

# THEOLOGY (PH.D.)

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## Requirements

### Advisor

Upon entering the Ph.D. program, a student will be assigned an advisor working in the student's intended Field of Study. This advisor will assist in the selection of courses, monitor the progress of language acquisition, and fill all additional roles necessary for good progress. By the conclusion of the first year of coursework, students may choose another member of the department to fulfill this role. Students certainly may, but are not required to, ask their advisor to serve as the mentor for the dissertation.

### Curriculum

With the consultation of an advisor, students will take responsibility for planning a curriculum of study that is both broad and specialized. Coursework at the doctoral level, even outside of seminars, demands a more active role on the part of the student: rather than simply absorbing information, the student is expected to contribute to the encounter with texts and ideas, to design projects, and to pursue independent study. A list of offerings for the current semester can be found on our page on the Fordham website. Students must complete at least 36 credits of coursework to earn the Ph.D., with a minimum accumulative GPA of 3.5.

The only general requirement is that students must complete a zero credit course, THEO 5015 Teaching Theology, before they are permitted to teach courses for the department. The department will offer this course at least once every four semesters.

### Language Proficiency

In the course of doctoral studies, all students will be called upon to demonstrate reading proficiency in two modern languages and will be expected to use these linguistic skills in reading for classes and papers. Unless otherwise specified, the two required modern languages are French and German (Students in Systematic Theology may substitute Spanish for French or German). This can be completed by taking a reading exam (ZZGA 0941) or by completing reading courses (FREN 5090 or GERM 5001). For some students, a similar knowledge of ancient languages will need to be demonstrated. Check your proposed Field of Study for more information about language requirements.

### Graduate Teaching Assistantships

As part of the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) program, every second-year Ph.D. student will have an opportunity to work with at least one faculty member in a Fordham undergraduate classroom prior to teaching on his or her own in the third year.

### Comprehensive Exams

The student is required to choose two general areas of research within his or her primary field of study and one area in a related field of study, which will constitute the minor exam. The fourth exam will be more narrowly focused and should reflect the student's intended subfield of dissertation research. Ordinarily, a student will take the exams (THEO 0930) during the sixth semester.

### Dissertation

A doctoral dissertation is the literary exposition of a thesis. The thesis is the theological proposition for which one marshals evidence and

arguments. Although scholarship may be focused in different ways in the various field specializations, every dissertation will include some degree of research, at least into the state of a question; and every thesis will include some degree of argument and judgment, at least regarding the theological relevance of one's data. The dissertation must be methodologically self-conscious. It must justify its method and structure and continually demonstrate their presence. Students must develop a proposal (THEO 0950), have the proposal accepted (THEO 0960), and have continued direction (THEO 0970) from your faculty advisor(s).