

# THEOLOGY (MA)

The MA degree program is appropriate for students seeking either a terminal degree or a degree that will prepare them to pursue a doctoral degree. Applicants can be admitted to the program on a part-time basis. Many courses are conveniently scheduled during late afternoon or evening hours.

## Related Programs

### Doctoral

- Theology (PhD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/theology/theology-phd/>)

### Combined

- Theology (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/ba-ma-theology/>)
- Theology/International Affairs (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/theology-international-affairs-bama/>)

## 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 the following areas: Theological Studies, Biblical Languages and Literature, Biblical Studies, or Christian Ethics. An Education minor option is also offered.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>MA Requirements</b>		<b>30</b>

Students may choose one of the following concentration areas.  
(p. 1) Courses in the concentrations are chosen from theology course areas with the option for directed readings and independent study for particular areas of study.

#### *Theological Studies*

- Two (2) courses in Biblical Studies Area (p. 2)
- Two (2) courses in Systematic or Historical Theology Area (p. 2)
- Two (2) courses in Christian Ethics Area (p. 2)
- Four Graduate-level electives

#### *Biblical Languages and Literature*

- Four courses in Major Biblical Language (Hebrew or Greek)
- Two courses in Minor Biblical Language (Hebrew or Greek)
- Two courses in Old Testament
- Two courses in New Testament

- One (1) course in Systematic or Historical Theology Area (p. 2)
- One (1) course in Christian Ethics Area (p. 2)

#### *Biblical Studies*

- Five (5) courses in Biblical Studies Area (p. 2)
- One (1) course in Systematic or Historical Theology Area (p. 2)
- One (1) course in Christian Ethics Area (p. 2)
- Three Graduate Electives

#### *Christian Ethics*

- Five (5) courses in Christian Ethics Area (p. 2)

Two (2) courses in Systematic or Historical Theology Area (p. 2)

Two (2) courses in Biblical Studies Area (p. 2)

Graduate Elective

#### *Bioethics & Health Care Policy*

BEHL 401 Clinical Topics in Bioethics

Two (2) courses in Christian Ethics Area (p. 2)

Two (2) courses in Biblical Studies Area (p. 2)

Two (2) courses in Systematic or Historical Theology Area (p. 2)

Three courses in Bioethics <sup>1</sup>

**Total Hours**

**30**

<sup>1</sup> One course in Bioethics may be taken at the Neiswanger Institute.

## Education Minor Option

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.

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.

## Concentration Descriptions

The Master of Arts in Theology requires 30 credit hours of coursework and a comprehensive examination. The following descriptions are provided to aid in choosing a concentration area:

- Theological Studies:** emphasizes exposure to the full range of theological investigation.
- 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. Note: requires an additional 6 credit hours due to intensive language requirements.
- Biblical Studies:** directed towards students with a particular interest in Biblical Studies, but does not incorporate the language study necessary for doctoral work in Biblical Studies.
- Christian Ethics:** focuses on coursework in Christian Ethics with similarities to the concentration in Theological Studies for a comprehensive overall coursework.
- Bioethics & Health Care Policy:** 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.

### Biblical Studies Area

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

### Systematic & Historical Theology Area

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

### Christian Ethics Area

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 570	Fundamental Issues in Christian Ethics	1-12
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

## 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/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

## Learning Outcomes

### Objectives:

- Provide students with advanced mastery of theological traditions and disciplines (all M.A. programs).
- Help students aiming at a teaching career to gain pedagogical skills and excellence (especially M.A. THEO/EDU MINOR).
- Support the Jesuit Order's First Studies Program at Loyola.
- Forward the Jesuit mission and identity of Loyola University Chicago.

## Assessment

1. All M.A. Students are required to take rigorous courses, giving students a solid foundation in theological traditions and disciplines. At the end of the program, each student takes a comprehensive written exam. The questions in these exams are tailored to the students' course record and interest.
2. M.A. students can participate in many of the pedagogical opportunities that we offer as a department, e.g., course design, assessment tools, etc., which are especially pertinent to the M.A. THEO/EDU MINOR students.
3. The M.A. program regularly enrolls Jesuit scholastics in a wide range of our courses as they pursue the M.A. in Social Philosophy from the Philosophy Department. Their presence enriches our classes and our diversity of students enriches the scholastics' educational breadth of experience. Occasionally, Theology faculty direct or advise their M.A. theses.
4. Our M.A. students are exposed to the many programs across the university that support the Jesuit mission, to which our department's faculty contribute. In particular, the *Healing Earth Project*, an online tool to teach environmental science in secondary schools, integrated with ethics and spirituality, allows M.A. students who will teach in high schools to excel in this area.