

THEOLOGY, M.A.

The Master of Arts in Theology program offers students a substantial academic background in specific theological disciplines. ICSST offers the M.A. in Theology in two formats: general and research. The general M.A. is for students seeking a terminal degree in theology that allows them to pursue in-depth studies without a formal research component. The general M.A. is well-suited for persons teaching at the secondary school level. The research M.A. serves as the basis for further graduate studies and includes language reading and research requirements usually deemed prerequisites to doctoral studies. Admission and matriculation requirements and concentrations are the same for both formats.

Students considering further studies in theology are advised to pursue the research M.A., which leaves more options available. Because the general format M.A. is a terminal degree, ICSST will not recommend general format graduates to doctoral programs.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the aforementioned general admission requirements for all ICSST programs, M.A. applicants:

- Should have completed at least 12 credits or the equivalent in theology/religious studies in their undergraduate programs. Students lacking this background may be required to enroll in additional coursework to satisfy this requirement; and
- Must have a personal interview with the Associate Dean.

Note: At least two years of service to the Church is preferred.

Matriculation Requirements

All students must maintain an average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in coursework leading to the M.A. in Theology. Students must complete degree requirements within five years. Extensions of time to fulfill degree requirements may be requested from the ICSST Educational Policy Committee for justifiable reasons.

Concentrations

Concentrations are available in four areas: Biblical Studies, Moral Theology, Systematic Theology and Church History. A fifth concentration, in Jewish-Christian Studies, is available by taking courses offered through the University's Department of Jewish-Christian Studies.

Degree Requirements

All students must take STHO 6020 Research Seminar early in their course of studies.

In addition, students must complete certain core courses, according to the area of concentration for their M.A.

1. Students enrolled in an M.A. with a concentration in Biblical Studies (BIBL/BIBN) must complete:

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses:		
BIBL 6006	N.T. Greek I	3
BIBL 6007	N.T. Greek II	3
BIBL 6113	Biblical Hebrew I	3
BIBL 6114	Biblical Hebrew II	3

BIBL 6201	Pentateuch	3
BIBL 6501	Synoptic Gospels	3
Select one of the following:		3
BIBL 6203	Prophetic Literature	
BIBL 6205	Wisdom Literature-Psalms	
BIBL 6503	Johannine Literature	
BIBL 6505	Pauline Literature	
Total Hours		21

2. Students enrolled in an M.A. with a concentration in Church History (HSTD/HSTN) must complete:

Code	Title	Hours
HSTD 6340	From Church Fathers to 1500	3
HSTD 6341	Church of Reformations-Mission	3
HSTD 6807	American Christianity	3
Select one of the following:		3
HSTD 6222	Popes and the Papacy	
HSTD 6268	History of Vatican II	
Total Hours		12

3. Students enrolled in an M.A. with a concentration in Moral Theology (CETH/CETN) must complete:

Code	Title	Hours
CETH 6105	Fundamental Moral Theology	3
Select one of the following:		3
CETH 6205	Health Care Ethics	
CETH 6306	Catholic Sexual Teaching	
CETH 6407	Catholic Social Teaching	
Total Hours		6

4. Students enrolled in an M.A. with a concentration in Systematic Theology (STHN/STHO) must complete any two of the following:

Code	Title	Hours
Select two of the following:		6
STHO 6202	Revelation and Faith	
STHO 6203	Christology	
STHO 6205	Christian Anthropology	
STHO 6207	Ecclesiology	
STHO 6501	Worship of the Church	
STHO 6503	Sacraments of Initiation	
STHO 6505	Eucharist	
Total Hours		6

In exceptional circumstances, the Associate Dean who serves as the student's adviser, as well as the chair of the department in which the student is pursuing an M.A., may permit the substitution of another course for one of those required above. The M.A. degree program is normally two academic years of full-time study.

General (Terminal) Option (BIBN, HSTN, CETN, STHN)

Students selecting the M.A. in Theology, general option, must complete 36 credits of coursework, divided into 21 credits in one of the major areas listed under "concentrations" and 12 credits in the other areas

of concentration, divided as evenly as possible among them. Students concentrating in Biblical Studies also must complete:

- 6 credits in Biblical Greek (BIBL 6006 N.T. Greek I and BIBL 6007 N.T. Greek II) and
- 6 credits in Biblical Hebrew (BIBL 6113 Biblical Hebrew I and BIBL 6114 Biblical Hebrew II).

As close as possible to their final semester of studies, students also must complete 3 credits in the M.A. Seminar (STHO 6999), a capstone course integrating their theological studies from among the various concentrations.

Research Option (BIBL, HSTD, CETH, STHO)

The M.A. in Theology program, research format, consists of four components: coursework, language reading requirement, comprehensive examinations and thesis. These four components are divided as follows:

I. Coursework (36 credits)

Students must complete 36 hours of graduate coursework, divided into 21 credits in one of the major areas listed under "concentrations" and 15 credits in the other areas of concentration, divided as evenly as possible among them. No pastoral theology (PTHO) courses are applicable to the M.A. in Theology degree.

II. Language Reading Requirement

Students must demonstrate reading knowledge of French or German. This requirement should be met as early as possible; no student will be permitted to advance to comprehensive examinations without satisfying it. Substitution of other languages is generally not permitted unless the student demonstrates a compelling relationship between the proposed language substitute and his area of research. Students meet the language reading requirement by taking a one-hour translation examination administered and graded by a faculty member chosen by the Associate Dean. The exam may be taken during the Fall or Spring semester.

III. Comprehensive Examinations

Students must complete written comprehensive examinations in their areas of concentration, demonstrating relative mastery of the chosen area of concentration. Comprehensives are taken after coursework and the language reading requirement have been fulfilled. Exams may be taken during the Fall or Spring semester.

IV. Thesis

Students must submit an acceptable thesis of substantial length (80-100 pages) in the chosen field of concentration on a topic previously approved by the Educational Policy Committee, only after all other degree requirements have been met successfully. The thesis is read by a mentor and a reader, each of whom grades the thesis, with the final grade established as an average by the Associate Dean. The final thesis must be filed in the ICSST Library.

V. Additional Requirements for Biblical Studies Students

In addition to the requirements described in I-IV, students concentrating in Biblical Studies must successfully complete 6 credits in Biblical Greek (BIBL 6006 N.T. Greek I and BIBL 6007 N.T. Greek II) and 6 credits in Biblical Hebrew (BIBL 6113 Biblical Hebrew I and BIBL 6114 Biblical Hebrew II) prior to comprehensive examinations.