THEOLOGY MAJOR

The Theology and Religious Studies Department offers two majors which are distinguished by virtue of both their primary content and their methodological approach. Students may choose one of these majors in conjunction with their other studies, or they may double major within the department and get a degree in both Theology and in Religious Studies.

Theology majors will focus primarily on Christianity. Theology, which literally means the "study of God," was described by Anselm of Canterbury as "faith seeking understanding." It entails methodical study of the faith traditions of a believing community. Christian Theology employs the methods of its sub-fields (e.g., systematic and historical theology, ethics, biblical studies) to explore the bible, Jesus Christ, the church, tradition history, doctrinal development, liturgy, personal and communal morality, and relations with other religions. It is not catechesis, which transmits knowledge about a religion to a believer without critically analyzing the tradition's beliefs. Theology requires a process of grappling with and critically examining particular expressions of faith in order to articulate them in contemporary contexts. In other words, theology seeks to address the "fears, hopes, griefs, and anxieties" (Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes, no. 1) of church and world in the present moment. As a discipline, theology converses with the academy, the church, and society. The theology faculty and their students at Saint Joseph's University aim to assist each of these communities in appreciating the meaning and implications of the tenets and practices of Roman Catholic and other Christian traditions, as well as those of other religions.

If you are more interested in focusing your studies on religious traditions other than Christianity, please take a look at the Religious Studies major. (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/arts-sciences/theology-religious-studies/religious-studies-major/)

Learning Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Students will study at least two religious traditions beyond an introductory level, including their histories, beliefs, practices and contemporary expressions.

> **Outcome 1:** Students will be able to identify, define, and/or explain the content, core concepts, and theories that serve as the foundation for select religious traditions.

Goal 2: Students will study the implications of religious belief for moral decision making and ethical action in the world.

> **Outcome 2:** Students will be able to articulate the foundations, historical development, and ethical ramifications of the basic content of the Catholic faith using sources and methods appropriate to the discipline of Theology.

Goal 3: Students will utilize methods of research and argumentations within the multidisciplinary context of the academic study of theology and religion.

> **Outcome 3:** Students will be able to utilize methods of research and argumentation within the multidisciplinary context of the academic study of theology and religion.

Requirements

Cornerstone Core Curriculum Requirements

Consist of 14 core and 2 overlay requirements. See below for additional detailed information on each of these requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
First Year Course Requirements		
ENG 101	Craft of Language	3
World History Course Area		3
Philosophy Requirements		
Either Level One or Level Two (but not both) -- must be Ethics designated. If approved, philosophy courses may count for a student's Writing Intensive overlay. Students may not double-count the same course as Philosophy Level Two and as a Mission Overlay course.		
Philosophy Level One		3
Philosophy Level Two		3
Theology & Religious Studies Requirements		
If approved, Theology & Religious Studies courses may count for a student's Writing Intensive overlay. Students may not double-count the same course as CCC Theology and as a Mission Overlay course.		
Theology		3
Religious Studies		3
Diversity & INT 151 Requirements		
A student's Diversity course may not count for any other CCC course area requirement or as their Mission Overlay course. If approved, Diversity courses may count for a student's Writing Intensive Overlay requirement. INT 151 may not count for any other CCC requirements. This course must be taken in the first two years		
Diversity		3
INT 151	Inequality in American Society	1
Math & Natural Science Requirements		
If approved, Math & Natural Science Requirements may count toward overlay requirements.		
Mathematics		3-4
Natural Science		4
Social Science Requirement		3
If approved, such Social Science Requirement may count toward a student's overlay requirements.		
Non-Native Language Requirement		3-4
A single Non-Native Language course may not count as an overlay course but a second language course fulfills a student's Mission Overlay requirement.		
Literature Requirement		3
If approved, Literature courses may count toward a student's overlay requirements.		
Fine and Performing Arts, Creativity, and Design Requirement		3
If approved, Fine and Performing Arts, Creativity, and Design courses may count toward a student's overlay requirements.		
Overlay Requirements		
Writing-Intensive		3

If approved, Writing-Intensive courses may double count as major courses, minor courses, electives, or as any CCC course area requirement except for the first-year courses (World History and Rhetoric and Composition).

Code	Title	Hours
Mission-Overlay		3

Mission Overlay courses may double count as major courses, minor courses, elective courses, or any of the following CCC course areas: Fine and Performing Arts, Creativity, and Design, Literature, Mathematics, Natural Science, or Social Science.

Total Hours		**47-49**

Recommended CCC Courses

Code	Title	Hours
Mission-Overlay		
	Second semester of Non-Native Language	

Major Requirements

Ten courses distributed as described below. At least eight must be at the 200-level or above.

No one course may be counted more than once for the various requirements of the major. However, some courses might be eligible for more than one category. In those cases, students can choose which category the course would be applied to, in consultation with one's advisor or the department chair. Students should consult with their advisors or the department chair to determine the best distribution of courses relative to their own interests and needs.

Code	Title	Hours
Encountering the Catholic Tradition [1]		**3**
	Will count for CCC: Theology	
THE 153	Encountering the New Testament	
THE 154	Catholic Theological Tradition	
THE 155	Catholic Social Tradition	
Bible Course		**3**
REL 211	Hebrew Bible	
REL 323	Psalms	
THE 221	Synoptic Gospels	
THE 222	Letters of Paul	
THE 337	Compassionate Care in Clin Set	
REL 324	Israelite Religion	
REL 322	Myth and History in the Bible	
Historical or Systematic Theology course		**3**
Methodology Course		
Theological Ethics		**3**
REL 395	Approaches toStudy of Religion	
REL 495	Theory & Method Study Religion	
Non-Christian Religions		**6**
	Two courses in non-Christian religions, which may not cover the same religious tradition.	
Major Electives		**9**
	Complete three THE electives, one of which must be THE or REL at the 200-level or above. The other two may be any additional THE courses.	
Research Requirement		**3**

Graduating seniors must demonstrate that they have completed at least one significant research paper in theology or religious studies. This can be done in various ways, such as part of a standard course, an independent study, or an Honors thesis. Students should consult with their advisors to determine the route that would best fit with their course plans and interests.

Total Hours		**30**

[1] While double-dipping may occur, duplicate credit for the same course will not be earned (e.g., taking THE 154 for the major and CCC Theology requirement will only earn 3 credits, not 6.) 120 total credits must be completed, in addition to all CCC and major requirements, in order to graduate. Complete enough free electives to reach or surpass 120 total credit hours.

Free Electives

Any 11-14 courses. Graduation requires 120 credits. Any credits necessary to reach that number outside of the CCC and major requirements are considered free electives.

Typical Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
THE 154 or THE 155	Catholic Theological Tradition or Catholic Social Tradition	3
ENG 101	Craft of Language	3
World History		3
Non-Native Language		3-4
Philosophy Level One		3
	Hours	**15-16**
Spring		
REL 211	Hebrew Bible (or other REL 100 or 200 level course)	3
Philosophy Level Two		3
Mathematics		3-4
Social Science		3
2nd Non-Native Language/Mission Overlay		3-4
	Hours	**15-17**
Sophomore		
Fall		
THE 153	Encountering the New Testament	3
INT 151	Inequality in American Society	1
Literature		3
Non-Christian Religions (200+ level)		3
Theological Ethics		3
Free Elective		3
	Hours	**16**
Spring		
Fine, Performing Arts, Creativity		3
Historical/Systematic		3
Writing Intensive		3
Free Electives		6
	Hours	**15**
Junior		
Fall		
REL or THE 395 or 495		3
Bible		3
Major Electives		6
Free Elective		3
	Hours	**15**

Spring		
Natural Science		4
Non-Christian Religions (200+ level)		3
Major Elective		3
Diversity		3
Free Elective		3
	Hours	**16**
Senior		
Fall		
THE 493	Ind Research in Theology	3
Free Electives		12
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
THE 494	Ind Research in Theology	3
Free Electives		12
	Hours	**15**
	Total Hours	**122-125**