GRADUATE PROGRAM

Theology
Boston College offers exceptional resources for Catholic and ecumenical study of all fields of theology. The Theology Department 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 Theology Department 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 Theology Department, 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).

**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. Within its Ph.D. program in Theological Ethics, the Boston College Theology Department offers the possibility of a track focused on Catholic Health Care. The purpose of the track is to integrate the comprehensive theological training that characterizes the Ph.D. program in Theological Ethics with two focused internships that will empower students by providing them with expertise regarding health care practices in Catholic health care facilities (both a long-term care facility and an acute care hospital).

**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.
AMY 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:
- “Black/Feminist Futures: Reading Beauvoir in Black Skin, White Masks.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 112(4) (2013): 697-723.

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).

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

JOHN A. DARR
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
New Testament, specifically, the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles; literary criticism and theory; biblical characters and characterization; synoptic relations; eco-theology; biblical ethics
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- "Be Not Anxious': Reading Martha and Mary (Lk. 10:38-42) Within Luke’s Overall Discourse on Anxiety." In Reading Ideologies: Essays on the Bible and Interpretation in Honor of Mary Ann Tolbert (Bible in the Modern World, 40), ed. T. Liew (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011).

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

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

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

MARY ANN HINSDALE, I.H.M.
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Theological anthropology; ecological theology; ecclesiology and ethnography; theology of Edward Schillebeeckx; inter-cultural feminist theologies.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Co-ed., TaT Clark Handbook of Theological Anthropology (Bloomsbury, 2021).
FACULTY PROFILES


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


“Did the Early Church Absolutely Forbid Remarriage After Divorce?” Vergentes: Revista de Investigación de la Cátedra Internacional conjunta Inocentio III Divorce?”


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.
Vice Provost for Global Engagement
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
Interim Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning

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

- “Lonergan’s Search for a Hermeneutics of Authenticity: Re-originating Augustine’s Hermeneutics of Love.” In Lonergan’s Anthropology Revisited, eds. G. Whelan and A. Gregoriana (Gregorian and Biblical Press, 2015).

M I C H A E L  C.  M A G R E E,  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, forthcoming).

J O H N  J.  M A K R A N S K Y
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
- “Compassion in Buddhist Psychology.” In Wisdom and Compassion in Psychotherapy, eds. C. Germer and R. Siegel (Guilford Press, 2012).

M A R K  M A S S A,  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:
- The Structure of Theological Revolutions: How Debates Over Birth Control Changed American Catholic Theology (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- The American Catholic Revolution: How the Sixties Changed the Church Forever (Oxford University Press, 2010).

C A R L O S  M E N D O Z A-ÁLVAREZ,  O P
Professor
Ph.D., Fribourg University, Switzerland

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Fundamental theology; Postmodernity; Mimetic theory and descolonial thinking

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- Deus Liberans. La revelación cristiana en diálogo con la modernidad (Fribourg University Press, 1996).

J A M E S  W.  M O R R I S
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

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

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).

PHHEME 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 centuries (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, 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
- “Theology After the Death of God.” In The T&T Clark Companion to Political Theology, ed. R.R. Rodríguez (Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2020).

DIETER T. ROTH
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Edinburgh
Habil. theol., Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

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
St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew; a new ecumenical translation into English; The Three Deaths: From Origen to Ambrose and Chrysostom; Transgender and Beauty in John Chrysostom’s Homily on Eutropius

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


HENRY J. SHEA, S.J.
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Oxford

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Theologies of grace; theologies of Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Erich Przywara; prayer and Ignatian spirituality; liturgy and eschatology

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 vocation; 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).

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 2021
Buddhist Ethics             Makransky
Comparative Mysticism      Cornille
Jews and Christians        Langer
Catholic Theological Ethics Keenan
Theology, Ethics, Politics  Cahill
Ethics, Religion and International Politics Owens
A Theology of Food: Eucharist Bergin
HIV/AIDS and Ethics         Heyer
Authority of Scripture      Perkins
Women and the Church        Hinsdale
The Pelagian Controversy    Hunter
Cultic Professionals in the Hebrew Bible Cooley
Contemporary Currents In Ecclesiology Gaillardetz
Mariology                  Adkins-Jones
Development In Doctrine and Theology Wilkins
Macabees                   Gillihan
Patristic Greek            Schatkin

SPRING 2022
Theology as Political       Lawrence
Moral Agency                Heyer
Patristics: Latin/English   Schatkin
Graeca                     Perkins
Contemporary Theories/Justice Kaveny
Christian Ethics Gender Equality Cahill
Biotechnology, Health and Theological Ethics Vicini
Theological Anthropology    Hinsdale
Contemplative Theology      Robinette
Ethics of War and Peacemaking Himes
The Minor Prophets          Vanderhoof
Women and Gender in Islam   Delong-Bas
Buddhist Ethics Philosophy and Psychology Makransky
Sacraments and Art          Bergin
Christian Manuscripts, Texts and Exegesis Roth
Pauline InterpretationLate Antiquity Hunter
Early and Medieval Theology in the 20th Century Coolman
Recent Dissertations

2020–2021

Derek Brown, “Decisions: Political Theology and the Challenges of Postmodernity”

Aimee Hein, “History And Responsibility: An Ecumenical Response to Migration in the United States”

2019–2020


Kimberly Bauser McBrien, “... remembering what the Savior had said: Social Memory and the Sayings of Jesus Tradition”


Peter Folan, SJ, “Matters of Interpretation: Biblical Methodology in the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue on the Doctrine of Justification”

Hans Harmakaputra, “The Community of Friends of God: Comparative Theology and the Construction of an Inclusive Theology of Saints”

Won-Jae Hur, “Corporeality in Contemplation: A Comparative Study of Edith Stein and Tibetan Buddhist Lojong”

Jaisy A. Joseph, “Reimagining Catholicity: An Interstitial Perspective”

Léocadie Lushombo, “Imagining an Ethics of Political Participation for Women in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Sophiological Hermeneutic”

Andrew Massena, “Torah for Its Own Sake: The Decalogue in Rabbinic and Patristic Exegesis”


Annie Selak, “Toward an Ecclesial Vision in the Shadow of Wounds”

Marcel Uwineza, SJ, “Reconciling Memories: A Theology from a Place of Wounds No Authentic Theology with my Back Turned to Nyamata”

Daniel Vos, “Some of the Other Works of the Torah: Boundaries and Inheritance as Legal Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible and Hellenistic Jewish Literature”

2018–2019


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

Stephanie Edwards, “Pharmacological 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”

Recent Placements

Our recent students’ placements include:

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

Santa Clara University

Santa Clara University Jesuit School of Theology

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 graduate students and nearly 500 full-time faculty, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences 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 bclonergan.org.

THE BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONSORTIUM
The Boston Theological Interreligous 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 nearly 3 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 AND 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 over 14,800 students, 892 full-time faculty and more than 188,000 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 35th 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 “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.

MARGOT CONNELL RECREATION CENTER
The Margot Connell Recreation Center redefines the future of fitness and recreation at Boston College. The 244,000-square-foot, four-story structure offers our community an inspired space to play, pursue sports, gather with friends and work out. This facility includes a fitness center, rock climbing wall, jogging track, aquatics center, wood-floor basketball courts, tennis courts, multi-activity courts, multi-purpose rooms for spin, yoga and fitness classes, and so much 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 AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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 conferred from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test:** Official score report (required for GRE/recommended for Joint MA).
- **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:** A list of an applicant’s academic and work experience.
- **Proof of English Proficiency:** 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.