THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, PH.D.

Saint Louis University’s Ph.D. in Theological Studies trains scholars in one of two concentrations that reflect areas of research excellence and depth among our faculty: Christianity in antiquity and Christian theology. Students are formed as both scholars and teachers.

Regardless of their concentration, students are expected to explore a wide range of methodological approaches and cultivate a range of skills vital for an ongoing career in research. Alongside equipping students to specialize within their chosen concentrations, SLU’s Department of Theological Studies (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/theological-studies/) mentors students in the craft of teaching through a variety of opportunities and experiences, including individualized supervision, workshops, and diverse undergraduate teaching assignments.

Graduate Student Handbook (http://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/theological-studies/pdfs/theograduatestudent-handbook.pdf)

Curriculum Overview

Christianity in Antiquity
The focal point of the Christianity in antiquity (CA) concentration is early Christianity, from its origins through the rise of Islam. This concentration deliberately bridges longstanding disciplinary boundaries between New Testament, patristics and early medieval Christianity, situating Christianity within the Greco-Roman world and the wider religious cultures of the Mediterranean.

Christian Theology
The focal point of the Christian theology (CT) concentration is Christian theology, broadly conceived. This concentration trains students to become Christian theologians by providing students with a strong background in the history of Christianity as well as the various subfields of Christian theology. Students in this area of concentration craft an integrated plan of study in one of several major theological disciplines by means of coursework and individualized exams.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Resources for theology students at SLU include the more than 37,000 microfilms of the Vatican Film Library, the archives of the Institute of Jesuit Sources and more than 150,000 volumes of the Divinity Library in the Pius XII Memorial Library (which contains 1.4 million books, journals and other media). The library also provides access to many key research resources, including the Patrologia Latina, Brepolis, Early English Books OnLine, ATLA, Catholic Periodical Index, J-STOR, Index of Christian Art, as well as electronic access to major journals and other indexing tools.

The Center for Digital Theology creates products and tools to support teaching and research in historical theology. Theology faculty and graduate students also contribute to other interdisciplinary centers, such as the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Center for Women’s Studies.

Careers

Graduates have gone on to a wide range of careers in academia, educational administration, museums, libraries, archives, and nonprofit agencies. SLU’s Department of Theological Studies (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/theological-studies/) is committed to the professional preparation of every graduate student.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Ph.D. program will have earned a master’s degree in theology, religious studies, ancient history, or some other closely-related field.

Application Requirements
• Application form and fee
• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE scores
• Résumé
• Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:
• Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)
• Proof of financial support must include:
  • A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  • A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
• Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application Deadline

Interested students should apply by Jan. 1.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by the department’s graduate studies committee.

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid (http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of both the key primary sources and secondary scholarship relevant to their area of concentration.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the theories and methods that structure the study of theology and religion and give shape to the history of the discipline.
3. Graduates will be able to design and teach undergraduate courses within the major undergraduate courses in the department and develop into competent teachers.
4. Graduates will be able to communicate their scholarly arguments effectively in both written and oral formats.
5. Graduates will acquire the skills necessary to succeed on the academic job market as well as to flourish as successful academic professionals.
6. Graduates will be able to conduct independent research resulting in an original contribution to knowledge in their area of concentration.

Requirements

Christianity in Antiquity Concentration

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>THEO 6020</td>
<td>Christianity in Antiquity Survey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Christianity in Antiquity Seminar (repeat as needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEO 6300</td>
<td>Late Ancient Syriac: Theological Texts (repeat as needed)</td>
<td>12</td>
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Electives 6

THEO 6210 Dissertation Prospectus (taken over two semesters) 6
THEO 6990 Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters) 12

Total Credits 54

Christian Theology Concentration

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<td>THEO 5280</td>
<td>Christian Tradition II (recommended)</td>
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Electives 9

THEO 6210 Dissertation Prospectus (taken over two semesters) 6
THEO 6990 Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters) 12

Total Credits 54

Non-Course Requirements

Students typically must acquire competency in French and German, and any other languages relevant to their research interests.

All doctoral students must take four written examinations: the first at the end of the fall semester of year 1, the second at the end of the spring semester of year 1, the third at the end of the fall semester of year 2, and the fourth at the end of the spring semester of year 2.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

Christianity in Antiquity Concentration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
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Credits 9

Spring

THEO 6000 Theories and Methods 3
THEO 6110 Christianity in Antiquity Seminar 3
THEO 6300 Late Ancient Syriac: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6310 Late Ancient Greek: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6320 Late Ancient Latin: Theological Texts 3

Elective 3

Year Two

Fall

THEO 6110 Christianity in Antiquity Seminar 3
THEO 6300 Late Ancient Syriac: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6310 Late Ancient Greek: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6320 Late Ancient Latin: Theological Texts 3

Elective 3

Credits 9

Spring

THEO 6110 Christianity in Antiquity Seminar 3
THEO 6300 Late Ancient Syriac: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6310 Late Ancient Greek: Theological Texts 3
or THEO 6320 Late Ancient Latin: Theological Texts 3

Elective 3

Year Three

Fall

THEO 6210 Dissertation Prospectus 3
THEO 6990 Dissertation Research 6

Credits 9

Spring

THEO 6210 Dissertation Prospectus 3
THEO 6990 Dissertation Research 6

Credits 9

Total Credits 54

Christian Theology Concentration

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Elective 3

Credits 9
### Year One

#### Spring
- **THEO 6000** Theories and Methods 3
- **THEO 6140** Christian Theology Seminar 6

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- **THEO 6140** Christian Theology Seminar 3
- **THEO 5270** Christian Tradition I (or elective) 3
- **Elective** 3

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- **THEO 6140** Christian Theology Seminar 3
- **THEO 5280** Christian Tradition II (or elective) 3
- **Electives** 3

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### Year Three

#### Fall
- **THEO 6210** Dissertation Prospectus 3
- **THEO 6990** Dissertation Research 6

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#### Spring
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- **THEO 6990** Dissertation Research 6

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### Year Four

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#### Spring
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### Contact Us

For additional questions regarding Ph.D. programs, please contact:

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jeffrey.wickes@slu.edu

For additional questions regarding master’s programs, please contact:

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Coordinator of the Master’s Programs
ruben.rosariorodriguez@slu.edu