

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Educational Effectiveness Profile

Revised May 21, 2026

VST evaluates our educational effectiveness in a variety of ways: through course evaluations, through feedback from our denominational constituencies, through a cycle of program reviews, by evaluation of graduation and placement rates, in ‘exit interviews’ with graduating students, and through both the Graduating Student (GSQ) and Alumni Questionnaires designed by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Length of Time to Complete Programs

This chart details the percentages of recent graduates in our academic programs who completed their degree within the time frame for a full-time student. VST also has many students who love the flexibility of being a part-time student to accommodate work or family schedules.

Length of Time to Complete Programs			
Degree	FT Program*	% Grads Completed in full time	
		2024	2025
MDIV	3-4 years	50%	31%
MAPPL	2-3 years	0%	20%
MATS	2-3 years	33%	0%
MAIS	2-3 years	0%	0%
ThM	2-3 years	67%	17%

* Length of program considered full time

Placement Rates for Graduates

This chart indicates how many graduates of our basic degree programs (masters’ level) were able to find vocational employment or other employment, or to continue on to further education within six months of graduation from VST.

2024	Vocation	Other/Unknown	Further Study
MDIV	70%	30%	0%
MAPPL	67%	33%	0%
2025	Vocation	Other/Unknown	Further Study
MDIV	56%	44%	0%
MAPPL	20%	80%	0%

Graduates Satisfaction with VST Education

In the table below, some data from the GSQ demonstrates VST’s effectiveness in meeting the goals of our curriculum. The data reflects questions from Student Questionnaires developed by VST to assess particular dimensions and commitments in our curriculum, as well as some standard ATS-developed questions designed to uniformly evaluate theological programs across the continent. For comparison, Canadian averages from ATS last year’s review is noted.

Scale ranking is 1 to 5, 1 is “not at all effective” and 5 is “very effective”. Percentage ranking represents those who answered "effective" or "very effective" (4 or 5 on the scale).

ATS Graduating Students Questionnaire	VST Grads 2024-2025 100% Response rate Avg.
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	93.9%
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	87.5

Ability to preach well	4.4
Ability to use and interpret Scripture	4.5
Knowledge of church polity/canon law	3.9
Ability to give spiritual direction	3.7
Ability to teach well	3.8
Knowledge of church doctrine and history	4.1
Ability to lead others	4.1
Ability to conduct worship/liturgy	4.1
Ability in pastoral counseling	3.8
Ability to administer a parish	3.6

ATS Graduating Students Questionnaire.	VST Grads 2024-2025
Knowledge of Christian philosophy and ethics	3.8
Ability to think theologically	4.6
Ability to interact effectively with those of religious traditions other than my own	4.0
Individuals of other faith traditions have been respected	4.6
Ability to interact effectively with those from cultural and racial/ethnic contexts other than my own	4.1

At VST we commit to inspiring lives of Christian discipleship within and outside our community. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this commitment?	
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	91.9%
ATS measures related to this goal. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in developing your skills in the following areas? (1=not at all effective; 5=very effective)	
My faith is stronger than when I came	4.5%
Ability to live one's faith in daily life	4.1%
I have been able to integrate the theology and practice of ministry	4.7%

AT VST we commit to encouraging prophetic speech and just action for the love and welfare of creation. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this commitment?	
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	94.9%

ATS measures related to this goal. <i>How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in developing your aptitude and skills in the following areas? (1=not at all effective; 5=very effective)</i>	
Empathy for the poor and oppressed	3.9%
Concern about social justice	3.6%
Insight into troubles of others	4.0%
Ability to relate social issues to faith	4.3%
Ability to integrate ecological concerns into theology and ministry	4.0%

At VST we commit to respect for the dignity of every person. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this commitment?	
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	90.9%

ATS measures related to this goal. <i>How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in the following areas? (1=not at all effective; 5=very effective)</i>	
My personal faith has been respected	4.5%
Individuals of other faith traditions have been respected	4.6%
The school community was diverse and inclusive.	4.6%
I have felt accepted within this school community	4.4%
The faculty were supportive and understanding	4.7%