

# 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 arts education founded on a clear understanding of the relationship between faith and reason. This is the synthesis that 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.

#### 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. 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 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, 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, 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		SOPHOMORE	
Writing Colloquium  Mathematics  Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations	3	Theology of Freedom Christian Ethics Computational, Mathematical and	3
and Societies (QIO) course Theology of Love	3	Analytical (QCM) Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual	3
Language	3 15	Traditions (IDS 201) Language	3 3 15
Research Writing Basic Speech Life Scientific (QLS) course Theology of Justice Language	3 3 3 3 15	Faith and Science Physical Scientific (QPS) course Historical (QHT) course Philosophical (QPL) course Language	3 3 3 3 15
JUNIOR		SENIOR	
Literary and Rhetorical (QLR) course Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE) course Moral Theology elective	3 3	Theology elective Electives Life Scientific (QLS) or Physical	3 9
Religions/Theological (QRT) course (200-level) Theology elective	3 3 15	Scientific (QPS ) course	3 15
Fine Arts Core elective Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3	Theology and Life Seminar Electives	3
Theology electives THEO 230 Baptism of Europe	6 3 15	Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO) course OR Social Scientific II: Political, Global and	
		Economic Systems (QPE)	3 15

You may want to speak with your advisor about pursuing a minor (typically 21 semester credit 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.