

Mount Angel Seminary Academic Catalog 2011-2012

Mount Angel Seminary is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). Accreditation of Mount Angel Seminary is based upon the seminary's status at the time of printing of this catalog. Accreditations are subject to review and modification from time to time.

Mount Angel Seminary is a member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), Midwest Association of Theological Schools (MATS), National Association of College Seminaries (NACS), National Federation of Spiritual Directors (NFSD), College and University Personnel Association (CUPA), Association for Theological Field Education (ATFE), Catholic Association for Theological Field Education (CATFE), Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers (APPA), National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (WASFAA), Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA), Northwest Regional Office for Hispanic Affairs, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), and the American Management Association (AMA).

The content of this document is provided for the information of all Mount Angel Seminary students. It is accurate at the time of printing but is subject to change from time to time as deemed appropriate by the seminary in order to fulfill its role and mission or to accommodate to circumstances beyond its control. Any such changes may be implemented without prior notice and without obligation and, unless specified otherwise, are effective when made.

Mount Angel Seminary • 503.845.3951 • fax: 503.845.3128
email: registrar@mtangel.edu • website: www.mountangelabbey.org



The Mother of God from the mosaic of The Annunciation
at Mount Angel Seminary

Abbreviations for the Catalog and Rule of Life:

CPE – Clinical Pastoral Education

OT – *Optatam Totius*

SC – *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

PPF – Program of Priestly Formation

LG – *Lumen Gentium*

PDV – *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

ISP – Intensive Spirituality Program

BA – Bachelor of Arts

MA – Master of Arts

MDiv – Master of Divinity



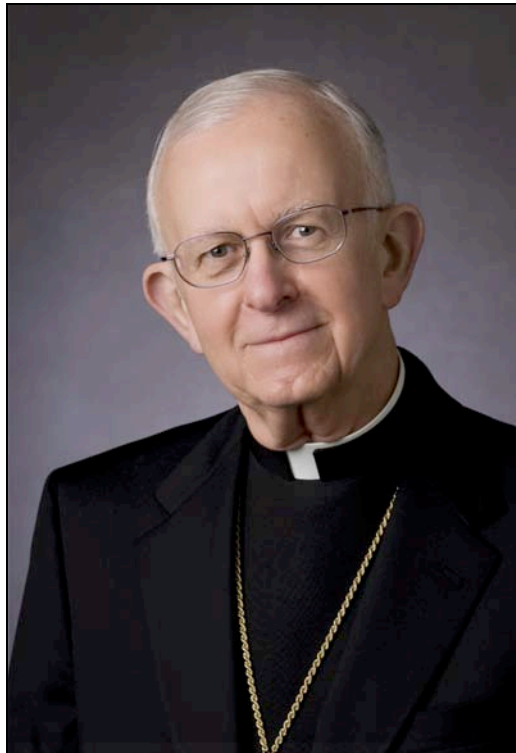
Additional mosaic images from Mount Angel Seminary

The Archdiocese of Portland is deeply grateful for the long tradition of excellent service our priests and people have received from Mount Angel Seminary.

The Seminary program shows consistent sensitivity to the cultural, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral needs of its students and is an indispensable partner in our evangelizing mission here in the Northwest. Both seminarians and candidates for other ministries in the Church find here an impressive commitment to provide whatever students and the Church need.

I wholeheartedly recommend Mount Angel Seminary to one and all.

Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon



Thank you for reviewing our new seminary catalog! In it you will find described the courses of theological and undergraduate studies here at Mount Angel Seminary, a specialized school of priestly formation that is situated on a little mountain in Oregon's beautiful Willamette Valley south of Portland. Not unlike the significant mountains of Biblical times and places, it is a special place of encounter with the Lord, a place where our seminarians and other ministerial students find a designed integration of their love of learning with their desire for God.

Also located on this holy mountain is a Benedictine monastery, and therefore the personal, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation that takes place here is enriched by the presence of a stable praying community and by a certain Benedictine charism that enriches the seminary's purposes of solid formation in the various areas of the Church's own theology and spirituality. Those who abide for a while with the Lord on this little mountain to learn of him and open their lives to his Spirit and to his word, go forth well prepared to serve the Lord and to minister to his holy people! Thank you again for your interest!

Right Reverend Gregory Duerr, O.S.B.
Abbot and Chancellor of Mount Angel Seminary



Dear Friends of Mount Angel Seminary,

I am delighted to present the Seminary's 2011-12 Seminary Academic Catalog. I'm especially proud of the community—seminarians, students, faculty, and staff—and the academic programs this publication represents.

The catalog reflects changes in the Seminary's curricula, on both the graduate and undergraduate levels, and in our English Communications Program. I'm grateful for the efforts of those who have worked to define and sharpen our institutional vision. In turn, that vision is being translated into courses and degree requirements, which will meet the needs of our students and of God's people whom they will serve.

I am also pleased to present the seminary Rule of Life. This "Rule" finds its foundation in the 5th edition of the Program of Priestly Formation composed and promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It serves as a blueprint for seminarians in the development of virtues, qualities, and a spiritual life that will help them to be priests shaped according to the mind of God and the Church.

All that we do at Mount Angel Seminary, we do for the sake of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and advancing his kingship on earth— while remaining firmly rooted in the "good soil" of the Church's living Tradition. We appreciate and welcome your participation in our work. Please pray for us who serve here, that we might always remain faithful to our vocations, to the Gospel, and to that Tradition.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Richard Paperini
President-Rector of Mount Angel Seminary



Mission Statement

Mount Angel Seminary, an apostolate of the Benedictine monks of Mount Angel Abbey, is a school of which the primary purpose is the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation of men for the Roman Catholic priesthood. The Seminary is comprised of a Graduate School of Theology and a College of Liberal Arts. For seminarians requiring additional preparation to enter the Graduate School and College, the Seminary has Pre-Theology and English Communications programs. In addition, the Graduate School of Theology offers a theological education to qualified laymen and women. The Seminary's programs adhere to the norms established by the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as stated in the Program of Priestly Formation.

Approved by the Seminary Board of Directors



History of Mount Abbey and Seminary

In central Italy, sometime in the first half of the sixth century, an abbot, known to posterity as St. Benedict, wrote down his rule for monks. By that time Christian monasticism had been developing for over two hundred years. Christian monks had written many books of maxims, rules, and theology, explaining their way of life as hermits or as monks and nuns living in community. St. Benedict was familiar with this earlier monastic tradition. With a discerning eye he selected the ideas and regulations he wished to retain; then he wove these into a rule that was destined to have an enormous influence in the history of Western Christianity.

St. Benedict's insistence that his monks learn to read in order to celebrate the liturgy of the Church and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures (*lectio divina*) helped to keep literacy alive. The monks' copying of manuscripts preserved the classical literary tradition of the ancient world. Openness to the world through hospitality, the reception of youth into the monastery to be trained as monks and spiritual direction necessitated a living awareness of the riches of the Church's biblical and patristic tradition. During much of the Middle Ages, Benedictine monks were the schoolmasters of Europe, and a Benedictine monk, Anselm of Canterbury, is rightly considered one of the founders of scholasticism.



Mount Angel Abbey Church and Monastery

In the high Middle Ages monasteries were eclipsed by the rise of the mendicant orders (Franciscans, Dominicans, etc.) who occupied places of honor in the developing universities and included in their numbers St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure, among the greatest of the Church's theologians. Nonetheless, monasteries continued their quiet witness of prayer, hospitality, and learning. Like most religious communities in Europe, however, Benedictines suffered greatly from the devastation caused by the Protestant Reformation, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. By the middle of the nineteenth century, few remained of the thousands of Benedictine houses that once filled Europe. Among the few to survive was a monastery nestled in a beautiful Alpine valley in Switzerland: Engelberg, "Mount of Angels."

In 1882, during the Kulturkampf, religious houses in the German-speaking world found themselves in danger. In 1882, a small group of Benedictine monks from Engelberg arrived in Oregon to found an abbey similar to the one they had left behind in Switzerland. They chose a large hill at the edge of the Willamette Valley as its site, a hill the local Native Americans called Tapalamaho. In earlier times the Native Americans had come often to pray within its thick fir forest. The monks settled on that hill, built their monastery, and continued their own ancient traditions of work and prayer.

One of the works was a school. The monks opened Mount Angel College in 1887. In 1889, Archbishop William Gross of Oregon City asked the monks to establish a seminary in conjunction with the college. Gradually the school became more specialized, its focus the education of young men for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

As the Church's needs, expectations, and ideas about ministry have changed, so has the seminary. Although the primary focus is still the education of priestly ministers for (arch)dioceses and religious communities, once again the school is open to non-seminarians who are looking for an excellent education in preparation for some aspect of ministry within the Church. Tapalamaho looks very different today. Its fir forest has been transformed into open spaces surrounded by buildings and gardens. Monks and students hasten to class, and visitors arrive to view the church and museums, yet the natural beauty and the feeling of God's presence that attracted its first inhabitants still inspire all who live and visit here.



An aerial view of the buildings that house and support the ministries of Mount Angel Abbey

The abbey retreat house, Benet Hall, is an important witness to the Benedictine tradition of Christian service through hospitality. Organized and private retreats take place at Benet Hall year-round, and in the spirit of ecumenism, people of all faiths are welcomed. Family and friends of seminarians may stay at the retreat house when they visit. The seminary also uses the facility for faculty in-service days and various meetings, and it is the site of seminars and symposia.

St. Joseph Chapel, located under the Abbey Church, is the primary site of seminary liturgies. It is used for Morning Prayer, Eucharist, and Evening Prayer, as well as for Evenings of Quiet, Benediction, and special conferences. Chapels in the residence buildings, Aquinas Hall and Anselm Hall, are available for private and small group prayer.

Mount Angel Abbey Library, designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, speaks of the Benedictines' long commitment to learning. The library is also essential to the intellectual and spiritual life of the seminary. Home to over 200,000 volumes and periodicals, the library stands at the center of the learning task, its collection an invitation to the student to study in breadth and in depth.

Aquinas Hall and Anselm Hall, both recently renovated, are situated on either side of the library. Together they provide housing for all seminarians except monks, who are invited to live within the monastery. Both halls offer comfortable private living quarters, spaces for community gathering and for prayer.

In 2006 the hilltop celebrated the completion of Annunciation, a national award winning state-of-the-art "green" building that houses administrative and faculty offices, lecture theaters, student areas, and a dedicated preaching room.

The Damian Center contains excellent facilities for athletics, including a basketball court, a racquetball court, a sauna, and locker facilities.

In 1982, Mount Angel Abbey celebrated its first centennial. The Third Millennium finds us confident in God, trustful of His merciful Providence, and sure of His guidance.



Institutional Goals

Human Formation

- To provide opportunities for personal growth and character development for candidates to the Priesthood, so that they can become virtuous men of the Church who demonstrate affective maturity and reflect as far as possible the human perfection of Jesus Christ.
- To provide a climate that supports a commitment to a chaste celibate life-style and fosters a process of lifelong conversion.
- To promote an environment that is respectful of diversity in culture, age and education in order for students to reflect the Gospel and the person of Christ and to enhance ministerial strengths.



Students from the Carmelite House of Studies with the mosaic of the Annunciation in the background

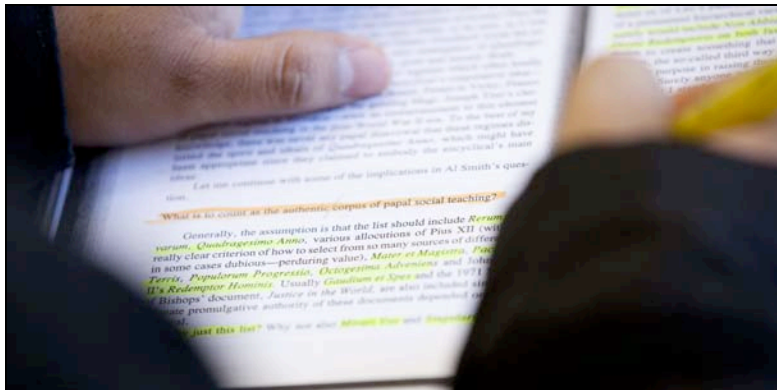
Spiritual Formation

- To oversee certain aspects of the liturgical life of the Seminary and to provide those elements traditionally mandated or recommended by the Church for the spiritual growth of seminarians so that they develop continuously and progressively in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, in their commitment to the Church, and in living with integrity their priestly vocation through prayer, simplicity of life, obedience, pastoral service and celibate chastity.



Intellectual Formation

- To offer academic formation for undergraduate and pre-theology seminarians that introduces them to wide dimensions of human learning and the cultural roots of their faith, and assists them in development of skills in communication and critical thinking in order to prepare them intellectually for graduate theological studies.



- To provide for graduate students a theological education that covers the range of Christian doctrine, so that, theologically informed and solidly grounded in the Catholic tradition, they can teach, preach and celebrate with knowledge and skill in ordained and other ecclesial ministries.

Pastoral Formation

- To provide ministerial experiences, pastoral skills and opportunities for theological reflection for seminarians, so that they can become effective pastoral ministers who model and live servant leadership.

