC & COMPOSITION II

Building on ENG 110, this course challenges students to develop their reading and writing skills more fully. New communication contexts will be explored, including the analysis of opposing viewpoints, construction of detailed arguments, and apologetic defense of positions. Students will also be introduced to information literacy skills necessary for cogent and coherent writing at the advanced level of annotated summaries, documented critiques, pastoral narratives, and research papers.

COM 210 PUBLIC SPEAKING

This course considers the basic principles and methods of public speaking. The course develops oral communication skills necessary for the proclamation of Sacred Scripture, talks to small groups, and speeches intended to persuade and inspire larger audiences. Through active listening, oral exercises, and practice presentations, students will have the opportunity to grow in self-confidence and enhance their expressiveness.

COM 211 SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

This course considers the fundamental principles, theories, and skills of interpersonal communication. The course fosters media literacy by examining differences among communications media and analyzing differences among audiences. Students will explore the positive and negative impacts of the digital revolution and social media usage, while also learning techniques for effective evangelization across multiple media technologies and platforms.

Pre-Theology Program

Presuming that Pre-Theology students have previously studied Communications as part of their undergraduate degree, no course work is required in this program.

Students who have had no prior study of Communications may, at the discretion of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, be required to complete the following three-credit course in the Spring semester of their first year in the program:

THL 506 CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Offered only as needed

This course reviews fundamental communications skills in preparation for proclaiming and preaching the Word of God. Emphasis will be placed on two areas: (1) media literacy, particularly in terms of social media consumption and production, and (2) social communications, both on an interpersonal level and in terms of public presentations.

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