

BOSTON
COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY
& MINISTRY

**MASTER OF
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

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OBJECTIVES

The two-year Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) program provides students with the opportunity for broad study of the various disciplines of theology, while also permitting them to concentrate in one area. It confers the first graduate degree in theology. As a disciplined course of study in Catholic theology, the M.T.S. program is appropriate for persons who want a solid theological understanding of the faith, for persons considering subsequent graduate work on the doctoral level, for those planning to teach religion or theology, for individuals wishing to relate theology to their current professional work, and for experienced church ministers aiming to deepen their knowledge of theology. Four tracks are geared to specific career goals.

The M.T.S. program is directed by Thomas Massaro, S.J.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Applicants should follow the general admissions procedures as outlined on the STM website, www.bc.edu/stm
- B. Applicants should possess intellectual inquisitiveness and imagination as well as the ability to communicate effectively in speech and in writing. Consequently, the following is required:
 - 1. a bachelor's degree gained with above-average grades from an accredited college;
 - 2. at least one-third of the applicant's undergraduate program should have been in the liberal arts.
- C. Applicants should also manifest religious commitment, self-reliance, resourcefulness, personal maturity, and integrity.
- D. Applicants may be asked to come for an interview with the Admissions Committee.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete forty-eight credit hours of course work with a G.P.A. of at least 3.0 and to submit a final paper. Students may transfer up to twelve credits from graduate theology courses taken elsewhere toward the requirements of the M.T.S. program. The full-time residence requirement for the degree is two years—from the time of matriculation in the degree program. A student may complete the requirement for the degree on a part-time basis, but may not take more than eight semesters to do so.

The Common Core Curriculum

- 1. Six credit hours biblical studies.
- 2. Six credit hours historical-systematic theology.
- 3. Six credit hours moral theology.
- 4. Three credit hours church history.
- 5. Three credit hours pastoral studies or word and worship or church history.
- 6. Twenty-four credit hours electives.
- 7. Final paper (either a 30-50 page research paper for three credits [*Option A*], or a 10-page, non-credit reflection paper [*Option B*]).

Common Options

- Up to six credit hours of elective courses may be taken in ancient or modern languages appropriate to the program.
- One three-credit hour professional ministry practicum may be taken.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Students have the option to select a concentration. A concentration requires that a student take at least twelve of the twenty-four elective credit hours in a field of study as indicated below. No more than twenty-four credit hours may be taken in a concentration. M.T.S. students concentrating in spirituality may take six credits of their degree work in supervised spiritual direction. The chosen concentration will appear on the transcript.

THE FOUR TRACKS

Track I: Theological Development

This track is appropriate for students who are pursuing general theological literacy and competency.

Special Requirements and Options: None.

Concentrations: biblical studies; historical-systematic theology; moral theology; church history; pastoral leadership; liturgical studies; spirituality; and politics, justice and social action. Other concentrations may be arranged in consultation with the faculty advisor and the director of the program.

Track II: Pre-doctoral

This track is appropriate for students who intend to pursue a doctorate in a theological area.

Special Requirements and Options:

- Area of concentration.
- Two advanced-level seminars.
- Up to nine credit hours may be taken in ancient or modern languages (no more than six credits in one language).

Concentrations: biblical studies; historical-systematic theology; moral theology; church history; liturgical studies; and spirituality.

Track III: Catholic Education

This track is appropriate for students who plan to teach Catholic theology.

Special Requirements and Options:

- three credit hour teaching practicum (or equivalent, including previous teaching experience)
- Up to nine credit hours (including the teaching practicum) may be taken in professional education courses. These courses, by cross-registration, may be taken at Boston College Lynch School of Education and at Harvard University.

Concentrations: biblical studies; historical-systematic theology; moral theology; church history; pastoral leadership; liturgical studies; spirituality; and politics, justice and social action.

Track IV: Integrating Theology and the Professional Life

This track is appropriate for students with a background or interest in professional life, including law, medicine, finance, media, politics, etc., who want to integrate theology with their profession.

Special Requirements and Options: None.

Concentrations: ethics; gender and sexuality; and spirituality. Other concentrations may be arranged in consultation with the faculty advisor and the director of the program.

FINAL PAPER

The successful completion of either *Option A* or *Option B* is a requirement for graduation.

Option A: Research Paper
(30–50 pages) three credits

In the final semester the student registers for TM 880 MTS Thesis. The paper is written under the direction of a member of the faculty and is read by a second faculty member conversant with the topic. The topic of the research paper should fall within a concentration and be decided upon by mutual agreement between the student and both the research director and the reader, and subsequently be approved in writing by the Director of the M.T.S. program. The completed paper will be given to the research director and the reader on or before the last day of class in the semester in which work for the degree is finished. There will be a one-hour oral examination on the paper administered by the research director and the reader. The oral examination will be completed by the end of the first week of the reading period at a suitable time arranged by the student.

Option B: Theological Reflection Paper
(10 pages) no credit

The paper should be on the theological significance of the student's study and experience at Boston College. The paper should address itself generally to these questions:

1. How has the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry experience affected my understanding of the Christian life? What has it affirmed? What has it challenged? What has it changed?
2. How do I interpret theologically what has happened to me at STM?
3. What has the experience at STM contributed to my profession/ministry/ career in terms of attitudes and questions as well as content and skills?
4. What areas of further growth and education do I now see?

The paper should be submitted on or before the last day of class in the semester in which work for the degree is finished. There is a meeting on the paper held during the first week of the reading period. The student shall arrange a suitable time. Ordinarily, the student meets with the Director of the M.T.S. program and the student's faculty advisor. Where necessary (e.g., the Director and advisor are the same person) or helpful, other faculty members may be asked to meet on the paper.