Theology and Historical Theology

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Saint Louis University’s department of theological studies focuses primarily on the academic study of the Christian tradition in its historical and cultural contexts. In advancing the Catholic and Jesuit tradition of Saint Louis University, the department approaches revealed Christian truth with a special emphasis on its relation to human culture and the requirements of social justice.

M.A. in Theology:
The Master of Arts program offers two tracks: research and religious education. Students desiring to continue in doctoral work should choose the research track. Students seeking careers in schools, parishes, hospitals, nonprofit organizations or other religious institutions should choose the religious education track. The religious education track consists of a two-year program of study that includes 33 credit hours of coursework (including 200 credit hours of supervised internship) and comprehensive exams. The research track consists of a two-year program of study that includes 36 credit hours of coursework and a 50-70 page thesis, and students must demonstrate proficiency in one or two foreign languages. Students in the research track may choose to concentrate in constructive theology, historical theology or theological ethics.

Ph.D. in Historical Theology:
The Doctor of Philosophy in historical theology program is based upon the Catholic tradition and approaches theology from a historical perspective. This comprehensive way of examining theological issues takes a double thrust, namely studying the issues within their own context of time and place while also relating them to the broad developments within the tradition of Christian theology from the early church to the present day. The doctoral program has three areas of specialization: early Christianity, medieval Christianity and modern Christianity.

Recognition:
Thirty faculty have degrees from top universities in the U.S. and Europe (including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Paris, Cambridge University, the University of Chicago, Notre Dame and Boston College). In the last five years, faculty members published 27 books, 56 articles, nine edited books and 30 book chapters. Many have won prestigious awards for teaching at SLU, research grants (NEH, Dumbarton Oaks, Humboldt, Mellon and the Wabash Center) and book awards (AAR, CTS, Alpha Signu Nu, Louisville Institute and the Catholic Press Association).

Career Paths:
Past graduates have gone on to pursue advanced study in theology at graduate schools across the country. Many work as high school teachers or ministers in schools or churches. In the St. Louis area, eight graduates teach religion in Catholic high schools and several are department chairs. Other graduates work in health care ethics, Christian publishing, social work and political advocacy.
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Theology and Historical Theology

FACULTY

Alden Bass, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
Bernhard A. Asen, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Hebrew Scriptures
Elizabeth S. Block, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics
Christopher Collins, S.J., S.T.D.: Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
Mary Dunn, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Modern Christianity
Daniel J. Finucane, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Systemic Theology
Jay M. Hammond, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Medieval Christianity
Erick Hedrick-Moser, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
J. A. Wayne Hellmann, Dr. Theol.: Professor of Medieval Christianity
Grant Kaplan, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
Pauline C. Lee, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Chinese Religions and Culture
Peter W. Martens, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Early Christianity, Department Chair
Michael McClymond, Ph.D.: Professor of Modern Christianity
Leonard C. McKinnis, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
David Meconi, S.J., D.Phil.: Associate Professor of Early Christianity, Ph.D. Director
Geoffrey D. Miller, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Hebrew Scriptures, Undergraduate Director
William P. O’Brien, S.J., S.T.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
Tomás O’Sullivan, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Medieval Christianity
David Oughton, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of World Religions
Kenneth Parker, Ph.D.: Clarence and Helen Steber Professor in Theological Studies
Donald Patten, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
G. John Renard, Ph.D.: Professor of Medieval Islam
Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, M.A. Director
Randall S. Rosenberg, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
Julie Hanlon Rubio, Ph.D.: Professor of Christian Ethics
Brian Sholl, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Theology
Daniel L. Smith, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of New Testament
Matthew Thiessen, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of New Testament
Jeffrey Wickes, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor of Early Christianity
Tobias L. Winright, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

DEGREES OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Historical Theology

COURSES AVAILABLE

DAYS ☑ NIGHTS ☑ WEEKENDS ☐ ONLINE ☐

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Application form and fee
• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE scores
• Résumé
• Professional goal statement

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

M.A.: Students pursuing a nonresearch M.A. who plan to work in religious education or parish ministry are eligible for a 60 percent tuition discount. Research M.A. students are eligible for scholarships and teaching/research assistantships.

Ph.D.: The department matriculates no more than five students each year. All students accepted into the program will receive the funding package detailed online at theology.slu.edu.