

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, B.A.

Theology is about God and the ways in which humans have lived, and continue to live, with God. It is therefore concerned with the most basic questions of life.

Saint Louis University's Department of Theological Studies trains students in a variety of sources and methods to help them evaluate and appreciate the most vital aspects of religious experience and thought. The department enters into this investigation from an academic perspective with the aim of helping students clarify their own understanding. The Catholic tradition is central to the work of the department, but Catholicism is studied in the context of the whole Christian tradition and in relationship to all of the world's religious traditions.

Additional program highlights include:

- The SLU theology program allows students to explore major questions about life and God while studying with top scholars in the field.
- Students explore deep, theological issues in a welcoming environment that is both rooted in the Catholic tradition and open to all viewpoints.
- Students develop their writing, research and critical thinking skills in preparation for graduate study and careers in various disciplines such as theology, law, social work, philosophy and many others.

Curriculum Overview

The major in theological studies consists of 30 credits after completion of the introductory Theological Foundations course. Students are required to take one Old Testament course, one New Testament course, at least one course in two of the sub-disciplines within theological studies listed below, four electives and two capstone seminars. Sub-disciplines within the department include:

- Theology and history
- Faith and reason
- Christian morality and society
- Non-Christian religious traditions

The introductory course, Theological Foundations, introduces students to the God of revelation within the Judeo-Christian tradition and to the understanding of its implications for living a human life, respecting creation and pursuing beauty and truth. This is done within an ecumenical and global context, examining other world religions and various social realities. Subsequent courses focus on an aspect of Christian or other religious traditions and address social and moral issues.

Following the introductory Theological Foundations course, the department offers undergraduate courses in the 2000–4000 level in Scripture, both Hebrew and Christian; the history of Christianity from its origins through today; constructive theology which examines central themes and pressing issues in Christianity, theological ethics, which studies diverse Christian practices; world religions/comparative theology, which explores non-Christian faiths by either comparing or contrasting them with Christianity (e.g., Islam and Christianity) or by studying them individually (e.g., world religions); and spirituality, which examines the various expressions of Christian discipleship (e.g., Ignatian spirituality).

The two-semester capstone cohort (THEO 4960 Capstone Seminar I (3 cr) and THEO 4965 Capstone Seminar II (3 cr)) challenges students to examine a central issue in theology and/or religious studies. This capstone experience includes the development of a major research project and culminates in a public scholarly presentation.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The Theology Club at Saint Louis University provides an opportunity for students and faculty to come together in an informal, social setting. The club holds regular discussions, sponsors lectures and helps plan an annual undergraduate conference. The department publishes a monthly newsletter, the Ignatian Herald, which keeps interested students informed about campus events. The department also sponsors two annual lectureships, the Bellarmine and De Lubac Lectures, in which world-class scholars share their ongoing research with faculty, students and the wider university community.

Faculty members and academic advisors/mentors assist students in finding internships in the St. Louis area or in their hometowns that will utilize the knowledge obtained from the theology curriculum and enhance the students' skill sets.

Careers

Those who wish to remain in the field of theology after graduation may teach on the elementary and secondary levels or serve as religious education coordinators in a parish and pastoral associates in schools or parishes. Many students see the theology major as good preparation for graduate studies. Graduate studies in theology prepare students for a variety of careers in ministry, teaching at the college or university levels and entering many other careers. Some students choose to complete a double major in order to diversify their opportunities for employment. Studies in theology enhance careers in journalism, social work, medicine, law or politics.

Admission Requirements

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit. Those having completed 24 or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the office of admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

International Applicants

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.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at <http://finaid.slu.edu>.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to identify the various roles of Christian theology in the world today.
2. Graduates will be able to describe the significance of theological study for the life of faith.
3. Graduates will be able to explain the methodologies that contemporary scholars use in academic theology.
4. Graduates will be able to write an academically-sophisticated research thesis on a topic in theology.

Requirements

A single course cannot be used to fill more than one requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
	College core requirements (p. 3)	57-66
For additional information about core courses (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#policiestext)		
Foundations Requirement		
THEO 1000	Theological Foundations	
Scripture Requirement		
	Select one of the following:	6

THEO 2110	Old Testament (and one course with a New Testament attribute)	
THEO 2210	New Testament (and one course with an Old Testament attribute)	
Area Elective Courses		
	Select two courses from two of the following subject areas:	6
	Ethics & Society (p. 3)	
	Faith & Reason (p. 2)	
	Religions of the World (p. 3)	
	Theology & History (p. 3)	
General Elective Courses		
	Select four courses from any one or combination of the following subject areas:	12
	Ethics & Society (p. 3)	
	Faith & Reason (p. 2)	
	Sacred Scriptures (p. 2)	
	Religions of the World (p. 3)	
	Theology & History (p. 3)	
Capstone		
THEO 4960	Capstone Seminar I	
THEO 4965	Capstone Seminar II	
General Electives		39-30
Total Credits		120

Sacred Scriptures Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2110	Old Testament	
THEO 2210	New Testament	
THEO 3115	Old Testament: Prophets	
THEO 3120	Old Testament: Psalms	
THEO 4210	How to Interpret Scripture: Methods and Perspectives	
THEO 4215	The Bible and Literature	
THEO 4290	Seminar in New Testament	

Faith & Reason Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2410	Making Christianity Credible	
THEO 2415	The Church: Yesterday & Today	
THEO 2430	Jesus and Salvation	
THEO 2815	Psychology and the Soul	
THEO 2820	Religion and Science	
THEO 2840	Christianity and Literature	
THEO 2900	Love and the Human Condition	
THEO 2905	Death and Suffering	
THEO 3410	Christianity and Atheism: A History of Disbelief	
THEO 3415	Christ and Color: Liberation Theology	
THEO 3420	Women and God: Feminist Theology	
THEO 3615	Christian Iconography	
THEO 3900	Seeking God: A History	
THEO 3905	Marriage & Christian Vocation	
THEO 3930	Special Topics	

THEO 4410	Theological Outsiders: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Dostoevsky
THEO 4490	Seminar in Constructive Theology

Ethics & Society Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2510	Christian Ethics	
THEO 2515	Social Justice	
THEO 2520	Comparative Religious Ethics	
THEO 2525	Theological Bioethics: Medicine and Morality	
THEO 3510	Faith and Politics	
THEO 3515	Poverty, Wealth & Justice	
THEO 3525	Green Discipleship: Theology & Ecology	
THEO 3535	Sex, Gender and Christian Ethics	
THEO 3560	A Post Human Future? The Ethics of Technology	
THEO 4510	War and Peace in the Christian Tradition	
THEO 4525	Freedom of Conscience	
THEO 4590	Seminar in Christian Ethics	
THEO 4810	Nicaragua: Theology and Culture	

Religions of the World Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2715	Jerusalem: Three Faiths, One City	
THEO 2720	Islam: Religion & Culture	
THEO 3710	Arts of Hinduism and Buddhism	
THEO 3715	Saints and Friends of God: Religious Genius in Islam and Christianity	
THEO 3720	Intuition, Spontaneity, and Flow: Daoism in Comparative Context	
THEO 3725	Sufism, Islam's Mystical Tradition	
THEO 3730	Jewish Life: Bible to Middle Ages	
THEO 3740	Religions of Asia	
THEO 4710	Islam and the Christian Theologian: Comparing Theological Themes	
THEO 4790	Seminar in World Religions	

Theology & History Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 3310	Rise of Christianity	
THEO 3320	Modern Christianity	
THEO 3310	Rise of Christianity	
THEO 3330	Coming to the Americas: Religious Encounters in the Colonial Age	
THEO 3365	Teachers in Early Christianity	
THEO 3370	Teachers in Medieval Christianity	
THEO 3375	Women in the Bible	
THEO 3325	The Reformations of the 16th Century	
THEO 3335	Christians In Middle East	
THEO 3425	The Invisible Institution: African American Religion and the Rise of Black Theology	

Continuation Standards

A student must maintain a 2.00 grade point average (GPA) in Theology major coursework.

Bachelor of Arts Core Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Core Components and Credits		
	Foundations of Discourse (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foundations-discourse)	3
	Diversity in the U.S. (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/cultural-diversity)	3
	Global Citizenship (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/bs-core/global-citizenship)	3
	Foreign Language (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foreign-language)	0-9
	Fine Arts (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/fine-arts)	3
	Literature (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/literature)	6
	Mathematics (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/mathematics)	3
	Natural Science (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/sciences)	6
	Philosophy (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/philosophy)	9
	Social Science (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/social-science)	6
	Theology (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/theology)	9
	World History (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/world-history)	6
Total Credits		57-66

Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses [numbered below 1000]).
- Complete either the College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Core Curriculum Requirements
- Complete Major Requirements: minimum 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate, and/or elective credits to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Courses listed under the intensive English program do not count toward graduation requirements. EAP 1500 College Composition for International Students (3 cr), EAP 1900 Rhetoric & Research Strategies (3 cr) and EAP 2850 Introduction to Literature for International Students (3 cr) count toward graduation requirements as equivalents to Department of English courses. In addition to those courses, six credits from EAP/MLNG courses at the 1000 level or higher may count toward graduation requirements
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s) and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
- Complete Dept/Program specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.

- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
Participation in first-year mentoring events		
THEO 1000	Theological Foundations (May be satisfied by 1818 college credit)	3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
Credits		15
Spring		
THEO 2110 or THEO 2210	Old Testament (Old Testament/Hebrew Bible or New Testament course) or New Testament	3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
THEO 2000-level		3
THEO 3000-level		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
Credits		15
Spring		
THEO 3000-level or 4000-level	(Second scripture course in the testament not already taken above in semester two)	3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
THEO 3000-level		3

A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Core		3
A&S Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring		
THEO 3000-level		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
Credits		15
Year Four		
Fall		
THEO 4960	Capstone Seminar I	3
THEO 4000-level		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring		
THEO 4965	Capstone Seminar II	3
THEO 4000-level		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
A&S Elective		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

Sacred Scriptures Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2110	Old Testament	3
THEO 2210	New Testament	3
THEO 3115	Old Testament: Prophets	3
THEO 3120	Old Testament: Psalms	3
THEO 3210	One Jesus, Four Portraits: the Gospels	3
THEO 4210	How to Interpret Scripture: Methods and Perspectives	3
THEO 4215	The Bible and Literature	3
THEO 4290	Seminar in New Testament	3

Theology & History

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 3310	Rise of Christianity	3
THEO 3320	Modern Christianity	3
THEO 3330	Coming to the Americas: Religious Encounters in the Colonial Age	3
THEO 3345	The Life and Theology of Augustine of Hippo	3
THEO 3365	Teachers in Early Christianity	3
THEO 3370	Teachers in Medieval Christianity	3
THEO 3375	Women in the Bible	3

THEO 3325	The Reformations of the 16th Century	3
THEO 3335	Christians In Middle East	3

Faith & Reason Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2410	Making Christianity Credible	3
THEO 2415	The Church: Yesterday & Today	3
THEO 2430	Jesus and Salvation	3
THEO 2815	Psychology and the Soul	3
THEO 2820	Religion and Science	3
THEO 2840	Christianity and Literature	3
THEO 2900	Love and the Human Condition	3
THEO 2905	Death and Suffering	3
THEO 3410	Christianity and Atheism: A History of Disbelief	3
THEO 3415	Christ and Color: Liberation Theology	3
THEO 3420	Women and God: Feminist Theology	3
THEO 3900	Seeking God: A History	3
THEO 3905	Marriage & Christian Vocation	3
THEO 4410	Theological Outsiders: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Dostoevsky	3
THEO 4490	Seminar in Constructive Theology	3

Ethics & Society Courses

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2510	Christian Ethics	3
THEO 2515	Social Justice	3
THEO 2520	Comparative Religious Ethics	3
THEO 2525	Theological Bioethics: Medicine and Morality	3
THEO 3510	Faith and Politics	3
THEO 3515	Poverty, Wealth & Justice	3
THEO 3525	Green Discipleship: Theology & Ecology	3
THEO 3535	Sex, Gender and Christian Ethics	3
THEO 3560	A Post Human Future? The Ethics of Technology	3
THEO 4510	War and Peace in the Christian Tradition	3
THEO 4525	Freedom of Conscience	3
THEO 4590	Seminar in Christian Ethics	3
THEO 4810	Nicaragua: Theology and Culture	3

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Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2715	Jerusalem: Three Faiths, One City	3
THEO 2720	Islam: Religion & Culture	3
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THEO 3725	Sufism, Islam's Mystical Tradition	3
THEO 3730	Jewish Life: Bible to Middle Ages	3
THEO 3740	Religions of Asia	3
THEO 4710	Islam and the Christian Theologian: Comparing Theological Themes	3
THEO 4790	Seminar in World Religions	3