Theological Studies  
+ College of Arts and Sciences

Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses - in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University is celebrating its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program in the Department of Theological Studies is geared toward students who want to pursue focused scholarship, prepare for future doctoral work, or simply exercise their intellectual curiosity. This program offers an ideal first degree in Theology, orienting students to the major fields of theological study, including biblical studies, the history of Christianity, theological ethics and constructive theology.

Ph.D. in Theological Studies
The Ph.D. in Theological Studies offers two concentrations that reflect areas of research excellence and depth among our faculty: Christianity in Antiquity and Christian Theology. The focal point of the Christianity in Antiquity (CA) concentration is early Christianity, from its origins through the rise of Islam. This concentration deliberately bridges long-standing disciplinary boundaries between New Testament, patristics, and early medieval Christianity, situating Christianity within the Greco-Roman world and the wider religious cultures of the Mediterranean. The focal point of the Christian Theology (CT) concentration is Christian theology, broadly conceived. This concentration trains students to become Christian theologians by providing students with a strong background in the history of Christianity as well the various subfields of Christian theology. Students in this area of concentration craft an integrated plan of study in one of several major theological disciplines by means of coursework and individualized exams.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application form and fee (if applicable)
- Transcript(s)
- GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Personal goal statement

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Successful MTS applicants have bachelor’s degree preferably in the humanities and/or social sciences, with a GPA of at least a 3.0.

A theology degree is not a prerequisite for admission.

PhD: Students seeking admission to the Ph.D. program will have earned a Master’s degree in theology, religious studies, classics, ancient history, or some other closely-related field.
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FACULTY

- Christopher S. Collins, SJ, STD, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
- Mary Dunn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern Christianity
- Jay M. Hammond, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medieval Christianity
- J. A. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv, Dr Theol., Professor of Medieval Christianity
- Grant Kaplan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
- Atria Larson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology
- Pauline C. Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chinese Religions and Culture
- Peter W. Martens, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Christianity
- Michael McClymond, Ph.D., Professor of Modern Christianity
- David Meconi, SJ, DPhil., Assistant Professor of Early Christianity
- James Redfield, Ph.D., Department of Theological Studies
- G. John Renard, Ph.D., Professor of Medieval Islam
- Rubén Rosario Rodríguez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
- Randall S. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
- Julie Hanlon Rubio, Ph.D., Professor of Christian Ethics
- Daniel L. Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
- Elizabeth Sweeney Block, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics
- Jeffrey T. Wickes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Early Christianity
- Tobias L. Winright, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

CURRICULUM

MTS: Students take 36 credit hours broadly distributed across the theological curriculum: 6 credit hours of biblical studies (Introduction to OT and Introduction to NT); 6 credit hours of Christian history (Christian Tradition I and Christian Tradition II); 6 credit hours of theological ethics or constructive theology (Christian Theology Introduction and one elective); 6 credit hours of language; and 12 elective hours, of which 3 are in a non-Christian religion. As one of their elective courses, MTS students may choose to write a 30-40 page research paper in collaboration with their faculty mentor and a second faculty reader in the spring of their second year of study. In addition to coursework, MTS students are required to demonstrate competency in at least one foreign language.

Ph.D.: Students are required to complete 36 hours of coursework in the first two years of the program, as well as take four written comprehensive exams. Students write and defend their dissertation prospectus in year three and, in most cases, conduct a public, oral defense of the dissertation between April 15 of the fifth year and April 15 of the sixth year. Students in the CA concentration must acquire competency in two of the following ancient languages: Greek, Latin and Syriac. CA students must also acquire competency in French and German and any other languages relevant to their research interests. CT students must acquire competency in French and German, and any other languages relevant to their research interests.

The focal point of the Christian Theology (CT) concentration is Christian theology, broadly conceived. This concentration trains students to become Christian theologians by providing students with a strong background in the history of Christianity as well the various subfields of Christian theology. Students in this area of concentration craft an integrated plan of study in one of several major theological disciplines by means of coursework and individualized exams. Students will have the opportunity to work with faculty in various interrelated disciplinary fields within and outside the Department: Biblical studies, the history of Christianity, theological ethics, liturgical studies, and constructive, philosophical and comparative theology.