



Holy Apostles College & Seminary's House of Discernment Program

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” 1 Peter 2:9

The House of Discernment Program, offered by Holy Apostles College & Seminary, is designed for those that are discerning a call to the Catholic priesthood. This program is structured for those who wish to test the waters of seminary life prior to seeking sponsorship from a diocese or religious order.

As a House of Discernment student, you will participate in a full time on-campus academic program, residing on the same grounds as our seminarians. You will also be invited to join in the communal prayers, faith formation, and recreational activities with the seminarians. Our program offers a supportive environment for those who are discerning their calling, and our staff is dedicated to providing guidance and assistance throughout the discernment process.

Should you discover a deeper call to the priesthood during your time with us, we encourage you to share your thoughts with your Holy Apostles spiritual director. With your expressed interest, we may be able to write a letter of recommendation and help you connect with a diocese or religious community that aligns with your unique spirituality and calling. While we cannot guarantee placement, we are committed to supporting you in your journey.

We welcome those who are considering a vocation to the Catholic priesthood to explore the House of Discernment Program at Holy Apostles College & Seminary. We invite you to apply and join us on this path of spiritual discernment.



Questions about the House of Discernment Program:

- 1) **Do I have to be a US citizen or have permanent residence in the US?**

We accept both national and international students.

- 2) **Is there an age range for who can be accepted?**

The age range is 18 to 40 years old.

- 3) **Which programs can I enroll in?**

For those needing an undergraduate degree, you may enroll in our bachelor's in philosophy degree program, which is what our undergraduate seminarians here on campus study.

If you are pursuing a Master's level degree, we would recommend the Master's of Divinity, or Master's in Theology, but you are welcome to take any Master's level program we offer on campus.

- 4) **How long can I stay and discern?**

Each student may stay on campus for the duration of their academic program during our Fall and Spring semesters. This allows graduates to stay for up to 2 years in the program and undergraduates to stay for up to 4 years in order to complete their degree while discerning. During your stay, you will need to uphold the academic requirements put forth by the academic program.

- 5) **Will there be a type of semester evaluation done of my progress and performance?**

Each semester, there will be a mutual check-in about 10 weeks into the semester with both you and an appointed representative from Holy Apostles to make sure you would like to recommit to another semester in our HOD program.

At no point is a student required to stay beyond what they have discerned. Please keep in mind that if you are an international student, you may need to return home upon leaving, depending on the terms of your visa.



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- 6) Will I need to be a full-time student?**
Yes, House of Discernment students must be enrolled “full time” at Holy Apostles, just as our seminarians are.
- 7) Would I be assigned a spiritual director during my stay?**
Yes, like seminarians, you will be provided with a spiritual director to assist you with the discernment process and answer any discernment questions you may have.
- 8) What activities will be expected of House of Discernment students in this program?**
House of Discernment students should participate with seminarians in activities, prayers, and any other required duties.
- 9) If I do well in the House of Discernment program, would Holy Apostles be able to assist me in getting sponsored with a diocese in the future?**
Upon approval, Holy Apostles will be happy to write a letter of recommendation for you if you feel the call to the priesthood to wherever you would like to go. We can also assist you in finding and discerning where you would like to go beyond our program.
- 10) What type of living quarters will be provided?**
We have a house dedicated to our House of Discernment program that can hold up to 6 residents. Each student will have their own private room with a bed, dresser, desk and chair included. There are shared bathrooms with showers and toilets. There is a full kitchen available for cooking and a private in-house chapel. A coin operated washer and dryer for laundry will be in your building as well.
- 11) What would be the price per academic year?**
The Room and Board rate is the standard full tuition seminarian rate which covers two semesters (Fall and Spring). The current rate is \$16,385.00 total for our 2023-2024 academic year for both graduate and undergraduate students. This covers up to 18 credit hours per semester. This does not include textbooks and other living expenses.



Our on-campus programs are only offered in the fall and spring semesters. If you wish to take additional courses online in the summer, you may do so at the normal online tuition rate with any applicable fees. Please check our website for the latest on campus seminarian information. <https://holyapostles.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/>

12) Are there social community activities that I can participate in along with the seminarians?

Yes! You are free to join the seminarians in any social group activity that they organize. There are regular after-hours athletic activities that seminarians host and once a month there is usually an additional entertaining activity that is offered to everyone that is discerning. The rectory organizes and provides this for you. In addition, we have a tennis court, a small soccer field, a bocce court, and two horseshoe pits. We also have a student rec room with two ping pong tables, a pool table, and two foosball tables. You are free to use these during available hours.

14) Where do I go during the summer?

Like our seminarians, you will be able to go back home and assist your home parish or diocese if you are discerning life as a diocesan priest. If you are looking into a particular religious order, we encourage you to visit their order and work with them over the summer to further your discernment process. We cannot provide summer residence here on campus so please plan accordingly.

15) Are there language requirements?

Yes. If you are an international student, you will be required to prove your competency in the English language. Due to governmental regulation, we require international students to take the TOEFL iBT (internet-based test) or the Academic IELTS test and achieve a score of 79+ for the TOEFL iBT or 6.5+ for the Academic IELTS.

16) Once accepted, what should I bring with me?

Plan on bringing normal items you would bring to a US college dormitory such as your own bedding, pillow, toiletries, towels, and



shower items. If you are traveling internationally, you may purchase these items in the stores nearby as needed.

17) Is transportation provided?

We can offer you a weekly ride to get any personal or food items. House of Discernment students are encouraged to bring their own transportation. If possible, we ask individuals to help each other out as they are able, the way our seminarians do.

Additionally, there is a public bus line at the end of our street that will take you into Middletown, CT, where there are shopping centers and grocery stores available.

18) What are the requirements to apply?

Please see the following pages for details on what is required for your application and attendance.

19) Can I get further information?

Of course! Please reach out to our admissions office at admissions@holyapostles.edu or call us at 860-632-3026. Zoom calls can be arranged as well. We will be more than happy to answer all your questions about the House of Discernment Program, academic programs, and/or the application process. We would love to speak with you!

(Please see the following two pages for application requirements)



Academic Requirements for Application:

We will require the applicant to meet all admission requirements required of their chosen academic program. These include:

- Generally, a GPA of 3.0 or better for graduate applicants and GPA of 2.0 or better for Undergraduate applicants
- 2 Letters of recommendation for graduate programs or 1 letter of recommendation for the undergraduate program
- Official Transcripts from academic institutions where a degree was achieved (Please use WES Evaluations for any transcript from an Academic Institution that is outside of the US – excluding Pontifical Colleges and Canada. Please see www.wes.org for more information.)
- Completed online House of Discernment application
- Proof of English proficiency for international students. Due to governmental regulation, we require international students to take the TOEFL iBT (internet-based test) or the Academic IELTS test and achieve a score of 79+ for the TOEFL iBT or 6.5+ for the Academic IETLS.

Supplemental Requirements for Application:

Additionally, the supplemental requirements are similar to the seminarian requirements. These include:

- Sacramental documentation of Baptism and Confirmation
- Historical documentation of any impediments that may preclude the applicant's eligibility for priestly ordination
- Criminal background check
- An interview by the rector's office
- One reference from a priest or religious
- Online application including:
 - Autobiography - would highlight the following:
 - Your Family Life
 - Relationships outside of family
 - School and work experiences – major satisfactions and problems experienced
 - Prayer and faith experiences
 - Your vocational discernment up to the present



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- Personal Essay- would answer two questions:
 - 1. “What does the priesthood mean to me?”
 - 2. Discuss your concept of celibacy, what makes you confident that you can live it, and what makes you interested in discerning it as part of a religious or priestly vocation

Upon Acceptance - Required Before Move-in:

- Connecticut required vaccine requirements must be obtained before move-in, but not required for admission.
- A urine screening should be provided 30 days before moving in.
- A physician exam by a licensed physician proving you are in good health and able to undertake studies no earlier than 6 months prior to your start date.

Please note, requirements may change. Please contact the admissions office for more details at admissions@holyapostles.edu or call us at 860-632-3026. We would be delighted to answer any questions that you may have.