



# PHILOI

INTERNATIONAL

Dominican intellectual and  
spiritual formation in solidarity  
with our brothers



**Philoi (Ancient Greek) “friends.” Friendship based  
on the characteristically Greek value for reciprocity.**

**Sunset from Berkeley, California**



**DOMINICAN SCHOOL  
OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY**  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA





(L) A DSPT graduate is hooded by his academic advisor. (below) DSPT builds on a rich history of helping to form friars since 1932.

### A cry for reason

Personal struggles, moral confusion and fragmentation of knowledge” define our age, said Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Francis has called this condition “the spiritual poverty of our time.

Modernity often brings crises that overpower compassion, reason and objectivity.

Dominicans are preachers called to teach others how to overcome such challenges in ways that employ critical thinking and emulate Christ’s compassion. What is justice? What is truth? What is love? These are a few of the many “enduring questions” requiring critical thought for preachers to address our confused world.

**PHILOI International** is a new program at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT) in Berkeley, California, specifically designed to support the initial formation of Dominican brothers in accordance with the *Ratio Studiorum Generalis*. PHILOI equips students—intellectually

and spiritually—to be an active part of the solution to modern challenges. PHILOI forms analytical thinkers who can cogently and effectively convey Dominican principles to world populations.

“We name as we know,” said St. Thomas Aquinas. Such understanding prepares one to positively influence the contemporary world, addressing its problems and drawing in the souls on the other side of those problems. PHILOI is a leading

program dedicated to teaching student brothers how to consider such questions and how to frame effective responses through reason. Intellectual enthusiasm and honest discourse are valued, and teachers are invested, heart and soul, in the achievement of their students.

DSPT is strategically located in Berkeley, California, and lies at the heart of one of the most culturally diverse demographics in the world. It is central to the high-tech San Francisco Bay Area, including Silicon Valley, the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University. Exposure to a variety of cultures further prepares student brothers for a range of experiences after graduation.

### The DSPT difference

As a Center of Studies for the Order of Preachers and an apostolate of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, the DSPT has a mission to prepare religious, clerics, and laity for







academic and apostolic vocations. The school is a member of the Graduate Theological Union, which makes possible productive dialogue between a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, and students can take courses and access libraries at the University of California, Berkeley.

Inspired by the Dominican practice of disciplined inquiry and learned preaching, students are immersed in the rich tradition

of classical philosophy and Catholic theology. The faculty is passionate about engaging contemporary scholarship and culture and instilling time-honored methods and values into their learning and research environment. They seek to inspire disciplined, life-long learners through integrative thinking, intellectual humility and self-direction.

These tools will enable student brothers to inspire others to work

Silicon Valley from hiking trail at Mission Peak: DSPT lies at the heart of the world's most renowned innovation and discovery.

toward the common good—a core tenant of the Church's mission. Students are taught listening and communication skills in order to foster transparent dialogue. Contrary opinions are not a threat, but an opportunity to test and deepen one's own grasp of the truth.

### **Integrating philosophy and Catholic theology**

Authentic Dominican education is essential to the mission and sustainability of the Order. PHILOI delivers the best of our intellectual tradition, emphasizing the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. Authentic Dominican intellectual formation stresses the correlation of philosophy, theology and preaching and is essential to our own viability, our

An intimate and engaging learning environment gives students an academic edge. Center court just outside the classrooms at the DSPT.







service to the Church, and our contribution to the world. Each brother's preaching reflects on the entire Order; it is imperative that every student brother receive a rigorous intellectual formation with the intention of perfecting his craft of preaching the Gospel.

PHILOI serves as a leading program of study for brothers throughout the Order and from around the world. PHILOI provides spiritual and intellectual formation through philosophical education and theological reflection in a common fraternal setting.

**Bringing the tradition to bear on contemporary culture**

Never before has the integration of philosophy and theology at DSPT had such potential for immediate and pervasive influence as it has now in places like Silicon Valley. For example, Thomistic insights could assist the tech industry to navigate the ethical ramifications of Artificial Intelligence and social media. This education can shed light on the confusion surrounding identity and what it means to be a person in community. It could help change the world.

Across the globe, misconceptions between religious groups result in persecution and war. Ethical questions are often analyzed solely on the axis of profitability and what provides immediate gratification. As more people identify as having no religion, the ability to engage in fruitful disagreements and dialogue seems lost. In the



1. DSPT professors integrate philosophy and theology in the context of today's world.
2. Students will live within a familiar and welcoming community of brothers in the Bay Area.
3. Brothers and friends visit the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.





classrooms of DSPT, faculty and students are bringing the Thomistic tradition into dialogue with the pressing concerns of our time.

### **God Made Manifest**

The one true God can “be certainly known by the natural light of human reason through created things,” said the First Vatican Council. It is time once more to articulate God’s presence through the voice of reason and philosophy in the public square, and through academia. God is not silent. God is not absent. God is made manifest in countless ways, many of which can be discerned even by those without religious faith.

PHILOI brings student brothers into a philosophy department that

offers not only the core courses in philosophy that fulfill the *Ratio*, but engages in a “Philosophy Project” that focuses on special contemporary topics.

For the next few years, the focus will be “God Made Manifest.” The Philosophy Project will include seminars core to the preaching mission: Does God Exist? Issues in Divine Action; Prophecy; Between Phenomenology and Theology; Revelation; Medieval Mystics; Atheism.

### **Living at St. Albert’s Priory**

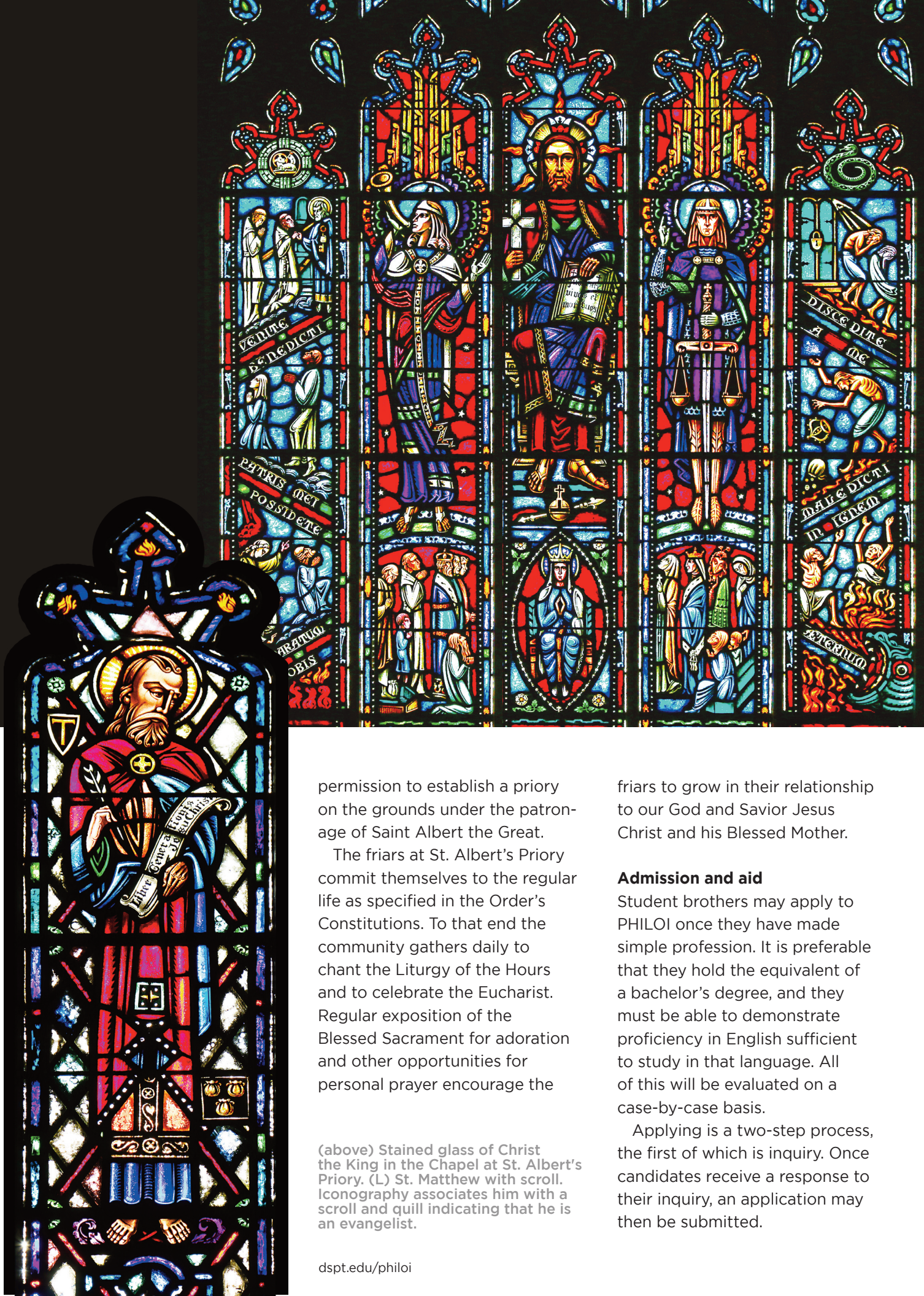
Located in the Rockridge neighborhood of Oakland, California, the Priory of Saint Albert the Great is a house of formation for young men who have come to discern their

Dominican brothers singing at St. Albert’s Priory. The Priory opens Sunday Mass to the broader community and many supporters of the Province join them.

vocation as consecrated religious. As a community they are united by faith in Jesus Christ and by vows to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Student brothers in the PHILOI program will enjoy communal life at Saint Albert’s Priory, located on five beautiful acres once known as Rose Lawn Park. Raymond and Winifred Perry purchased the land in the early 1900s and built Brookhurst mansion. In 1931 the family sold the estate to The Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. That same year the Dominican curia in Rome granted





permission to establish a priory on the grounds under the patronage of Saint Albert the Great.

The friars at St. Albert's Priory commit themselves to the regular life as specified in the Order's Constitutions. To that end the community gathers daily to chant the Liturgy of the Hours and to celebrate the Eucharist. Regular exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and other opportunities for personal prayer encourage the

friars to grow in their relationship to our God and Savior Jesus Christ and his Blessed Mother.

#### **Admission and aid**

Student brothers may apply to PHILOI once they have made simple profession. It is preferable that they hold the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, and they must be able to demonstrate proficiency in English sufficient to study in that language. All of this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Applying is a two-step process, the first of which is inquiry. Once candidates receive a response to their inquiry, an application may then be submitted.

(above) Stained glass of Christ the King in the Chapel at St. Albert's Priory. (L) St. Matthew with scroll. Iconography associates him with a scroll and quill indicating that he is an evangelist.





### PHILOI snapshot

- PHILOI is a full-time program (at least 9 units/semester) and candidates have the option to enroll as certificate students or degree students seeking a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Divinity (MDiv).
- Successful candidates will meet the requirements of both the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus and DSPT.
- Student brothers may also attend classes to fulfill the *Ratio Generalis* without enrolling in a program.

The Dominicans of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

are committed to making this authentic Dominican formation available to brothers from around the world who may not have this opportunity in their home province. This is made possible by generous donors who believe in the potential of the Order of Preachers to evangelize the world for Christ. PHILOI offers an academic program that can be customized to meet a student brother's specific needs. Let's get started. Log on to begin the conversation:

**[dspt.edu/philoi](https://dspt.edu/philoi)**

(above) Procession into Mass at the Chapel. (R) Stained glass in the Priory Chapel depicting St. Thomas holding the carpenter's square as the patron saint of carpenters and craftsmen.







**University profile**

**FOUNDED**  
1932

**TYPE**  
Graduate degrees in philosophy and theology, Catholic

**ACCREDITATION**  
WASC and ATS

**ENROLLMENT**  
Average 80 students

**ACADEMIC YEAR**  
Two semesters

**FACULTY**  
Thirteen full-time instructional faculty, two Emeritus faculty, and six adjunct and visiting faculty

**STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO**  
7:1; average class size: 7

**ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS**  
Concurrent MA Philosophy and Theology

MA Theology

MA Philosophy

MA Theology for Ecclesial Mission

Master of Divinity

**NON-DEGREE OPTIONS**  
Certificate of Philosophical Studies

Certificate of Theological Studies

Special Student status (non-degree)

**SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID**  
Full and partial scholarships

(above) Looking through the Golden Gate Bridge toward the East Bay where DSPT and the Priory are located. (below 1) A Student Brother from St. Albert's presenting at a DSPT event. (below 2) Newly-minted DSPT graduates (below 3) Master of the Order, Fr. Gerard Timoner III, OP visiting DSPT.



**DOMINICAN FRIARS**  
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

The Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology is the Center of Studies for the Dominicans in the Western United States.



**DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY**  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

  
**PHILOI**  
INTERNATIONAL

[dspt.edu/philoi](http://dspt.edu/philoi)