

VST Vision, Mission & Values and MA IIS Outcomes

VST VISION

The Vancouver School of Theology is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.

VST MISSION

An education at VST invites:

- Faithful discernment of the demands of Christian service.
- Rigorous engagement with Christian tradition and contemporary learning.
- Hospitable and respectful collaboration with Indigenous spiritualities and other cultures and faith traditions for the good of all creation.

VST VALUES

As a community of faith, we commit to:

- Theological education (theological, biblical, pastoral, ethical, historical, Indigenous and inter-religious studies) and formation for the flourishing of God's people.
- Inspiring lives of discerning Christian discipleship within and outside this community.
- Respect for the dignity of every person.
- Learning and scholarship undertaken with diligence and openness.
- Encouraging prophetic speech and just action for the love and welfare of creation.

A graduate of the MA IIS program at VST will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of four traditions (Indigenous traditions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity) and awareness of commonalities, complexities and varieties of approach among them
2. Demonstrate Masters-level knowledge about the following aspects of Indigenous traditions and at least one of Judaism, Islam or Christianity:
 - Ways of Knowing
 - Definitions of authority
 - Cultural identities
 - Sacred texts or narratives and canon
 - Performative practices
 - Spiritual formation
3. Describe practices and strategies for intercultural communication, understanding and peacemaking
4. Demonstrate respectful communication, capacities for inter-religious dialogue, and leadership skills in interactions with communities and organizations related to religious traditions
5. Demonstrate awareness of critical concerns of contemporary communities within the four traditions on issues such as identity, authenticity, prejudice, survival
6. Demonstrate awareness of tensions between the traditions on issues such as power, appropriation and assimilation