Theology (THEO) / Religious Studies (REST)

Chairperson: Susan K. Wood, SCL, Ph.D.
Department of Theology website (http://www.marquette.edu/theology/graduate.shtml)

Degrees Offered
Theology
Master of Arts in Christian Doctrine (M.A.C.D.)

Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.), students are admitted under Plan B (non-thesis option) but Plan A (thesis option) is also offered

Religious Studies
Doctor of Philosophy

Program Descriptions
The Theology Department offers master's and doctoral programs aimed at giving students an integrated approach to theological studies, emphasizing, within theological specialties, the interaction of Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical, systematic and ethical approaches to theology. The programs seek to develop scholars who can make significant contributions to theological research and writing and to prepare college and high school teachers who can teach a broad range of courses. This broad theological background has enabled program graduates to enjoy enviable success in securing teaching positions in over 200 colleges and universities, in church work and ministry and in a variety of other educationally related institutions.

The master of arts in Christian doctrine (M.A.C.D.) focuses on an ecumenical appropriation and communication of Christian doctrine for those teaching in Catholic high schools, for those interested in other religious education or formation programs and for persons interested in theological enrichment or in serving various other needs in religious communities.

The master of arts in theology (M.A.) is intended primarily, but not exclusively, for those who intend to pursue a doctoral degree in theology or religious studies. The degree provides professional competence in the field of theological studies.

The doctor of philosophy in religious studies (Ph.D.) is a terminal academic degree producing professional specialists in one of the following areas: Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical theology, systematics and theological ethics. The degree provides supporting competence in the other areas as well.

Prerequisites for Admission
Master of arts in Christian doctrine (M.A.C.D.) applicants should have an undergraduate degree with a major in theology (religion, religious studies) or some other appropriate background. Students should have some familiarity with Scripture and basic Christian doctrines. Opportunities to make up undergraduate deficiencies are available.

Master of arts in theology (M.A.) applicants should have an undergraduate major in theology (or religion or religious studies) or other background (e.g., classics, philosophy) appropriate for graduate study in theology. A minor in philosophy is recommended for those planning to study systematic theology. Ideally, all applicants should have some familiarity with Scripture and basic Christian doctrine. The program offers ample opportunities for making up undergraduate deficiencies.

Doctorate in religious studies (Ph.D.) applicants should have a master's degree or its equivalent in theology.

Application Deadlines
No official deadline exists for the master of arts in Christian doctrine (M.A.C.D.). Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and admitted students may begin their program in summer, fall or spring.

Master of arts (M.A.) application files must be complete by Dec. 15, including all supporting documents, for fall admission and financial aid consideration. Applicants not competing for financial aid may apply up to May 15. Master of arts students may only begin their program in fall or summer.

Doctoral (Ph.D.) application files must be complete by Dec. 15, including all supporting documents, for fall admission and financial aid consideration. Applicants will be notified of Marquette's admission decision by March 31. Doctoral students may only begin their program in fall.

Application Requirements
Applicants to all graduate programs in the Department of Theology must submit an online application directly to the Graduate School.

Applicants to the M.A. program must submit the following materials:

1. A completed application form and fee online (http://marquette.edu/grad/future_apply.shtml).
2. Copies of all college/university transcripts except Marquette.*
3. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (General Test only).
4. A brief statement of purpose that includes: reasons for wanting to enter the program, vocational objectives, special areas of interest, reasons for selecting Marquette's program, and the ways in which diversity can be brought to the program.
5. Three letters of recommendation.
6. (For applicants without an undergraduate degree in theology) a list of all college work in theology - course work, level and instructor, even though some of this also appears on official transcripts submitted.
7. (For international applicants only) a TOEFL score or other acceptable proof of English proficiency.

Applicants to the M.A.C.D. program must submit the following materials:

1. A completed application form and fee online (http://marquette.edu/grad/future_apply.shtml).
2. Copies of all college/university transcripts except Marquette.*
3. A brief statement of purpose that includes: reasons for wanting to enter the program, vocational objectives, special areas of interest, reasons for selecting Marquette's program, and the ways in which diversity can be brought to the program.
4. Three letters of recommendation.
5. (For applicants without an undergraduate degree in theology) a list of all college work in theology - course work, level and instructor, even though some of this also appears on official transcripts submitted.
6. (For international applicants only) a TOEFL score or other acceptable proof of English proficiency.

Applicants to the Ph.D. program should submit the following materials:

1. A completed application form and fee online (http://marquette.edu/grad/future_apply.shtml).
2. Copies of all college/university transcripts except Marquette.*
3. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (General Test only).
4. A brief statement of purpose that includes: reasons for wanting to enter the program, vocational objectives, special areas of interest, and reasons for selecting Marquette's program.
5. Three letters of recommendation. (Note: For applicants who are current Marquette students, and who plan to stay at Marquette for the doctorate, three new letters of recommendation are required.)
6. A statement of language proficiency: a list of formal course work, especially graduate reading courses, indicating when and where taken and grade earned; a description of private study, indicating when and where undertaken; and an estimate of present facility in reading, writing and speaking.
7. An academic writing sample of not more than 20 pages.
8. (For international applicants only) a TOEFL score or other acceptable proof of English proficiency.

* Upon admission, final official transcripts from all previously attended colleges/universities, with certified English translations if original language is not English, must be submitted to the Graduate School within the first five weeks of the term of admission or a hold preventing registration for future terms will be placed on the student's record.

Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.) Requirements

Specializations: Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity, Historical Theology, Systematic Theology/Theological Ethics

A master's student must complete 30 credit hours of course work, submit an approved research project, fulfill the department's foreign language requirement and pass a comprehensive examination.

Core Courses and Electives

Master's students may pursue either a Plan A or Plan B course of study. The student is assumed to be in Plan B unless a formal request to transfer to Plan A is approved by the department chairperson and the Graduate School.

The course work requirement for Plan A consists of 18 credit hours of core courses, six credit hours of electives, and six credit hours of work on the research project. Course work for Plan B consists of 18 credit hours of core courses and 12 credit hours of electives, in addition to completing a non-credit research project.

Master's students in both Plans A and B must take 18 credit hours of required core courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6110</td>
<td>Old Testament Method</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6120</td>
<td>New Testament Method</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6210</td>
<td>Origen to Late Medieval</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6220</td>
<td>Late Medieval to Early Modern</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6310</td>
<td>Introduction to Systematic Theology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In consultation with an adviser, and not later than the end of the first year of study, each student will choose a specialization (Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical or systematics/ethics). A student in Plan A must complete three credit hours of elective course work in each of the areas not chosen for specialization and six credit hours of work on a research project in the area of specialization. A student in Plan B must complete six credit hours of elective course work in the area of specialization and three credit hours in each of the other two areas.

**Foreign Language Requirements**
All students in the master of arts program in theology are required to pass a competency examination in German, French or another modern foreign language recognized as essential to the student’s research.

**M.A. Comprehensive Examination**
After all other requirements have been met, the comprehensive examination is administered by the Master of Arts Examination Committee. The exam is offered in April, July, and November. The examination is in three parts, each of which has two sections.

2. Historical: Origin to Late Medieval, Late Medieval to Early Modern
3. Systematics and Theological Ethics

The three parts, each two hours in duration, are taken at the same examination session. Each part of the comprehensive examination consists of six questions, from which the student must answer three, including at least one from each section. All questions are based on the current master’s bibliography and questions. The bibliography and questions are available through the departmental website at marquette.edu/theology/theologygraduateformsanddocuments.shtml. Additional information may be found in the department’s Procedures and Policies Handbook.

**Master of Arts in Christine Doctrine (M.A.C.D.) Requirements**
The M.A.C.D. degree requires 30 credit hours of course work. Up to 9 credit hours of 5000-level courses are acceptable for graduate credit if additional readings and writing assignments are arranged with the respective professor and completed satisfactorily. After successfully completing all course work, students will be required to write a comprehensive paper that integrates what they have learned in their courses and applies what they have learned to their career goals. M.A.C.D. candidates have no foreign language requirements. The M.A.C.D. is intended to be a terminal degree.

**Core Courses and Electives**
Of the 30 total credit hours of course work, 21 credit hours must be taken from the core courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6110</td>
<td>Old Testament Method</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6120</td>
<td>New Testament Method</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6210</td>
<td>Origen to Late Medieval</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6220</td>
<td>Late Medieval to Early Modern</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6320</td>
<td>Christian Doctrine 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6321</td>
<td>Christian Doctrine 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 6410</td>
<td>Introduction to Theological Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours 21

In certain circumstances and in consultation with a student’s academic adviser, equivalent courses may be taken.

For the 9 credit hours of electives (three courses), the student must choose one course in each of the principal theological disciplines: Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical and systematics/ethics. In certain circumstances, and with the permission of the M.A.C.D. program adviser, the elective courses can be chosen from the following course ranges.

One from any of the following Judaism and Christianity in antiquity courses: THEO 5000 Digging the Bible: Archeology and Biblical Studies to THEO 5190 Studies in Biblical Theology;

One from any of the following historical courses: THEO 5200 Theology in the Early Church to THEO 5290 Studies in Historical Theology; and

One from any of the following systematics/ethics courses: THEO 5300 Contemporary Atheism and Theism to THEO 5540 Hinduism, Yoga, and Buddhism.
Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies Requirements

Specializations: Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity, Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, Theological Ethics, Theology and Society (includes Health Care Mission and Ethics)

Program Requirements

A doctoral student must complete a program of study defined, in conjunction with their academic adviser, on a Doctoral Program Planning Form (DPPF) approved by the department. The program requires a total of 60 credit hours of course work beyond the baccalaureate degree, up to 30 credits of which can be taken at the master's level at any school with a recognized program before the student's arrival in the doctoral program. Before successfully completing the doctoral qualifying examination (DQE), the student must certify to the department's language liaison a sufficient competence in all research languages relevant to their studies. In the third year, the student completes 12 credit hours of dissertation credits. Submission of an approved dissertation is the final requirement of the program.

The student is required to complete all of the Marquette doctoral courses on their approved DPPF.

Students must successfully complete the DQE to be advanced to doctoral candidacy.

A public defense of the dissertation is conducted only after the student has completed all other formal requirements for the doctoral degree.

Core Courses and Electives

The doctoral program in religious studies offers six areas of specialization. The doctoral qualifying examination (DQE) emphasizes the student's chosen area of specialization. A student specializing in Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical theology, systematic theology or theological ethics must complete 36 credit hours of course work in the area of specialization and approximately 12 credit hours of course work in each of the other two areas.

A student in the theology and society specialization must complete at least 30 credit hours of theology course work (primarily in one area of specialization: Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, historical or systematics/ethics) selected around the theology and society theme, at least 9 credit hours in each of the two other areas of theology (at least 18 total), and 12 credit hours in one or more humanities courses (economics, education, English, history, philosophy, political science, psychology) related to the theology and society theme. Students pursuing the health care mission and ethics focus within the theology and society specialization must complete the 12 credit hours in health care related courses (such as: NURS 6007 Ethics, Policy, and Health Care Advocacy, NURS 6009 Organizational and Systems Leadership, HEAL 6841 Health Care Finance, HEAL 6846 Health Care Informatics, HEAL 6848 Health Care Policy, LAW 7156 Current Issues in Health Law, LAW 7181 Elder Law and LAW 7221 Health Law). Students in this focus may be required to take additional course work, beyond the 60-credit-hour requirement, to certify their qualifications in both theology and the allied discipline. Qualifying examinations and dissertation topics for doctoral students in the theology and society specialization are expected to reflect the cross-disciplinary nature of the course work.

All doctoral students must complete an approved Doctoral Program Planning Form by the end of their first year of course work.

Doctoral Qualifying Examination (DQE)

This examination may be taken once the student has fulfilled the language requirement and is in the final term of course work. The student obtains a copy of the area topics from the Department of Theology website and then, working with their adviser, chooses three topics in the major area and one in each of the two minor areas for presentation in the examination. (Responsibility for preparing the lists of topics rests with the faculties of the separate areas of concentration with the approval of the Graduate Committee.) The student submits the application form with tentative examination dates, the list of topics and the names of eight regular faculty members who have agreed to serve on the board (including normally, that of the adviser) to the Graduate Committee. The student also submits a list of all graduate courses in theology, according to areas, whether taken at Marquette University or elsewhere. The Graduate Committee then approves an examination board of five members, three from the student's major area and one from each of the two minor areas and approves a chair for this board. The chair is normally a faculty member in the student's major area; the student's adviser may not serve as chair.

Once the Graduate Committee's approval is obtained, the student registers at least one month before the qualifying examination with the assistant to the chair for the examination. There are no scheduled dates for qualifying examinations in the department. A student is free to register for any date falling on a regular class day between Sept. 1 and May 10. Once a student registers, this date should not be changed except for serious reasons and with the approval of the departmental chair. Soon after the DQE has been registered with the assistant to the chair, the chair of the exam informs members of the board about the day on which the DQE questions are due to the assistant to the chair. The chair of the examination board is responsible, in consultation with the other members of the board, for preparing two questions for each of the four sections of the written examination.

The student has three hours in which to answer each of the questions given. The oral examination lasts approximately ninety minutes, unless the chair of the qualifying board wishes to extend this period. The examiners are free to question the student about the examination responses, the questions given in the written portion of the examination or any other aspects of the topic areas originally chosen by the student. Each examiner, after consultation with the other members of the board if he or she so wishes, provides the chair of the qualifying board with a written evaluation of the student's performance in both the written and oral parts of the examination. The qualifying board chair then submits these reports and their own chair's report to the departmental chair for a signature and forwarding to the Graduate School. While the board normally gives unofficial notification of the
results of the examination immediately after the oral portion, the Graduate School officially notifies the student of the results after one or two weeks. A student needs four out of five ‘satisfactory’ judgments to pass.

To summarize the process:

The student obtains a copy of the topic areas and the application form.

In consultation with the adviser, the student selects three (3) topics in the major area and one (1) topic in each of the minor areas. The topic areas on the application form must match exactly with those on the topics list.

The student solicits three (3) faculty members in the major topic area and one (1) in each of the minor areas to serve as the examining board. Three (3) alternate faculty names must be provided. Note: The student’s adviser may be on the DQE board but may not serve as the chair.

The student prepares the DQE application form and a list of courses that the student has taken both at Marquette and in the previous graduate institution. These are submitted to the Graduate Committee. Student and adviser are notified when the examination topics and board have been approved by the Graduate Committee and an exam registration form is provided.

The faculty member who chairs the DQE board is responsible for 1) contacting the other members of the examination board to solicit the examination questions, 2) arranging with the other members of the board the time of the oral examination, 3) communicating the time and place of the examination to the student and 4) preparing the examination questions. (The assistant to the chair schedules the exam on the departmental calendar.)

Faculty members who participate in DQE boards should clarify their expectations with the student. These include, at least, the list of required materials for preparation and the number of conversations the faculty member expects to have with the student prior to the examination.

Second Language Requirements

All doctoral students are required to pass a competency examination in two modern second languages (normally French and German; another language essential for the student’s research may be substituted for one of these two in consultation with the student’s adviser). Students with a master’s degree from an institution other than Marquette must pass their first second language examination by the end of their first year in the program. Students must pass both French and German or other accepted modern language by the end of their second year in the program. Students must pass all language requirements prior to sitting for their doctoral qualifying examinations.

Language competency examinations are administered, for a fee, by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, which also offers courses in preparation for the examination.

Students who specialize in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible studies must also pass examinations in Hebrew at the advanced level and Greek at the intermediate level of competence. Students who specialize in New Testament studies must also pass examinations in Greek at the advanced level and Hebrew at the intermediate level of competence. Students in historical theology and in systematics/ethics within the Western theological traditions must also pass a competency examination in Latin; those studying within other theological traditions must pass a competency examination in Latin, Greek or another ancient language recognized as essential to the student’s research. Students in systematic theology and theological ethics must also pass a competency examination in Latin. Students in the theology and society specialization have no additional language requirements beyond the two modern second languages (normally French and German; another language essential for the student’s research may be substituted for one of these two in consultation with the student’s adviser). Students in the health care mission and ethics focus are required to pass competency examinations in Latin and one other modern language (normally French or German; another language essential for the student’s research may be substituted for one of these two in consultation with the student’s adviser).

Doctoral Dissertation

The student chooses a topic that falls within the scope of the department’s understanding of religious studies and for which the student can locate a member of the department faculty with the competence and interest necessary for being the director. The student is encouraged to identify a topic and an available director toward the end of course work or while preparing for the qualifying examination. A dissertation outline may not be submitted to the Graduate School, however, until the qualifying examination has been completed. Once the student and the director are in agreement on the dissertation proposal, the student fills out the Doctoral Dissertation Outline. The student submits this (unsigned) outline to the Graduate Committee, with a cover letter from the director indicating his/her willingness to serve as director, together with the proposal of at least six names, exclusive of the director’s, of the full-time faculty of the department (who have also indicated their willingness to serve) for consideration as nominees to the four-person dissertation board. Outside the theology and society program, the members of a doctoral dissertation committee should be full-time members of the Theology Department unless a special request is made and approved. The departmental chair, after consultation with the departmental Graduate Committee, then nominates a board and notifies the director to convene a meeting within six weeks with the proposed board and the student to secure in writing the board’s approval of the outline or their suggested revisions. Once the board has approved the outline, it is returned to the departmental chair for a signature. It is then sent to the Graduate School. In consultation with other members of the board, the student then completes the dissertation to the satisfaction of the director.

Dissertation Defense

Once the director judges that the dissertation is ready for a public defense, and at least one month prior to the date of the defense and two months prior to the Graduate School deadline for submitting final copies of the dissertation (this is more time than the Graduate School requires), the assistant to
the chair distributes the defense copies of the dissertation to the members of the board. Board members have at least one month in which to read the
dissertation by the last day of which they must inform the director whether they agree that the dissertation is ready for defense. If one or more members
of the board determine that the dissertation is not ready for defense, the director, after informing the student of the situation, may reschedule it. Board
members should feel free to communicate additional criticisms of the dissertation to the director before the defense. After the board members have read
the dissertation, the final public defense is held. The date of the defense must be at least one month prior to the Graduate School deadline for submitting
final copies of the dissertation (again, more time than the Graduate School requires). Furthermore, at least one month prior to the defense date the
student must submit to the assistant to the chair an abstract (no longer than 350 words) and the announcement of public defense form. An electronic
copy of the abstract should be emailed to the Graduate School. Additional copies of the program are made available to those attending the public
defense. The entire board is present for the defense, with the dissertation director as chair. The candidate presents a brief summary of the work done.
All the readers offer comments and question the student. Finally, the director offers comments and questions the student. Comments and questions from
the floor may be invited by the director.

After the defense, the student has at least three weeks to correct and revise the dissertation in light of the written and oral criticisms received. The final
dissertation is submitted electronically to the Graduate School. Detailed instructions for electronic dissertation submission are available on the Graduate
School’s website.

The following items are not part of the electronic submission, but they are still due in the Graduate School by the dissertation deadline. They are
provided/collected by the Department of Theology.

1. One paper copy of the signature page.
2. Dissertation Committee Approval form.
3. One hard copy of the dissertation for the Department of Theology library. (The dissertation director may also ask for a copy of the dissertation
   for their personal library.)