PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIETY  
(M.A.)

Overview

The Master of Arts in Philosophy and Society (MAPS) trains students in Jesuit formation to analyze the human condition amidst and through the complex social, political, economic, and cultural contexts that characterize the contemporary global landscape. Its innovative and interdisciplinary curriculum leverages the best of the Catholic intellectual tradition and Fordham’s disciplinary strengths in philosophy, theology, the social and natural sciences, the arts, and the humanities to advance knowledge and learning that promote faith and social justice. Through the program’s integration of the Catholic tradition, contextually oriented ministry in solidarity with local communities, and interdisciplinary intellectual formation, this program challenges students to respond effectively to a world that needs well-formed minds and open hearts.

Admissions

Guidelines and Information

GSAS will waive all application fees from members of the Society of Jesus to the M.A. in Philosophy and Society (MAPS) program.

Completed online application for the MAPS program will include each of the following items:

- Resume/CV (up to two pages in length, submitted via the online application)
- Official degree transcripts confirming prior degree conferral should be ordered at least one month prior to the application deadline. Please ensure that they are sent directly to the Office of Admissions (fuga@fordham.edu) via secure electronic delivery. If electronic delivery is not available, please request that your transcripts be submitted directly via post, in a sealed envelope, to: Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Office of Admissions, Fordham University, 441 E. Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458. Please note: you may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores: Due to the impact of COVID-19 on standardized testing, GRE scores for the M.A. program are optional for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle. Applicants who wish to submit GRE scores may do so, but scores are not required (scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code #2259)
- Statement of intent (up to 500 words, submitted electronically, via the online application)
- Writing Sample (5–20 pages in length, submitted electronically, via the online application)
- Three letters of recommendation (submitted directly by referees via the online application)

English Proficiency

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). GSAS will also consider a student’s International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language testing results and the Duolingo English Test (DET) as an assessment of your English competency.

Official TOEFL, IELTS, or DET scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – code #2259. Please consult the English Proficiency web page for additional information.

Requirements

The M.A. in Philosophy and Society is a three-year, 69-credit program. See lists following the below grid for courses fulfilling the specified requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIETY</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAPS 5500</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry</td>
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<td>PHIL 5010</td>
<td>Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas</td>
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<td>PHIL 5012</td>
<td>Introduction to St. Augustine</td>
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<td>Three credits in Early Modern Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three credits in Contemporary Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three credits in Ethics, Normative Ethics, and Natural Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 5924</td>
<td>Latin American History and Culture</td>
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<td>MAPS 5100</td>
<td>Introduction to Contextual Learning and the Bronx</td>
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<td>MAPS 5201</td>
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<td>MAPS 5202</td>
<td>Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry II</td>
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<td>MAPS 5203</td>
<td>Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry III</td>
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<td>PCGR 6440</td>
<td>Pastoral Counseling Skills</td>
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<td>PMGR 6650</td>
<td>Ethics in Pastoral Ministry</td>
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<td>JESUIT STUDIES</td>
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<td>MAPS 5301</td>
<td>History and Culture of the Jesuits I</td>
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<td>MAPS 5302</td>
<td>History and Culture of the Jesuits II</td>
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<td>MAPS 5303</td>
<td>History and Culture of the Jesuits III</td>
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<td>Three credits in Navigating the Contexts of Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEOLOGICAL CORE</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEO 5690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar: Church in Controversy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three credits in Theologies of Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<td>CULTURAL CONTEXT MODULES</td>
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<td>MAPS 5401</td>
<td>Contours of the Ancient and Late Antique World</td>
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<td>MAPS 5402</td>
<td>Contours of the Late Medieval and Early Modern World</td>
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<td>MAPS 5403</td>
<td>Contours of Modernity and Postmodernity</td>
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<td>INTERDISCIPLINARY CORE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose three credits from each of the following areas:</td>
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<td>Justice and Human Rights</td>
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Updated: 10-13-2023
Race and Racism

Environmental Studies and Sciences  

Electives  

Choose at least six credits across Philosophical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary electives, following the discipline-specific credit requirements.

Philsophical Electives
Theological Electives
Interdisciplinary Electives

Capstone

MAPS 6000  Concluding Integration Capstone Seminar

Language Requirement  

Reading knowledge of a language other than English

Spanish language proficiency

Total Credits

1  This coursework should be completed when the student is studying

Ancient Philosophy.
2  This coursework should be completed when the student is studying

Early Modern Philosophy.
3  This coursework should be completed when the student is studying

Contemporary Philosophy.
4  Students without the requisite scientific background may be required to

complete an additional basic science course.
5  Please see below requirements for discipline-specific credits that

should guide students' choice of electives.
6  See below information regarding language requirement completion.

Discipline-Specific Credit Requirements

By the conclusion of the program, students must complete the three below credit requirements.

Philosophy Requirement
• A minimum of 30 credits in Philosophy (graduate courses with

the subject code PHIL), MAPS 5500 Introduction to Philosophical

Inquiry and MAPS 6000 Concluding Integration Capstone

Seminar also counts towards this requirement

Theology Requirement
• A minimum of 24 credits across the following:

• Theology (graduate courses with the subject code THEO)
• Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education courses

with the subject codes SPGR, RLGR, PCGR, REGR, and PMGR
• Contextual Analysis and Preparation for Ministry courses

(MAPS 5201 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry I,

MAPS 5202 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry II, and

MAPS 5203 Ignatian Reflection on Contextual Ministry III do not

count towards this requirement)

Interdisciplinary Requirement
• A minimum of 9 interdisciplinary credits across the following:

• Cultural Context Modules (MAPS 5401 Contours of the Ancient

and Late Antique World, MAPS 5402 Contours of the Late

Medieval and Early Modern World, and MAPS 5403 Contours of

Modernity and Postmodernity)
• Any course on the list of Interdisciplinary courses (PSIC attribute)
• Courses outside of Philosophy and Theology that fulfill

Interdisciplinary Core requirements (Justice and Human Rights,

Race and Racism, and Environmental Studies Sciences); these

courses, except for those in ENGL, HIST, and MVST (see below) all

have the PSIC (Interdisciplinary Course) attribute

• Any graduate-level course with the subject codes ENGL, HIST

(except for HIST 5924 Latin American History and Culture), or

MvST

Language Requirement Completion

Students may fulfill the program's language requirement through one of the following:

1) Successfully completing the program's Spanish language training,

which is recorded by a passing grade in MAPS 0900 Spanish Language

Proficiency, for which students register the summer prior to their study

abroad experience.

(2) Demonstrating appropriate spoken, reading, and writing competence

in a language relevant to the student's ministry (via successful

completion of MAPS 0941 Language Proficiency), at the discretion of the

Program Director.

Philosophical Core

Ancient Philosophy Courses

Courses in this group have the PSAP attribute.

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<td>PHIL 5009</td>
<td>Introduction to Aristotle</td>
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<td>PHIL 5209</td>
<td>Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 6025</td>
<td>Philosophy’s Origins</td>
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Early Modern Philosophy Courses

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<td>Classical Modern Philosophy</td>
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<td>PHIL 7106</td>
<td>Kant I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 7110</td>
<td>Descartes and Spinoza</td>
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Contemporary Philosophy Courses

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<td>American Pragmatism</td>
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<td>PHIL 7140</td>
<td>Kant and German Idealism</td>
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<td>PHIL 7149</td>
<td>Hegel’s Phenomenology</td>
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<td>PHIL 7159</td>
<td>Kierkegaard</td>
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<td>PHIL 7161</td>
<td>Nietzsche</td>
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Ethics, Normative Ethics, and Natural Law Courses

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<td>Natural Law Ethics</td>
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<td>PHIL 5114</td>
<td>Normative Ethical Theory</td>
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<td>PHIL 6630</td>
<td>Discourse Ethics</td>
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# Contextual Analysis and Preparation for Ministry

## Navigating the Contexts of Mission Courses

*Courses in this group have the PSNM attribute.*

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<td>Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory &amp; Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity</td>
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<td>HIST 5460</td>
<td>Jesuits and Globalization</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUST 5013</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Humanitarian Action</td>
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<td>HUST 5015</td>
<td>Information Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCGR 6410</td>
<td>Psychology and Religion/Spirituality</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 5030</td>
<td>Topics in the Philosophy of Education: Education and Democracy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PHIL 6850</td>
<td>Hermeneutics</td>
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<td>PMGR 6510</td>
<td>Theology of Ministry</td>
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<td>PMGR 8530</td>
<td>Evangelization: Faith &amp; Culture</td>
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<td>REGR 6150</td>
<td>Foundations for Intercultural Ministry and Religious Education</td>
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<td>SPGR 7870</td>
<td>Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice</td>
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<td>Religion and American Public Life</td>
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<td>THEO 6467</td>
<td>Mysticism and Modernity</td>
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<td>THEO 6653</td>
<td>Church as Sacrament: A Study in Christian Sacraments and Ecclesiology</td>
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<td>URST 5000</td>
<td>Issues in Urban Studies</td>
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## Theological Core

### Theologies of Gender and Sexuality Courses

*Courses in this group have the PSTG attribute.*

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<td>Spiritual Direction Practicum II</td>
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<td>THEO 5640</td>
<td>Introduction to Theological Ethics</td>
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<td>THEO 6400</td>
<td>Theological Anthropology and Human Diversity</td>
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<td>THEO 6612</td>
<td>New Methods in Constructive Theology</td>
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<td>THEO 6676</td>
<td>Sexual Ethics</td>
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## Interdisciplinary Core

### Justice and Human Rights Courses

*Courses in this group have the PSJH attribute.*

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<td>Ethics and Society: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives</td>
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<td>ENGL 5600</td>
<td>Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory &amp; Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity</td>
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<td>HIST 5400</td>
<td>Gender and History</td>
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<td>HIST 5411</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Early America</td>
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<td>HIST 5420</td>
<td>Sin, Crime and Sex in History</td>
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<td>HIST 5506</td>
<td>European Nationalisms and Early Modern (Jewish) History</td>
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<td>Fascism</td>
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<td>HIST 5731</td>
<td>History of Wealth &amp; Poverty: U.S. and Comparative</td>
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<td>HIST 5921</td>
<td>Social Movements in Global Perspective</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>HIST 5923</td>
<td>Atlantic World: Empires, Diasporas, and Migrations</td>
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<td>HIST 6256</td>
<td>Torture and Western Culture</td>
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<td>HIST 6726</td>
<td>The United States and Human Rights: An International History</td>
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<td>HIST 6731</td>
<td>U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity</td>
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<td>Contemporary Issues in Humanitarian Action</td>
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<td>HUST 5075</td>
<td>Leadership and Management in Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>HUST 5082</td>
<td>Integrity, Accountability and Transparency in Humanitarian Operations</td>
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<td>HUST 5205</td>
<td>Children in Armed Conflict</td>
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<td>HUST 5300</td>
<td>International Responses to Migration</td>
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<td>Climate Change in the West African Sahel: Impact on Water and Migration</td>
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<td>Gender Integration in Humanitarian Action</td>
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<td>PHIL 5040</td>
<td>Topics in Latin American Philosophy: Philosophies of Liberation</td>
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<td>PHIL 6102</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
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<td>PHIL 7758</td>
<td>Human Dignity</td>
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<td>PHIL 7760</td>
<td>Dimensions of Political Justice</td>
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<td>POSC 5560</td>
<td>Conflict Resolution</td>
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<td>REGR 6120</td>
<td>Education for Peace and Justice</td>
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<td>THEO 6485</td>
<td>Doing Theology with Gustavo Gutiérrez: 50 years (1971–2021)</td>
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<td>THEO 6505</td>
<td>Histories of Colonialism, Empire, Theology</td>
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<td>THEO 6642</td>
<td>Political Theology</td>
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<td>Catholic Social Thought</td>
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## Race and Racism Courses

*Courses in this group have the PSRR attribute.*

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<td>Black Protest from Slavery to #BlackLivesMatter</td>
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<td>ENGL 5600</td>
<td>Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory &amp; Criticism: Rhetoric, Race, and Identity</td>
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<td>HIST 5105</td>
<td>The Black Radical Tradition in Comparative Perspective: U.S. and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>HIST 5410</td>
<td>Race and Gender in Modern America</td>
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<td>HIST 5516</td>
<td>Nationalisms and Racisms in Modern Europe</td>
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<td>PHIL 5250</td>
<td>Philosophies of Race</td>
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<td>THEO 6634</td>
<td>Black Theologies and the Decolonial Option</td>
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Courses in this group have the PSIC attribute.

**Interdisciplinary Electives**

- Any graduate course with the subject codes SPGR, RLGR, PCGR, REGR, and PMGR may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.
- Moreover, the courses listed below may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.

Courses in this group have the PSEV attribute.

**Environmental Studies and Sciences Courses**

Courses in this group have the PSEV attribute.

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<td>Latinx Theology</td>
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<td>THEO 6721</td>
<td>African American Theological Ethics</td>
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<td>ECON 5280</td>
<td>Urban Economics</td>
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<td>ECON 5415</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Economic Development</td>
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<td>ECON 5600</td>
<td>Health and Development</td>
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<td>ECON 5750</td>
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<td>ECON 6440</td>
<td>Development Economics</td>
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<td>ECON 6460</td>
<td>Agriculture and Development</td>
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<td>ECON 6480</td>
<td>Environmental and Resource Economics</td>
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**Electives**

MAPS 8999 Independent Study may count as a Philosophical, Theological, or Interdisciplinary elective, with permission of the Program Director (depending on the content of the independent study).

**Philosophical Electives**

- Any graduate course with the subject code PHIL, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as a Philosophical Elective.

**Theological Electives**

- Any graduate course with the subject code THEO, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as a Theological Elective.
- Moreover, Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education courses with the subject codes SPGR, RLGR, PCGR, REGR, and PMGR may count as a Theological Elective.

**Interdisciplinary Electives**

- Any graduate-level course with the subject codes ENGL, HIST, or MVST, not otherwise counted towards the program's requirements, may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.
- Moreover, the courses listed below may count as an Interdisciplinary Elective.

**Courses in this group have the PSIC attribute.**

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