

A flexible Program

You fulfill the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts by taking the foundational course, THL 1000, plus ten additional Theology and Religious Studies courses. These courses include five required courses, four elective courses, and one advanced seminar.

► The *Five Required Courses* include

- one course in Biblical Studies;
- one course in Historical Studies;
- one course in Theological Studies;
- one course in Christian Ethics;
- one course in Religion.

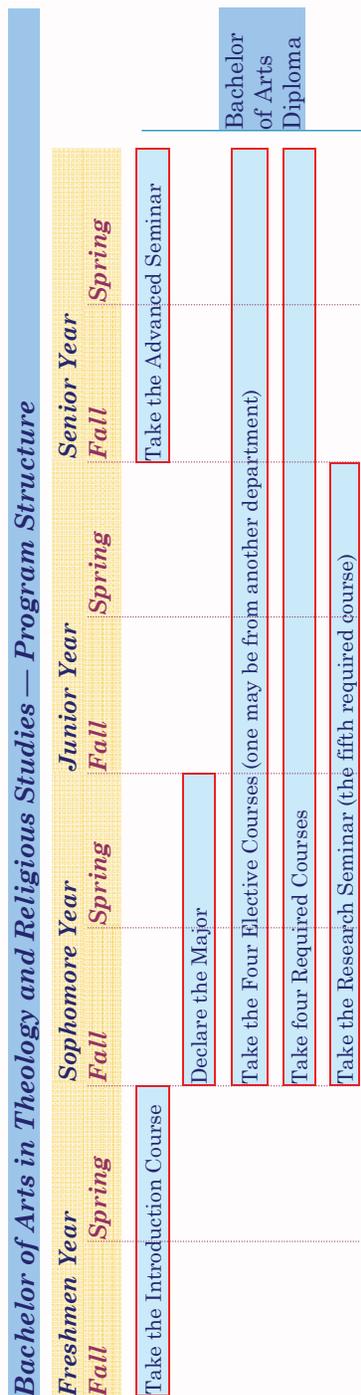
We offer one of the required courses as a *Research Seminar* during your Junior or Sophomore year.

► You may choose the *Four Elective Courses* from all Theology and Religious Studies course offerings. Also, you may select a minimum of three elective courses to *Develop A Concentration*. The remaining fourth course is a free elective (you may select *One Elective Course From Another Department* that complements your program).

► You take the *Advanced Seminar* in your Senior year.

Because studying Theology is an interdisciplinary venture we encourage and welcome *Double Majors*. To facilitate studies in diverse fields of inquiry, you may **count up to two associated or related courses from the second Major** toward fulfilling your Theology Major requirements.

Are you interested in joining our *5-Year BA/MA program*? You will need to take four graduate courses in place of four undergraduate elective courses. Thus, we encourage you to fulfill the required courses before taking any elective course.



Programs in Theology & Religious Studies



Bachelor of Arts

Department of
Theology &
Religious Studies
Villanova University
Saint Augustine Center 107

A Cutting Edge Program

- ⇒ Choose your Bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Studies as a terminal degree ...
- ⇒ Pursue further academic work at Villanova or elsewhere ...

We design our program on a level commensurate with the challenges and rewards of the best academic institutions.

How To Apply

For admission to Villanova's Bachelor of Arts Program in Theology and Religious Studies, you should have a 2.5 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) or better.

To apply for admission to the program, follow these simple steps:

- ✓ Declare the Major during your Sophomore year.
- ✓ Contact the Program Director to talk about your particular situation and interests (see the contact information at the bottom of this page).
- ✓ The Director will discuss with you all aspects of program requirements, program structure, course selection, and possibilities and opportunities for further studies in Theology (for example, our 5-year BA/MA Program).

For further information, please explore our web-site, call us, or visit us in person. We look forward to meeting you.

Our Program Makes A Difference Because It Enables You

... to engage Theology and Religious Studies as academic disciplines each with their own methods of analyzing religious phenomena. Specifically, our courses prepare you to

- construct and evaluate a theological argument—the correlation between interpretations of the Christian tradition and contemporary human experience.
- analyze religious phenomena using the conceptual tools provided by the humanities and the social sciences.
- interpret biblical texts using current exegetical methods.
- think systematically about moral and ethical questions.
- trace continuity and changes in Christian belief and practice from biblical roots, through historical developments, to contemporary forms of expression.
- participate in what Augustine calls the restless search for wisdom.

... to analyze the central beliefs and practices of the Christian tradition with a particular emphasis on Roman Catholicism. Specifically, our courses prepare you to

- describe central characteristics of the Christian understanding of human existence, the world, and God.
- recognize the complexities and pluralism of Christian beliefs and practices.
- explain the origins of Christianity within Judaism.
- demonstrate acquaintance with biblical texts and other classics of the Christian theological tradition.
- discuss contemporary theological arguments and their significance for Christian living in the modern age.
- recognize Christian theology as a living tradition that continues to be refined as it engages the contemporary world.
- discern the relevance of Christian theology for your own life and values.

... to analyze the phenomenon of religion as it operates in human history as well as in contemporary culture. Specifically, our courses prepare you to

- specify the various components and functions of religion, including doctrine, myth, ritual, mysticism, and legitimation.
- compare and contrast Christian beliefs and practices with non-Christian religions.
- analyze the influences of culture and society on the development of religious beliefs and practices.
- analyze and evaluate the role of religion in the development of societies and cultures.
- seek to understand those whose values and senses of the sacred differ from one's own.
- appreciate the contributions of Christianity to the development of Western culture.
- recognize the complexity and diversity of religious beliefs and practices in pluralistic societies.

... to evaluate the significance of religion for personal and collective ecological, political, economic, social, and cultural life. Specifically, our courses prepare you to

- analyze conditions that enhance or limit human life and dignity and the life of the planet.
- examine Christian ethical traditions.
- evaluate the impact of individual and collective actions on the common good.
- clarify and articulate moral convictions.
- deliberate and form judgments about the implications of moral principles for building a more just, sustainable and peaceful world.
- deliberate and form judgments about theological and ethical issues that are part of everyday life.

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