

CATHOLIC THEOLOGY (M.A.)

The M.A. in Catholic Theology consists of 10 courses for students concentrating in the historical or systematic areas and 12 courses for students concentrating in Bible. All students take a core of six classes comprised of two courses each from the biblical, historical, and systematic wings of the department. After completing these core classes, students choose to focus in intensive work in one of three fields of study: Bible (six additional courses), Historical Theology (four additional courses), or Systematic Theology (four additional courses). To complete these additional courses, students may enroll in any graduate courses offered by the department (including doctoral seminars) with the permission of the instructors. Students may also take courses outside the theology department (e.g. in history, philosophy, medieval studies, etc.) with permission from their adviser.

CIP Code

38.0203 - Christian Studies.

You can use the CIP code to learn more about career paths associated with this field of study and, for international students, possible post-graduation visa extensions. Learn more about CIP codes and other information resources.

Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses ¹		
THEO 5820	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Interpretation	3
THEO 5890	New Testament Interpretation	3
THEO 5300	History of Christianity I	3
THEO 5301	History of Christianity II	3
THEO 5620	Introduction to Systematic Theology	3
THEO 5640	Introduction to Theological Ethics	3
Electives		12 to 18
Six additional courses required for the Bible concentration		
Four additional courses required for the Historical Theology concentration		
Four additional courses for the Systematic Theology concentration		
Language Requirement ¹		
One of the following:		
ZZGA 0941	GSAS Language Exam I	
FREN 5090	French for Reading	
SPAN 5090	Spanish for Reading	
GERM 5001	Graduate Reading in German I	
Final Research Project ¹		
THEO 0938	Master's Capstone-Theology	0
Total Credits		30-36

¹ More information about this requirements is below.

Language Requirements

Proficiency in either French or German is also required for the master's degree (Spanish may be substituted for one of these languages depending on the student's academic interests). The ability to read theology in a foreign language is important for two reasons: It makes the student a member of a community of theologians that is broader than English-speaking North Americans, and it enriches the theological imagination by offering access to different ways of speaking and hence of thinking.

Students may demonstrate reading proficiency in these languages in one of two ways:

- Passing a translation exam (with a dictionary) offered by the department
- Passing a French for Reading (FREN 5090), Graduate Reading in German I (GERM 5001), or Spanish for Reading (SPAN 5090) course offered at Fordham or at an approved institution

Core Course Examinations

Every M.A. student is required to take a subject examination immediately at the end of each core course to fulfill the requirements of the master's degree. These exams are the same as the course's final exam. These exams will be comprehensive in scope in the sense that they will cover the material studied over the duration of the semester. The faculty member who teaches the core course will prepare an exam that offers the student a choice of essay questions. Students will have two-and-a-half hours to complete the exam.

Final Research Project

Each M.A. student will select a paper written for one of their courses and will revise the paper to develop interdisciplinary dimensions of this work in light of conversations conducted with faculty members in two fields of study other than the one in which the paper was originally prepared. So, for example, if a student selects a paper written for a Bible class, she will then develop the paper further with input from two faculty members in different fields (e.g. Historical and Systematics).

The revised paper will be submitted by the Friday of the 12th week of the student's final semester to the three faculty members involved in the project. In consultation with these three faculty members, the student will schedule a one-hour time period during the last week of the semester for an oral exam on the paper. The oral exam will explore the interdisciplinary and integrative character of the work conducted.