

Theology

at Benedictine University

Why study theology at Benedictine?

Theology plays a particularly important role in the search for a synthesis of knowledge as well as in 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 Ecclesia §19)

When you choose to study theology at Benedictine University, you become part of the Catholic, Benedictine tradition of a broad liberal education founded on a clear understanding of the relationship between faith and reason. This is the synthesis which is the basis of Western civilization, and the program gives you a broad preparation not just in understanding theology, but 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

What careers are available with a Theology degree?

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

The Theology degree 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 which 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 have a wide choice of courses in the traditional areas of Catholic theology such as Scripture, Sacramental Theology, and will also take some specific Moral Theology courses. The program culminates in the Senior Seminar, Theology and Life, where the student examines theology in relation to one aspect of lay life (for example, the 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 Science core elective	3
Theology of Love	3
Language	3
15	

Research Writing	
Speech Communication	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Theology of Justice	3
Language	3
15	

JUNIOR

Literature core elective	3
Social Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
Theology elective (satisfies RELS)	3
Theology elective	3
15	

Fine Arts core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Theology electives	6
Elective	3
15	

SOPHOMORE

Theology of Freedom	3
Christian Ethics (satisfies core Philosophy)	3
Elective	3
Theology/Cultural Heritage (THEO 220)	3
Language	3
15	

3 Faith and Science	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Theology/Cultural Heritage (THEO 230)	3
Elective	3
Language	3
15	

SENIOR

Theology elective	3
Electives	9
Natural Science core elective	3
15	

Theology and Life Seminar	3
Electives	9
Social Science core elective	3
15	

You may want to speak with your advisor about pursuing a minor (typically 21 semester hours) or continuing with your language beyond the required level.

Demonstrate your social conscience with a certificate in Environmental Studies

Students with an interest in the environment can earn a certificate in Environmental Studies by choosing specific environmental-focused courses from the anthropology, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, geography, global studies, humanities, literature, management, natural science, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology and theology disciplines. Students will learn about the scientific, humanistic, educational and business aspects of sustainability.