

THEOLOGY (BA)

Loyola University Chicago offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology.

Related Programs

Major

- Religious Studies (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/theology/religious-studies-ba/>)

Minor

- Religious Studies Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/theology/religious-studies-minor/>)
- Theology Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/theology/theology-minor/>)

Curriculum

Students may pursue one of three tracks in the theology major - the standard major, an honors track, and an interdisciplinary studies track. The honors track is a more rigorous version of the standard major and is intended for students seeking to pursue graduate studies in the field of theology or who plan to teach theology in a Jesuit high school. The interdisciplinary studies track is intended for two cohorts of students - students seeking to integrate knowledge from another discipline into their studies in theology; students seeking to bring knowledge from theology into their studies in another discipline (many of whom will be students who wish to double major in theology and another discipline).

Requirements

The Standard theology major requires 36 hours of coursework - seven (7) required courses and five (5) electives.

For the Standard Major, at least five (5) of the 12 courses required for the major must be at the 300-level or higher. **For the Honors Track and Interdisciplinary Track**, At least seven (7) of the 12 courses required for the major must be at the 300-level or higher.

Code	Title	Hours
Doctrine Course ¹		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 100	Christian Theology	
THEO 265	Sacraments and the Christian Imagination	
THEO 266	Church & Global Cultures	
THEO 267	Jesus Christ	
Bible, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 231	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	
THEO 302	Wisdom Literature and Psalms	
THEO 303	Pentateuch	
THEO 304	Israel Conquest to Exile	
Bible, New Testament Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 232	New Testament	
THEO 311	The Meaning of Jesus Christ	
THEO 313	Gospels of Matthew, Mark & Luke	
Christian Thought Course		
Select one of the following:		3

THEO 317	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval	
THEO 318	Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	
Non-Christian Religious Tradition Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 107	Introduction to Religious Studies	
THEO 272	Judaism	
THEO 282	Hinduism	
THEO 295	Islam	
THEO 297	Buddhism	
THEO 299	Religions of Asia	
THEO 350	Topics in Islam	
THEO 352	Topics in Buddhism	
THEO 353	Religious Traditions	
THEO 356	Topics in Judaism	
THEO 365	Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam	
THEO 366	Contemporary Islamic Thought and Movements	
Ethics Course		
Select one of the following:		3
THEO 185	Christian Ethics	
THEO 186	Global Religious Ethics	
THEO 203	Social Justice and Injustice	
THEO 204	Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis	
THEO 293	Christian Marriage	
THEO 340	Foundations of Christian Morality	
THEO 342	Perspectives on Life and Death	
THEO 343	Contemporary Christian Sexuality	
THEO 344	Theology and Ecology	
Theology Capstone		3
<i>For the Standard Major:</i> ²		
THEO 373	Theology Capstone	
or THEO 280 Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies		
<i>For the Honors Track:</i> ³		
THEO 373	Theology Capstone	
<i>For the Interdisciplinary Studies Track:</i> ⁴		
THEO 280	Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies	
Elective Credits (p. 2)		15
Select five elective courses ⁵		
Any THEO 200-level or higher course		
CATH 296	All Things Ignatian: Living and Learning in the Jesuit Trad	
Total Hours		36

¹ Eligible students may substitute HONR 101 Western Traditions - Antiquity to the Middle Ages/HONR D101 Developments Western Thought I Discussion for Doctrine requirement.

² With prior approval from the undergraduate program director, students may replace THEO 373 Theology Capstone or THEO 280 Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies (Engaged Learning) with THEO 353 Religious Traditions. THEO 280 Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies must be taken as an **Engaged Learning Course**.

³ With prior approval from the undergraduate program director, students may replace THEO 373 Theology Capstone with THEO 353 Religious Traditions.

⁴ THEO 280 Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies must be taken as an Engaged Learning Course.

⁵ With prior approval from the undergraduate program director, up to two 200 level or above elective courses may be taken outside the Department of Theology. Courses used for other Theology major requirements cannot be used as electives.

Elective Courses

Listing of 200-Level and 300-Level THEO Courses

Code	Title	Hours
THEO 203	Social Justice and Injustice	3
THEO 204	Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis	3
THEO 231	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	3
THEO 232	New Testament	3
THEO 265	Sacraments and the Christian Imagination	3
THEO 266	Church & Global Cultures	3
THEO 267	Jesus Christ	3
THEO 272	Judaism	3
THEO 276	Black World Religion	3
THEO 278	Religion & Gender	3
THEO 279	Roman Catholicism	3
THEO 280	Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies	3
THEO 281	Christianity Through Time	3
THEO 282	Hinduism	3
THEO 293	Christian Marriage	3
THEO 295	Islam	3
THEO 297	Buddhism	3
THEO 299	Religions of Asia	3
THEO 302	Wisdom Literature and Psalms	3
THEO 303	Pentateuch	3
THEO 304	Israel Conquest to Exile	3
THEO 308	Biblical Hebrew I	3
THEO 309	Biblical Hebrew II	3
THEO 311	The Meaning of Jesus Christ	3
THEO 313	Gospels of Matthew, Mark & Luke	3
THEO 317	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval	3
THEO 318	Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	3
THEO 330	Liberation Theology	3
THEO 331	Theology of Secularization	3
THEO 340	Foundations of Christian Morality	3
THEO 342	Perspectives on Life and Death	3
THEO 343	Contemporary Christian Sexuality	3
THEO 344	Theology and Ecology	3
THEO 348	Supervised Ministry	3
THEO 349	Theological Topics for the Bioethics Capstone	3
THEO 350	Topics in Islam	3
THEO 352	Topics in Buddhism	3
THEO 353	Religious Traditions	3
THEO 356	Topics in Judaism	3
THEO 365	Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam	3
THEO 366	Contemporary Islamic Thought and Movements	3
THEO 373	Theology Capstone	3
THEO 376	Language and Faith	3

THEO 378	Theology and Culture	3
THEO 382	Readings-Liturgy	3
THEO 383	Theology Arts & Literature	1-3
THEO 392	Readings in Theology	3
THEO 393	Seminar	3
THEO 395	Theology Tutorial	3

Additional Requirements for the Honors Track

Students may apply for the Honors track after the completion of Theology Core.

At least a 3.5 GPA in the major and in overall coursework is required.

Both Christian Thought 317 and 318 are required.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The Standard Major

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for the major. Students should consult the undergraduate program director for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
	Doctrine Course (THEO 100)	3
	Ethics Course (THEO 185)	3
	Hours	6
Spring		
	Non-Christian Traditions Course	3
	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or New Testament Course	3
	Hours	6
Sophomore		
Fall		
	New Testament or Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Course	3
	THEO 200-Level or higher Course	3
	Hours	6
Spring		
	THEO 200-Level or higher Course	3
	THEO 300-Level or higher Course	3
	Hours	6
Junior		
Fall		
	THEO 300-Level or Higher Course	3
	Hours	3
Spring		
	Christian Thought Course	3
	THEO 317 or THEO 318	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval or Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern
	Hours	3

Senior**Fall**

THEO 300-Level or higher Course	3
Hours	3

Spring

THEO 373 or THEO 280	Theology Capstone or Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies	3
Hours		3
Total Hours		36

Honors Track

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for the major. Students should consult the undergraduate program director for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
Doctrine Course		
THEO 100	Christian Theology	3
Ethics Course		
THEO 185	Christian Ethics	3
Hours		6
Spring		
Non-Christian Traditions Course		
		3
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or New Testament Course		
		3
Hours		6
Sophomore		
Fall		
New Testament or Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Course		
		3
THEO 300 Level or Higher Course		
		3
Hours		6
Spring		
THEO 300-Level or Higher Course		
		3
THEO 300-Level or Higher Course		
		3
Hours		6
Junior		
Fall		
Christian Thought Course		
		3
THEO 317 or THEO 318	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval or Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	3
Hours		6
Spring		
Christian Thought Course		
		3
THEO 317 or THEO 318	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval or Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	3
Hours		3

Senior**Fall**

THEO 300-Level or Higher Course ¹	3
Hours	3

Spring

Theology Capstone		
THEO 373	Theology Capstone	3
Hours		3
Total Hours		39

Interdisciplinary Studies Track

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for the major. Students should consult the undergraduate program director for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
Doctrine Course		
THEO 100	Christian Theology	3
Ethics Course		
THEO 185	Christian Ethics	3
Hours		6
Spring		
Non-Christian Traditions Course		
		3
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or New Testament Course		
		3
Hours		6
Sophomore		
Fall		
New Testament or Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Course		
		3
THEO 300 Level or Higher Course		
		3
Hours		6
Spring		
Interdisciplinary Studies Course		
		3
THEO 280	Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies	
THEO 300-Level or Higher Course		3
Hours		6
Junior		
Fall		
THEO 300-Level or Higher Course		
		3
Hours		3
Spring		
Christian Thought Course		
		3
THEO 317 or THEO 318	Christian Thought: Ancient-Medieval or Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern	
Hours		3
Senior		
Fall		
300-Level or Higher Course Outside of Major		
		3
Hours		3

Spring

300-Level or Higher Course Outside of Major	3
Hours	3
Total Hours	36

Transfer-Student Residency Requirement

At least 18 credit hours of THEO-BA requirements must be completed at Loyola

Double-Dipping Policy

This department observes the CAS Double-Dipping Policy (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#policiestext>) regarding unique credits required for each declared major/minor.

College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take two Writing Intensive courses (6 credit hours) as well as complete a foreign language requirement at 102-level or higher (3 credit hours) or a language competency test. More information can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/cas/college-requirements/>).

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SPCS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/>) area.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing the major should be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with a key theological concept or doctrine of the Christian faith (e.g., Christology, trinity, theological anthropology, ecclesiology, sacramental theology, etc.) and explain how knowledge from a different discipline has affected the understanding and formulation of that doctrine. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]
- Demonstrate an understanding of how Christian perspectives and sources inform responses to pressing ethical questions and how knowledge gained from a different discipline is integrated into the analysis of the pressing question and the response. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]
- Complete a research project or internship experience which undertakes the tasks listed in either learning outcome #4 or #5. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]
- Accurately describe basic sources and historical development of beliefs and practices of Christianity, with a particular focus on the Roman Catholic tradition. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Analyze a biblical text using academic tools. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Compare at least two different approaches to basic theological concepts. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Describe beliefs and practices of one religion other than Christianity. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Name the four sources of Christian ethics: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Analyze and critically evaluate arguments from at least two different Christian ethicists on a contemporary ethical issue. [Standard Theology Major and Honors Track]
- Demonstrate knowledge of the sources and historical development of beliefs and practices of Christianity with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]
- Demonstrate foundational knowledge of at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]
- Demonstrate foundational knowledge of one other discipline outside of theology. [Interdisciplinary Studies Track]