

Holy Cross Statement on Educational Effectiveness

As its vision and mission statements affirm, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology strives to be the intellectual, educational and spiritual formation center of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by stimulating, developing, and sustaining ordained and lay vocations for service to Church and society. In its pursuit of educational excellence, Holy Cross undergoes continuous self-assessment of its curriculum, spiritual and pastoral formation, student life, and faculty. Ongoing assessment is based on direct and indirect measures of student performance in connection with clearly defined program goals and learning outcomes. Our educational vitality depends on continuous monitoring, evaluation, and enhancement of our degree programs.

Graduation and Retention Rates

Holy Cross seeks to recruit a capable and committed student body. The School of Theology works to assist its students in reaching their academic and formational potential by completing their chosen degree program in a timely and successful manner.

For the Master of Divinity program (MDiv) the following rates are based on a four-year period:

- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 94%
- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 90%

- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 100%
- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 100%

For the Master of Theological Studies program (MTS) the following rates are based on a two-year period:

- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 80%
- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 33%

- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 67%
- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 67%

For the Master of Theology program (ThM) the following rates are based on a four-year period:

- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 67%
- Graduation rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 20%

- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2009: 83%
- Retention rate for students entering in Fall 2010: 100%

Employment and Further Study upon Graduation

Of the 196 degrees awarded between 2010 to 2014, seventy-eight percent (78%) of graduates report being employed either in a church-related ministry (115 graduates; ordained or lay) or some other type of employment (38 graduates). Twenty-six graduates (13% of all graduates) report that they are pursuing further studies. Seventeen students did not respond to the Admission's Office inquiry.

Spring 2010-Spring 2014:

- Degrees granted: 196
- In further studies: 26 (13%)
- Employed: 153 (78%)
 - In the Church: 115
 - Elsewhere: 38
- Between positions, or did not respond: 17 (9%)

Student Satisfaction with Degree Programs

Qualitative (indirect) assessment of educational effectiveness as reported by students (student evaluations of their educational experience; 2010-2014) revealed that:

- Graduates of all three degree programs reported satisfaction with their academic experience at Holy Cross as an aggregate rating of 3.64 (1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied).
- Graduates of the MDiv degree program reported satisfaction with the program's effectiveness in the area of ministerial skills as an aggregate rating across all objectives as 3.86 (1 = very dissatisfied; 5 = very satisfied).

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