



B.A. in Theology

Overview

The academic study of theology aims to investigate the nature of God and interpret various dimensions of human religious experience.

Theology studies what people believe about God and the fundamental nature of reality and why they hold those beliefs.

Theology examines what people do in religious groups and institutions to express their beliefs.

Theology examines what motivates people to adopt a religious outlook on life.

Theology studies the past with a view to understanding its influence on the present and the future.

Students who take courses in theology can expect to learn more about the beliefs, values, and practices of religious people around the world, with special attention to the Christian tradition. Some theology courses focus on a particular theological theme or issue that has been debated by scholars over the centuries, while others explore the role of religion in contemporary society or examine the relation between religion and other realms of thought (science, philosophy, art, etc.). In the midst of this diversity, one concern remains paramount: to equip students with intellectual concepts and methods to enable them to think carefully and systematically about the ultimate questions of life in the company of others who have explored these questions before them.

Career Opportunities

Students who major or minor in theology develop wide-ranging skills investigating and interpreting the world of human religious experience within a broad variety of historical and contemporary contexts. They also learn how to think theologically about important social and intellectual problems. These skills are vital for success in graduate programs in many different fields, and are valuable for understanding oneself and others as well. Theology students have many opportunities to develop skills in critical thinking and analysis, professional writing, and oral communication.

Students who major in theology pursue a variety of paths following graduation:

- Attending graduate school or seminary for advanced study in theology
- Teaching theology or religion in a high school or university
- Ministering in churches and other religious organizations
- Working in volunteer, social service, or non-profit organizations
- Attending graduate school in related fields, including:
 - social work
 - public policy
 - counseling
 - history
 - law

On the whole, theology majors tend to be highly distinctive individuals who are eager to explore a variety of career options and create their own opportunities for the future. Faculty advisors work



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closely with each student to help them plan for life after graduation.

Program of Study

The major in theology requires a total of 33 hours of course work (eleven courses) in the department. Students are allowed a substantial degree of freedom in selecting the courses that will count toward their major. For a full description of the major requirements, see the undergraduate catalogue or the departmental website. Students who major in theology have ample room in their schedules to complete a minor or even a second major. The minor in theology requires 18 hours of course work (six courses), including two required Clare courses and four courses chosen by the student.

Student Activities

Students who are interested in ministry opportunities and training will find a host of options through University Ministries. Students considering full-time ministry are encouraged to explore vocational direction through the Franciscan religious community on campus.

Study Abroad

Theology majors and minors are encouraged to pursue study abroad opportunities, including the university's regular summer programs in Oxford (England), Seville (Spain), and Perugia (Italy).

Faculty

There are currently five full-time members and several part-time members of the theology faculty. Theology faculty are first and foremost teachers who care deeply about their students. This concern is demonstrated by the way faculty challenge

students to think, write, and speak with greater clarity and precision about important theological matters that touch their lives directly.

The Theology faculty bring a strong international flavor to the classroom. India, Russia, and Canada are among the home countries of our faculty. All full-time faculty hold advanced degrees from universities based in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and India and are productive scholars.

