



ST. AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY

PONTIFICAL FACULTY
OF THEOLOGY

Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies (S.T.L.)



*“The fathers of the Church teach us how to do
theology, on one’s knees and amidst the people.”*

His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto



A Brief History of St. Augustine's Seminary

St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto was founded in 1913. The institution was incorporated by the Provincial Legislature of Ontario in 1983 which allows St. Augustine's to grant its own degrees in Theology. St. Augustine's is a founding and charter member of the Toronto School of Theology (TST) which was established in 1969. Basic degrees in Theology are conjointly conferred with the University of Toronto. In 1996, the Holy See authorized St. Augustine's to award the academic degree of Bachelor in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) as an autonomous Theological Institute. Two decades later, in 2020, Thomas Cardinal Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto and the Chancellor of St. Augustine's, tasked the Academic Dean, Rev. John Elmer Abad, to revise the Plan of Studies and apply for Pontifical Status, *sui iuris*. The Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Roman Curia approved the petition in February 2022. The Licentiate program is the initial step towards establishing a Pontifical Faculty of Theology, with three cycles, namely, the Bachelor (S.T.B.), the Licentiate (S.T.L.), and the Doctorate (S.T.D.). St. Augustine's is a fully accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) since 1980.

About the Licentiate Program

The Pontifical Faculty of Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary offers a Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies starting in September 2023. The two-year (four semester) advanced Licentiate degree is a program dedicated to the study of the development of doctrine and culture of Christianity in its first eight hundred years.

The program's objective is to prepare students for advanced study in theology, literature, history, and philosophy of the early Church and Late Antiquity. The Licentiate is a research degree.

There are fourteen mandatory courses in Patrology, Biblical Exegesis, the development of the Doctrine of God, Christology, Ecclesiology, and the relationship between the Church and society. In addition, students will be required to complete a thesis. The program also introduces students to early Christian writers' intellectual and cultural milieu, such as Rhetoric and Philosophy.

Graduates of the program are equipped to teach in colleges, seminaries, and schools of Theology, and can also serve as catechetical resources for dioceses and various chaplaincies.



Two-Year Cycle Curriculum

Year A – Fall Semester

- Research Methodology (offered every year)
- Patrology I: 1st–3rd Century (offered every year)
- Hellenistic Philosophy and the Fathers of the Church (offered every year)
- Augustine I
- Origen

Year A – Winter Semester

- Patristic Themes: Trinity and Christology (Early Councils)
- The Cappadocian Fathers
- Patrology II: 4th–5th Century
- Liturgy in the Early Church

Year B – Fall Semester

- Research Methodology (offered every year)
- Patrology I: 1st–3rd Century (offered every year)
- Hellenistic Philosophy and the Fathers of the Church (offered every year)
- Augustine II
- Leo the Great

Year B – Winter Semester

- Classical Rhetoric and Early Christian Apologetics
- Patristic Exegesis
- Patrology III: 6th–8th Century
- Patristic Latin Reading Course (optional)

Thesis Requirement

“The fathers of the Church provide a natural foundation for the study of Theology. They teach us that Christianity takes its origin and develops from a living tradition reaffirming Christianity’s role in society and our mission to creatively dialogue with it.”

Rev. John Elmer Abad, Academic Dean

Program Requirements

Students must complete **four semesters** beyond the six semesters required for the Bachelor in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) or its equivalent. These semesters will include **advanced level courses** (fourteen mandatory courses, of which one can be replaced with an elective upon approval by the President) and the **preparation of a 60-page thesis**, which the student will begin in the second semester of the first year. Students have the option to attend courses online (synchronous delivery). With the approval of the President and the Admission Committee, the Licentiate can also be taken part-time (maximum of 5 years).

It is highly recommended that students acquire linguistic skills in Latin or Greek. St. Augustine’s Seminary collaborates with the *Veterum Sapientia Institute*. This Institute offers Vatican accredited courses and diplomas in ecclesiastical Latin and Greek online. For more information and to determine which language courses to take, please contact the Registrar or the Academic Dean of St. Augustine’s.



“In St. Augustine who talks to us, talks to me in his writings, we see the everlasting timeliness of his faith; of the faith that comes from Christ, the Eternal Incarnate Word, Son of God and Son of Man. And we can see that this faith is not of the past although it was preached yesterday; it is still timely today, for Christ is truly yesterday, today and for ever.”

Pope Benedict XVI,
The Church Fathers: From Clement of Rome to Augustine

Faculty

1. **Rev. John Elmer Abad**, S.T.L., Ph.D.
(Augustinianum; Toronto)
2. **Dr. Brian Butcher**, Ph.D.
(St. Paul University-Ottawa)
3. **Rev. Hubertus Drobner**, S.T.D., Ph.D.
(Paderborn; Augustinianum, et alii)
4. **Msgr. Hans Feichtinger**, S.T.D., Ph.D.
(Augustinianum; Munich)
5. **The Rev. Walter Hannam**, Ph.D.
(Boston College)
6. **Dr. Ky Heinze**, Ph.D.
(Catholic University of America)
7. **Dr. Francesco Pica**, S.T.D., Ph.D.
(Antonianum-Rome; Toronto)

Msgr. A. Robert Nusca, S.S.L. (Pontifical Biblical Institute), S.T.D. (Gregorianum)
President of St. Augustine’s Seminary and the Pontifical Faculty of Theology

Program Admission Requirements

- S.T.B. with a B+ standing/or an equivalent program in Theology, such as the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or, upon the President’s approval, the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)
- Complete Application for Admission, provide two letters of reference, a Statement of Intent (not exceeding 750 words) outlining academic interests and academic purposes, and submit with the application fee
- Admission Interview
- Fluency in English
- Proficiency in One Modern Research Language (French, German or Italian)
- Application Deadline for the September start date is July 30. (January matriculation is not available.)

Fees and Financial Aid

All Tuition and Fees, Refund Schedule, and financial aid information are available on the website. Please contact the Registrar for estimated costs.

Student Bursaries and Scholarships may be available upon consideration by the President and the Academic Dean. Board and lodging for Priests or Religious Brothers can be requested from St. Augustine’s Seminary.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY

St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto
2661 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON M1M 1M3
Phone: 416-261-7207, Fax: 416-261-2529
Charitable Registration Number: 852191683RR0001

The Pontifical Faculty of Theology
Licentiate in Theology and Patristic Studies (S.T.L.)
registrar@staugustines.on.ca
www.staugustines.on.ca

© 2022 St. Augustine’s Seminary. All Rights Reserved.

