



# Theology

## at Benedictine University

### Why study theology at Benedictine?

Theology plays a particularly important role in the search for a synthesis of knowledge and the dialogue between faith and reason. It serves all other disciplines in their search for meaning, not only by helping them to investigate how their discoveries will affect individuals and society, but also by bringing a perspective and an orientation not contained within their own methodologies (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* §19). Theology students at Benedictine become interfaith leaders conversant in the theory and practice of interfaith engagement.

When you choose to study theology at Benedictine University, you become part of the Catholic, Benedictine tradition of a broad liberal arts education founded on a clear understanding of the relationship between faith and reason. This synthesis is the basis of western civilization, and the program gives you a broad preparation not just in understanding theology, but also in applying it to your life in the world and whatever profession you choose.

Theology at Benedictine is designed for people who will pursue careers in law, business, education, science or communications. It focuses on analyzing the foundational principles of Catholic theology and applying them to life choices in the 21st century.

Studying theology at Benedictine offers you:

- Ideal student-to-faculty ratios.
- The living tradition of Benedictine monasticism and intellectual life.
- A small university community atmosphere.
- A safe, beautiful suburban setting near the rapidly expanding business corridor with easy access to Chicago.
- A highly dedicated and knowledgeable faculty.
- Opportunities for interreligious dialogue and service.

### What careers are available with a degree in Theology?

Theology is associated with ministry, and the program at Benedictine prepares you to work in ministry or for a graduate program in theology. But theology is also relevant to any career which requires critical-thinking, analysis, writing and teamwork. The major at Benedictine relates theology to every aspect of lay life: politics, economics, education or science, so your career choices are augmented, not limited, by this major. You will also have 24 semester credit hours of electives available to specialize in another field, such as business or science.

The Theology major prepares you with the communication skills and general knowledge to succeed in a wide variety of careers. It will help you choose a good way to make a living as you construct a good human life.

### How does the program work?

If you decide to study theology, you will begin with a series of courses that look at Catholic theology thematically. You will study the Theology of Love, Theology of Freedom, Theology of Justice and Faith and Reason. On this foundation, you will choose upper-level courses that suit your interests and your proposed career choices. You will have a wide choice of courses in the traditional areas of Catholic theology, such as Scripture, Spirituality, Sacramental Theology and Moral Theology. The program culminates in the Senior Seminar, "Theology and Life," in which the student examines theology in relation to one aspect of lay life (for example, law or medicine).

The remainder of your courses will be chosen from the department's offerings or other arts, humanities or science offerings as you and your advisor agree.

# Recommended Program

## Bachelor of Arts in Theology

### FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics	3
Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO) course	3
Theology of Love	3
Language	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech	3
Life Scientific (QLS) course	3
Theology of Justice	3
Language	3
	15

### JUNIOR

LITR 279 U.S. Multicultural Literature	3
Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE) course	3
THEO 252 Business Ethics in the Context of Catholic Social Teaching	3
THEO 235 Interreligious Dialogue	3
Scripture course	3
	15

Fine Arts Core elective	3
Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3
History/Systematics course	3
Theology electives	6
	15

### SOPHOMORE

Theology of Freedom	3
Theological ethics elective	3
Computational, Mathematical and Analytical (QCM) course	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
Language	3
	15

Faith and Science	3
Physical Scientific (QPS) course	3
HIST 291 History of the Silk Road	3
Philosophical (QPL) course	3
Language	3
	15

### SENIOR

Theology elective	3
Electives	9
Life Scientific (QLS) or Physical Scientific (QPS) course	3
	15

Theology and Life Seminar	3
Electives	9
Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO) course OR Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE)	3
	15

You may also minor in Theology (21 semester credit hours). Please see your academic advisor for more information. Students who complete the course sequence described above will have met the requirements for both of the following certificates:

## Certificate Programs

### *Interfaith Studies*

The Interfaith Studies certificate enables students to integrate interfaith studies into almost any major. Completion of this certificate will make graduates more attractive to the job market given the diversity of the Chicago area and the United States, and the need for such sensitivity in any field. The Interfaith Studies certificate requires the completion of 12 semester credit hours (four courses) plus a co-curricular course (0 semester credit hours). *Completion of the certificate also meets the requirements for Engaged Learning.*

### *Theology in Life*

The Theology in Life certificate allows students to pursue an interest in theology within a 12-semester-credit-hour program. Whatever their major may be, this certificate is ideal for those who wish to bring a deeper engagement with the big questions of life to their future work.