

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY

## OVERVIEW

The theology program at Lewis University provides a strong liberal arts background which serves as a tremendous foundation for other majors such as history, literature, and English. The theology major also serves as a great building block for para-professionals entering fields which deal with ethical and life decisions on a daily basis, such as the legal and medical fields.

Students enrolled at Lewis University are required to take two general education courses in theology. As a Catholic University, the institution believes it is important to expose students not only to the study of religion and theology, but also to the Roman Catholic intellectual traditions. Such coursework helps to prepare students to reflect critically on issues of faith, morality, religion, and theology whether they are choosing theology as the main focus of their college career or in conjunction with interdisciplinary studies.

## HIGHLIGHTS

One of the many things that make the theology degree program at Lewis so unique is the emphasis on writing effectively. Department of Theology faculty members work with students to develop their writing skills in class projects and assignments. In addition to the strong emphasis on writing, the program also focuses on developing students' ability to think critically, both skills that are used in everyday life.

Another advantage of the program is its small size. This allows faculty to work closely with students in customizing the program and course schedule to meet their needs. Small class size offers students a number of things not found at larger institutions including personal attention, interaction with other students, and the opportunity to offer input that enhances a growing department and expanding major.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Besides offering a broad base from which to choose a career, a major or minor in theology provides skills that are very applicable in today's world, particularly with the large role that faith plays in secular society. Courses give students the opportunity to understand how theology and religion function in people's lives which has an impact on all aspects of their lives.

Under the umbrella of religious occupations, majors in theology might pursue careers as clergy, campus/youth ministry leaders, liturgist, chaplain, parish administrator, missionary, director of religious education, and many other avenues. But a major or minor in theology can also be the foundation for careers as diverse as librarian, counselor, social worker, volunteer services director, college/university administrator, sales representative, and many others.

## CONTACT

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## ACTIVITIES

The Department of Theology works closely with other departments of the University in ways that make theology, religion, and faith relevant to many different activities. For example, members of the department work closely with the University Ministry program on liturgical activities. Faculty from the department also serve in leadership roles in the Center for Ministry and Spirituality, whose mission is to help the Lewis community and the surrounding community learn about Catholic identity, social justice, and interfaith dialogue.

The department is also active in Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology.

Furthermore, a unique and rewarding opportunity for young men is the ability to participate in the Lasallian Teacher Immersion program, a program designed to help students to become teachers in the tradition of the Christian Brothers of John Baptist de La Salle.

Finally, the department offers opportunities for students to fulfill partially their theology general education requirement by traveling to Italy (Rome, Assisi, and Florence) to study Christian religious art and architecture.

## ABOUT THE FACULTY

Dr. Dominic Colonna, Department Chair, believes that the faculty members are the department's greatest resources. Dr. Colonna says, "Our faculty have been trained at some of the nation's finest graduate schools for theology and religious studies including Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fordham University, the University of Chicago, Loyola University of Chicago, Catholic Theological Seminary, and elsewhere and are extremely well-prepared to help Lewis' students to explore their own spirituality."

All of the faculty are committed to teaching students at Lewis in the Lasallian tradition while, at the same time, remaining engaged in current, scholarly activities. Such depth of experience provides students with the ability to reflect critically on how religion has an impact on people, cultures, history, and current world events on varying levels.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR AND MINOR

The major program studies the religious dimension of humanity in its historical and contemporary expressions while investigating theological questions in biblical, historical, systematic, and moral theology. The minor provides students majoring in other disciplines the opportunity to consider core theological questions. Students may choose to double major in theology and another discipline. Those education majors contemplating a teaching career in Catholic schools are especially encouraged to consider either the double major or a minor.

The program of Roman Catholic Studies is designed for all students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the rich heritage of Catholicism while reflecting on significant issues in American culture.

Students who are considering a career in lay, vowed or ordained ministry, as well as those with an education concentration, are invited to consider the major, minor or program of ministerial studies.

**THEOLOGY PROGRAM ONE:  
PREPARATION FOR TEACHING OR  
GRADUATE SCHOOL /  
BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Total Credit Hours: 128  
Major Credit Hours: 36

**I. Core Courses (18)**

- 19-100 The Search for Faith (3)  
OR
- 19-106 Introduction to Christian Theology (3)
- 19-200 The Message of Jesus (3)  
OR
- 19-225 The New Testament (3)
- 19-223 The Old Testament (3)
- 19-310 Christian Action and Values (3)
- 19-316 A History of Christian Thought (3)
- 19-431 Research in Theology (3)

**II. Elective Courses (18)**

Eighteen additional credit hours are required for the major, 9 of which must be advanced courses (300-level or above) other than those listed as core requirements.

**III. Majors are required to maintain a C+ average in their Theology courses.**

**IV. The advanced writing requirement of the General Education curriculum is satisfied for Theology majors by the successful completion of Research in Theology 19-431.**

**THEOLOGY PROGRAM TWO:  
CONCENTRATION IN ROMAN  
CATHOLIC STUDIES /  
BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Total Credit Hours: 128  
Major Credit Hours: 36

**I. Core Courses (18)**

- 19-100 The Search for Faith (3)  
OR
- 19-106 Introduction to Christian Theology (3)
- 19-200 The Message of Jesus (3)  
OR
- 19-225 The New Testament (3)
- 19-223 The Old Testament (3)
- 19-310 Christian Action and Values (3)
- 19-316 A History of Christian Thought (3)
- 19-431 Research in Theology (3)

**II. Concentration Courses (9)**

*Select three from the following:*

- 19-205 The Catholic Church (3)
- 19-227 Catholic Sacraments (3)
- 19-268 Christian Social Teaching (3)
- 19-280 The Meaning of Jesus (3)
- 19-281 Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (3)
- 19-285 Theologies of Liberation (3)
- 19-238 The American Catholic Experience (3)

**III. Elective Courses (9)**

Students must take three upper-level (300-level or higher) elective courses in addition to those upper-level courses in the core. A total of six upper-level courses (18 hours) must be completed for the major.

**IV. Majors are required to maintain a C+ average in their Theology courses.**

**V. The advanced writing requirement of the General Education curriculum is satisfied for Theology majors by the successful completion of Research in Theology 19-431.**

### THEOLOGY PROGRAM THREE: CONCENTRATION IN MINISTERIAL PREPARATION / BACHELOR OF ARTS

Total Credit Hours: 128

Major Credit Hours: 36

#### I. Core Courses (18)

19-100 The Search for Faith (3)

OR

19-106 Introduction to Christian Theology (3)

19-200 The Message of Jesus (3)

OR

19-225 The New Testament (3)

19-223 The Old Testament (3)

19-310 Christian Action and Values (3)

19-316 A History of Christian Thought (3)

19-431 Research in Theology (3)

#### II. Concentration Courses (12)

19-300 Lasallian Community and Social Action (3)

AND / OR

19-461 Christian Service and Society (3)

*Students choose remaining concentration courses from the following to achieve a total of 12 credit hours:*

19-205 The Catholic Church (3)

19-227 Catholic Sacraments (3)

19-268 Christian Social Teaching (3)

19-270 Christian Faith and the Arts (3)

19-281 Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (3)

19-285 Theologies of Liberation (3)

#### III. Elective Courses (6)

A total of six courses (18 hours) on the 300- or 400-level must be completed for the major. Three are core courses (19-310; 19-316; 19-431). The other three are a combination of elective and concentration courses.

#### IV. Majors are required to maintain a C+ average in their Theology courses.

#### V. The advanced writing requirement of the General Education curriculum is satisfied for Theology majors by the successful completion of Research in Theology 19-431.

### THEOLOGY / MINOR

Minor Credit Hours: 18

A Theology minor must complete at least 18 credit hours in Theology, of which at least nine hours must be in upper-division courses, those numbered 300 or higher.

#### I. Required Courses (6)

19-100 The Search for Faith (3)

OR

19-106 Introduction to Christian Theology (3)

19-310 Christian Action and Values (3)

#### II. Scripture (3): One scripture course dealing with either the Old or the New Testament is required.

#### III. History (3): Either Christian History (19-204) or History of Christian Thought (19-316) is required.

#### IV. Elective Courses (6): Select any two additional courses being mindful of the requirement to take three upper-division courses.