

## **Montreal School of Theology (MST) Statement of Educational Effectiveness January 2015**

The Montreal School of Theology (MST) publishes this public Statement of Educational Effectiveness in accordance with the Standards of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). ATS is the body that accredits universities that offer graduate theological education in the United States and Canada and of which MST is a full member. The ATS policy says that statements on educational effectiveness may be measured by “the percentage of students who begin a program of study and complete it and the percentage of students who obtain employment related to their program of study with a year of graduation.”

The Mission of the Montreal School of Theology is equipping faithful leaders for ordained and lay ministries in the church and the world.

In fulfillment of its mission, MST offers a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program designed to prepare people for professional ministry within a variety of contexts such as congregational or parish ministry, chaplaincy or spiritual care ministries including in institutional contexts, and outreach and community ministries.

### **Assessing Educational Effectiveness:**

Each year, the Montreal School of Theology evaluates learning outcomes and assesses student satisfaction with their educational experience using a variety of tools including course evaluations, student-self evaluations, and graduate surveys.

In 2014, graduating students were asked to measure their personal growth during their time at MST (GSQ, 2013-14). The top five areas in which students thought they felt stronger were:

1. Self-discipline and focus
2. Enthusiasm for learning
3. Self knowledge
4. Respect for one’s own religious tradition
5. Self confidence/clarity of vocational goals

Graduates were asked to indicate their satisfaction with progress in skills related to future work. The top five skill areas were:

1. Ability to use and interpret scripture
2. Ability to conduct worship and liturgy
3. Ability to work effectively within ones own religious tradition
4. Ability to think theologically
5. Ability to preach well

Students were asked to explore their satisfaction with their experience at MST. The five most important areas of satisfaction were:

1. Academic advising
2. Pastoral care
3. Quality of teaching
4. Financial aid
5. Class size

### **Graduate statistics:**

This year, 43% of our students are part-time students.

None of our students began the program prior to 2010.

Average completion time for our 2014 M.Div. graduates was 3.5 years.

The Montreal School of Theology is a partnership of three denominational schools (Anglican, Presbyterian, and United Church of Canada). Most but not all of our students enter our program as candidates for ordained ministry from these denominations; thus, almost all of our students are ordained shortly after graduation and find employment in a congregational setting in their home denomination. Some of our students complete a year-long denominational internship after graduation and are ordained the following year.

### Vocational Placement of our Graduates:

Graduates in 2010: 92 % employed in a ministry setting within one year of graduation

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Graduates in 2012: 86% employed in a ministry setting within one year of graduation

Graduates in 2013: 83% employed in a ministry setting within one year of graduation

Graduates in 2014: 100 % employed in a ministry setting within one year of graduation

It should also be noted that of our graduates between 2010 and 2014, 90% are employed in a ministry setting for which they were prepared by their program of studies at the Montreal School of Theology.