

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, B.A.

Saint Louis University's Department of Theological Studies (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/theological-studies/>) trains students in a variety of sources and methods to help them evaluate and appreciate the most vital aspects of religious experience and thought. The SLU theological studies department enters into this investigation from an academic perspective to help students clarify their own understanding.

The Catholic tradition is central to the work of the department, but Catholicism is studied in the context of the whole Christian tradition and in relationship to all of the world's religious traditions.

Additional program highlights include:

- The SLU theology program allows students to explore major questions about life and God while studying with top scholars in the field.
- Students explore deep theological issues in a welcoming environment that is both rooted in the Catholic tradition and open to all viewpoints.
- Students develop writing, research and critical-thinking skills in preparation for graduate study and careers in various disciplines such as theology, law, social work, philosophy and many others.

Curriculum Overview

SLU's major in theological studies consists of 33 credits. Students are required to take the Theological Foundations course, one World Religions course, one Teachings in the Christian Tradition course, four electives, one capstone seminar and at least one course in the following areas:

- Sacred Texts
- Religious Traditions
- Religious Ethics

The introductory course, Theological Foundations, introduces students to the God of revelation within the Judeo-Christian tradition and understanding its implications for living a human life, respecting creation, and pursuing beauty and truth. This is done within an ecumenical and global context, examining other world religions and social realities. Subsequent courses focus on an aspect of Christian or other religious traditions and address social and moral issues.

Following the introductory Theological Foundations course, the department offers undergraduate courses in the 2000–4000 level in Scripture, both Hebrew and Christian; the history of Christianity from its origins through today; constructive theology, which examines central themes and pressing issues in Christianity; theological ethics, which studies diverse Christian practices; world religions/comparative theology, which explores non-Christian faiths by either comparing or contrasting them with Christianity (e.g., Islam and Christianity) or by studying them individually (e.g., world religions); and spirituality, which examines the various expressions of Christian discipleship (e.g., Ignatian spirituality).

The capstone THEO 4960 Capstone Seminar I (3 cr) challenges students to explore methodologies used by contemporary scholars of theology and religion.

Research-Intensive Option

Qualified students take THEO 3430 Teachings in the Christian Tradition: God and Christ (3 cr) and THEO 3435 Teachings in the Christian Tradition: Church and World (3 cr). They are also required to complete THEO 4960

and, subsequently, THEO 4998 Advanced Independent Study (3 cr), which requires the completion of a senior thesis. These changes reduce the number of major electives from 12 to six credits for students in this option only.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The Theology Club at Saint Louis University provides an opportunity for students and faculty to come together in an informal social setting. The club holds regular discussions, sponsors lectures and organizes participation in conferences nationwide. The department publishes a monthly newsletter, the *Ignatian Herald*, which keeps interested students informed about campus events. The department also sponsors regular lectures in which world-class scholars share their ongoing research with faculty, students and the wider University community.

Faculty members and academic advisors/mentors assist students in finding internships in the St. Louis area or in their hometowns that will utilize the knowledge obtained from the theology curriculum and enhance students' skill sets.

Careers

Those who wish to remain in the field of theology after graduation may teach at the elementary and secondary levels or serve as religious education coordinators in a parish and pastoral associates in schools or parishes. Many students see the theology major as good preparation for graduate studies. Graduate studies in theology prepare students for various careers in ministry, teaching at the college or university level and entering many other professions. Some students choose to complete a double major to diversify their employment opportunities. Studies in theology enhance careers in journalism, social work, medicine, law or politics.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level

coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to explain how Christian theology, including the Catholic tradition, engages ultimate questions about the nature

of faith; the nature, existence and personhood of God; the nature and ends of creation and human life; and evil (in ourselves and in the world) and salvation.

2. Graduates will be able to describe how key historical texts, figures and episodes have contributed to major doctrines of Christian theology.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze entanglements of global movements and personal identities with religions, cultures and interreligious relations in the past and present.
4. Graduates will be able to apply concepts, including those from the study of ethics, sacred texts and religious traditions, to the question of the significance of the theological and religious study for living a life of "faith that does justice."
5. Graduates will be able to explain the impact of theories, methods and/or historiographies on academic theology and/or the study of religion.
6. Graduates on the research-intensive track will be able to produce an original piece of research appropriate for the academic study of theology and/or religion.

Requirements

Theological studies students must complete a minimum total of **33 credits** for the major. Overall requirements are as follows:

- A single course cannot be used to fill more than one requirement.
- At least 15 credits must be taken at the 3000-level or higher theology courses.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35
Major Requirements		33
<i>Foundations Requirement</i>		
THEO 1600	God: Stories and Questions	3
THEO 2710	Religions of the World	3
THEO 3430	Teachings in the Christian Tradition: God and Christ	3
or THEO 3435	Teachings in the Christian Tradition: Church and World	
<i>Area Elective Courses</i>		
Select one course from each of the following attributed areas:		9
Sacred Texts (p. 2)		
Religious Traditions (p. 3)		
Religious Ethics (p. 3)		
<i>Theology Elective Courses</i>		
Select four additional Theology courses		12
<i>Capstone</i>		
THEO 4960	Capstone Seminar I	3
University Electives		52-55
Total Credits		120

Sacred Texts (ST) Courses

Examples of courses with the Theology-Sacred Texts attribute:

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2110	Introduction to the Old Testament	
THEO 2210	Introduction to the New Testament	
THEO 3110	Introduction to the Pentateuch	
THEO 3115	Biblical Prophets: Voices of Conscience and Social Justice	
THEO 3210	One Jesus, Four Portraits: The Gospels	
THEO 4210	How to Interpret Scripture: Methods and Perspectives	
THEO 4290	Seminar in New Testament	

Religious Traditions (RT) Courses

Examples of courses with the Theology-Religious Traditions attribute:

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2715	Jerusalem: Three Faiths, One City	
THEO 2333	Race and Religion in America: The Search for Identity	
THEO 2755	Islam: Religion, Culture, and Society	
THEO 3425	The Invisible Institution: African American Religion and the Rise of Black Theology	
THEO 3710	Arts of Hinduism and Buddhism	
THEO 3720	Intuition, Spontaneity, and Flow: Daoism in Comparative Context	
THEO 3730	Jewish Life: Bible to Middle Ages	
THEO 4710	Islam and the Christian Theologian: Comparing Theological Themes	

Religious Ethics (RE) Courses

Examples of courses with the Theology-Religious Ethics attribute:

Code	Title	Credits
THEO 2510	Christian Ethics: Questions, Challenges, and Approaches	
THEO 2515	Social Justice	
THEO 2520	Comparative Religious Ethics	
THEO 3510	Faith and Politics	
THEO 3525	Green Discipleship: Theology & Ecology	
THEO 3535	Sex, Gender and Christian Ethics	
THEO 3560	A Post Human Future? The Ethics of Technology	
THEO 4510	War and Peace in the Christian Tradition	
THEO 4525	Freedom of Conscience	
THEO 4810	Latin American Politics, Theology, & Culture	

Continuation Standards

A student must maintain a 2.00 grade point average (GPA) in Theology major coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
Participation in first-year mentoring events		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
University Core and/or General Electives		12
		Credits
		15
Spring		
THEO 2710	Religions of the World	3
University Core and/or General Electives		12
		Credits
		15
Year Two		
Fall		
Sacred Text Course	(such as THEO 2110 or 2210)	3
THEO 2000-level	Course with Religious Traditions or Religious Ethics attribute	3
University Core and/or General Electives		9
		Credits
		15
Spring		
THEO 2000-level or 3000-level	Course with Religious Traditions or Religious Ethics attribute (whichever not taken in Fall of Year Two)	3
University Core and/or General Electives		12
		Credits
		15
Year Three		
Fall		
THEO 3430	Teachings in the Christian Tradition: God and Christ	3
University Core and/or General Electives		12
		Credits
		15
Spring		
THEO 3435	Teachings in the Christian Tradition: Church and World	3
University Core and/or General Electives		12
		Credits
		15
Year Four		
Fall		
THEO 4960	Capstone Seminar I	3
THEO 4000-level		3
University Core and/or General Electives		9
		Credits
		15
Spring		
THEO 4000-level		3
THEO 4000-level		3

University Core and/or General Electives	9
Credits	15
Total Credits	120

Madrid

The Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies from Saint Louis University-Madrid allows you to study and value the most important aspects of religious experience and thought. It is rooted in the Catholic tradition but seen in the context of the whole Christian tradition and in dialogue with the other world's religious traditions.

Doing the B.A. in theological studies in Spain allows you to explore the rich and complex religious and cultural heritage of Spain, a European country particularly linked to Latin America, that is key for the history of world Catholicism, and in which Jews, Christians, and Muslims coexisted for a long time in the Middle Ages.

Additionally, this B.A. will allow you to develop your writing, research and critical thinking skills in preparation for graduate school, giving you not just a solid basis when pursuing careers in theology and philosophy but also an attractive specialization when pursuing careers in other fields such as communication, politics, social work, medicine, law and many others.

**Credo, sed intelligere desidero
I believe, but I want to understand
- St. Anselm of Canterbury**

SLU-Madrid is an ideal setting for theological study in Europe. The religious and cultural centers of Spain are at your fingertips: take an afternoon with the artwork of Fra Angelico or El Greco at the Museo del Prado, a day trip to Ávila to visit St. Teresa's first Carmel, a long weekend to Sevilla to see the largest gothic cathedral in the world, or join a campus retreat to the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Don't just study the history of European theology; live it in Madrid, Paris and Rome. Walk the medieval pilgrimage route on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The theological studies program offers a unique opportunity to not only think deeply about the ultimate questions, but to see the impact the answers have made on the intellectual, cultural and religious heritage of Spain and Europe as a whole.

The Iberian Peninsula has been a cultural and intellectual crossroads for more than two millennia. The theological studies program at SLU-Madrid is committed to helping students and faculty expand their knowledge of God in this particular context. The possibilities of intellectual exchange between Judaism, Christianity and Islam have been mapped, explored and also shattered throughout Spain's history. Take classes on these three monotheistic faiths, their theologies, histories and relationships to one another.

Rooted in the Catholic, Jesuit intellectual tradition, the Department of Theological Studies is committed to the pursuit of truth through the exercise of faith and reason. This pursuit requires attention to be given to the theological tradition — including its material, historical and philosophical circumstances — and the contemporary state of the church and the world. While the department focuses on Catholic and other Christian traditions, it welcomes students from other religious traditions and is committed to interreligious dialogue and comparative theological study. Faculty specialties include the study of the Old and New Testaments, as well as fundamental, systematic, historical, and moral theology. Scholars and students in the theological studies program form a community of collaborative inquiry, with faculty emphasizing the

preparation of students not only for rigorous examination of religious and ethical commitments but also for the practice of faith.

Curriculum Overview

The major in theological studies requires 120 credits of coursework, including 33 credits of Theology coursework. Students are required to take three foundation courses like God Talk, Religions of the World, Teachings in the Christian Tradition; theology electives; one capstone seminar; and at least one course in the following areas: "Sacred Texts", "Religious Traditions", and "Religious Ethics".

Faculty

The faculty at Saint Louis University-Madrid are experts in their respective fields. They are internationally recognized teachers, researchers and mentors. Learn about our faculty members (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-profiles.php>), including their education, credentials, experience and contact information.

Faculty Research

The SLU-Madrid faculty maintains robust programs of research in a variety of fields. See below for more data.

Find Faculty Research Information (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-research.php>)

Find Research Resources (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/research-resources.php>)

Fieldwork, Internships and Careers

Those interested in remaining in the field of theology after graduation may teach on the elementary and secondary levels or serve as religious education coordinators in a parish and pastoral associates in schools or parishes. Many students consider the major in theological studies as solid preparation for graduate school. Graduate studies in theology provide students with the education for various careers in ministry, teaching at the college or university level, and entering many other professions. Studies in theology give students an attractive specialization in many careers, for example in communication, politics, social work, medicine, law, and many others.

Admission

SLU-Madrid Application (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/apply.php>)

Application Deadlines

- April 1 - Fall admission (July 1 for EU students)
- Aug. 1 - Spring admission (Nov. 1 for EU students)
- March 1 - Summer sessions (for applicants who require a student visa)
- April 15 - Summer sessions (for applicants who do not require a student visa)

Contact Us

Office of Admissions
Avenida del Valle, 34
28003 Madrid, Spain
P. (+34) 91 554 58 58
admissions-madrid@slu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays through Fridays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (3 p.m. on Fridays from May 15 - Sept. 1)

Tuition and Fees

SLU-Madrid is committed to providing a quality Jesuit education at an affordable price. Tuition rates at SLU-Madrid are approximately 40% lower than at comparable private universities in the U.S.

If you have questions or would like to speak with a financial aid officer, email us at financialaid-madrid@slu.edu.

- Tuition and Fees (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/tuition-fees.php>)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid.php>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact theology@slu.edu or call 314-977-2881.