

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

The degree of Master of Theology (Th.M.) is conferred after completion of a one-year program of second-level graduate theological and pastoral study, intended to deepen and focus a student's foundational knowledge of theological disciplines and ministerial practice. It is especially suited to Jesuits and other candidates for ordination in their fourth year of theological studies, as well as those with ministerial experience who wish to further their theological education. The degree requires six academic courses (eighteen credit hours), plus a thesis, biblical language study, or ministry practicum and ministerial focus paper. Two program options are offered:

Option A culminates in a thesis and involves a concentration in one of the theological disciplines. Under this option, at least half (nine credit hours) of the required courses for the Th.M. degree must be taken in the student's field of concentration. Concentrations are possible in church history, biblical studies, historical-systematic theology, moral theology, pastoral studies, and spirituality. To complete their programs, students may take courses in any of the other academic areas; ministry practica are not normally part of the Option A program. Students work closely with the program director and their faculty advisor in planning a coherent program.

Option B aims at developing advanced understanding and pastoral competence in a particular form of church ministry. It permits students to specialize in one aspect of ministry through a combination of course work and professional ministry practica. With the assistance of the program director, their faculty advisor, and the Faculty Director of Contextual Education for the Weston Jesuit Department, students plan a coherent program of courses selected for their relevance to the work being done in the ministry placement. Areas of specialization in ministry include the preaching of the Word, spiritual direction, and cross-cultural ministries.

The Th.M. program is directed by Thomas Kane, CSP.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Applicants should follow general admissions procedures as outlined on the STM website, www.bc.edu/stm.
- B. Applicants must possess the M.Div. degree, or its equivalent in credit hours and ministerial experience, with a 3.3 GPA.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

Students must complete two semesters (twenty-four credit hours) of full-time residence. Eighteen credit hours must be earned in course work. One-half of the courses must be advanced seminars. An additional six credit hours are earned through the writing of a thesis, study of biblical languages, or completion of a ministerial practicum and focus paper. The program must be completed within four semesters, or two academic years, of matriculation.

Option A: At least one-half of the student's courses must be taken in his or her concentration. Six credit hours are granted for the required thesis together with the oral examination on the thesis and area of concentration. The thesis should be about fifty pages in length. The oral examination by the director of the thesis and a second reader is scheduled according to the deadlines posted on the STM Academic Calendar. Students are expected to be competent in the languages needed for the preparation of the thesis. Students concentrating in biblical studies may substitute six credit hours in biblical languages for the thesis. They are not counted toward the nine credit hours needed for the area of concentration.

Option B: Six credit hours are granted for the Advanced Professional Ministry Practicum, the Diaconate Practicum, or, with approval, the Spiritual Direction Practicum. The practicum requires regular theological reflection throughout the year and concludes with a final paper on the area of specialization in ministry. Eighteen additional credit hours related to the student's area of specialization are also required. Up to six credit hours may be earned through a pre-arranged summer ministry practicum approved by the Faculty Director of Contextual Education for the Weston Jesuit Department.