



DISCERNING TOGETHER:

Talking with Loved Ones about
Graduate Studies in Theology + Ministry



BOSTON COLLEGE
School of Theology and Ministry

| MISSION STATEMENT |

The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM) is an international theological center that serves the Church's mission in the world as part of a Catholic and Jesuit university. STM is committed to the Catholic theological tradition, which encompasses academic inquiry, interdisciplinary study, ecumenical dialogue, interreligious encounter, and the engagement of faith and culture.

STM prepares its students for leadership in lay and ordained ministries and for service rooted in faith—in increasingly multicultural contexts. Theological research and reflection, spirituality, and pastoral practice are integral to the School's life and mission.

STM offers graduate programs, including civil and ecclesiastical degrees in theology and ministry, that integrate intellectual, spiritual, pastoral, and personal formation. Drawing on the Ignatian tradition and rich diversity of its students, faculty, and staff, STM fosters a community that is contemplative, critical, and collaborative. The School reaches out to larger theological and ecclesial communities through scholarly research, timely publications, ministerial practice, and continuing education programs.

Why would I need a master's degree from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM)?

To effectively serve God and others, ministers and theologians must be equipped with a rigorous academic grounding in theology and ministry, rooted in faith. At the STM, we believe that theological inquiry must be oriented outward, toward service to and transformation of our Church and world. We define ministry broadly to include service in faith communities as well as teaching, leadership, and social services. No matter how our graduates choose to serve, we are convinced that good ministry must rest on solid theological formation.




Is financial support available?

Yes! All master's degree students at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry receive financial support.

In addition to tuition support, the STM has available a number of graduate assistant and research assistant positions, which provide a generous stipend to students in exchange for 10–20 hours of work per week (depending on the position). This helps offset the cost of housing and living expenses. In addition to these positions at the STM, the Boston College Office of Graduate Student Life maintains a list of campus-wide positions to which all Boston college graduate students are eligible to apply.

Students also receive financial assistance for retreats and spiritual direction during their degree program.

Our commitment is not just financial. We hope that our scholarships are the beginning of a journey of support that students will receive during the course of their studies. We aim to support students holistically from admission through graduation to professional placement, with a focus on their formation as leaders and agents of transformation for today's Church and world.



The STM prepares leaders and agents of transformation for today's Church and world.

What kind of opportunities are available to our students after graduation?

Our graduates serve in a wide range of ministries, including high school teaching, high school campus ministry, college campus ministry, university and seminary professorships, higher education administration, further graduate studies, parish ministry, hospital chaplaincy, and various social service and non-profit positions.

Ninety-five percent of students find placement (employment or further studies) within six months of graduating.

What kind of support awaits students when they arrive?

We are committed to ensure that our students thrive in every way once they join our academic community! Upon enrollment, students are matched with an academic advisor who will support their academic journey at the STM until graduation. Advisors will provide guidance about course selection, navigating the challenges of theological studies, and thinking through what might await our graduates after their time at the STM.

Our Student Affairs, Formation, and Career Services Team is an incredible resource. Through individual support and thoughtful programming, the STM students are offered myriad opportunities for personal, spiritual, ministerial, and intellectual growth.

Faculty members, administrators, and staff members work at the STM for a reason! Each team member is rooted in their own sense of vocation—one that centers on the formation of future leaders, ministers, and theologians for the Church and the world.

Graduate school is challenging, and it is supposed to be! We hope to encourage our students to explore new questions and opportunities and to expand their horizons and their communities of engagement while always supporting them along the way.

How can admitted students find housing in Boston from a distance?

The STM has several strategies to support admitted students in finding housing in Boston. After being admitted and confirming their enrollment, students are invited into the STM's community Facebook group, where housing opportunities are posted frequently. Often, these posts come from current students who already have an apartment and are looking for new roommates.

The admissions office also sends out a questionnaire to admitted students, which helps incoming students find compatible roommates.

There are a number of established intentional living communities in the Boston area. The application process to join those communities usually opens each spring after students are admitted.

Boston College's Off-Campus Housing Office also maintains an off-campus housing database with local housing opportunities. They also host webinars during the spring and summer and help students navigate the housing process.

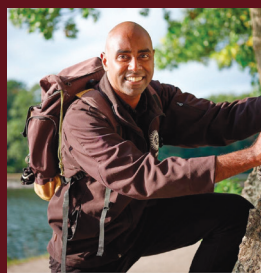


How can loved ones and friends accompany prospective students in their discernment?

Be supportive. Studying theology and ministry is a life-defining decision. Pray regularly for the relative or friend discerning this calling, and ask them if there are particular ways you can support their discernment.

Life in Boston is expensive and graduate students need to devote as much time as possible to their studies. Consider some financial support: books, one or two months of rent, funds for meals, winter clothing, etc. Any help is a lot of help. Engage your faith community and invite them to support the STM student you know.

Encounter **MORE**



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