Boston College offers exceptional resources for Catholic and ecumenical study of all fields of theology. The Department of Theology provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for reasoned reflection on their own values, faith and tradition, as well as on the religious forces that shape our world. Boston College offers unusual resources for Catholic and ecumenical study in all areas of theology. Not only is the Department of Theology considered one of the foremost such departments in the country, but the city of Boston is also one of the richest environments in the world for the study of theology.

The Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium (BTI), a consortium of theology faculties primarily in the Boston-Newton-Cambridge area, has as its constituent members the following institutions: Boston College Department of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston University School of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hartford Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Hebrew College, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. John’s Seminary and Theological Institute. This consortium offers complete cross-registration in several hundred courses, the use of library facilities in the nine schools, joint seminars and programs and faculty exchange programs (bostontheological.org).

**welcome to graduate theology**

**program overview**

**Ph.D. Program**

The goal of the doctoral program in theology is the formation of theologians who excel intellectually in the church, the academy and society. It is confessional in nature and envisions theology as “faith seeking understanding.” Accordingly, the program aims at nourishing a community of faith, scholarly conversation, and research and teaching centered in the study of Christian life and thought, past and present, in ways that contribute to this goal. It recognizes that creative theological discussion and specialized research require serious and in-depth appropriation of the great philosophical and theological traditions of the past, as well as ecumenical, interdisciplinary, inter-religious and cross-cultural cooperation.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Students are expected to acquire a rigorous mastery of the Judeo-Christian tradition, enabling them to critically probe the foundations of various theological positions.
- Students are expected to command the tools and techniques of research particular to their field and to organize and integrate their knowledge in such a way as to make an original contribution to the academic study of theology.
- Students are expected to engage in ecumenical, inter-religious, interdisciplinary and cross-cultural academic conversation as appropriate to their discipline.
- Students are expected to acquire the skills and competencies necessary to present papers at appropriate academic conferences and to publish the results of their research in respected peer-reviewed journals.
- Students are expected to acquire the skills and competencies necessary to succeed not only as active scholars, but also as effective teachers.
AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Students in the doctoral program focus their studies in one of five major areas: Historical Theology/History of Christianity, Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, Theological Ethics or Comparative Theology.

The Historical Theology/History of Christianity (HT/HC) area studies past theological reflection on the faith and practice of the Church. The HT/HC area strives to appreciate these theological expressions both within their immediate historical contexts (social, cultural, institutional) and within the broader trajectories of theological development in the Christian tradition.

Systematic Theology is the contemporary intellectual reflection on the content of divine revelation as an interrelated whole. The program fosters the capacity to treat theological material systematically, constructively and contextually, according to methods that attend to the coherence and interconnectedness of the elements of the Christian tradition, take responsibility for the tradition’s ongoing development and address diverse cultural situations. Special attention is given to the historical development of Christian thought and doctrine, its intellectual cogency, its role and significance within different cultural contexts, its contemporary expressions from different theological perspectives and newly emergent questions.

The Biblical Studies area focuses on the canonical books of the Bible, both within their historical and cultural worlds and in relation to their reception within the Christian and Jewish traditions. All students acquire a thorough competency in both the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, including competency in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Students may learn other ancient languages and literatures as their research requires. The comprehensive exams cover the whole Bible, with emphasis on either the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible or the New Testament, and include a specialized exam in an area of study pertinent to the student’s dissertation.

Theological Ethics includes the ecumenical study of major Christian ethicists and attends to the Biblical foundations, philosophical contributions, socio-political contexts and theological interpretations of ethics. The program encompasses the historical development of traditions in Christian ethics, including the natural law and virtue ethics. It also includes a strong social ethics component as well as offerings in applied ethics. The exploration of contemporary ethics is set in a critical, historical perspective and encourages attention to the global, multicultural and public character of the Christian community.

Comparative Theology involves faith seeking understanding in constructive dialogue with another religious tradition. Students are expected to acquire significant expertise in a religion other than their own, as well as a solid grounding in a particular area of theology (ethics, biblical studies, historical theology or systematic theology). Equipped with the methodological tools of the comparative study of religion, as well as a critical self-awareness of theology of religions, students will reflect on a particular theological question or problem in their own religious tradition through constructive engagement with analogous ideas or practices in the other tradition. This will prepare them to teach courses in Christian theology and in their non-Christian religious tradition, as well as in interreligious dialogue and comparative theology, more generally.

M.A. Joint Program in Philosophy and Theology

Drawing on the resources of major departments and distinguished authorities in each field, and situated at the heart of a prominent Jesuit, Catholic university, this program is structured around distinct concentrations that address major areas of common concern to the two fields, and explores their historical, systematic and disciplinary relations. Students develop a program of study in discussion with an academic advisor and take courses in the standard graduate programs offered by the Philosophy and Theology departments. Concentrations include: Faith, Science and Philosophy; Foundations in Philosophy and Theology; Medieval Philosophy and Theology; and Philosophy and Religions.

This program is designed to address the various interests of students who wish to augment graduate study of philosophy with greater exposure to theology or graduate study of theology with greater exposure to philosophy; plan to teach or are currently teaching in private secondary schools; or simply feel in need of intellectual enrichment.
AMEY VICTORIA ADKINS JONES
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Duke University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Mariology, theological anthropology, iconography and visual theory, womanist theology and Black feminist thought, human trafficking, prison industrial complex

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Lisa Sowle Cahill
J. Donald Monan Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
History of Christian ethics; Christology and ethics; Catholic social teaching and globalization; gender equality; bioethics; war and peacebuilding

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Pacifism, Just War, and Peacebuilding (Georgetown University Press, 2019).
- Theology and Praxis of Gender Equality (Dharmaram Press, 2018).
- "Catholic Social Teaching as Political Theology." In Cambridge Companion to Political Theology, eds. E. Phillips and C. Hovey (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Jeffrey L. Cooley
Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Director
Ph.D., Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Hebrew Bible and its ancient Near Eastern context; the intersection of ancient scholarship and literature; intellectual history of ancient Israel and Mesopotamia, divination in the ancient Near East

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Boyd Taylor Coolman
Professor
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Medieval Catholicism; Victorine and early Franciscan traditions; emergence of scholastic theology; medieval mystical theologies

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Catherine Cornille
Newton College Alumnae Chair in Western Culture
Ph.D., Catholic University of Leuven

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Comparative theology; theology of religions; interreligious dialogue; religious hybridity; concrete questions in the Hindu-Christian and Buddhist-Christian dialogues

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology (Wiley, 2019).
- "Beauty and Truth in Christian Theology of Religions." In Finding Beauty in the Other, eds. P. Casarella and M. Sirry (Crossroads, 2019).
- "Women and Interreligious Dialogue" (Wipf and Stock, 2013).

John A. Darr
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


RICHARD R. GAILLARDETZ

Department Chairperson, Joseph Professor of Theology
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Ecclesiology; Vatican II; authority and ministry; ecumenism

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

YONDER GILLIHAN

Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Dead Sea Scrolls; Matthew and Paul; apocalypticism; Christian origins within the context of Jewish sectarianism in the late Second Temple period

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- “Associations.” In Erdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. J. Collins and D. Harlow (Erdmans, 2010).

KRYSTIN HEYER

Professor, Graduate Program Director
Ph.D., Boston College

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Catholic social thought; migration ethics; conscience and moral agency

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MICHAEL HIMES

Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Ongoing Incarnation: Johann Adam Möhler and the Beginnings of Modern Ecclesiology (Crossroad Herder, 1997).

KENNETH R. HIMES, O.F.M.

Professor
Ph.D., Duke University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Catholic social teaching and political economy; ethical issues in war and peacebuilding; fundamental moral theology; Christianity in American public life

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- “Catholic Social Teaching in a Church That Is Both Local and Universal.” In The Catholic Ethicist in the Local Church, eds. A. Autiero and L. Magesa (Orbis Books, 2018).
- Drones and the Ethics of Targeted Killing (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016).
MARY ANN HINSDALE, I.H.M.
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Ecclesiology, Christology, theological anthropology and feminist theologies; multidisciplinary approaches to Catholic Studies; use of participatory action research in theological reflection on the U.S. Catholic experience; Mary Magdalene as a resource for women’s ecclesial leadership

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Co-author, *It Comes from the People*: Community Development and Local Theology (Temple University, 1995).

DAVID G. HUNTER
Margaret O’Brien Flaherty Chair of Catholic Theology
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Patristics; history of Christian ethics; history of biblical interpretation; marriage, divorce and celibacy in ancient Christianity; Augustine and his contemporaries

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CATHLEEN KAVENY
Darald and Juliet Libby Professor
J.D., Ph.D., Yale University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Relationship of law, religion and ethics; public theology, mercy and justice; complicity; religion and rhetoric

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

JAMES F. KEENAN, S.J.
Canisius Professor; Director of Jesuit Institute
Ph.D., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Virtue ethics; Thomas Aquinas; history of theological ethics; public health ethics

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

RUTH LANGER
Professor
Ph.D., Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Jewish liturgy and Christian-Jewish relations

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
**FRED LAWRENCE**  
Professor  
Ph.D., University of Basel  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**  
Topics surrounding political theology; how Christian and other religions can mediate a normative order of values, without which a society cannot flourish and may not even survive  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**  

**MICHAEL C. MAGREE, S.J.**  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**  
Early Christian scriptural exegesis; theological interpretation of scripture; history of Christological and Trinitarian Doctrine; 11th- and 12th-century western monastic theology; Byzantine theology of the Hesychast controversy; theologies of grace and asceticism; eschatology  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**  
- “Messianic Age: Patristic and Orthodox Theology” and Messianism: Patristic and Orthodox Theology.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (De Gruyter, 2009-forthcoming).

**JOHN J. MAKRANSKY**  
Associate Professor of Buddhism and Comparative Theology  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**  
Researching connections between insight, compassion and devotion in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism; exploring what Buddhist and Christian theologians can learn from each other; adapting Buddhist forms of contemplative practice into accessible forms to help address current needs and support inter-religious learning  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**  

**MARK MASSA, S.J.**  
Professor  
Th.D., Harvard University  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**  
19th- and 20th-century Catholic thought and practice; the tradition of anti-Catholicism in North American public culture; the effects of Vatican II on American Catholic practice and belief; the history of Catholic theological battles in moral theology after Humanae Vitae  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:**  

**GREGORIO MONTEJO**  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Marquette University  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**  
Theology; historical theology; philosophy; Thomas Aquinas; Christology; biblical theology; patristics; late antiquity  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**  
JAMES W. MORRIS
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Islamic philosophy and theology; Sufism; Islamic humanities (especially poetry and music); the Qur’an; Shi’ite thought; pilgrimage and popular devotional life

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ Openings: From the Qur’an to the Islamic Humanities (World Wisdom, forthcoming).
❖ Ostad Elahi: Knowing the Spirit (SUNY Press, 2007).
❖ The Reflective Heart: Discovering Spiritual Intelligence in Ibn ‘Arabi’s ‘Meccan Illuminations’ (Fons Vitae, 2005).

DAVID MOZINA
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Modern and late imperial Daoism (907-present), especially its ritual components; modern folk Buddhist traditions and local ritual traditions in rural China; theological questions raised by comparative thinking with Chinese, Christian and secular Western theories of ritual, and their implications for interreligious dialogue

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Summoning the Exorcist: The Role of Heart Seals (xinyin 心印) in Calling Down a Demon-Quelling Deity in Contemporary Daoist Thunder Ritual.” In Exorcism in Daoism, ed. F.C. Reiter (Harrassowitz Verlag, 2011).

PHEME PERKINS
Joseph Professor of Catholic Spirituality
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Greco-Roman cultural setting of early Christianity, particularly Hellenistic philosophy and Christian theology in the 2nd and 3rd century (Gnosticism, Nag Hammadi, Irenaeus); Pauline epistles; Johannine writings; Resurrection and early Christian eschatology

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ 1 Corinthians (Baker Academic, 2012).
❖ Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Eerdmans, 2007).

STEPHEN J. POPE
Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Love and justice, reconciliation and restorative justice, Thomistic virtue ethics, Catholic social teaching, the relevance of science to theological ethics

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ANDREW PREVOT
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Prayer and spirituality; phenomenology and theology; political and liberation theology; questions of identity; the doctrine of God

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ Thinking Prayer: Theology and Spirituality Amid the Crises of Modernity (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015).

BRIAN D. ROBINETTE
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Phenomenology; hermeneutics; mimetic theory; mystical theology; contemplative studies; theology of creation; doctrine of God

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


DIETER T. ROTH
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Edinburgh

RESEARCH INTERESTS
The Gospels in the second century; Marcion’s Gospel; textual Criticism of the New Testament, the Synoptic Gospels: Q and the Synoptic problem

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


MARGARET A. SCHATKIN
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Fordham University; Th.D., Princeton Theological Seminary

RESEARCH INTERESTS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


DAVID VANDERHOOF
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Hebrew Scriptures, especially the Former and Latter Prophets; historical, cultural, theological and comparative analyses of ancient Israel’s literature; the relationship between Israel and the ancient empires of Assyria and Babylonia

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY PROFILES

JAMES M. WEISS
Associate Professor
Ph.D., The University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Work and career as forms of calling; capstone programs in higher education; history of the papacy and college of cardinals; biographical writing in the Renaissance and Reformation

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Humanist Biography in Renaissance Italy and Reformation Germany: Friendship and Rhetoric (Ashgate, 2010).
- “Kennst Du das Land wo die Humanisten blühen? The Role of Italy in the Biographies of German Humanists, 1485-1585.” In Germania Latina ...: Politik, Wissenschaft, humanistische Kultur ... (vol. 1), eds. E. Kessler and H. Kuhn (Fink, 2003).

JEREMY D. WILKINS
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Boston College

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Foundations and method of theology; Trinitarian theology; Christology and soteriology; divine missions and the order of grace; Bernard Lonergan; Thomas Aquinas

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

COURSES

FALL 2019
- Daoism
- Mozina
- Theology of Religions
- Cornille
- Passover/Midrash and Talmud
- Langer
- 20th Century Systematic Theology
- Himes, Michael
- Fundamental Moral: Theological Ethics
- Keenan
- Christian Ethics: Major Figures
- Calhoun
- Ethics, Religion and International Politics
- Owens
- Sacraments and Art
- Bergin
- Late Medieval Mysticism
- Coolman
- Theology as Political
- Lawrence
- Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
- Vanderhoof
- Classic Texts in American Theology
- Massa
- Islam and History in the Middle East
- Delong-Bas
- New Testament Ethics
- Perkins
- Theology and Ecology
- Hinsdale
- Priesthood, Celibacy and Authority
- Hunter
- Ancient Christianity
- Perkins
- Christ in New Testament
- Prevat
- Liberation Theology
- The Pentateuch
- Cooley
- Mystical Poetry Islamic Humanities
- Morris
- Patristic Greek
- Schatkin

SPRING 2020
- Theology as Hermeneutical
- Lawrence
- Sacramental Principle
- Himes, Michael
- Christian Ethics and Migration
- Heyer
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Gillihan
- Patristics: Latin/English
- Schatkin
- Graeca
- Perkins
- Law and Religion
- Kaveny
- Ethics Apocalyptic Times
- Cahill
- Aquinas Biblical Commentaries
- Montejo
- Sustainable Health Theological Ethics
- Vicini
- Theology of Schillebeeckx
- Hinsdale
- Into the Far Country:
- Theology of Karl Barth
- Adkins
- Faith in a Post-Religious and Post-Secular Age
- Robinette
- Christian Ethics and Political Economy of Liberalism
- Himes, Kenneth
- Psalms and Cult
- Vanderhoof
- Women and Gender in Islam
- Delong-Bas
- Buddhist Ethics: Ancient and Modern
- Makransky
Recent Dissertations

2018–2019


Justin Coyle, “An Essay on Theological Aesthetics in the Summa halensis”

Stephanie Edwards, “Pharmaceutical Memory Modification and Christianity’s ‘Dangerous’ Memory”

Craig Ford, “Foundations of a Queer Natural Law”

Michael Wahl, “‘Stirred to Virtue by Word and Example’: A Thomistic Account of Moral Exemplarity and Virtue Cultivation”

Jordan Wood, “That Creation is Incarnation in Maximus Confessor”

2017–2018

Robert J. Brodrick, “Charismatic and Pastoral Power: A Foucauldian Analysis of the CDF Investigation of Leonardo Boff”

David Clint Burnett, “Psalm 110:1 In Confessional Material In Corpus Paulinum: Cultural and Religious Context”

Ryan Duns, “Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age? William Desmond’s Theological Achievement”

Charles Thomas Fraatz, “Blessed Is the One Who Reads and Those Who Hear the Words of Prophecy: Rome and Revelation’s Use of Scripture”


Samuel Keyes, “Here for Medicine, There for Delight: The Ecclesial Mysteries of the Victorine Speculum”


Megan McCabe, “Sex, Power, and Violence on the College Campus: Rape Culture and Complicity in Evil”

Ty Monroe, “The Development of Augustine’s Early Soteriology – Boyd Taylor Coolman”

Kate Mroz, “No Salvation Apart from Religious Others: Edward Schillebeeckx’s Soteriology as a Resource for Understanding Christian Identity and Discipleship in a Religiously Pluralist World”


Jennifer Sanders, “The Trinitarian Telos of the Summa theologiae: Thomas’s Application of the Aristotelian Ordo Disciplinae to Sacra Doctrina in Light of His Augustinian Heritage”

Clifton Stringer, “Becoming One in the Paschal Mystery: Christ, Spirituality, and Theology in Hugh of St. Victor”

Veronica Tierney, “For Us and For Our Salvation: Revelation and Imitation in Cyril of Alexandria”

Katherine Wrisley Shelby, “The Vir Hierarchicus: St. Bonaventure’s Theology of Grace”

Recent Placements

Our recent students’ placements have included:

Barry University
Benedictine College
Catholic Theological Union
College of the Holy Cross
College of St. Benedict/St. John
Creighton University
Duquesne University
East Carolina University
Emmanuel College
Fairfield University
Gonzaga University
Heythrop College
Humboldt State University
Laboure College
Loyola Marymount
Manhattan College
Marquette University
Marymount University
Merrimack College
Misericordia University
University of Notre Dame
University of Portland
Providence College
Rivier College
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Gregory University
Saint John’s University
Saint Joseph College
Saint Joseph University
Saint Leo University
Saint Mary College, Moraga
Saint Norbert’s College
Seattle University
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of Virginia
Villanova University
Xavier University
Yale Divinity School
The oldest and largest of the University’s eight schools and colleges, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Master of Science. In addition, numerous dual-degree options are offered in cooperation with the Carroll School of Management, the Boston College Law School, the Lynch School of Education and Human Development and the School of Social Work.

With approximately 800 students and over 400 full-time faculty, the Graduate School is small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to serve you and prepare you for a rewarding life and satisfying career.

**Academic Resources**

**THE LONERGAN CENTER**
The Lonergan Center at Boston College fosters studies related to the work of the Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan (1904–1984). Inaugurated in 1986, the center houses a growing collection of Lonergan’s published and unpublished writings, as well as secondary materials and reference works; it also serves as a seminar and meeting room. The center is located in Bapst Library. Boston College sponsors an annual Lonergan Workshop, which provides resources, lectures and workshops. For more information, call 617-552-8095 or visit blonergan.org.

**THE BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONSORTIUM**
The Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium (BTI) allows graduate students to cross-register at Boston University School of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hartford Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Hebrew College, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. John’s Seminary and Theological Institute.

**BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM**
The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University.

**BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES**
The University is home to eight libraries, containing 2.95 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O’Neill Library, Boston College’s main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest and to answer any research- and library-related questions.

**THE BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM**
The Boston Library Consortium allows Boston College students access to millions of volumes and other services at 19 area institutions in addition to the world-class resources available through the Boston College Library System.
STUDENT LIFE & CAMPUS RESOURCES

Boston College is located on the edge of one of the world’s most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England’s most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country’s greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and, of course, Fenway Park’s beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England’s best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city’s intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

The University

Boston College is a Jesuit university with 14,400 students, 821 full-time faculty and nearly 180,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston’s largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation. Boston College is ranked 38th among national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,000 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, School of Social Work and School of Theology and Ministry.

General Resources

HOUSING

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.
JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER
One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART
Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the Brighton campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a one-and-a-half day “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

FLYNN RECREATION COMPLEX
The 144,000-square-foot Flynn Recreation Complex houses a running track; tennis, basketball, volleyball, squash and racquetball courts; an aquatics center with pool and dive well; saunas and more. Its 10,000-square-foot Fitness Center offers more than 100 pieces of cardio equipment, a full complement of strength training equipment and free weights, an air-conditioned spin studio and three air-conditioned group fitness studios. During the academic year, BC Rec holds more than 80 group fitness classes per week in a variety of disciplines, including Zumba, spin, yoga, strength training, Pilates and more.

BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER
The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.
Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Ph.D. program should have completed the M.Div. or equivalent degree; a master's degree in religion, theology or philosophy; or a bachelor's program with an exceptionally strong background in religion, theology and/or philosophy.

The deadline for receipt of applications for fall admission is January 2 for the Ph.D. program and February 1 for the joint Philosophy/Theology M.A. program. Please visit bc.edu/gsas for detailed information on how to apply.

Application requirements include:

- **Application Form**: Submitted online, via the GSAS website.
- **Application Fee**: $75, non-refundable.
- **Abstract of Courses Form**: A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
- **Official Transcripts**: Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferral from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test**: Official score report required for all applicants.
- **Three Letters of Recommendation**: From professors or supervisors. It is highly advisable that at least one letter be from an academic source.
- **Statement of Purpose**: A brief (approx. 3 page) discussion of an applicant's interest in the program and academic goals.
- **Writing Sample**: A sample of an applicant's best work (usually a course paper or equivalent of no more than 25 pages) related to their proposed field of study.
- **Curriculum Vitae (Resume)**: A list of an applicant's academic and work experience.
- **Proof of English Proficiency (International only)**: Official TOEFL/IELTS reports accepted.

Financial Assistance

DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The Department of Theology offers full-tuition scholarships and stipends (currently more than $22,000 per year) for five years to all doctoral students in good standing. Admitted students may also be chosen to compete for Presidential Fellowships that add $5,000 per year to the stipend. Students (usually in the areas of Comparative Theology or Bible) who focus research on an aspect of Judaism may also be awarded a Jewish Studies Fellowship, supplementing the stipend by $4,000 per year.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-552-3300 or 800-294-0294.