

**CSD PRE-REQUISITES GUIDE:** 30 hours course work in theology or the equivalent may be fulfilled in a variety of ways, as outlined below, either before beginning the CSD program or during the course of the program (as co-requisites rather than pre-requisites). Please keep the Director of CSD updated on each completion, in order to track your progress.

1. Theology (THL) **courses: either for credit or audit:** Spring Hill College graduate courses may be taken for “Easy Listening” (informal audit), at a significantly reduced tuition and with no grade or required assignments. A form verifying participation in the course, signed by the instructor, will confirm the completion of the equivalent credit hours. For a list of current offerings, visit the webpage: [www.shc.edu/theology](http://www.shc.edu/theology) (or use the direct link <http://departments2.shc.edu/graduatetheology/>)

Courses may also be taken at other approved institutions.

2. Approved **non-credit theology courses offered online**, such as Notre Dame’s STEP program or Boston College’s STM-Crossroads. Other programs, similar to these, may also be approved upon request.

**For non-credit courses, 10-12 contact hours are equivalent to one credit hour (additional reading and reflection papers would increase the number of equivalent hours).**

- STEP [<https://mcgrath.nd.edu/online-courses/step/>] Satellite Theological Education Program at Notre Dame University offers online, non-credit courses, from 15 to 35 contact hours
- Crossroads [<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads.html>] at Boston College School of Theology & Ministry offers online non-credit courses, certificates and free mini-courses. Also available in Spanish (Formacion Continua): <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/formacion-continua/cursos.html>
- University of Dayton’s VLCFF (virtual learning community for faith formation): offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Charleston and other US dioceses
- Education for Ministry (EfM) program, offered by Suwanee University, for lay ministry preparation in Episcopal parishes

3. **Audio courses** (CDs) in theology are offered by several companies, including The Teaching Company and Learn25 (aka Now You Know Media). For each course, note the number of listening hours, the number and topic of each lecture or section, and provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of each lecture or section. These audio courses may also be available at a local library or in the parish or diocesan library; several are available through Amazon Audible.

- Learn25 (=NYK Media) specializes in Catholic theology, with a large catalog of well known scholars and teachers, including biblical, historical, dogmatic, moral and spiritual theology: <https://learn25.com/>; OR <https://www.nowyouknowmedia.com/> [**The theology department at Spring Hill College has a number of these courses available in our small lending library; list of titles available upon request**]
- The Teaching Company has a few theology courses among its hundreds of offerings in The Great Courses series, including Catholic scholars such as Luke Timothy Johnson (biblical theology): <http://www.thegreatcourses.com/>

- Word on Fire Institute (Bishop Robert Barron) offers a number of courses, some of which would satisfy the prerequisite: <https://wordonfire.institute>

4. Parish or Diocesan programs (**workshops or special conferences**), such as “Just Faith” or “Little Rock Scripture Study” or theologically strong RCIA programs, biblical studies, etc. For these programs, please note the number of contact hours (how many sessions, how many hours for each session, how much outside study or reading, if any) as well as the themes covered, and provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of each session or theme.

5. Reading tutorials: **personal study of approved books** in the basic areas of theology (biblical, historical, moral, dogmatic or systematic). For each book prepare a summary or outline of each chapter and a final reflection paper on the insights gained from the book as a whole. THIS IS THE “LAST OPTION” and is only helpful for those who have to fulfill the equivalent of just a few credit hours. Depending on its length and quality, one book (including the preparation of written summaries) would usually satisfy one credit or less.

SOME SUGGESTED AUTHORS (BOOKS AND AUDIO): a very small selection; there are many, many more worthwhile authors and titles.

BIBLICAL; two short books by good scholars who are also serious about spirituality: Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Real Jesus* (which also gives an introduction to some of the controversies in contemporary scholarship and a bit of historical overview); NT Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus* and *Paul in Fresh Perspective*.

HISTORICAL/SYSTEMATIC, John O'Malley, SJ has a couple of books and audio books (Now You Know Media) which are very helpful overviews: *The Council of Trent: Answering the Reformation and Reforming the Church*; *2,000 Years of Papal History from Peter to Benedict XVI*; and another one on the great ecumenical councils of the Church, *For Christ Assembled: the Church's Ecumenical Councils; Catholic History for Today's Church: How Our Past Illuminates Our Present*. He also has popular articles and books on Vatican II. Other scholars from NYKM, such as: Fr. Richard Lennan, *Understanding the Theology of Church*; John R. Sachs, SJ, *Who is God? Exploring our Trinitarian Faith*; Thomas Scinghi, SJ, *Signs of God's Grace: A Journey through the Sacraments*; William Harmless, SJ, *St. Augustine: Life, Eloquence and Theology*

MORAL/ETHICS: Kenneth Himes, OFM, *Catholic Moral Theology* (fundamental moral theology; it would also be worth finding a good presentation on Catholic social teaching); Kenneth Himes, ed., *Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretation*; James F. Keenan, *A History of Catholic Moral Theology in the Twentieth Century: From Confessing Sins to Liberating Consciences*; Thomas Massaro, SJ, *Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action*