

Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology

Rubric for assessing integration skills

The following table specifies skills related to DSPT Institutional Goal B.1, MA Outcomes 4-5, and MDiv Outcomes 1-5, as outlined in the 2017 *Ratio Studiorum Generalis* of the Dominican Order. The rubric emphasizes the development of a personal, integrated vision of philosophical and theological inquiry as defined in RSG II.21: “a Dominican approach can be said to **interpret the signs of the times**. It insists upon the fundamental unity, intelligibility, and meaning of creation, the dignity of the individual in his concrete and historical situation, and the goodness of the world. ... It affirms a vision of the moral life, where, by the practice of the virtues, especially those that have been informed by grace, humanity can arrive at true happiness and participate in God’s own divine life, the shared life of the Trinity” (see RSG II.A.15.5 and V.A.89)¹. While these skills are expected specifically of members of the Dominican family, they are appropriate to everyone.

CATEGORY	Failure	Unacceptable	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
1- Breadth Skill Is habituated towards ongoing intellectual formation by reading broadly outside of academic requirements IGA1, MAO3, MDivO1-2	Is resistant to engaging in the rigor necessary for an authentic intellectual formation, focusing only on “the bare minimal requirements”	Has a narrow focus of interest that is motivated by a restricted and insufficiently informed view of the world and human society	Reads broadly on a variety of perspectives from the contemporary culture but judges harshly or too quickly those which cause personal discomfort	Reads broadly, bringing insights from contemporary culture to one’s own personal study, encouraging further exploration of a topic	Integrates personal insights gleaned from such an inquiry into productive dialog with the Catholic tradition, advancing conversations in contemporary Church and society
2 – Breadth Skill Appropriately engages philosophical and theological principles from the Catholic Tradition with contemporary science IGA1, A2, MAO3, MDivO1-2	Does not recognize how contemporary science can support and improve the Catholic understanding of creation or the human person	Is minimally aware of the content and methodologies of contemporary science but is unwilling or unable to integrate relevant principles with philosophical or theological inquiry	Grasps and interprets important issues from contemporary science that may have potential impact on the Catholic understanding of creation or the human person	Brings ideas from contemporary science into conversation with related topics from the Catholic understanding of creation or the human person	Integrates personal insights gleaned from such an inquiry into productive dialog with the Catholic understanding of creation or the human person, leading to mutual enrichment
3 – Appropriation Skill Correctly applies a virtue-based ethical discernment to pastoral situations IG A1, A2, B1, MAO 2-3, MDivO3-5	Is unable to grasp the basic concepts of human and theological virtues and form them into an integrated vision for the moral life	Has a basic grasp of virtue-based moral living but has challenges making connections to the normal challenges of daily life	Has a developing ability to integrate moral virtue with daily living but adheres to a rigid application of moral principles	Integrates a virtue-based ethics into a coherent and holistic vision of the human person that acknowledges the complexities of moral decision-making	Creatively applies an integrated personal vision of moral living to pastoral situations in appropriate ways that guides others to develop their own holistic vision of moral living

¹ RSG II.A.15.5 indicates appropriate instruments of assessment as: 1) a view to *authentic intellectual formation* and not merely the completion of course credits or academic requirements; 2) methods of evaluation that seek to *determine whether a synthetic understanding of the material* has been acquired; and 3) a comprehensive examination at the end of institutional studies, which is proper to the Order, that will *evaluate the student’s global understanding, personal integration, and synthesis of the different fields of theology*, while allowing for necessary adjustment when students study in a center outside of the Order in which such an examination is already required.

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CATEGORY	Failure	Unacceptable	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
<p>4 – Appropriation of the Dominican Intellectual Tradition</p> <p>Has a commitment to life-long study that is directed towards the Ministry of the Word (teaching and preaching) as it relates to one’s own vocation</p> <p>All IGs, MAO4-5, MDivO3-5</p>	<p>Is incapable of connecting key principles between individual courses</p>	<p>Demonstrates a limited capacity to synthesize knowledge from different fields of theological inquiry into a unified understanding of the world and human person</p>	<p>Has a developing ability to form a unified understanding of the world and the human person but shows little capacity to make connections with one’s own vocational calling</p>	<p>Synthesizes knowledge into a unified theological vision that practically informs one’s own personal vocation as it relates to the Ministry of the Word (preaching and teaching)</p>	<p>Has the intellectual rigor and dexterity to engage productively a well-formed, personal vision of the Ministry of the Word in a variety of concerns in contemporary Church and society</p>