

**FACULTY OF CANON LAW
SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY**



**UNIVERSITÉ
SAINT·PAUL
UNIVERSITY**

***STUDENT MANUAL
2026-2027***

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PART I: THE FACULTY OF CANON LAW

History of the Faculty of Canon Law

Founded in 1848 by the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Saint Paul University has its own charter dating back to 1866. Saint Paul University received the authority to confer ecclesiastical degrees in Leo XIII's Apostolic Letter *Cum Apostolica Sedes* of February 5, 1889. In 1929, the Faculty of Canon Law was established as distinct from the Faculty of Theology, and after Pius XI's Apostolic constitution *Deus scientiarum Dominus* of May 24, 1931, the Faculty was reorganized. Following Vatican II, the program was updated to conform to the needs of today's university teaching and the demands of modern pastoral activity. In 2002, the Holy See promulgated new norms for the teaching of canon law. These required a complete revision and expansion of our programs, effective 2004-2005.

Following the norms issued by Pope Francis in the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* on ecclesiastical universities and faculties, 8 December 2017, the Faculty of Canon Law continues to cultivate and promote the juridical disciplines in the light of the teaching of the Gospel and instruct its students in these, so as to form researchers, university and seminary teachers, and others who will be trained to hold special ecclesiastical offices, such as ecclesiastical chancery and tribunal positions, and to serve as advisors to bishops and religious superiors.

The University grants simultaneously both civil graduate degrees (i.e., the MCL and the Ph.D.) and ecclesiastical degrees (i.e., the JCL and the JCD). The ecclesiastical degrees are granted in virtue of the 1889 Pontifical Charter, and the civil degrees are granted jointly by the Senate of Saint Paul University, in virtue of its 1866 Civil Charter, and by the Senate of the University of Ottawa, which is federated with Saint Paul University. The Faculty of Canon Law is bound by the regulations of the University of Ottawa and Saint Paul University, under the terms of the federation.

The Faculty of Canon Law offers two graduate degree programs: Master of Canon Law (MCL) and Doctor of Philosophy in Canon Law (Ph.D.). These civil degrees are conferred jointly by the Senate of Saint Paul University and of the University of Ottawa. In addition, it offers three Graduate Diplomas:

- Graduate Diploma in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults
- Graduate Diploma in Canon Law
- Graduate Diploma in Matrimonial and Procedural Law

Officers of the Faculty

DEAN

Chad Glendinning

VICE-DEAN and DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Valère Nkouaya Mbandji, SJ

SECRETARY

Michael-Andreas Nobel

Administrative Personnel

DEAN'S OFFICE ASSISTANT AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Francine Quesnel

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PART II: GENERAL INFORMATION

Preamble

Saint Paul University is a Catholic university canonically established by the Holy See and thus subject to Canon Law and all pertinent Church documents as implemented in Canada.

Saint Paul University is committed to supporting students in their efforts to achieve their goals in regard to academic success. To this end, the University ensures the quality and relevance of its academic programs and develops a support network of services to help students throughout their university experience.

For their part, students must assume certain responsibilities. More specifically:

- Choose a program of study suited to their personal goals, select courses that will satisfy the requirements of their chosen program, and consult resource persons available to them in different academic units when needed.
- Become familiar and comply with the important dates and deadlines of the [Sessional Dates](#) calendar.
- Become familiar and comply with university and faculty regulations and procedures.
- Regularly consult the different communication tools used by the University (such as websites, assigned e-mail address).
- Conduct themselves in a manner that respects the rights of other members of the University community and that complies with the regulations of the University and its different constituents, as well as with the laws applicable in Canada.

Academic Regulations

Saint Paul University applies the same [Academic Regulations](#) as the University of Ottawa. For this purpose, it is understood that when reviewing the University of Ottawa regulations, “University of Ottawa” must be replaced by “Saint Paul University” and vice versa.

Overview of Programs

Following the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* of December 8, 2017, the Faculty of Canon Law cultivates and promotes the juridical disciplines in the light of the law of the Gospel and principles of justice. It instructs its students in these, so as to form researchers, university and seminary teachers, and others who will be trained to hold special ecclesiastical offices, such as chancery and tribunal positions, and to serve as advisors to bishops and religious superiors.

The ecclesiastical degrees are conferred by Saint Paul University by virtue of the 1889 pontifical charter. The civil programs are approved by the Ontario Government and the degrees are granted jointly by the Senate of Saint Paul University, and by the Senate of the University of Ottawa, which is federated with Saint Paul University.

Those registered in ecclesiastical programs concurrently fulfil the requirements of the corresponding civil degrees. Consequently, those successfully completing the requirements of the JCL program will also receive the corresponding MCL, and those completing the requirements of the JCD program will also receive the corresponding Ph.D.

Civil Programs	Ecclesiastical Programs
Graduate Diplomas	
Master's in Canon Law (MCL)	Licentiate in Canon Law (JCL)
Doctorate in Philosophy, Canon Law (PhD)	Doctorate in Canon Law (JCD)

Civil Programs

[Graduate Diploma in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults](#)

The Graduate Diploma in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults offers an advanced specialization in the prevention, protection and care of minors and vulnerable adults from various forms of abuse. From an interdisciplinary perspective, students are provided the tools and resources necessary to understand the long-term consequences of this threat and the serious harm it causes survivors and communities. The program is intended for all those tasked with ensuring a safe environment, whether in the Church, social organizations, or in families. Optional courses in canon law and safeguarding may be pursued by those responsible for parishes, dioceses, religious institutes, ecclesiastical institutions of education and healthcare, and other similar bodies.

On completion of the Graduate Diploma in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults, qualified students meeting admission requirements may apply for admission to the Master of Canon Law program and, on admission, complete the requirements of this program with credit granted for relevant courses already completed in the diploma.

[Graduate Diploma in Canon Law \(GDCL\)](#)

The Graduate Diploma in Canon Law (GDCL) is a graduate program that provides specialization in canon law for non-canonists to complement their own education and career goals. The GDCL is intended for two audiences:

- students who already have an adequate training in a related discipline (e.g., theology, religious studies, philosophy, mission studies, etc.); and
- students and practitioners of civil or common law who wish to acquire further specialization in canon law.

On completion of the diploma, qualified students meeting admission requirements may apply for admission to the Master of Canon Law program and, on admission, complete the requirements of this program with credit granted for relevant courses already completed in the diploma.

Graduate Diploma in Matrimonial and Procedural Law

The Graduate Diploma in Matrimonial and Procedural Law is intended for those who serve in tribunal ministry or are preparing for such ministry – particularly as auditors, procurators, advocates, notaries, tribunal directors. The program provides an overview of the Church's substantive and procedural marriage law. The objective of the program is to allow students to acquire or deepen the knowledge and practical skills necessary for ministry in ecclesiastical tribunals.

On completion of the diploma, qualified students meeting admission requirements may apply for admission to the Master of Canon Law program and, on admission, complete the requirements of this program with credit granted for relevant courses already completed in the diploma.

Master of Canon Law

The profession of canon law demands broadly based knowledge and skill in all areas of canon law. The objective of the Master of Canon Law (MCL) program, therefore, is to develop analytical, juridical, and scholarly competence so that graduates can fulfil such functions as vicars general, chancellors, assistants or advisors to bishops and religious superiors, and expert witnesses in civil trials.

This program also equips graduates to serve in a variety of functions within ecclesiastical tribunals. Students in the Master of Canon Law program study the fundamental principles and specific canons of the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

Throughout the program, emphasis is placed upon the practical application of law. Students are required to do a major research project accomplished in the research seminar under the guidance of a professor of the Faculty of Canon Law.

The MCL is often pursued concurrently with the ecclesiastical Licentiate in Canon Law (JCL).

Doctorate in Canon Law (PhD)

The Doctorate in Canon Law (PhD) is a research degree that provides students the space to explore and reflect more deeply on topics and issues pertaining to canon law. The objective of the program is to prepare students for a professional career in teaching and research. This objective is achieved through an in-depth study of a particular area of canon law.

The PhD is often pursued concurrently with the ecclesiastical Doctorate in Canon Law (JCD).

Ecclesiastical Programs

Ecclesiastical Doctorate in Canon Law (JCD)

The ecclesiastical Doctorate in Canon Law (JCD) is a research degree that provides students the space to explore and reflect more deeply on topics and issues pertaining to canon law. The objective of the program is to prepare students for a professional career in teaching and research. This objective is achieved through an in-depth study of a particular area of canon law.

The JCD is governed by the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and other norms of the Holy See. The JCD is always pursued concurrently with the PhD in Canon Law.

Licentiate in Canon Law degree (JCL)

The Licentiate in Canon Law degree (JCL) is an ecclesiastical program governed by the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and other norms of the Holy See. The program consists of 75 course credits, covering the fundamental principles and specific canons of the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

Throughout the program of studies, emphasis is placed upon the practical application of law. Students are required to do a major research project accomplished in the research seminar under the guidance of a professor of the Faculty of Canon Law.

The JCL degree enables clergy, religious, and lay persons to hold a variety of roles in tribunals and diocesan curias. It also prepares them to serve as key leaders and advisors in dioceses, religious institutes, societies of apostolic life, and various Catholic organizations.

The JCL is always pursued concurrently with the Master in Canon Law.

Microprogram in Penal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedures

Graduate Microprogram in Penal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedures

The Microprogram in Penal Law, Jurisprudence, and Procedures is designed for professionals working particularly in the fields of providing advocacy, as required by canon law, for those accused of committing ecclesiastical delicts; for Church officials involved in the investigation and prosecution of alleged delicts; and for students who wish to deepen their knowledge of penal law, jurisprudence, and procedures of the Catholic Church, Latin and Eastern, thereby enabling them to acquire new skills for professional and career enhancement purposes.

The graduate microprogram consists of 9 credits of course work. The microprogram may be pursued by those already enrolled in a program at Saint Paul University or as a special student. Please contact your academic advisor for more information.

Microprograms in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons

Undergraduate Microprogram and Graduate Microprogram in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons

Sexual assault, whose victims are minors and vulnerable persons, is a terrible reality. It is a criminal act that has long-term consequences and causes serious harm to survivors and communities. Better protecting minors and vulnerable persons from abuse is the primary objective of this training, which will provide students with skills that will surely be of interest to future employers, in addition to their usefulness in everyday life, given the large number of victims of sexual abuse in society, whether in the Church, in sports, in youth movements or in families.

The undergraduate microprogram consists of 15 credits of coursework, while the graduate microgram consists of 9 credits of coursework. The microprograms may be pursued by those already enrolled in a program at Saint Paul University or as a special student. Please contact your academic advisor for more information.

PART III: LICENTIATE (JCL Program)

JCL Program Options

The Licentiate in Canon Law degree (JCL) at Saint Paul University is an ecclesiastical program governed by the apostolic constitution *Veritatis gaudium* and other norms of the Holy See. The degree consists of 75 course credits, 66 of which are from compulsory courses.

Students admitted to the program have 3 options to complete the requirements of the JCL. Through partnerships with BBI-TAITE students may complete the on-campus portion of the 4-spring option in Sydney, Australia.

To consult the respective customized course sequence, see specimen in Appendix A.

Two Year Program (Campus Option)

Students achieve the JCL in six terms (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer) spanning two calendar years (6 terms taken on campus)

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING/SUMMER
1	On Campus	On Campus	On Campus
2	On Campus	On Campus	On Campus

Distance/Campus Options

Three Year Program

Students take distance education courses over three years, with the second year and final term taken on campus (4 terms taken on campus / 4 terms taken at a distance)

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING/SUMMER
1	Distance	Distance	[No courses]
2	On Campus	On Campus	On Campus
3	Distance	Distance	On Campus

Four Year Program (also applies to BBI-TAITE)

Students take distance education courses over four years, combined with on campus courses during four Spring terms (4 terms on campus / 8 terms taken at a distance)

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING/SUMMER
1	Distance	Distance	On Campus
2	Distance	Distance	On Campus
3	Distance	Distance	On Campus
4	Distance	Distance	On Campus

Optional Courses

The Licentiate in Canon Law requires 75 credits of coursework, of which 66 are compulsory courses. The remaining 9 credits are comprised of optional courses, selected on the basis of course availability and the interests of the students. Each year, a list of optional courses will be made available to students. The following courses are offered on a regular basis:

DCA 6364: Special Topics in Canon Law IV: Seminar on Chancery Practice (1.5 cr.). This course is offered each Spring session for those completing the JCL program.

DCA 6961: Study Visit to the Roman Curia (1.5 cr.). This biennial visit occurs in even-numbered years, during the month of June and July.

DCA 6922: Field Practicum (3 cr.). The Field Practicum is a six-week (minimum 18 hours per week) of supervised internship in canonical practice at an approved site. Assessment is based on a written report as well as the evaluation of the internship supervisor. This course is offered each year for those completing the JCL program.

DCA 6962: Special Issues in Consecrated Life (1.5 cr.). This seminar on legal and canonical issues concerning consecrated life, includes the Spring session: 'Legal Education for Leadership of Religious Institutes' and the submission of a research paper.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he/she has completed the necessary optional course requirements.

Research Seminar / Séminaire de recherches

DCA 6395 – Research on a particular canonical subject resulting in its presentation to the seminar group and director, and in submission of a written project.

DCA 6795 - Recherches portant sur un sujet canonique particulier. Présentation orale au groupe du séminaire ainsi qu'au directeur et dépôt d'un projet écrit.

The student's work in the research seminar must be a canonical work, which shows the student's capacity to research a canonical topic. The written paper includes:

- Title page
- General introduction
- Table of contents
- List of abbreviations
- Three chapters (40 pages)
- Appendices (if necessary)
- Bibliography (5 pages)

Any paper of more or fewer than 40 pages requires the permission of the professor teaching the research seminar. Students are reminded to avoid plagiarism, even by appropriate use of footnotes.

All students complete the research seminar in the final spring term of their program sequence. Work on this project begins earlier, however, and occurs during the three terms immediately preceding the final Spring term. For the purposes below, these terms are identified as Spring A, Fall, Winter, Spring B.

A. Submission of Topic and Assignment of Director

1. In the Winter term preceding Spring A, the Dean meets with students to discuss the research seminar.
2. Students will be invited to submit two topic proposals, using the form provided. This will provide greater discretion and flexibility when assigning directors. The form must be submitted by the deadline indicated. Each proposed topic must have a specific title (which can be modified during the research, with the approval of the professor leading the research seminar).
3. Once topics have been submitted and approved, the Dean will assign directors. The choice of director will depend on his/her availability and workload, as well as the area of specialization.

B. Registration

1. Students will be registered in a 0-unit course for the three terms immediately preceding the final Spring term: Spring A, Fall, and Winter. **DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation** will be evaluated based on a Satisfactory/Not satisfactory

grading scheme. This grade will be assigned based on one's progress with the research seminar paper and participation in the research seminar preparation meetings.

2. Students will be registered in **DCA 6395 Research Seminar** in Spring B, when the oral presentation takes place, and the final grade is submitted. The oral presentation may not take place until the research seminar paper has been submitted and evaluated.

C. Duties of the Director of the Research Seminar

1. In Spring A, directors will meet initially with their research seminar group during the on-campus portion of the term.
2. This initial meeting must provide the following:
 - a. clear expectations of the director, along with learning outcomes for the research seminar;
 - b. method of evaluation;
 - c. due dates for written work;
 - d. dates on which the research seminar will meet, even if tentative.
3. Students will be encouraged to work on their seminar papers during the summer months. Directors will assist students during these summer months, in accordance with a timeline developed with the director.
4. Following this initial meeting, and for the duration of the research seminar, directors must:
 - a. provide direction and assistance to students, as needed;
 - b. ensure accessibility to students by means of email, telephone, videoconference, and meetings on campus;
 - c. complete corrections and return written work to students within a reasonable amount of time.

D. Evaluation of Research Seminar

1. Students will produce an individual written paper, in accordance with the faculty's [*Guidelines for Seminar Papers and Doctoral Theses*](#).
2. Evaluation for the research seminar will be based on two components:
 - a. Participation in, and presentation to, the seminar group – 30 %;
 - b. Written project – 70%.
3. A uniform grading rubric will be utilized for the evaluation of the written project.

E. Submission of the Research Seminar Paper

1. After the research seminar paper is given final approval by the supervisor, the student is to submit to the Academic Advisor an electronic copy in a single PDF file. The file will be archived on a secure server of the faculty.
2. Upon recommendation of the supervisor and with the consent of the student, a paper may be made publicly accessible through uO Research, the institutional repository of the University of Ottawa.

F. Criteria for the Recommendation of a Research Seminar Paper to be Publicly Accessible

The criteria for recommending that a research seminar paper be transmitted to the library for public access are:

1. The final version of the paper merits a grade of at least 80%, that is, an A- (even if the grade for the Seminar as a whole may be different).
2. The supervisor believes the paper exhibits sufficient creativity, clarity of expression, and methodological exactitude to be worthy of public access.

G. Timeline

TERM	ACTIVITIES
Winter	Dean's meeting with students; Submission of proposals; assignment of directors
Spring A	Students registered in DCA 6394 Research Seminar – Preparation; Meeting with research seminar: Orientation and methodology
Fall	Students registered in DCA 6394 Research Seminar – Preparation; Meeting with research seminar: Table of Contents and bibliography presentation
Winter	Students registered in DCA 6394 Research Seminar – Preparation; Meeting with research seminar: Progress report
Spring B	Students registered in DCA 6395 Research Seminar Meeting with research seminar: Final oral presentation

Additional group meetings, or individual meetings between the director and student, may be arranged at the discretion of the director of the research seminar. As well, directors may coordinate joint meetings of their respective seminar groups.

H. Comprehensive Exam

Students who have not successfully completed all components of the research seminar will not be permitted to take the comprehensive exam.

Adopted by the Faculty Council
15 December 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Schedule of Course Offerings

LICENTiate IN CANON LAW – TWO YEAR (CAMPUS) OPTION

YEAR	FALL	WINTER		SPRING/SUMMER	
		A	B	A	B
1	DCA 5128 Sanctifying Office DCA 5129 General Norms DCA 5131 Christian Faithful DCA 5136 Introduction to Canon Law DCA 3108 Latin I	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 6114 Procedures II DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice
2	DCA 5132 Administrative Institutes DCA 5137 Teaching Office DCA 6112 Administrative Procedures DCA 6113 Temporal Goods DCA 6115 Penal Law DCA 6921 Canonical Latin	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam

Students beginning in an *odd-numbered* year follow column “A”

Students beginning in an *even-numbered* year follow column “B”

LICENTIATE IN CANON LAW – THREE YEAR OPTION

YEAR	FALL	WINTER		SPRING/SUMMER	
		A	B	A	B
1	DCA 5129 General Norms DCA 5136 Introduction to Canon Law DCA 3108 Latin I	DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 3109 Latin II		
2	DCA 5128 Sanctifying Office DCA 5131 Christian Faithful DCA 6113 Temporal Goods DCA 6115 Penal Law DCA 6921 Canonical Latin	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation
3	DCA 5132 Administrative Institutes DCA 5137 Teaching Office DCA 6112 Administrative Procedures DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation	DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 6114 Procedures II DCA 6394 Research Seminar - Preparation	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam

Students beginning in an *odd-numbered* year follow column “A”

Students beginning in an *even-numbered* year follow column “B”

LICENTIATE IN CANON LAW – FOUR YEAR OPTION

YEAR	FALL	WINTER		SPRING/SUMMER	
		A	B	A	B
1	DCA 5129 General Norms DCA 5136 Introduction to Canon Law DCA 3108 Latin I	DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence
2	DCA 5128 Sanctifying Office DCA 5131 Christian Faithful DCA 6921 Canonical Latin	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures	DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence	DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
3	DCA 5137 Teaching Office DCA 6113 Temporal Goods DCA 6115 Penal Law	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law	DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures	DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice
4	DCA 5132 Administrative Institutes DCA 6112 Administrative Procedures	DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law	DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam	DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam

Students beginning in an *odd-numbered* year follow column “**A**”
Students beginning in an *even-numbered* year follow column “**B**”

LICENTIATE IN CANON LAW – BBI OPTION

YEAR	FALL	WINTER		SPRING/SUMMER	
		A	B	A	B
1	DCA 5129 General Norms DCA 5136 Introduction to Canon Law DCA 3108 Latin I	DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures DCA 3109 Latin II	DCA 5203 Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life <i>or</i> DCA 5103 Universal and Supra-Diocesan Church Structures	DCA 5135 Matrimonial Jurisprudence <i>or</i> DCA 6321 Seminar on Tribunal Practice
2	DCA 5128 Sanctifying Office DCA 5131 Christian Faithful DCA 6921 Canonical Latin	DCA 5130 Matrimonial Law DCA 5138 Special Matrimonial Cases and Procedures	DCA 6116 Foundations of Law DCA 6117 Institutes of Law	DCA 5135 <i>or</i> DCA 6321	DCA 5203 <i>or</i> DCA 5103
3	DCA 5137 Teaching Office DCA 6113 Temporal Goods DCA 6115 Penal Law	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law	DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5203 <i>or</i> DCA 5103	DCA 5135 <i>or</i> DCA 6321
4	DCA 5132 Administrative Institutes DCA 6112 Administrative Procedures	DCA 5133 Procedures I DCA 6114 Procedures II	DCA 5127 Particular Churches DCA 5134 Eastern Canon Law	DCA 5135 <i>or</i> DCA 6321 DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam	DCA 5203 <i>or</i> DCA 5103 DCA 6395 Research Seminar DCA 7998 Licentiate Comprehensive Exam

Students beginning in an *odd-numbered* year follow column “**A**”

Students beginning in an *even-numbered* year follow column “**B**”

Appendix B: Optional Courses 2026-2027

Fall / Automne, 2026

HTP 4502 / HTP 5503 – Thèmes choisis en protection des mineurs et des adultes vulnérables : Abus de pouvoir, de confiance et d'autorité (3u)

Dans ce cours, nous abordons les divers types d'abus liés au pouvoir, l'autorité et à la confiance au sein de l'Église et de la société, ainsi que les démarches nécessaires pour rétablir la confiance.

HTP 4502 / HTP 5501 – Thèmes choisis en protection des mineurs et des adultes vulnérables : Les victimes d'abus sexuels dans la société et l'Église (3u)

Définitions et contextualisation. Problématique des victimes d'abus sexuels : révélation de l'abus et conséquences physiques, relationnelles et spirituelles à court et long termes, de même que les différents modèles thérapeutiques.

DCA 6366 – Special Problems in Canon Law VI: Advanced Research Skills in Canon Law (1.5u)

This graduate course develops advanced research, writing, and information literacy skills for students engaged in canonical studies and introduces the principles and practices of scholarly inquiry in the field of canon law.

Across six sessions, students will learn how to identify and refine research questions, search effectively in OMNI and specialized databases (ATLA, Law Journal Library), conduct citation chaining, distinguish among primary, secondary, and tertiary sources, evaluate and critically read academic sources, manage references using bibliographic software, and apply conventions of graduate-level academic writing. The course also addresses ethical information practices, including academic integrity, citation, and the responsible use of generative AI in research and writing.

By the end of the course, students will be better equipped to conduct independent canonical research and to produce academically sound, ethically responsible, and well-structured scholarly writing.

Winter / Hiver, 2027

DCA 4502 / DCA 5539 – Droit canonique sur la protection des mineurs et des adultes vulnérables (3u)

Étude exhaustive et pratique de réponses canoniques « proactives » et « réactives » de l'Église aux abus sexuels des mineurs et des personnes vulnérables. Développement de lois, universelles et particulières, et leur application pratique.

DCA 6318 – Seminar on Penal Jurisprudence and Procedures (3u)

The penal preliminary investigation and the penal procedures (judicial and extrajudicial). Practical considerations: presumption of innocence; libellus of accusation; “administrative leave” of the accused; procedural rights of the accused; self-defence; gathering and assessment of proofs; procedural decrees; advocate’s roles; moral certitude; sentence/decreed concluding penal process; appeal/recourse against decisions. Involvement of alleged victims/accusers in the processes. Penal jurisprudence. Special focus on the graviora delicta reserved to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

DCA 6367 – Special Problems in Canon Law VII: Anthropology and Matrimonial Consent (1.5u)

In today’s world, understanding the human person is an essential topic in many academic debates. Theological anthropology leads us to the conclusion that we are formed both as a vessel to receive the grace and presence of God, as well as to be the bearers of God’s image, which is expressed most fully in acts of self-transcendence. This way of understanding the human person is often rejected or misunderstood in social science. The course will present the Christian vision of the human being in contrast to that in the human and social sciences, particularly in major schools of psychology.

HTP 4102 / HTP 5102 – Special Topics in Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults: Abuse of Power, Trust and Authority (3u)

In this course, we will explore the various types of abuse related to power, authority, and trust within the Church and society, as well as the steps needed to restore trust.

HTP 4502 / HTP 5502 – Thèmes choisis en protection des mineurs et des adultes vulnérables : Les auteurs de violences sexuelles dans divers contextes et la prévention (3u)

Dynamique de la violence sexuelle dans divers contextes. Reconnaître les signes d’abus sexuels imminents. Soins cliniques et spirituels pour les auteurs de violences. Prévention.

Spring / Printemps, 2027**DCA 6363 – Special Problems in Canon Law III: Psychology and Matrimonial Consent (1.5 u)**

This course is especially designed for canonists and tribunal practitioners. From the standpoint of a Christian anthropology, it considers the psychological aspects of the human person, especially one’s capacity to discern the choice of life-long marriage, and to assume its essential obligations.

DCA 6364 – Special Problems in Canon Law IV: Seminar in Chancery Practice (1.5cr)

Presentation of singular and general decrees, precepts, and rescripts for routine and exceptional matters. Areas of special focus include: dioceses, parishes, marriage (non-tribunal issues), temporal goods, and penal law. ***This course is offered to students finishing the licentiate.***

DCA 6365 – Special Problems in Canon Law V: Canon Law and Conflict Resolution Strategies (1.5u)

Study of interdisciplinary problems with a large canonical component or specialized questions not covered by the Code of Canon Law.

DCA 6922 – Stage en milieu de travail / Field Practicum (3cr)

Stage supervisé de pratique canonique d'une durée de six semaines (minimum 18 h/semaine) dans un milieu de travail approuvé. L'évaluation de l'étudiant est fondée sur les résultats du rapport écrit et l'évaluation du superviseur de stage. ***Ce cours est offert aux étudiants qui terminent la Licence.*** / A six-week (minimum 18 hours per week) of supervised internship in canonical practice at an approved site. Assessment based on a written report as well as the evaluation of the internship supervisor. ***This course is offered to students finishing the licentiate.***

DCA 6962 – Questions spéciales relatives à la vie consacrée / Special Issues in Consecrated Life (1.5cr)

Séminaire sur des questions juridiques et canoniques concernant la vie consacrée, en particulier dans le contexte canadien. Comprend la session d'été « Formation légale pour le leadership des instituts religieux » et la rédaction d'un travail de recherche. / Seminar on legal and canonical issues concerning consecrated life, especially in the context of Canada. Includes the summer session: "Legal Education for Leadership of Religious Institutes" and the submission of a research paper.

****Please note that the list of optional courses is subject to change based on student enrollment and the availability of professors****

Appendix C: List of Themes for the JCL Comprehensive Examination

Each candidate chooses **a total of 15 themes** from the list distributed as follows:

Book I	two themes
Book II	three themes (a student must choose two themes from Section A and one theme from Section B)
Book III	one theme
Book IV	three themes (no. 51 is compulsory; a student must choose one theme from Section A and one additional theme from Section B)
Book V	one theme
Book VI	one theme
Book VII	three themes (no. 70 is compulsory; a student must choose one theme from Section A and one additional theme from Section B)

The remaining **one theme** is to be selected by the student and may be taken from **any** of the books of the *Code of Canon Law*

The student's list, drawn up according to these norms, is approved by the dean after consultation with the appropriate professors.

The Faculty Council reserves to itself the right to ask a candidate to modify the list if it does not follow these norms or if, while following the letter of the norms, it is not well balanced.

Candidates who wish to present a topic not included on the accompanying list are to consult the dean before submitting their lists to the Faculty Council for approval.

BOOK I (choose 2 themes)

1. The scope of canonical legislation (cc. 1-6); ecclesiastical laws (cc. 7-22) (*CCEO*, c. 1)
2. Custom (cc. 23-28)
3. General decrees and instructions (cc. 29-34)
4. Common norms for singular administrative acts; singular decrees and precepts (cc. 35-58)
5. Rescripts, privileges and dispensations (cc. 59-93)
6. Ascription (*CIC*, cc. 111-112; *CCEO*, cc. 29-38)
7. Interritual collaboration (*CCEO*, cc. 84, §1; 202; 322, §1; 332, §2; 622, §1; 720, §3; 784; 792; 904, §2; 1013, §2; 1068, §1; 1405, §3)
8. Juridical persons (cc. 113-123)
9. Juridical acts (cc. 124-128)
10. Power of governance (cc. 129-144)
11. Ecclesiastical offices (cc. 145-196)

BOOK II

SECTION A (choose two themes)

12. The obligations and rights of all Christ's faithful (cc. 208-223); the obligations and rights of the lay members of Christ's faithful (cc. 224-231)
13. The obligations and rights of clerics (cc. 273-289)
14. The enrolment or incardination of clerics (cc. 265-272) – Loss of the clerical state (cc. 290-293)
15. Associations of Christ's faithful (cc. 298-329)
16. The Roman Curia (cc. 360-361; Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*)
17. Diocesan bishops (*CIC*, cc. 381-402; *CCEO*, cc. 192-193; 365, §2; 366, §1, 2^o)
18. The impeded or vacant see (cc. 412-430)
19. Conferences of bishops (cc. 447-459)
20. The diocesan synod (cc. 460-468)
21. The diocesan curia: general principles; vicars general and episcopal vicars (cc. 65, 469-481)
22. The chancellor, other notaries and the archives; the finance council and the finance officer (cc. 482-494)
23. The presbyteral council and the college of consultors; the chapter of canons; the pastoral council (cc. 495-514)
24. Parishes, pastors, and parochial vicars (cc. 515-552)

SECTION B (choose one theme)

25. Institutes of consecrated life in general; their proper legislation (cc. 573-578, 586-597, 607, 710-711, 731)
26. Religious houses, erection and suppression (cc. 608-616)
27. Superiors and councils (cc. 617-630) – Chapters (cc. 631-633)
28. Relationships between religious and the diocesan bishop (cc. 593-595, 609, 616, 678-683; see also cc. 397, 806, 1320)
29. Temporal goods [of religious] and their administration (cc. 634-640)
30. The admission of candidates and the formation of members; the role of superiors, confessors and spiritual directors in the selection of candidates (cc. 219, 597, 641-661, 984-985; *CCEO*, cc. 448-452)
31. The obligations and rights of religious institutes and of their members (cc. 220, 630, 642, 662-672)
32. The apostolate of institutes (cc. 673-683) - Parishes and schools entrusted to religious (cc. 520, 801, 806)
33. The separation of members from the institute (cc. 684-704)

BOOK III (choose one theme)

34. The teaching office of the Church (cc. 747-755)
35. The ministry of the Divine Word (cc. 756-761) – Preaching the Word of God (cc. 762-772)
36. Catechetical formation (cc. 773-780)

- 37. The missionary activity of the Church (cc. 781-792)
- 38. Catholic education (cc. 793-821)
- 39. The means of social communication and books in particular (cc. 822-832)

BOOK IV (choose three themes, as indicated below)

SECTION A (choose one theme)

- 40. The ministers of the sacraments of initiation (cc. 861-863, 882-888, 900-911)
- 41. The subjects of the sacraments of initiation (cc. 864-871, 889-891, 912-923); participation in the sacraments with other Christians (c. 844)
- 42. The offerings given for the celebration of Mass (cc. 945-958; cf. c. 531)
- 43. The sacrament of penance: general absolution (cc. 961-963); faculties to hear confessions (cc. 965-978)
- 44. Prerequisites for ordination (cc. 1033-1039); formation of candidates (cc. 232-264)
- 45. Irregularities and other impediments to ordination (cc. 1040-1049)
- 46. Sacramentals and ecclesiastical funerals (1166-1172, 1176-1185)
- 47. Sacred places and sacred times (cc. 1205-1253)
- 48. Interritual celebration of the sacraments (*CCEO*, cc. 403, §1; 537, §2; 678, §1; 701; 707, §2; 717; 746, §2; 748, §2; 752)

SECTION B (choose one theme, in addition to no. 51)

- 49. Pastoral care and the prerequisites for the celebration of marriage (cc. 1063-1072)
- 50. Diriment impediments and dispensing powers (cc. 1073-1094; *CCEO*, cc. 796, §2; 797, 806, 809, 1; 810, 3^o)
- 51. Matrimonial consent (cc. 1055-1057, 1095-1107; *CCEO*, c. 826) (compulsory)
- 52. The form of the celebration of marriage (cc. 1108-1123, 1127; *CCEO*, cc. 828-835)
- 53. Mixed marriages, including particular legislation (cc. 1124-1129)
- 54. The dissolution of the marriage bond – the procedure for the dissolution of a marriage in virtue of the Pauline privilege (cc. 1143-1150)
- 55. The validation of marriage (cc. 1156-1165)

BOOK V (choose one theme)

- 56. The acquisition of goods (cc. 1259-1272)
- 57. The administration of goods (cc. 1273-1289)
- 58. Contracts and especially alienation (cc. 1290-1298)
- 59. Pious wills in general and pious foundations (cc. 1299-1310)

BOOK VI (choose one theme)

- 60. The subject liable to penal sanctions (cc. 1321-1330)
- 61. Penalties and other punishments (cc. 1331-1340)
- 62. Delicts against ecclesiastical authority and the exercise of functions of the Church (cc. 1370-1378)
- 63. Delicts against the sacraments (cc. 1379-1389)

64. Delicts against special obligations; Delicts against human life, dignity, and freedom (cc. 1392-1398)

BOOK VII (choose three themes, as indicated below)

SECTION A (choose one theme)

65. Proofs: the declarations of the parties; witnesses and testimonies (cc. 1526-1538; 1547- 1573)
66. The promoter of justice, the defender of the bond, the notary, the procurators and advocates (cc. 1430-1437; 1481-1490)
67. The principal duties of the judge (cc. 1419-1427, 1446-1457)
68. The rights of the parties in a marriage nullity case (cc. 1481-1490, 1508, 1598, 1615, 1619-1627)
69. The second instance tribunals, the appeal of a case (cc. 1438-1441; 1628-1640; *CCEO*, cc. 1062-1065)

SECTION B (choose one theme, in addition to no. 70)

70. Cases to declare the nullity of marriage (cc. 1671-1691) (compulsory)
71. The dissolution of the marriage bond – the procedure for the dissolution of a ratified and non-consummated marriage (cc. 1141-1142, 1697-1706)
72. The dissolution of the marriage bond – the procedure for the dissolution of a marriage in favour of the faith.
73. Penal process (cc. 1717-1728; 1341-1353)
74. Recourse against administrative decrees (cc. 1732-1739)
75. The procedure for the removal of parish priests (cc. 1740-1747) – The procedure for the transfer of parish priests (cc. 1748-1752)

Appendix D: Suggested Books for New Students

At the beginning of the canon law program, it is advisable to keep to a minimum the books to be purchased. Students will become aware of the canonical literature and will want to acquire books, commentaries, and journals as they progress. The following publications are among those that students will need during the program or will want to have for personal use in their future career as canonists.

The Codes and Commentaries

The *Code of Canon Law* and *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches* are the essential works that all students must have. Since only the Latin editions are official, owning a bilingual edition is strongly advisable.

ARRIETA, J.I. et al. (eds.), ***Code of Canon Law Annotated***, Montréal, Wilson & Lafleur, 2026 (distributed in the USA by Midwest Theological Forum, www.mwtf.org) (distributed in Canada by Wilson & Lafleur, <https://www.librairiewilsonlafleur.com/>)

This is the translation of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland in association with the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Canadian Canon Law Society, published in 1983 and revised in 1997. It includes a translation of the Spanish commentary, *Código de Derecho Canónico, Edición bilingüe y anotada*, 6th ed. It contains very useful appendices, including *Pastor bonus*, *Universi dominici gregis*, the authentic interpretations of the canons, decrees of conferences of bishops in English-speaking countries, tables of correspondence, and an analytical index. Highly recommended.

Code of Canon Law, Latin-English Edition, new English translation, Washington, DC, Canon Law Society of America, fourth printing, 2023 (ISBN 978-1-932208-65-8).

This version has a very detailed index, tables of corresponding canons, *Pastor bonus*, etc. It is the only English version also to have the *fontes* (sources) necessary for doctoral research and sometimes also for the Research Seminar.

This translation is used in another standard English-language commentary, the second commentary sponsored by the Canon Law Society of America: J.P. BEAL, J.A. CORIDEN, and T.J. GREEN (eds.), ***New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law***, New York and Mahwah, NJ, Paulist Press, 2000.

The first Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) commentary is: J.A. CORIDEN, T.J. GREEN, and D.E. HEINTSCHEL (eds.), ***Code of Canon Law: A Text and Commentary***, New York and Mahwah, NJ, Paulist, 1985 (out of print). This early commentary is still helpful, particularly to compare and contrast interpretations of different commentators.

Another standard English-language commentary is G. SHEEHY et al. (eds.), ***The Canon Law: Letter & Spirit***, Collegeville, MN, The Liturgical Press, 1995.

The most comprehensive English language commentary is the eight-volume translation of the Spanish *Comentario exegético al Código de derecho canónico*: E. Caparros et al. (eds.), ***Exegetical Commentary on the Code of Canon Law***, Montréal, Wilson & LaFleur, 2004.

Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Latin-English Edition, New English Translation, second printing, Washington, Canon Law Society of America, 2024.

This is the only generally reliable English translation of the Eastern Code. It also has a very detailed index. (The first CLSA translation of the Eastern Code is faulty and should not be used except by those who know canonical Latin very well.)

NEDUNGATT, G. (ed.), ***A Guide to the Eastern Code: A Commentary on the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches***, Rome, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 2002.

This is a multi-author commentary on the Eastern Code.

FARIS, J.D and J. ABBASS (eds.), ***A Practical Commentary to the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches***, Montréal, Wilson & Lafleur, 2019.

This is a 2-volume multi-author commentary on the Eastern Code.

PETERS, E.N. (ed.), ***The 1917 Pio-Benedictine Code of Canon Law***, San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 2001.

Other Important Sources

FLANNERY, A.P. (ed.), ***Documents of Vatican II***, new revised edition, Northport, Costello Pub. Co., 1992, ISBN 0-918344-15-8.

_____, ***Vatican Council II: More Postconciliar Documents***, new revised edition, Northport, Costello Pub. Co., 1998, ISBN 0-918344-16-6.

Canon Law Digest, vols. 1-14, now published by the Canon Law Society of America, Washington, DC.

This is a comprehensive English translation of official juridical documents related to the canons of the 1917 Code (vols. 1-10) and the 1983 Code (vols. 11-14). Volumes I-XII have been compiled on a CD, available from the CLSA.

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY, ***Directory for the Application of the Principles and Norms on Ecumenism***, 25 March 1993.

CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS, ***Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops***, 22 February 2004, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, ISBN 88-209-7574-2.

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR LEGISLATIVE TEXTS, ***Instruction to be Observed by Diocesan and Interdiocesan Tribunals in Handling Causes of the Nullity of Marriage Dignitas connubii***, 25 January 2005, Libreria editrice Vaticana, 2005.

K. LÜDICKE and R.E. JENKINS, ***Dignitas Connubii: Norms and Commentary***, Alexandria, VA, Canon Law Society of America, 2006.

This commentary contains the Latin and English text of *Dignitas connubii*.

The Liturgy Documents, 4 vols., Chicago, IL, Liturgy Training Publications, 2012-2013.

Volumes One and Two are especially useful. They provide the *praenotanda* of the sacramental rites and other essential documents pertaining to the liturgy.