

June 2020

**Catholic Ministry Formation Enrollment:
Statistical Overview for 2019-2020**

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC**

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CARA collects enrollment data on every Catholic ministry formation program that prepares men and women for ministry in the U.S. Church as priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers. This statistical overview is published annually and a complete directory listing the names, addresses, and other pertinent information on each program is published every other year.

CARA was founded by Catholic leaders in 1964 to put social science research tools at the service of the Catholic Church in the United States.

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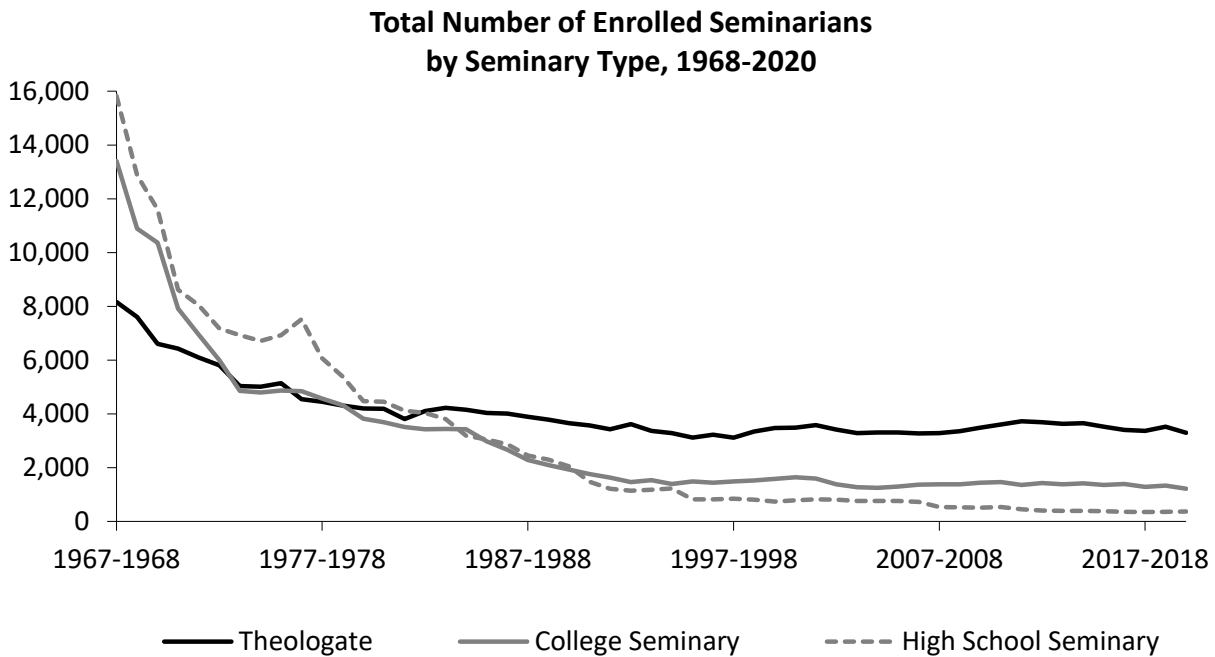
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Priestly Formation

During academic year 2019-2020, enrollment in the post-baccalaureate level of priestly formation (i.e., theologates) totaled 3,293, which is a decrease of 233 seminarians from last year’s theologate enrollment of 3,526. Of these, 2,514 (76%) were candidates for dioceses and 779 (24%) were from religious orders. Diocesan enrollment decreased by 199 seminarians from last year’s total and religious enrollment decreased by 34 seminarians. These totals include pre-theology students who may have undergraduate degrees in another academic discipline but need additional work in philosophy, theology, or formation to qualify for theologate enrollment. The number of seminarians enrolled in pre-theology decreased by 127 seminarians from last year (718 this year and 845 last year), which make up 22% of all theology-level students.

This year’s college seminary enrollment of 1,216 seminarians reflects a decrease of 111 seminarians (8%) from the last year’s total of 1,327 seminarians. High school seminary enrollment increased by five seminarians (1%) from 358 seminarians in academic year 2018-2019 to 363 seminarians this year.

Trends in Overall Seminary Enrollment



Total Number of Enrolled Seminarians by Seminary Type, 1968-2004

Year	Pretheology & Theology Diocesan [#]	Pretheology & Theology Religious [#]	Pretheology & Theology Total [#]	College Seminary Total [#]	High School Seminary Total [#]
1967-1968	4,876	3,283	8,159	13,401	15,823
1968-1969	4,561	3,045	7,606	10,889	12,875
1969-1970	3,978	2,624	6,602	10,362	11,603
1970-1971	3,874	2,552	6,426	7,917	8,611
1971-1972	3,864	2,225	6,089	6,943	8,029
1972-1973	3,640	2,162	5,802	5,996	7,172
1973-1974	3,336	1,699	5,035	4,856	6,928
1974-1975	3,299	1,708	5,007	4,796	6,712
1975-1976	3,385	1,752	5,137	4,871	6,920
1976-1977	3,005	1,538	4,543	4,844	7,517
1977-1978	2,941	1,506	4,447	4,574	6,069
1978-1979	2,844	1,469	4,313	4,316	5,380
1979-1980	2,811	1,386	4,197	3,816	4,474
1980-1981	2,872	1,315	4,187	3,689	4,448
1981-1982	2,649	1,164	3,813	3,514	4,117
1982-1983	2,742	1,361	4,103	3,430	4,039
1983-1984	2,793	1,431	4,224	3,437	3,807
1984-1985	2,799	1,351	4,150	3,430	3,186
1985-1986	2,719	1,314	4,033	2,978	3,051
1986-1987	2,736	1,275	4,011	2,670	2,872
1987-1988	2,729	1,167	3,896	2,285	2,448
1988-1989	2,724	1,064	3,788	2,091	2,295
1989-1990	2,607	1,051	3,658	1,923	2,051
1990-1991	2,516	1,057	3,573	1,760	1,476
1991-1992	2,536	896	3,432	1,634	1,210
1992-1993	2,695	921	3,616	1,459	1,140
1993-1994	2,545	826	3,371	1,529	1,178
1994-1995	2,396	884	3,280	1,395	1,221
1995-1996	2,348	774	3,122	1,488	817
1996-1997	2,331	898	3,229	1,445	816
1997-1998	2,343	771	3,114	1,490	841
1998-1999	2,551	793	3,344	1,527	810
1999-2000	2,536	938	3,474	1,576	732
2000-2001	2,549	934	3,483	1,647	787
2001-2002	2,621	963	3,584	1,594	816
2002-2003	2,489	925	3,414	1,376	808
2003-2004	2,348	937	3,285	1,268	761

(Continued on page 3)

Total Number of Enrolled Seminarians by Seminary Type, 2005-2020					
Year	Pretheology & Theology Diocesan [#]	Pretheology & Theology Religious [#]	Pretheology & Theology Total [#]	College Seminary Total [#]	High School Seminary Total [#]
2004-2005	2,307	1,001	3,308	1,248	758
2005-2006	2,397	909	3,306	1,297	763
2006-2007	2,410	864	3,274	1,365	729
2007-2008	2,489	797	3,286	1,381	536
2008-2009	2,530	827	3,357	1,384	524
2009-2010	2,656	827	3,483	1,443	510
2010-2011	2,742	866	3,608	1,460	532
2011-2012	2,805	918	3,723	1,355	448
2012-2013	2,798	896	3,694	1,425	404
2013-2014	2,784	847	3,631	1,381	391
2014-2015	2,799	851	3,650	1,416	388
2015-2016	2,708	812	3,520	1,353	376
2016-2017	2,648	757	3,405	1,395	351
2017-2018	2,622	747	3,369	1,289	350
2018-2019	2,713	813	3,526	1,327	358
2019-2020	2,514	779	3,293	1,216	363

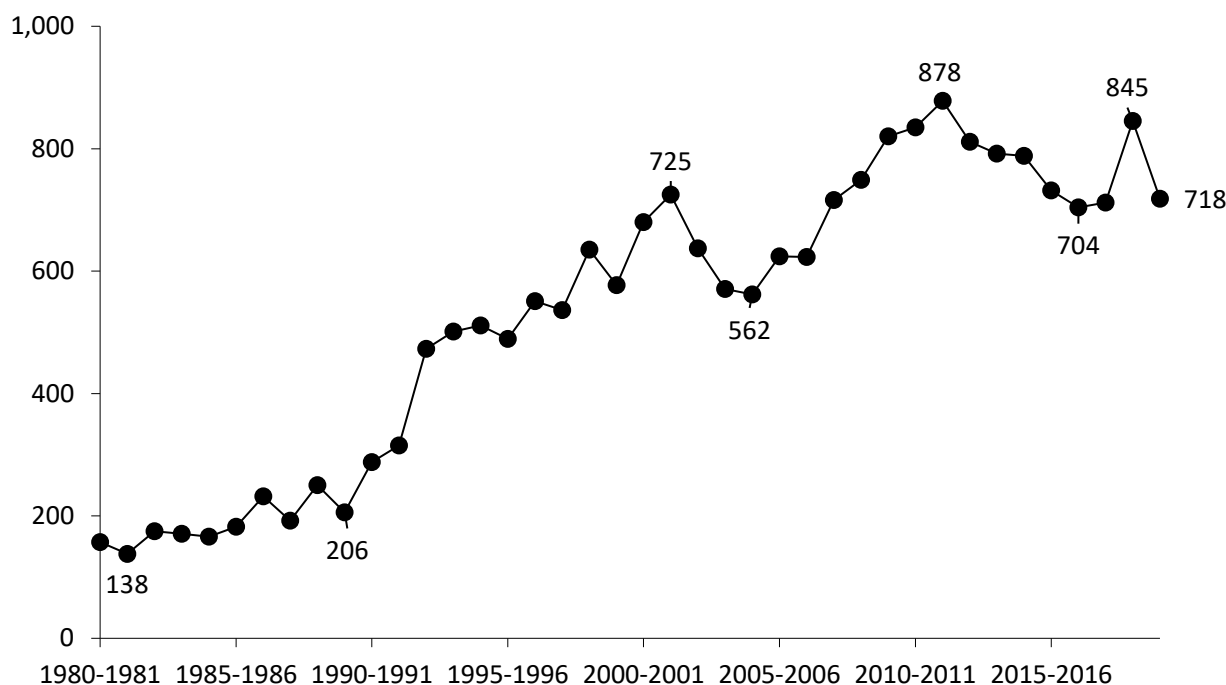
Beginning with the 1967-1968 academic year, CARA has collected enrollment data for priesthood formation programs at the theologate, college, and high school levels in the United States. CARA also collects data about U.S. seminarians from the only priesthood formation program abroad that is sponsored by the hierarchy of the United States – the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Another program located outside the United States that is included in these counts is Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Mexico City. This seminary was established in 2000 by the Archdiocese of Mexico and accepts Hispanic students from dioceses in the United States who have a particular ministry to Hispanic Catholics in the United States.

The data are gathered in the fall of each year. The total number of seminarians enrolled in these programs, shown in the table above and on the previous page, includes pre-theology students studying at theologates, college seminaries, and other sites.

Pre-Theology

Since 1994, CARA has counted pre-theology students studying at theologates, college seminaries, and other sites in its totals of theology-level seminarians. The graph below shows the trend in pre-theology students since 1980, the first year that CARA began monitoring this group. In more recent years, as enrollment in college seminaries declined and as more men apply for seminary with a college degree in hand, the need for pre-theology programs has increased. These programs provide the philosophical and theological preparation necessary to pursue graduate-level theology. The *Program of Priestly Formation* recommends two years of pre-theologate formation for those who did not complete college seminary.¹

Total Number of Pre-Theology Students, 1981-2020



In academic year 2019-2020, the 718 seminarians enrolled in pre-theology make up a fifth (22%) of all theology-level seminarians, a decrease of 127 seminarians from the previous year and approximately the same percentage of overall theologate enrollment over the past decade.

The table on the next two pages displays the total number of seminarians enrolled in pre-theology and compares that figure to the total theologate enrollment as a percentage of theologate students.

¹ Paragraph 60 of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, fifth edition, (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) reads: “If a person has no previous preparation in a formation program, then the pre-theology program should extend over a two-year calendar period. Pre-theology programs are designed to address all four pillars of formation, not simply to meet academic requirements.”

Pre-Theology Relative to Total Theologate Enrollment, 1981-2015

Academic Year	Enrolled in Pre-Theology	Enrolled in Theology	Total in Theologate	Percentage in Pre-Theology
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[%]
1980-1981	157	4,030	4,187	4
1981-1982	138	3,675	3,813	4
1982-1983	175	3,928	4,103	4
1983-1984	171	4,073	4,224	4
1984-1985	166	3,984	4,150	4
1985-1986	182	3,851	4,033	4
1986-1987	232	3,779	4,011	6
1987-1988	192	3,704	3,896	5
1988-1989	250	3,538	3,788	7
1989-1990	206	3,452	3,658	6
1990-1991	288	3,285	3,573	8
1991-1992	315	3,117	3,432	9
1992-1993	473	3,143	3,616	13
1993-1994	501	2,870	3,371	15
1994-1995	511	2,769	3,280	16
1995-1996	489	2,633	3,122	16
1996-1997	551	2,678	3,229	17
1997-1998	536	2,578	3,114	17
1998-1999	635	2,709	3,344	19
1999-2000	577	2,897	3,474	17
2000-2001	680	2,803	3,483	20
2001-2002	725	2,859	3,584	20
2002-2003	637	2,777	3,414	19
2003-2004	571	2,714	3,285	17
2004-2005	562	2,746	3,308	17
2005-2006	624	2,682	3,306	19
2006-2007	623	2,651	3,274	19
2007-2008	716	2,570	3,286	22
2008-2009	749	2,608	3,357	22
2009-2010	820	2,663	3,483	24
2010-2011	835	2,773	3,608	23
2011-2012	878	2,845	3,723	24
2012-2013	811	2,883	3,694	22
2013-2014	792	2,839	3,631	22
2014-2015	788	2,862	3,650	22

(Continued on page 6)

Pre-Theology Relative to Total Theologate Enrollment, 2016-2020				
Academic Year	Enrolled in Pre-Theology	Enrolled in Theology	Total in Theologate	Percentage in Pre-Theology
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[%]
2015-2016	732	2,788	3,520	21
2016-2017	704	2,701	3,405	21
2017-2018	712	2,657	3,369	21
2018-2019	845	2,681	3,526	24
2019-2020	718	2,575	3,293	22

Theologate Profile

The table on the next page lists the 41 theologates that prepare seminarians for the priesthood in the United States. For institutions that have both theology- and college-level programs, enrollment figures for pre-theology seminarians are reported the way the institution reports them. For example, Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT, treats its pre-theology seminarians as part of the theologate division, and so its five pre-theology students are counted in its theologate enrollment figure of 41. However, all pre-theology students are included in the CARA totals for theology-level enrollment provided elsewhere in this report. Thus, the total theology enrollment of 3,293 reported earlier includes 2,983 enrolled in theologates (2,515 in theology and 468 in pre-theology), and an additional 323 in pre-theology who are enrolled in college seminaries.

Diocesan priesthood candidates typically live at the seminary and get their education and priestly formation at the theologate they attend.² For 2019-2020, the average tuition was \$22,973, an increase of \$1,243 from 2018-2019. The average room and board for the 36 programs that reported room and board separately was \$13,494, a decrease of \$100 from previous year. Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe is excluded from these calculations since they have a single fee that covers the costs of both tuition and room and board. The other programs that do not report room and board are for religious priesthood candidates, who usually live in a house sponsored by their order and attend a nearby theologate for academic training.

CARA identified a total of 65 residences that currently house seminarians; 45 of these residences have seminarians that are studying at theologates. Apart from the exceptions listed below, all of the theology-level priesthood candidates at these residences are enrolled in one of the theologate programs listed in the 2019-2020 theologate profile table. The exceptions are:

- 13 at the Abbey Seminary
- Two at the Franciscan University of Steubenville

² In the case of The Catholic University of America, Latin Rite diocesan seminarians reside at Theological College, the official house of formation at The Catholic University of America. Seminarians pay half the graduate CUA tuition (the seminarian tuition is listed in the table on the next page). Because room and board for most seminarians at Catholic University is provided at Theological College, room and board charges are reported with Catholic University's tuition. Seminarians at Oblate School of Theology reside at Assumption Seminary and the room and board for those seminarians is reported with Oblate School of Theology's tuition. In the case of St. Joseph's Seminary, students of the Archdiocese of New York are subsidized through scholarships and endowments. In the case of Moreau Seminary, priesthood candidates receive a full scholarship from the University of Notre Dame.

**The Amount of Tuition and the Number of Priesthood Candidates Enrolled
by Theologate, 2019-2020**

Theologate	Tuition [\$]	Room & Board [\$]	Diocesan [#]	Religious [#]	Total [#]
Aquinas Institute of Theology, MO	22,050	-	0	19	19
Athenaeum of Ohio - Mount St. Mary's of the West, OH	21,250	14,250	79	11	90
Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, PA	14,000	12,000	12	0	12
Catholic Theological Union, IL	25,850	3,600	0	94	94
Catholic University School of Theology and Religious Studies, DC	24,000	14,812	101	65	166
Christ the King Seminary, NY	23,090	11,935	26	0	26
Notre Dame Seminary, LA	21,765	14,210	144	4	148
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, CA	18,630	-	0	30	30
Franciscan School of Theology, CA	18,720	24,750	0	5	5
Holy Apostles College and Seminary - Theologate Division, CT	15,600	12,850	17	24	41
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, NJ	19,650	12,968	82	26	108
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, CA	18,734	18,224	0	28	28
Kenrick School of Theology, MO	25,650	11,700	114	0	114
Moreau Seminary, IN	55,553	15,640	0	44	44
Mount Angel Seminary - Theologate Division, OR	16,410	13,232	45	3	48
Mount St. Mary's Seminary, MD	25,410	13,720	157	3	160
Oblate School of Theology, TX	17,180	13,648	60	36	96
Pontifical College Josephinum - School of Theology, OH	28,100	13,004	30	0	30
Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies, DC	16,080	-	0	74	74
Pontifical North American College	16,000	19,500	179	0	179
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, MA	23,000	13,000	54	2	56
Sacred Heart Major Seminary – School of Theology, MI	29,659	10,995	51	12	63
Sacred Heart School of Theology, WI	19,670	12,210	61	13	74
Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary, MN	17,100	5,110	0	8	8
Saint Meinrad School of Theology, IN	27,714	16,166	101	21	122
Saint Vincent Seminary, PA	30,178	14,632	35	13	48
Boston College – School of Theology and Ministry, MA	31,050	-	0	26	26
Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe - Theologate Division	21,000	-	13	0	13
SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, MI	18,308	16,174	17	1	18
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary - Theology Division, PA	22,727	14,111	64	8	72
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, CO	23,097	11,997	104	6	110
St. John's Seminary School of Theology, CA	20,200	17,400	114	2	116
St. John's Seminary, MA	27,180	13,650	84	13	97
St. Joseph's Seminary, NY	16,800	13,200	49	16	65
St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology, OH	10,120	9,250	42	2	44
St. Mary's Seminary & University, MD	21,660	17,090	54	0	54
St. Mary's Seminary, TX	17,436	11,000	67	6	73
St. Patrick's Seminary & University, CA	19,218	16,266	49	0	49
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, FL	22,000	12,100	107	2	109
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, MN	23,856	12,830	66	4	70
University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, IL	30,243	10,600	167	4	171
Average Costs and Total Enrollment	22,973	13,494	2,345	625	2,970

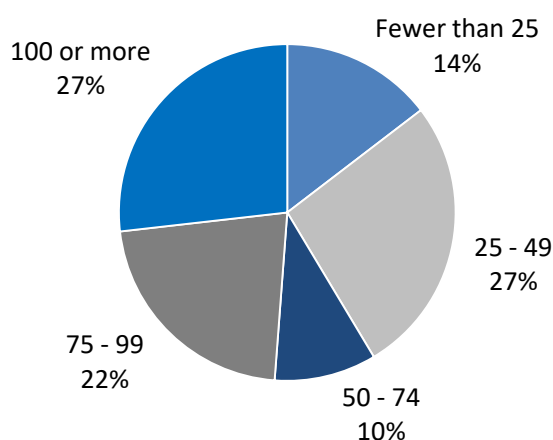
Theologates with the Highest Enrollment

The 12 theologates with enrollment of at least 100 account for 1,503 or 51% of the 2,970 seminarians reported by theologates in 2019-2020. The table below lists these institutions in terms of enrollment of diocesan or religious priesthood candidates.

Theologate	Diocesan Priesthood Candidates	Religious Priesthood Candidates	Total	Change from 2018-2019
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Pontifical North American College	179	0	179	-23
University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, IL	167	4	171	-29
Catholic University School of Theology & Rel. Studies, DC	101	65	166	+34
Mount St. Mary's Seminary, MD	157	3	160	0
Notre Dame Seminary, LA	144	4	148	+2
Saint Meinrad School of Theology, IN	101	21	122	+6
St. John's Seminary School of Theology, CA	114	2	116	+15
Kenrick School of Theology, MO	114	0	114	+7
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, CO	104	6	110	-17
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, FL	107	2	109	0
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, NJ	82	26	108	-19

Theologates by Size of Enrollment

The figure at right groups the theologates according to their reported enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic year. Three in ten theologates (11 of the 41 theologates) are relatively large, enrolling 100 or more seminarians. One-fifth (nine of the 41 theologates) have between 75 and 99 seminarians enrolled, and around half (21 in all) have fewer than 75 seminarians enrolled this year.



Canonical Degree-Granting Theologates

Some theologates, as well as some other universities and academic departments, have special approval of the Congregation for Catholic Education and operate under special norms determined by the Holy See. These norms include the requirement that faculty members meet particular qualifications, including an upper-level canonical degree, and that the President, Rector, or Dean be appointed or confirmed by the Holy See. These faculties are entrusted with “the task of preparing with special care students for the priestly ministry, for teaching the sacred sciences, and for the more arduous tasks of the apostolate.”³ The table below displays the six ecclesiastical faculties of theology in the United States, the year they were established, and the number of faculty in each.

Ecclesiastical Faculties of Theology in the United States, 2019-2020			
	Year Established [year]	Ecclesiastical Faculty Full-time [#]	Part-time [#]
School of Theology, St. Mary’s Seminary and University, MD	1822	11	5
Faculty of Theology, The Catholic University of America, DC	1900	8	5
Ecclesiastical Faculty of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, MA	1922	13	2
Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary, IL	1936	24	14
Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies, DC	1941	16	0
Ecclesiastical Faculty of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, CA	1945	11	2

Overall, 16 theologates offer a canonical degree in theology. Six of these institutions grant canonical degrees under the authority of their own ecclesiastical faculty, as shown in the table above. Other institutions grant their canonical degrees through affiliation or aggregation to the ecclesiastical faculty at another institution.

- The Pontifical North American College in Rome was established in 1859. Students enrolled there earn canonical degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) in Rome.
- The Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH, has been affiliated with the Angelicum in Rome.
- Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, OR, established in 1889, is affiliated with the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm in Rome.
- Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI, is affiliated with the Angelicum in Rome since 2004, to grant both the S.T.B. and S.T.L. degrees.

³ Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia Christiana*, April 29, 1979, Foreword III.

- St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, CA, has been affiliated with the Dominican House of Studies, in Washington, DC.
- St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, has been affiliated with the Athenaeum in Rome.
- St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, CO, has been affiliated with the Angelicum in Rome.
- Mount St. Mary’s Seminary has been affiliated with The Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the Immaculate Conception, at the Dominican House of Studies, in Washington, DC, since 2007.
- Kenrick School of Theology has been affiliated with the Pontifical Gregorian University.
- Oblate School of Theology has been affiliated with the St. Paul University in Ottawa.

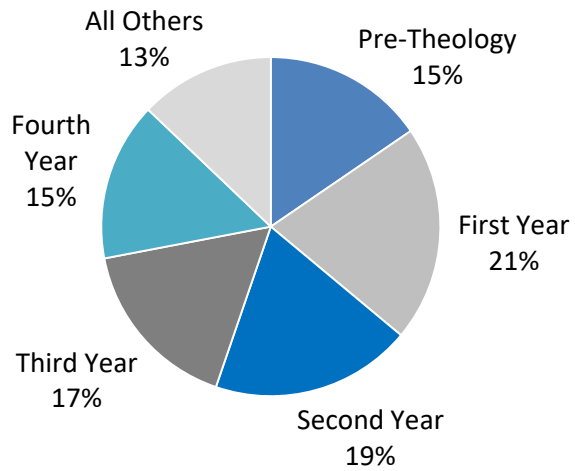
	Seminarians Enrolled			Expected to Earn the Degree in 2020
	S.T.B.	S.T.L.	S.T.D.	
	[#]	[#]	[#]	
Pontifical North American College, Rome	118	48	0	48
The Catholic University of America, DC	67	4	0	15
St. Joseph's Seminary, NY	65	0	0	8
St. Mary's Seminary & University, MD	54	0	0	8
St. Patrick's Seminary and University, CA	49	0	0	8
Dominican House of Studies, DC	48	5	0	9
St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, CO	44	0	0	5
University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, IL	30	15	0	16
Sacred Heart Major Seminary, MI	13	0	0	13
Mount St. Mary's Seminary, MD	12	0	0	1
Mount Angel Seminary, OR	12	0	0	8
Pontifical College Josephinum, OH	7	0	0	1
Saint Vincent Seminary, PA	3	0	0	1
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, CA	1	5	0	3
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, MA	0	7	3	0

In addition to the seminarian numbers listed above, these institutions report another 142 priests and 24 lay persons or deacons enrolled in their canonical degree programs. They anticipate awarding canonical degrees to 73 priests and nine lay persons or deacons in 2020. Kenrick School of Theology and Oblate School of Theology did not report any seminarians enrolled in Canonical Degree Programs and they are not listed in the table.

Theologate Enrollment by Year of Study for the Priesthood

The accompanying table shows enrollment in theologates by levels of study. The category “All Others” in the figure on the right includes theologate students who are reported to be on their pastoral year, on leave of absence, or in other special circumstances.

Number of Students Enrolled in Theologates by Level of Study 2019-2020	
Pre-Theology	468
First Year	624
Second Year	581
Third Year	507
Fourth Year	458
Pastoral Year	251
Leave of Absence	17
Other	122
TOTAL	3,028



Pre-Theology Enrollment

Pre-theology seminarians are more likely to be enrolled in theologates than at other formation sites designed for college-level seminarians. Theologates report 410 seminarians enrolled in pre-theology. Free-standing and collaborative college seminaries report 188 enrolled in pre-theology.

In addition to the pre-theology students reported by theologates, free-standing seminaries, and collaborative seminaries, there are also 120 pre-theology students reported by 19 houses of study where they reside. Those include, for example:

- 34 pre-theology students studying at Loyola University Chicago,
- 22 at the Norbertine Abbey Seminary,
- 21 at Saint Louis University, and
- 13 at Fordham University.

Theology-Level Enrollment by Type of Program and Institution, 2019-2020	
Theologates	
Theologate, excluding pre-theology	2,560
Theologate, pre-theology only	410
Pre-theology at College Priesthood Formation Programs	
Free-Standing College Seminaries	140
Collaborative College Seminaries	48
Other Seminary Residences	
Theology	15
Pre-theology	120
Total Enrollment	3,293

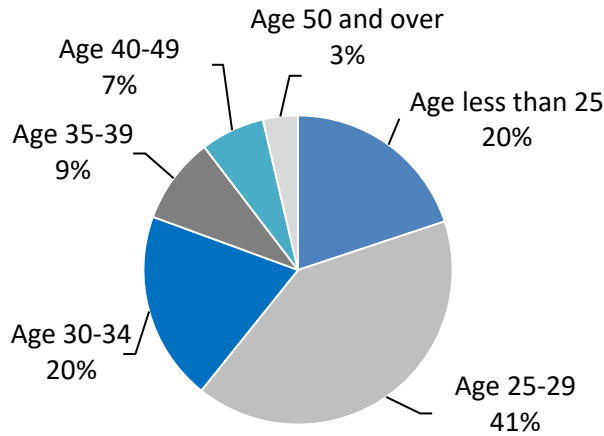
Retention of Seminarians in Theology

Although individual exceptions occur, the typical pattern for seminarians entering their first year of theology is to have an undergraduate degree from a college seminary or to have completed a pre-theology program. The table below highlights the 2019-2020 class of seminarians through their four years in theology, that is, those who began theologate studies in 2016-2017 and who are completing their theologate studies in 2019-2020. Each class of seminarians in theology can also be compared to its corresponding cohort in the preceding academic year by following the same diagonal.

	First Year [#]	Second Year [#]	Third Year [#]	Fourth Year [#]	Retention Rate [%]
1999-2000	681	687	582	625	
2000-2001	704	606	573	570	
2001-2002	716	670	595	536	
2002-2003	738	625	543	576	85
2003-2004	727	614	512	509	72
2004-2005	691	633	542	519	72
2005-2006	631	617	573	495	67
2006-2007	656	566	546	555	76
2007-2008	622	607	541	535	77
2008-2009	709	546	524	500	79
2009-2010	646	600	568	497	76
2010-2011	725	626	549	535	86
2011-2012	768	686	542	520	73
2012-2013	739	706	571	513	79
2013-2014	704	653	596	530	73
2014-2015	661	654	591	561	73
2015-2016	695	574	610	547	74
2016-2017	642	599	548	561	80
2017-2018	662	599	543	497	75
2018-2019	568	595	517	516	74
2019-2020	624	581	507	458	71

Of the 642 seminarians who began theologate study in 2016, 458 are completing their fourth year in 2020. Thus, the retention rate for the Class of 2019 throughout their four years of theologate study is expected to be 71%, a continuation of a decreasing trend in the last four years. The average retention rate over ten years for those who began theology from 2010-2011 to 2019-2020 was 76%.

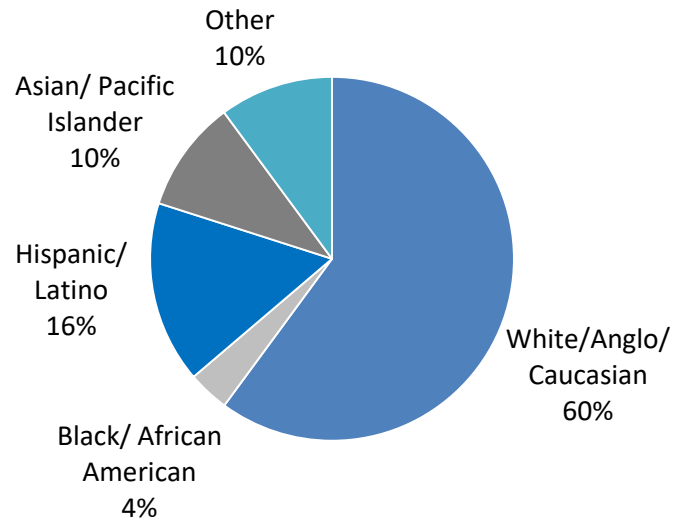
Age Distribution of Theologate Students



The age distribution for theologate students preparing for the priesthood is shown at left. Three fifths of seminarians enrolled in theologates (61%) are under age 30 and another fifth (20%) are in their early thirties. One in ten (9%) is between 35 and 39. One in ten (10%) is age 40 and above. Thus, a fifth of seminarians enrolled in theologates (19%) are age 35 or older. There are the same proportion of seminarians in each age category as reported last year by theologates.

Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds of Theologate Students

Three in five priesthood candidates enrolled in theologates (60%) are white/Anglo/Caucasian. One in six (16%) is Hispanic/Latino, 10% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4% are black/African American. Another 10% are listed as “other,” which includes Native Americans, multi-racial, and international students that do not identify with these racial and ethnic categories.

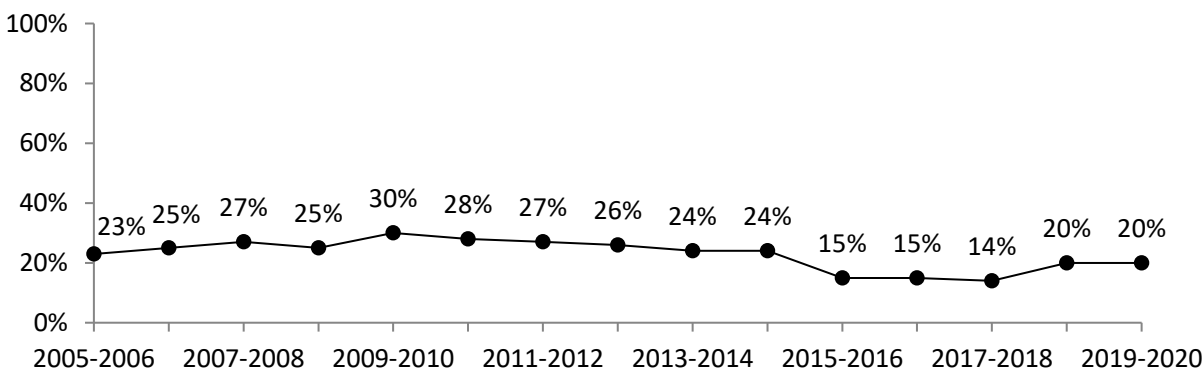


The racial and ethnic distribution of theologate students is gradually becoming more diverse. In 1993, the first year CARA collected racial and ethnic data, 79% of theologate seminarians were white/Anglo/Caucasian, 11% were Hispanic/Latino, 8% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2% were black/African American. The white/Anglo/Caucasian percent declined from 79% to 60% during the past 25 years.

Foreign-born Seminarians in Theologates

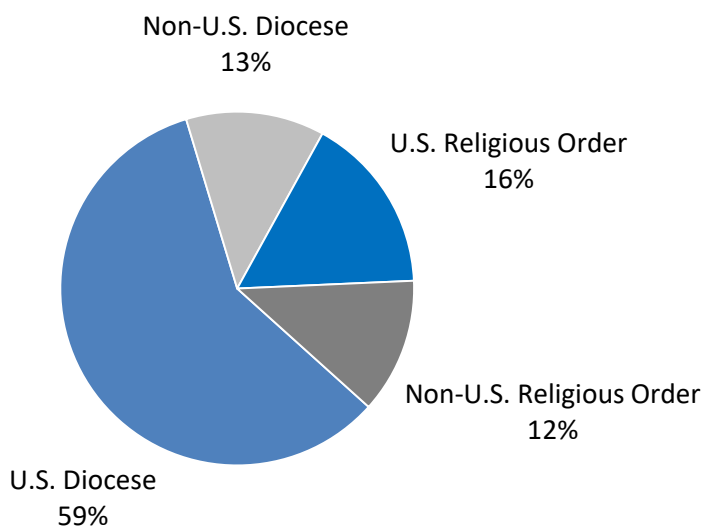
In 2019-2020, programs report a total of 663 seminarians (20% of 3,351 seminarians in theologates) are from countries other than the United States. This is a decrease of 4% from the 689 foreign-born seminarians reported last year. The share of foreign-born seminarians among all seminarians in theology steadily declined from 30% in 2009-2010 to 14% in 2017-2018. Over the last two years, it rebounded to 20%. On average, 23% of seminarians annually came from other countries over the 15 years that CARA has been tracking this trend.

Foreign-born Seminarians in Theologates, 2006-2020



In all, 80 foreign countries are represented by these seminarians. The greatest numbers are from Vietnam (112), Mexico (90), Colombia (47), Nigeria (44), Poland (40), the Philippines (33), Brazil (19), Canada (17), (South) Korea (15), and India (15).

Designated Ministry



Most of these seminarians, 59%, are preparing to be ordained for a diocese in the United States. Another 13% of foreign-born seminarians are studying for a diocese outside the United States. Seminarians from religious orders, 190 in all, comprise the remaining 29% of these foreign-born seminarians. Breaking down that 28%, seminarians studying for a U.S.-based religious order account for 16% of all foreign-born seminarians, while another 12% are studying for a religious order based outside the United States.

College Seminaries

In 2019-2020, there were 1,216 seminarians enrolled in 29 college-level priesthood formation programs or in seminary residence programs in religious institutes. This number does not include the 188 pre-theology students in college seminary programs, since pre-theology students are calculated in the theology-level counts. College-level priesthood formation programs may be divided into three categories: free-standing seminaries (532 seminarians), collaborative seminaries (476), and seminary residence programs (208).

Free-Standing College Seminaries

List of Free-Standing College Seminaries, 2019-2020

	Tuition	Room & board	Diocesan	Religious	Total	Pre-theology	College level
	[\$]	[\$]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Conception Seminary College, MO	22,623	13,587	42	6	48	5	43
Divine Word College Seminary, IA	13,260	3,800	2	51	53	1	52
Holy Apostles College & Seminary - College Division, CT*	16,000	13,200	13	12	25	12	13
Mexican American Catholic College, TX	18,600	14,480	17	5	22	5	17
Mount Angel Seminary - College Division, OR*	16,410	13,232	49	8	57	21	36
Pontifical College Josephinum - College of Liberal Arts, OH*	23,180	10,960	50	0	50	9	41
Sacred Heart Major Seminary – College of Liberal Arts, MI*	20,495	10,995	41	13	54	32	22
Saint Joseph Seminary College, LA	16,900	15,150	121	0	12	0	121
Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe - Mexico*	21,000	-	13	0	13	4	9
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary - College Seminary, PA*	20,600	14,111	79	29	108	22	86
St. Gregory the Great Seminary, NE	16,140	10,760	42	3	45	4	41
St. John Vianney College and Seminary, FL	23,100	12,100	68	1	69	23	46
Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, CT	25,000	10,000	7	0	7	2	5
Total Enrollment / Average Cost	19,485	11,865	544	128	672	140	532

* Also has a theologate division.

Free-standing college seminaries are accredited in their own right to grant a college degree. They combine all aspects of a seminary program in one institution. There are 13 such institutions reporting enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic year. The 532 seminarians enrolled at the college level in these institutions is a decrease of 37 seminarians (7%) from the 569 reported last year.

- Six of the free-standing college seminaries are sponsored by an eparchy, diocese, or archdiocese:
 - Sacred Heart Major Seminary – College of Liberal Arts, MI
 - Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe - Philosophy Division, MX
 - St. Charles Borromeo Seminary – College Seminary, PA
 - St. Gregory the Great Seminary, NE
 - St. John Vianney College and Seminary, FL
 - Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, CT

- There are five religious-sponsored programs:
 - Conception Seminary College, MO
 - Divine Word College Seminary, IA
 - Holy Apostles College and Seminary – College Division, CT
 - Mount Angel Seminary – College Division, OR
 - Saint Joseph Seminary College, LA

- There are two self-sponsored programs:
 - Mexican American Catholic College, TX
 - Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, OH

In terms of degrees offered, all 13 free-standing seminaries offer the BA degree. In terms of sponsorship, six of the 13 free-standing seminaries report that they are sponsored by an eparchy or an arch/diocese and five are sponsored by a religious order.

Collaborative College Seminaries

Collaborative programs usually have a formal relationship with an accredited undergraduate program at a Catholic college or university. They tend to be long-established programs, are typically diocesan-administered, and in many cases had originally been separate, stand-alone programs. This directory includes 16 programs in the category of collaborative college seminaries. The 476 college level seminarians enrolled at the college level in these programs is an increase of 3 seminarians (1%) from the 473 reported last year.

In terms of degrees offered, 14 out of 16 collaborative seminaries offer the BA degree and seven offer the BS. In terms of sponsorship, 15 out of 16 collaborative seminaries reported being sponsored by one or more dioceses. One collaborative seminary is sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross.

List of Collaborative College Seminaries, 2019-2020

	Tuition	Room & board	Diocesan	Religious	Total	Pre-theology	College level
	[\$]	[\$]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, IN	20,340	10,200	41	0	41	0	41
Bishop White Seminary, WA	45,140	15,484	20	0	20	0	20
Borromeo Seminary, OH	41,230	9,700	33	7	40	0	40
Cardinal Glennon College, MO*	21,525	11,700	31	0	31	0	31
Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, NY	6,200	21,500	53	0	53	11	42
Holy Trinity Seminary, TX	39,680	12,020	64	0	64	15	49
Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, MN	36,050	10,400	61	0	61	3	58
Old College Seminary at Notre Dame, IN*	-	15,640	0	9	9	0	9
Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, RI	26,150	13,300	19	0	19	0	19
St. John Fisher Seminary Residence, CT	21,400	8,500	2	0	2	0	2
St. John Vianney College Seminary, MN	40,000	10,500	107	0	107	0	107
St. Joseph College Seminary, NC	21,500	18,500	26	0	26	2	24
St. Mark Seminary, PA	19,736	4,250	11	0	11	4	7
St. Paul Seminary, PA	-	5,250	13	0	13	9	4
St. Pius X Seminary, IA	30,065	9,000	13	0	13	4	9
The College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception - St. Andrew's Hall, NJ*	57,088	12,099	14	0	14	0	14
Total Enrollment / Average Cost	30,436	11,753	508	16	524	48	476

* Also has a theologate division.

Other College Level Formation Programs

Other college seminary residences generally have much smaller numbers of students than free-standing or collaborative college seminaries. They tend to be conducted by religious institutes for their candidates completing college degrees. CARA has identified 23 college-level programs that fit this model. Among them 12 function as joint college and theology residences; the other 11 house only college-level candidates. In 2019-2020, the combined number of priesthood candidates pursuing college-level studies in these residences was 193, excluding pre-theology. Another 97 were enrolled in pre-theology course work. In both cases, these seminarians were not enrolled in programs reported here as theologates, free-standing colleges, or collaborative colleges, and therefore are not double-counted when added to the enrollment totals for these institutions.

College Retention Rate

In addition to a broad liberal arts foundation, college seminaries prepare men with the philosophy coursework required for entrance to a theologate. Moreover, these four years are intended to be a period of discernment. The table below highlights the 2019-2020 class through their four years in college seminary; that is, those who entered in 2016-2017 and who are completing their college studies in 2019-2020. Each class of college seminarians can also be compared to its corresponding cohort in the preceding academic year by following the same diagonal.

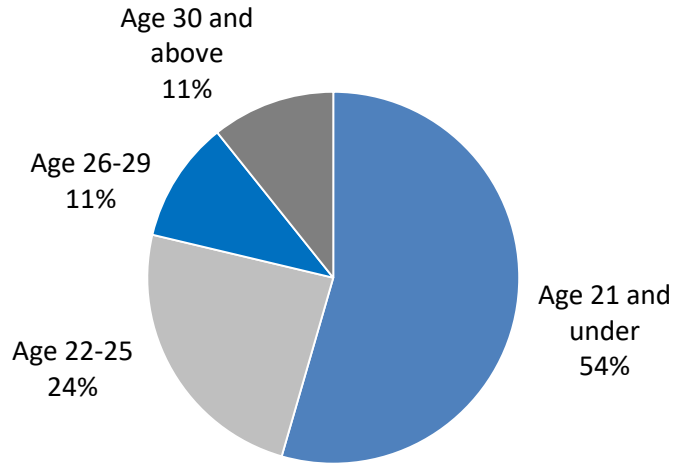
	First Year [#]	Second Year [#]	Third Year [#]	Fourth Year [#]	Retention Rate [%]
2005-2006	281	241	278	257	
2006-2007	335	257	242	250	
2007-2008	346	302	273	217	
2008-2009	322	378	275	208	74
2009-2010	369	310	302	243	73
2010-2011	379	344	243	260	75
2011-2012	374	329	266	228	71
2012-2013	376	379	273	242	66
2013-2014	343	307	275	250	66
2014-2015	308	357	279	241	64
2015-2106	293	330	271	245	65
2016-2017	282	337	272	231	67
2017-2018	255	291	259	245	80
2018-2019	253	277	234	214	73
2019-2020	270	243	221	211	75

Of the 282 seminarians who began college seminary in 2016-2017, 211 are completing their fourth year in 2020. Thus, the retention rate for the Class of 2020 throughout their four years of college seminary is expected to be 75%, higher than the average of 71% for the last 12 years.

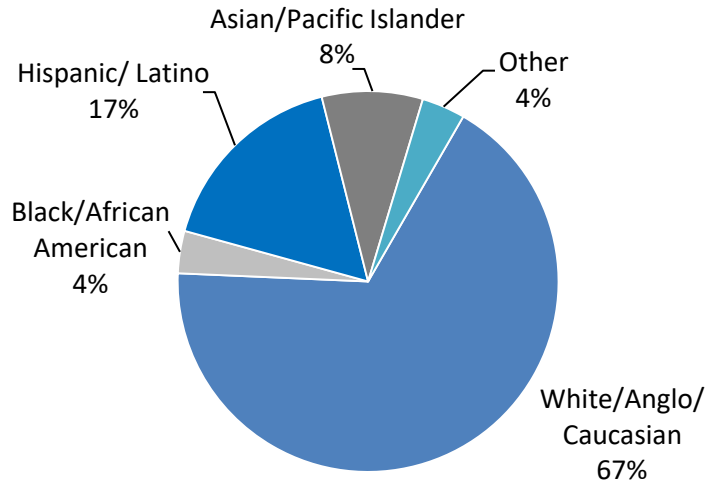
Age Distribution of College Seminarians

The age distribution of priesthood candidates at college seminaries largely mirrors the traditional ages of college enrollment, although one in five college seminarians are men in their late twenties and above. This is due in part to the pre-theology programs at many of these seminaries that prepare men who already have undergraduate degrees in other fields.

The figure at right depicts the age distribution of seminarians enrolled in free-standing or collaborative college seminaries during the 2019–2020 academic year. More than half of these seminarians (54%) are the typical college age of 21 or below. A quarter are between the ages of 22 and 25 and a fifth are older than 25.



Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds of College Seminarians



Two in three college seminarians (67%) are white/Anglo/Caucasian, compared to 60% of theologate seminarians who are white/Anglo/Caucasian. Hispanics/Latinos comprise 17% of the seminarians at college seminaries during the 2019-2020 academic year. Asians/Pacific Islanders and blacks/African Americans make up 12%. Other racial/ethnic categories, including Native Americans and multi-racial seminarians, make up the other 4% of seminarians.

High School Seminaries

In 1967, there were 36 diocesan and 86 religious high school seminaries as well as 17 junior college seminaries, 38 combined high school and junior college seminaries, and a few others that also provided a high school education in a seminary context. Historically, seminaries at this entry level provided important training in Latin, Greek, and other subjects formerly considered essential for advanced seminary studies. Today, only three active high school seminary programs remain, with a combined enrollment of 363 students. These programs are all independent, free-standing institutions. Only one of the three is diocesan (Cathedral Preparatory Seminary in Elmhurst, NY) and the other two are sponsored by a religious institute. One is sponsored by the Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin, and the other is sponsored by the Legionaries of Christ.

The diocesan high school seminary (Cathedral Preparatory Seminary in Elmhurst, NY) does not have a residential program. The two religious high school seminaries do have residential programs. Room and board at the two seminaries with separate charges for a residential program average \$6,560. Tuition across the three seminaries averages \$8,413. Average tuition increased by \$171 or 2% since last year.

High School Seminary Enrollment, 2019-2020			
	Sponsorship	Tuition [\$]	Enrollment [#]
Cathedral Preparatory School and Seminary, NY	diocesan	9,000	171
Sacred Heart Apostolic School, IN	religious	7,000	21
St. Lawrence Seminary, WI	religious	9,240	171
Total Enrollment / Average Cost		8,413	363

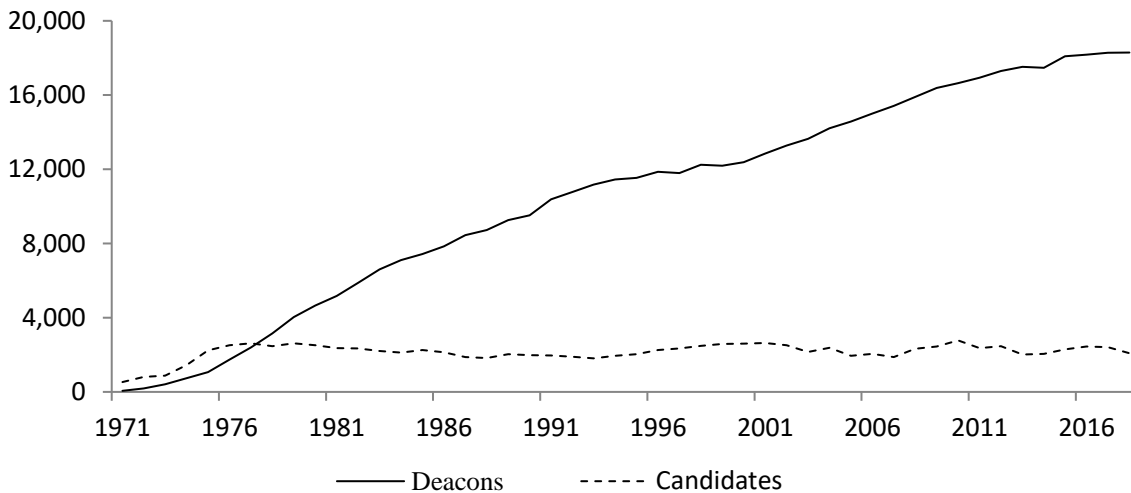
Diaconate Formation

Trends

The number of permanent deacons in the United States has grown steadily since the restoration of this ministry in the years following the Second Vatican Council. The accompanying graph illustrates this increase over 49 years to a total of 18,075 permanent deacons, as reported in *The Official Catholic Directory* in 2018.⁴ The number of permanent deacons declined by 1% from the 18,291 reported in 2019.

CARA completed the first study of diaconate formation programs in 1996–1997 and updated the information at the beginning of each academic year since then. This year, CARA obtained enrollment data from 151 identified diaconate formation programs.

Number of Deacons and Deacon Candidates, 1971-2020



Identified active diaconate formation programs currently exist in 49 states (all except for Montana) and in the District of Columbia. Active programs are found in 150⁵ of the 196 dioceses and eparchies whose bishops belong to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Overall, 19 directors indicated that the program is on hold at this time or currently operated through another diocese, most often because of a change in bishops. Several other programs have been reactivated or newly formed within the last few years; others have been redesigned in light of the new norms for diaconate formation.⁶

⁴ This number includes only the 196 dioceses and eparchies whose bishops belong to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

⁵ The Archdiocese of Chicago operates two administratively separate diaconate formation programs – one in English and one in Spanish.

⁶ *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005).

Overall, 27 of the 151 responding programs report no deacon candidates for the 2019-2020 academic year, although 14 of those programs report that they have aspirants – men who are preparing to become deacon candidates.

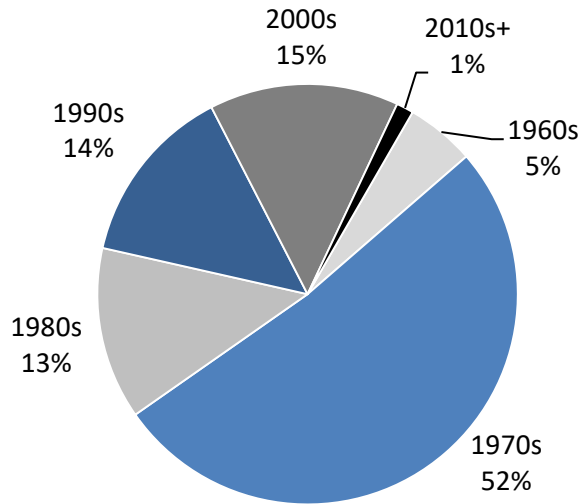
Diaconate Formation Program Enrollment: 1996-2020					
	Aspirants*	Candidates	Average Enrollment	Reporting Programs	Anticipated Ordinations
	 [#]	 [#]	 [#]	 [#]	 [#]
1996-1997		2,347	22	102	149
1997-1998		2,238	22	104	36
1998-1999		2,370	22	109	209
1999-2000		2,497	20	125	552
2000-2001		2,606	21	125	124
2001-2002		2,575	20	126	273
2002-2003	897	2,470	18	135	558
2003-2004	1,240	2,144	16	136	470
2004-2005	958	2,342	17	135	580
2005-2006	1,134	1,903	14	133	444
2006-2007	1,042	2,105	15	141	547
2007-2008	1,067	1,963	14	139	560
2008-2009	1,433	2,319	14	167	582
2009-2010	1,457	2,445	15	168	498
2010-2011	945	2,775	17	172	578
2011-2012	982	2,302	18	158	722
2012-2013	1,098	2,468	16	172	801
2013-2014	1,291	2,018	18	167	521
2014-2015	1,104	2,051	17	166	420
2015-2016	1,082	2,297	17	165	569
2016-2017	1,002	2,670	16	168	523
2017-2018	1,196	2,326	13	175	594
2018-2019	1,073	2,088	13	161	474
2019-2020	840	2,155	14	151	606

*CARA first asked programs to report aspirants in 2002-2003.

The 124 diaconate formation programs that have candidates in formation during the 2019-2020 academic year report 2,155 candidates. This is an increase of 3% from the 2,088 reported by 121 programs in 2018-2019. Furthermore, 75 programs, including 15 programs that have no current deacon candidates, reported 840 aspirants-men who are in a period of discernment prior to entering diaconate formation. The number of aspirants decreased by 22% from the 1,073 reported in 2018-2019, which may be partially explained by the cyclic pattern found in many diaconate formation programs, which often accumulate aspirants for several years and then create a candidacy class who go through formation together.

Active Programs

Out of 151 active diaconate formation programs, all of them reported the year that their program was organized. The average year of organization was 1983. The figure at right shows the proportion of all diaconate formation programs in the United States that were created in each decade. Overall, three in five of all currently active programs (57%) were established before 1980, three in ten (27%) were established in the 1980s and 1990s and one in six (16%) were organized since 2000.⁷



Characteristics of Diaconate Formation Programs

Diaconate formation programs vary considerably according to local needs and situations. Overall, 15 dioceses or eparchies include deacon candidates from other dioceses or eparchies in their program, often to accommodate dioceses that are in the process of reorganizing or creating a new diaconate formation program.

A total of 35 programs offer formation in both Spanish and English, including the Archdiocese of Chicago, which has an administratively separate diaconate formation program in Spanish. Some programs provide separate English-language and Spanish-language tracks within the same program and others conduct some of their classes in Spanish. Additionally, three provide instruction in other languages or train candidates to serve particular ethnic or cultural groups: Rural Deacon Program in the Diocese of Fairbanks conducts its programs in Yupik, Office of Ministries in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance (Syriac) conducts its programs in Arabic, and Office of Diaconate Formation in the Eparchy of Stamford conducts its programs in Ukrainian.

Diaconate formation programs differ in their requirements for admission, program duration and number of required courses, the frequency with which candidates meet, and tuition and fees. Average tuition per academic year among the 109 programs that report a charge for tuition is \$3,006 and the other fees reported by 65 programs average \$517. Typical admission requirements include a period of discernment, recommendation by the candidate’s pastor, the support of the candidate’s wife, letters of reference, psychological testing, and multiple interviews. Overall, three in ten programs (30%) report requiring the MMPI-1 and seven in ten (70%) require the MMPI-2 for admission. Furthermore, one in five (21%) require the Deacon Perceiver, and close to two in five (35%) require clinical interview. Although many programs do not specify academic prerequisites, some stipulate a high school/equivalency diploma or college degree. Overall, three in ten programs (28%) report that deacon candidates must complete a lay ministry formation program as a prerequisite for diaconate formation and almost two in five (35%) of the programs include lay ministry formation as a part of the diaconate formation program.

⁷ Following the recommendations of the Second Vatican Council, the permanent diaconate was re-established on June 18, 1967, by the Apostolic Letter *Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem*. It was approved for the United States on August 30, 1968, the year in which the first four programs were established.

Deacon candidates typically meet one or two evenings or weekends in a month for an average of 157 hours annually in the classroom. They also spend 101 hours in pastoral training annually. Program length ranges from 3 years to 6 years, with an average length of 4.7 years. Shorter programs typically stipulate the prior completion of a ministry formation program. Program costs are often shared by participants, parishes, and dioceses, with the largest share typically paid by the diocese (on average, 68%).

Diaconate Formation Programs with Highest Enrollment, 2019-2020			
	Diaconate Candidates	Aspirants	Anticipated Ordinations in 2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]
Archdiocese of Newark	77	0	37
Archdiocese of St. Louis	67	0	22
Archdiocese of Los Angeles	62	12	12
Diocese of Little Rock	57	0	0
Archdiocese of San Antonio	55	26	8
Archdiocese of Chicago (program in English)	48	13	22
Archdiocese of Philadelphia	45	9	9
Diocese of Dallas	43	0	23
Diocese of Yakima	40	10	20
Diocese of Joliet	38	0	18
Diocese of Fort Worth	38	3	25
Diocese of Orlando	35	19	15
Diocese of Harrisburg	35	0	35
Diocese of Rockford	34	13	15
Diocese of Brooklyn	34	0	0
Diocese of San Bernardino	32	12	10
Archdiocese of Atlanta	31	9	8
Archdiocese of Chicago (program in Spanish)	30	12	8
Diocese of Charleston	30	0	0
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City	29	0	0

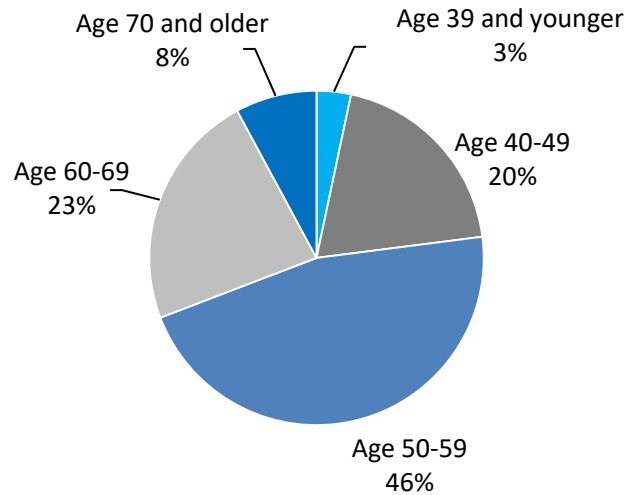
The table above displays 20 largest diaconate formation programs in terms of their total number of diaconate candidates. In total, these 20 programs enroll 860 deacon candidates (40% of all deacon candidates) and have another 138 aspirants in discernment (16% of all aspirants). These 20 programs expect to ordain 287 deacons (47% of all deacon ordinations expected in 2020).

Profile of Diaconate Candidates

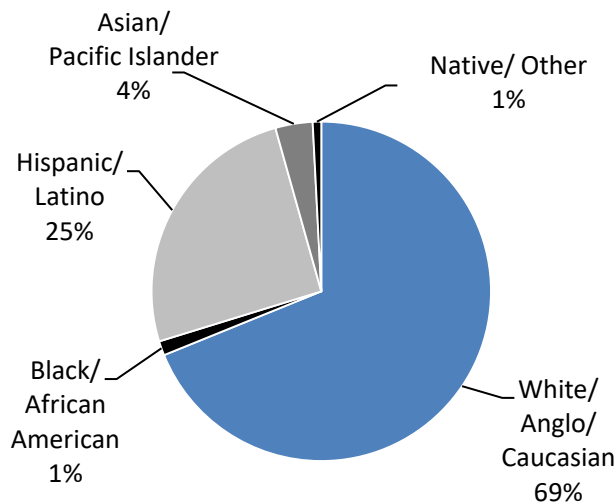
Age Distribution and Marital Status

As the figure at right illustrates, one in four candidates (23%) for the permanent diaconate is in his thirties and forties. Half (46%) are in their 50s and three in ten (31%) are age 60 or older. According to Canon Law, married deacon candidates must be 35 or older to be ordained.

The vast majority of candidates, 95%, are married men. Furthermore, 2% are single, never married, and 2% are widowed or divorced.



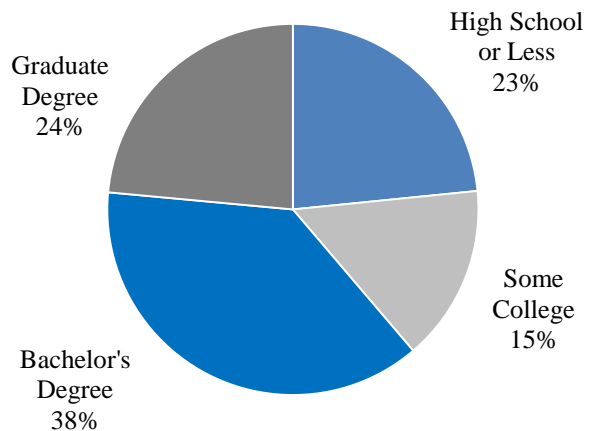
Racial and Ethnic Background



Seven in ten deacon candidates (69%) are white/Anglo/Caucasian. A quarter of deacon candidates in formation programs (25%) are Hispanic/Latino. Asians/Pacific Islanders comprise 4% of deacon candidates and blacks/African Americans comprise 1%. Native Americans, multi-racial, and other ethnicities make up another 1%.

Educational Attainment

One in four deacon candidates (23%) have high school education or less, one in seven (15%) has at least some college education, two in five (38%) have a Bachelor's degree and a quarter (24%) have a graduate degree.



Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation

In 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. In that document, the bishops note that they have been using the terminology of *lay ecclesial minister* and *lay ecclesial ministry* since 1980 in *Called and Gifted: The American Catholic Laity*.

In *Co-Workers*, the USCCB describes lay ecclesial ministry as characterized by:

- *Authorization* of the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local church
- *Leadership* in a particular area of ministry
- *Close mutual collaboration* with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons
- *Preparation and formation* appropriate to the level of responsibilities assigned to them

Lay ecclesial minister is intended to be a generic term, not a specific role description or title. *Co-Workers* states that the ministry is *lay* “because it is service done by lay persons [including vowed religious]. The Sacramental basis [for lay ecclesial ministry] is the Sacraments of Initiation, not the Sacrament of Ordination.” It is *ecclesial* “because it has a place within the community of the Church, whose communion and mission it serves, and because it is submitted to the discernment, authorization, and supervision of the hierarchy.” It is *ministry* “because it is a participation in the threefold ministry of Christ who is priest, prophet and king.”

The longest section of *Co-Workers* is on formation for lay ecclesial ministry. It begins by noting that the Church has always required proper preparation of those who exercise a ministry: it cites Canon 231, which states that “lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the Church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly.” This section of the Ministry Formation Directory documents the development of such formation programs for lay persons in the United States.

Trends

In 1986, the USCCB Committee on the Laity completed the first nationwide study of formation programs designed to prepare lay Catholics for parish-level church ministry. CARA has been conducting studies of lay ministry formation programs nearly every year since 1994. As it has in each of its previous studies, CARA limits the scope of its survey to programs of at least two years’ duration that provide training for professional lay ecclesial ministry.

The role of the laity and their participation in the ministry of the Church has evolved considerably in the decades since the Second Vatican Council. At the same time, the number of formation programs to train lay people for professional church ministry has increased, and many programs have expanded their scope. The number of programs decreased by 35% since the first study of lay ministry formation in 1985-1986 and decreased by 42% since 2009-2010. The number of participants in these programs increased by 8% between 1985-1986 and 2019-2020 and decreased by 37% between 2009-2010 and 2019-2020.

Beginning in 2003-2004, CARA collaborated with the USCCB to improve the data collection so that participants in ministry formation programs who are preparing themselves for lay ecclesial ministry

can be differentiated more accurately from those who are participating in these programs primarily for adult faith formation. Since that time, CARA now asks programs to identify degree candidates and certificate candidates separately, rather than asking only for the total number enrolled in the program. In addition, CARA asks each program to identify more clearly its affiliation with a degree-granting institution, where appropriate. While adult faith formation is vitally important for the Church, the purpose of this part of the Directory is to provide a complete list and to monitor trends among the programs that prepare adults for lay ecclesial ministry in the Church.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Programs, 1986-2020

	States* [#]	Dioceses [#]	Programs [#]	Enrollment [#]
1985-1986	43	110	206	10,500
1994-1995	51	135	265	21,800
1996-1997	46	134	281	20,281
1997-1998	46	135	287	23,333
1998-1999	49	145	295	29,137
1999-2000	46	134	331	31,168
2000-2001	48	142	314	35,582
2001-2002	49	144	314	34,414
2002-2003	49	147	320	36,048
2003-2004	45	142	290	25,964**
2004-2005	46	143	289	18,847
2005-2006	45	122	226	16,037
2006-2007	44	126	253	20,240
2007-2008	44	130	240	18,622
2008-2009	44	119	234	17,538
2009-2010	47	123	233	17,935
2010-2011	45	116	233	18,493
2011-2012	45	111	200	17,452
2012-2013	45	119	227	22,564
2013-2014	43	109	195	22,791
2014-2015	43	104	187	22,145
2015-2016	42	103	184	23,681
2016-2017	41	105	191	19,969
2017-2018	41	102	189	16,585
2018-2019	38	88	149	13,007
2019-2020	37	84	134	11,367

* Includes the District of Columbia.

**Includes 7,630 estimated participants likely enrolled in the 23 programs that did not report enrollment.

Reported enrollment in lay ecclesial ministry formation programs has fluctuated over the 34 years that the data have been collected. This fluctuation in numbers is partly a function of CARA’s work with the USCCB to distinguish more carefully lay ecclesial ministry formation from adult faith formation, as described above. The largest number reported in formation was in 2002-2003, when a record 36,048 total participants were identified.

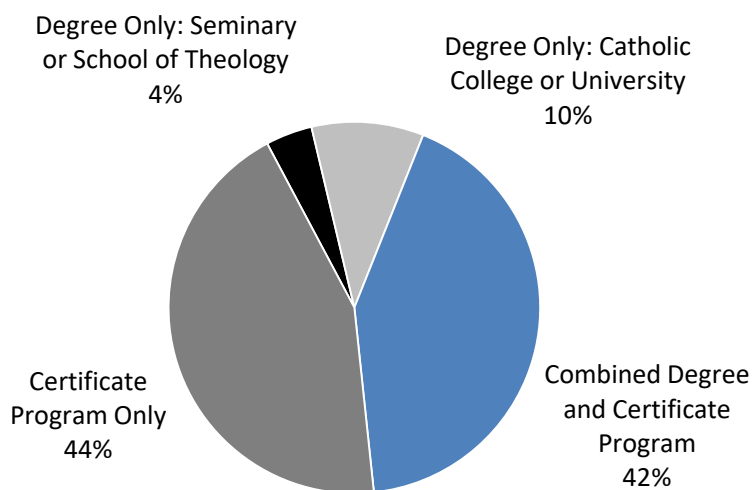
A second reason for the fluctuation is that the number of active programs offering formation in lay ecclesial ministry has also varied widely. CARA works throughout the year to identify new programs that have not been previously listed in the Directory and to clarify the status of other programs that have been discontinued or that did not respond to the survey. In 2019-2020, CARA identified a total of 177 active lay ecclesial ministry formation programs and received program information from 134 active programs, for a response of 76%.⁸ The 134 responding programs in 2019-2020 is a decrease of 10% from the 149 active programs that responded in 2018-2019.

Among the directors of the 134 active programs that responded to repeated requests for information, 13 supplied program information but did not provide any information on their enrollment. The information provided in the table on the next page does not include the participants enrolled in those 13 programs.

The total number of lay ecclesial ministry candidates enrolled in degree and certificate programs in 2019-2020 is 11,367, of which 8,276 (73%) are working toward a certificate in ministry and 3,091 (27%) are working toward a graduate degree in ministry. The total number of enrollees represents a decrease of 13% from the 13,007 candidates reported in 2018-2019.

Program Profile

A number of different types of lay ecclesial ministry formation programs offer either a degree or a certificate in a ministry-related field. CARA asked program directors to classify their program into one of four categories, according to the program’s relationship with a degree-granting institution. The figure at right shows the proportion of programs that place themselves in each of the four categories. Overall, two in five (44%) of all responding programs offer a certificate but no degree.



The following table presents the average number of faculty and students in these four types of programs.

⁸ Overall, 116 programs completed the survey (i.e., reached the end of the survey) for a response rate of 66%. The response rate included in the text is calculated in the same way as in previous years.

	Average Number of Faculty		Average Number of Program Participants	
	Full-time	Part-time	Degree	Certificate
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Degree Program associated with a Catholic Seminary or School of Theology – no certificates	12	10	60	-
Degree Program associated with a Catholic College or University – no certificates	14	6	37	-
Combined Degree and Certificate Program	7	16	41	43
Certificate Program only – no degrees	2	14	-	64

Many lay ecclesial ministry formation programs can be classified as either exclusively diocesan-based or academic-based, but several are the result of collaboration between a diocese and an academic institution. In these cases, often the diocese assumes responsibility for the human, spiritual, and pastoral formation, while the academic institution is responsible for the intellectual formation. Currently, 70 active programs are sponsored or co-sponsored by a diocese, 47 are sponsored or co-sponsored by a college or university, and 14 are sponsored or co-sponsored by a seminary or school of theology. Loyola University in New Orleans operates 18 active programs that are both diocesan-sponsored and university-affiliated through the Loyola Institute for Ministry. CARA received program information from four of these programs in 2019-2020.

In addition to academic and diocesan-based programs, a few independent Catholic organizations sponsor several other programs. Another 11 independent programs in clinical pastoral education (CPE) are offered by Catholic hospitals to train ministers who serve as chaplains in medical settings.

Some programs are designed to meet particular needs in lay ecclesial ministry formation, including programs designed specifically for ministry with and to the Hispanic community (such as the Escuela de Ministerios Pastorales of the Diocese of Oakland), the African American community (the Institute for Black Catholic Studies in New Orleans, LA), and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, which prepares pastoral musicians for certification as a Director of Music Ministries. Another program, the Master of Science in Church Management at Villanova University, is designed to prepare those who are in church leadership and administrative roles who are seeking to become better stewards of church resources by improving their business and management skills.

Degrees and Certificates Offered

Academic-based programs offer academic degrees but many also offer certificates. Similarly, diocesan-based programs affiliated with a seminary, college, or university typically offer opportunities for both academic degrees and certificates. Programs that are exclusively diocesan-sponsored typically offer only non-degree certificates.

Statistical Overview – Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation

Most of the degree-granting programs offer graduate degrees, although a few also grant associate or baccalaureate degrees. The most commonly offered graduate degrees in degree-granting lay ministry programs are the M.A. in Theology (46 programs), M.A. in Pastoral Studies or Pastoral Ministry (42 programs), M.A. in Religious Studies or Religious Education (18 programs), M.Div. (17 programs), D. Min. or Ph.D. in Theology (13 programs).

Overall, 25 programs offer Master's degrees in other areas which include, for example: Church Management, Catholic School Leadership, Catechetics & Evangelization, Biblical Ministry, Hispanic Theology and Ministry, Intercultural Ministry, Justice Ministry, Health Care Mission, Catholic Philosophy, Biblical Studies, Couples & Family Therapy, Transforming Spirituality, Transformational Leadership, and Leadership for the New Evangelization.

Overall, five programs offer other graduate degrees such as: Ph.D. in Religious Education. Th.D.

Degrees Available in Lay Ecclesial Ministry, 2019-2020	
	Programs [#]
M.A. Theology	46
M.A. Pastoral Studies or Pastoral Ministry	42
Master's degree in other areas	25
M.A. Religious Studies or Religious Education	18
M.Div.	17
D. Min. or Ph.D. in Theology	13
Other degrees	5

Most lay ecclesial ministry programs grant certificates of completion. The most common certificate programs are in Pastoral Ministry (52 programs), Religious Education (39 programs), Catechetics (37 programs), and Youth Ministry (31 programs). Certificates in other areas include, for example: Spiritual Companionship, Lay Leadership, Retreat Planning, Spiritual Direction/Faith Companionship, Adult Faith Formation and Parish Leadership, Hispanic Theological and Pastoral Studies, Lay Mission in the World, Charity and Justice, Catholic Spirituality, Matrimonial Advocacy, Bereavement Ministry, Jail Chaplaincy, Catholic Scripture Studies, Marriage and Family Life, Baptismal Preparation, Clinical Bioethics, Health Care Mission Leadership, Asian Theology and Ministry, Black Theology and Ministry, Monastic Studies, Catholic School Administration, Catholic Evangelization, Detention/Reintegration Ministry, and Ignatian Spirituality.

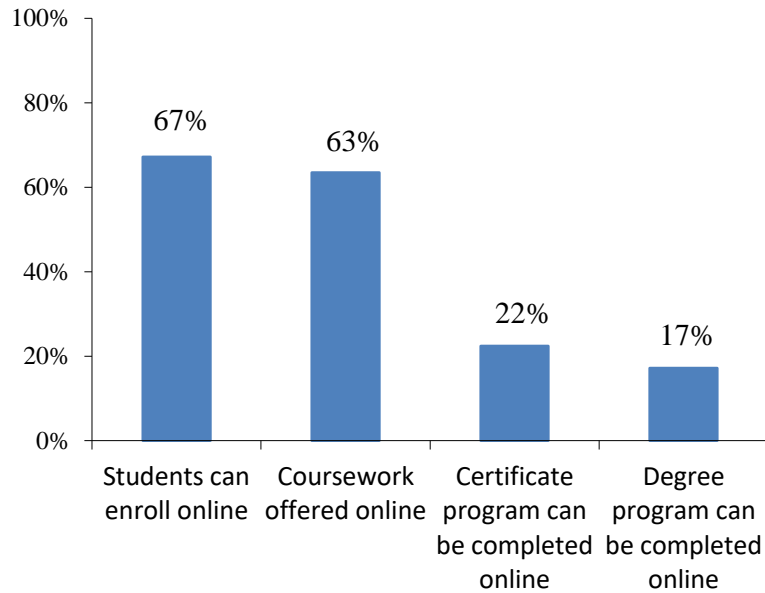
Certificates Available in Lay Ecclesial Ministry, 2019-2020

	Programs [#]
Certificate in other areas	84
Certificate in Pastoral Ministry	52
Certificate in Religious Education	39
Certificate in Catechetics	37
Certificate in Youth Ministry	31
Certificate in Theology	27
Certificate in Liturgy	23
Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education	12
Certificate in Pastoral Administration	8
Certificate in Music	4

Distance Learning and Online Coursework

In addition to the extension programs described earlier, a number of programs are being developed to take advantage of the Internet as a tool for expanding their reach to a wider audience. Several programs offer some coursework online and a few offer their entire program online. Overall, 30 programs report that their certificate program can be completed online and 23 programs report that they have a degree program that can be completed online. The figure at right shows the proportion of programs that report offering some part of their program online.

Availability of Online Programs



Language of Instruction

Lay ecclesial ministry formation programs are conducted in a variety of languages. The majority (72%) uses only English as the primary language of instruction, 4% are taught only in Spanish, and 24% use both English and Spanish.

Spiritual Formation and Field Education

Although academic formation is indispensable to lay ecclesial ministry formation, human, spiritual, and pastoral formation are also essential components of formation for ministry. Overall, among the 134 responding active programs, one in eight (13%) say that only formal spiritual formation is required of program participants, the same share (13%) report that the program includes only a field education/internship requirement, and a third (34%) require both (others did provide a response to this question). The table below separates the programs by type and displays the proportion within each type of program that require a spiritual formation component as well as the proportion that require a component of field education/internship.

	Spiritual Formation Component [%]	Field Education/Internship [%]
Degree Program associated with a Catholic Seminary or School of Theology – no certificates	40	60
Degree Program associated with a Catholic College or University – no certificates	17	58
Combined Degree and Certificate Program	60	54
Certificate Program only – no degrees	46	43

Size of Program

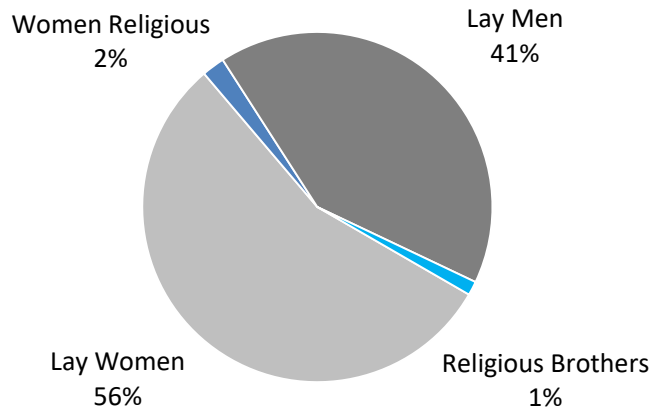
Eight programs report more than 100 degree candidates enrolled in 2019-2020. The 1,397 degree candidates enrolled in these programs represent 45% of all degree candidates enrolled in reporting programs. These eight programs also report 142 students working toward a certificate (2% of all certificate candidates reported).

**Lay Ecclesial Ministry Programs with Highest Enrollment
in Degree Programs, 2019-2020**

	Candidates for	
	Degree	Certificate
	[#]	[#]
M.A. in Theology, Augustine Institute, CO	311	7
School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College, MA	225	26
M.A. in Catechetics & Evangelization, Franciscan U. Steubenville, OH	198	0
Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education, Fordham U., NY	153	12
Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, WA	147	15
Catholic Theological Union, IL	129	3
Christendom Graduate School of Theology, Christendom College, VA	121	64
Catholic Distance University, WV	113	15

Profile of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program Participants

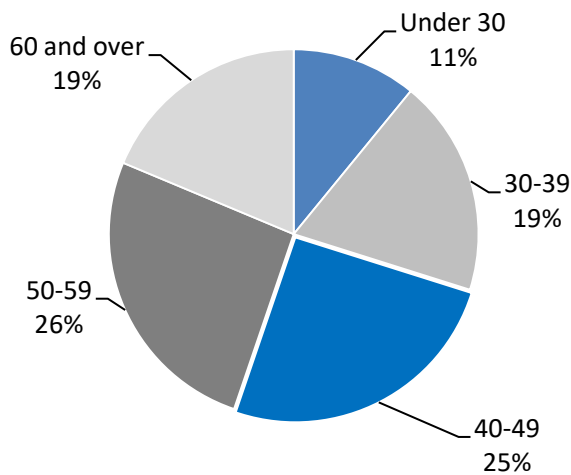
To reflect more accurately the lay composition of these programs, CARA asked program directors to exclude any priests and deacons from their reported statistics about program participants. Three in five lay ecclesial ministry program participants (58%) are women (including women religious).



The figure at right displays all Catholic participants in these lay ecclesial ministry programs according to their ecclesial status.

Both men and women religious are more likely to be enrolled in degree programs than to be enrolled in certificate programs. Lay men and women who are not members of a religious institute are three times as likely to be enrolled in a certificate program as in a degree program. Lay women enrolled in a certificate program make up 56% of all Catholic lay ecclesial ministry program participants.

Age Distribution of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program Participants



Half of students in lay ecclesial ministry formation programs (51%) are in their forties and fifties. Three in ten (30%) are under the age of 40 and one in five (19%) is age 60 and older.

Students enrolled in degree programs are typically somewhat younger than those enrolled in certificate programs. Two-fifths of the degree program enrollees (44%) are under age 40, compared to a quarter (24%) of certificate program enrollees. Overall, 12% of degree program enrollees are age 60 and older, compared to 22% of certificate students who are 60 or older.

Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program Participants

Hispanics/Latinos make up half (48%) of participants in lay ecclesial ministry formation programs. White/Anglo/Caucasian participants make up two in five (41%). Blacks/African Americans make up another 4%, while Asian/Pacific Islanders make up 2%. Others (including Native Americans) make up 5% of enrollees in these programs.

Hispanics/Latinos comprise half (48%) of the total lay ecclesial ministry program participants but are disproportionately enrolled in certificate programs.

Hispanics/Latinos make up 15% of students enrolled in degree programs and 64% of students enrolled in certificate programs.

In contrast, whites/Anglos/Caucasians make up 41% of the lay ecclesial ministry program participants but comprise 63% of degree candidates and 30% of certificate candidates. Blacks/African Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders and other racial/ethnic groups comprise 11% of students in degree and certificate programs.

