

THEOLOGY (BA/MA)

The BA/MA program is jointly administered by the Theology Department Undergraduate Program and Graduate Program Directors.

BA Requirements Curriculum

At least five (5) of the 12 courses required for the major must be at the 300-level or higher.

Code	Title	Hours
Doctrine Course ¹		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 100	Christian Theology	
THEO 265	Sacraments and the Christian Imagination	
THEO 266	Church & Global Cultures	
THEO 267	Jesus Christ	
Bible, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 231	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or THEO 232 New Testament	
THEO 302	Wisdom Literature and Psalms	
THEO 303	Pentateuch	
THEO 304	Israel Conquest to Exile	
Bible, New Testament Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 232	New Testament	
THEO 311	The Meaning of Jesus Christ	
THEO 313	Gospels of Matthew, Mark & Luke	
Christian Thought Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 317	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval	
THEO 318	Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	
Non-Christian Religious Tradition Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 107	Introduction to Religious Studies	
THEO 169	Taoism	
THEO 272	Judaism	
THEO 282	Hinduism	
THEO 295	Islam	
THEO 297	Buddhism	
THEO 299	Religions of Asia	
THEO 350	Topics in Islam	
THEO 352	Topics in Buddhism	
THEO 353	Religious Traditions	
THEO 356	Topics in Judaism	
THEO 365	Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam	
THEO 366	Contemporary Islamic Thought and Movements	
Ethics Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 185	Christian Ethics	
THEO 186	Global Religious Ethics	

THEO 192	Topics in Moral Problems	
THEO 203	Social Justice and Injustice	
THEO 204	Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis	
THEO 293	Christian Marriage	
THEO 340	Foundations of Christian Morality	
THEO 342	Perspectives on Life and Death	
THEO 343	Contemporary Christian Sexuality	
THEO 344	Theology and Ecology	

Theology Capstone

THEO 373	Theology Capstone ²	3
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Elective Courses

Select five elective courses ³		15
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Any THEO 200-level or higher course

CATH 296	All Things Ignatian: Living and Learning in the Jesuit Trad	
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Total Hours		36
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¹ Eligible students may substitute HONR 101 Western Traditions - Antiquity to the Middle Ages/HONR D101 Developments Western Thought I Discussion for Doctrine requirement.

² With prior approval from the undergraduate program director, students may replace THEO 373 Theology Capstone with THEO 353 Religious Traditions.

³ With prior approval from the undergraduate program director, up to two elective courses may be taken outside the Department of Theology. Courses used for other Theology major requirements cannot be used as electives.

THEO 280 Theology & Interdisciplinary Study may be taken to fulfill a major requirement, depending on the course topic. Please consult your department for more information.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
	Doctrine Course (THEO 100)	3
	Ethics Course (THEO 185)	3
		Hours
		6
Spring		
	Non-Christian Traditions Course	3
THEO 231 or THEO 232	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or New Testament	3
		Hours
		6
Sophomore		
Fall		
THEO 232 or THEO 231	New Testament (whichever one not taken) or Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	3

THEO 200-Level or higher Course	3
Hours	6
Spring	
THEO 200-Level or higher Course	3
THEO 300-Level or higher Course	3
Hours	6
Junior	
Fall	
THEO 300-Level or higher Course ¹	3
Hours	3
Spring	
THEO 300-Level or higher Course ¹	3
Hours	3
Senior	
Fall	
THEO 300-Level or higher Course	3
Hours	3
Spring	
THEO 373	Theology Capstone
	3
Hours	3
Total Hours	36

¹ Students may take THEO 317 Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval or THEO 318 Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern in this term.

Transfer-Student Residency Requirement

At least 18 credit hours of THEO-BA requirements must be completed at Loyola

Double-Dipping Policy

This department observes the CAS Double-Dipping Policy (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#policiestext>) regarding unique credits required for each declared major/minor.

College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take two Writing Intensive courses (6 credit hours) as well as complete a foreign language requirement at 102-level or higher (3 credit hours) or a language competency test. More information can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/cas/college-requirements/>).

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SCPS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/>) area.

THEO 280 Theology & Interdisciplinary Study may be taken to fulfill a major requirement, depending on the course topic. Please consult your department for more information.

MA Requirements Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Theology requires 30 credit hours of coursework and a comprehensive examination. Students may choose to concentrate in one of four areas: Theological Studies, Biblical Languages and Literature, Biblical Studies, or Christian Ethics. There is also an option to add an Education minor.

Concentrations

Theological Studies

This concentration emphasizes exposure to the full range of theological investigation.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Two courses in Biblical Studies		6
Two courses in Systematic or Historical Theology		6
Two courses in Christian Ethics		6
Four Graduate Electives		12
Total Hours		30

Biblical Languages and Literature

The concentration in Biblical Languages and Literature provides students with the initial language and biblical study necessary to apply to doctoral programs in Biblical Studies. Half of the coursework is in biblical Greek and Hebrew. This concentration requires an additional 6cr hours due to intensive language requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Four courses in Major Biblical Language (Hebrew or Greek)		12
Two courses in Minor Biblical Language (Hebrew or Greek)		6
Two courses in Old Testament		6
Two courses in New Testament		6
One course in Systematic or Historical Theology		3
One course in Christian Ethics		3
Total Hours		36

Biblical Studies

This concentration is suited to students with a particular interest in Biblical Studies, but does not incorporate the language study necessary for doctoral work in Biblical Studies.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Five courses in Biblical Studies		15
One course in Systematic or Historical Theology		3
One course in Christian Ethics		3
Three Graduate Electives		9
Total Hours		30

Christian Ethics

This concentration is similar to the concentration in Theological Studies, but requires more coursework in Christian Ethics.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Five courses in Christian Ethics		15
Two courses in Systematic of Historical Theology		6
Two courses in Biblical Studies		6
One Graduate Elective		3
Total Hours		30

Bioethics & Health Care Policy

The concentration in Bioethics and Health Care Policy is offered jointly with the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Healthcare Leadership. This concentration is appropriate for students interested in pursuing a social ethical understanding of bioethics. Courses in this concentration address the history of bioethics including the issues of racism and eugenics; methods and approaches in medical ethics and bioethics (ethnography, narrative bioethics, feminist bioethics); and topics in bioethics such as reproductive medicine and reproductive justice, genetics, disability ethics, spiritual care ethics, end of life, and healthcare justice.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
BEHL 401	Clinical Topics in Bioethics	3
Two courses in Christian Ethics		6
Two courses in Biblical Studies		6
Three courses in Bioethics ¹		9
Two courses in Systematic or Historical Theology		6
Total Hours		30

¹ One course in Bioethics may be taken at the Neiswanger Institute.

Graduate Courses by Area

Theology courses are divided into sub-fields as follows. There are also directed readings and independent studies options that are open for application to particular areas of study.

Biblical Studies

Code	Title	Hours
THEO 401	Tutorial in Biblical Studies	3
THEO 403	Topics in Rabbinic & Medieval Literature	3
THEO 404	History of Israel	3
THEO 405	Formation of The Pentateuch	3
THEO 406	Basic Hebrew Grammar	3
THEO 407	Hebrew Exegesis	3
THEO 418	Theological Prophets-Ancient Israel	3
THEO 420	Seminar	3
THEO 421	Directed Reading in Bible Studies	1-3
THEO 422	Directed Reading in Bible Studies	3
THEO 424	The Synoptic Gospels	3
THEO 425	Luke-Acts & New Testament Church	3
THEO 427	St Paul's Contribution to Christianity	3
THEO 429	Person of Jesus in New Testament	3
THEO 515	Gospels in Early Christianity	3
THEO 517	Early Christian Letters	1-12
THEO 519	Latr Nt-Subapost Writ	3

THEO 523	Cultural-Religious Environment Early Christianity	3
THEO 527	Various Community Early Christianity	3

Theology

Code	Title	Hours
THEO 436	Christology	3
THEO 437	Mystery of God in Christian Theology	3
THEO 440	Seminar in Systematic Theology	1-12
THEO 441	Directed Reading in Systematic Theology	3
THEO 447	Philosophical Theology	3
THEO 449	Phenomenology of Religion	3
THEO 459	Contemporary Theology	1-12
THEO 460	Seminar in History of Theology	1-12
THEO 461	Directed Readings in History of Theology	3
THEO 464	Religion & Politics in Christian History	3
THEO 530	Seminar - Variable Titles	1-12
THEO 536	Christian Doctrine-Catholic Theology	3
THEO 560	Contemporary Authors	1-12
THEO 570	Fundamental Issues in Christian Ethics	1-12

Ethics

Code	Title	Hours
THEO 470	Foundations Critical Issues Theological Ethics	1-12
THEO 475	Natural Law & Theological Ethics	3
THEO 477	Feminist Issues in Theology and Ethics	3
THEO 478	Issues in Medical Ethics	3
THEO 480	Seminar in Christian Ethics	1-12
THEO 481	Directed Readings Christian Ethics	3
THEO 573	Roman Catholic Ethics	3
THEO 575	Religious Ethics and Social Theory	3
THEO 580	Christian Social Ethics	3
THEO 585	Issues Applied Theology Ethics	3

Education Minor

Students seeking an MA in any of our four concentrations can pursue a minor in Education. This option is excellent preparation for those who plan to teach theology at the high school level, where candidates with a combination of academic theological training and teacher training are in high demand.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Hours
CIEP 414	Instructional Methods-Diverse Population	3
CIEP 423	Advanced Literacy Instruction in the Content Area	3
CIEP 425	Theory and Practice in Assessment	3
CIEP 458	Classroom Management	3

For those students who choose this option, the Theology Department will recognize two of these four required School of Education courses as fulfilling two electives in the MA program. The other two School of Education courses are in addition to the usual MA course requirements. Students frequently take these additional two courses during the summer.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional-academic-standards-regulations/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supercede school policies.

Guidelines for Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Programs

Terms

- **Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs:** In this type of program, students share limited credits between their undergraduate and graduate degrees to facilitate completion of both degrees.
- **Shared credits:** Graduate level credit hours taken during the undergraduate program and then applied towards graduate program requirements will be referred to as Shared credits.

Admission Requirements

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to enhance opportunities for advanced training for Loyola's undergraduates. Admission to these programs must be competitive and will depend upon a positive review of credentials by the program's admissions committee. Accordingly, the admission requirements for these programs may be higher than those required if the master's degree were pursued entirely after the receipt of a bachelor's degree. That is, programs may choose to have more stringent admissions requirements in addition to those minimal requirements below.

Requirements:

- Declared appropriate undergraduate major,
- By the time students begin taking graduate courses as an undergraduate, the student has completed approximately 90 credit hours, or the credit hours required in a program that is accredited by a specialty organization,¹
- A minimum cumulative GPA for coursework at Loyola that is at or above the program-specific requirements, a minimum major GPA that is at or above the program-specific requirements, and/or appropriate designated coursework for evaluation of student readiness in their discipline.²

Students not eligible for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program (e.g., students who have not declared the appropriate undergraduate major) may apply to the master's program through the regular admissions process. Students enrolled in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program who choose not to continue to the master's degree program upon completion of the bachelor's degree will face no consequences.³

Ideally, a student will apply for admission (or confirm interest in proceeding towards the graduate degree in opt-out programs) as they approach 90 credit hours. Programs are encouraged to begin advising students early in their major so that they are aware of the program and, if interested, can complete their bachelor's degree requirements in a way that facilitates completion of the program. Once admitted as an undergraduate, Program Directors should ensure that students are enrolled using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program will ensure that students may be easily identified as they move through the program. Students will not officially

matriculate into the master's degree program and be labeled as a graduate student by the university, with accompanying changes to tuition and Financial Aid (see below), until the undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once admitted to the graduate program, students must meet the academic standing requirements of their graduate program as they complete the program curriculum.

- ¹ Programs that have specialized accreditation will adhere to the admissions criteria provided by, or approved by, their specialized accreditors.
- ² The program will identify appropriate indicators of student readiness for graduate coursework (e.g., high-level performance in 300 level courses). Recognizing differences between how majors are designed, we do not specify a blanket requirement.
- ³ If students choose not to enroll in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, they still must complete all of the standard requirements associated with the undergraduate degree (e.g., a capstone).

Curriculum

Level and progression of courses. The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to be competitive and attractive to our most capable students. Students admitted to Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs should be capable of meeting graduate level learning outcomes. Following guidance from the Higher Learning Commission, only courses taken at the 400 level or higher (including 300/400 level courses taken at the 400 level) will count toward the graduate program.^{1,2} Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may come from 300/400 level courses where the student is enrolled in the 400 level of the course. Further, at least 50% of the credit hours for the graduate program must come from courses that are designed for and restricted to graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at Loyola (e.g., enrolled in plan code that indicates the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, typically ending with the letter "D").³

In general, graduate level coursework should not be taken prior to admission into the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Exceptions may be granted for professional programs where curriculum for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program is designed to begin earlier. On the recommendation of the program's Graduate Director, students may take one of their graduate level courses before they are admitted to the Accelerated Bachelors/Master's program if they have advanced abilities in their discipline and course offerings warrant such an exception.⁴ Undergraduate degree requirements outside of the major are in no way impacted by admission to an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program.⁵

Shared credits. Undergraduate courses (i.e., courses offered at the 300 level or below) cannot be counted as shared credits nor count towards the master's degree. Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may be counted in meeting both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Of those shared credits, students in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program should begin their graduate program with the standard introductory course(s) for the program whenever possible. So that students may progress through the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program in a timely manner, undergraduate programs are encouraged to design their curriculum such that a student can complete some required graduate credit hours while completing the undergraduate degree. For instance, some of the graduate curriculum should also satisfy electives for the undergraduate major.

The program's Graduate Director will designate credit hours to be shared through the advising form and master's degree conferral review process.

Shared credit hours will not be marked on the undergraduate record as having a special status in the undergraduate program. They will be included in the student's undergraduate earned hours and GPA. Graduate credit hours taken during the undergraduate program will not be included in the graduate GPA calculation.

- ¹ If students wish to transfer credits from another university to Loyola University Chicago, the program's Graduate director will review the relevant syllabus(es) to determine whether it meets the criteria for a 400 level course or higher.
- ² Programs with specialized accreditation requirements that allow programs to offer graduate curriculum to undergraduate students will conform to those specialized accreditation requirements.
- ³ In rare cases, the Graduate Director may authorize enrollment in a 400-level course for a highly qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, ensuring that the undergraduate's exceptional participation in the graduate class will not diminish in any way the experience of the graduate students regularly enrolled.
- ⁴ For example, if a particular course is only offered once every 2-3 years, and a student has demonstrated the necessary ability to be successful, the Graduate Director may allow a student to take a graduate level course to be shared prior to the student being formally admitted to the graduate program. See, also, footnote 4.
- ⁵ Students should not, for example, attempt to negotiate themselves out of a writing intensive requirement on the basis of admission to a graduate program.

Graduation

Degrees are awarded sequentially. All details of undergraduate commencement are handled in the ordinary way as for all students in the School/College/Institute. Once in the graduate program, students abide by the graduation deadlines set forth by the graduate program. Students in these programs must be continuously enrolled from undergraduate to graduate degree program unless given explicit permission by their program for a gap year or approved leave of absence.