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 exceptional resources for Catholic and ecumenical study in all areas of theology.

Not only is the Theology Department ranked in the 2023 QS World University Rankings as one of the foremost such departments in the country and the world (#10 globally), 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 (BTIC), 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 Islamic Seminary, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston University Graduate Program in Religion, Boston University School of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hartford International, 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 11 schools, joint seminars and programs and faculty exchange programs (bostontheological.org).
**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 Christian tradition, enabling them critically to 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. Students also minor in a secondary area. Interested students may also complete an S.T.L. at the School of Theology and Ministry while in residence.

The *Historical Theology/History of Christianity* 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 focus 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 in Catholic health care facilities.

**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 minor in another specific area of 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.

**Additional Study Possibilities**

**Ph.D. in Theology-S.T.L. Dual Degree**

Students currently enrolled in the Ph.D. in Theology through the Graduate School of the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences can apply to the Sacred Theology Licensure (S.T.L.) program at the ecclesiastical faculty of Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry. This additional credential allows students to teach in Roman Catholic seminaries and on ecclesiastical faculties in the U.S. and abroad and to serve in some administrative and advisory positions.

**Certificate Program of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice**

This program certifies that the student has: 1) followed a curriculum within his or her graduate studies that emphasized human rights and international justice issues; 2) widened his or her interdisciplinary understanding of these issues by completing one or more courses designated by the Center for Human Rights and International Justice in other academic departments; 3) completed the center’s own Seminar in Human Rights with a research project component.

**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 seek intellectual enrichment.

**Certificate in Digital Humanities**

The Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities, completed alongside existing degree requirements, combines interdisciplinary methodological training with discipline-specific coursework and a project-based approach to provide students with training and institutional recognition in this fast-growing field.
AMY VICTORIA ADKINS JONES
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Duke University

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• “Through A Glass Darkly: Theological (Re)Visioning with All the Boys.” In: Carmel Mac Wrene: Strategies of Engagement (McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, 2020).

LISA SOFIE CAHILL
J. Donald Meier Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
History of Christian ethics; Christology and ethics; Catholic traditions; emergence of scholastic theology; medieval mystical theologies

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• “Mised Are The Pneumatics: Psajem, Just War, and Peacebuilding” (Georgetown University Press, 2020).
• “Theology and Praxis of Gender Equality” (Brompton Press, 2016).
• “Catholic Social Teaching as Political Theology.” In: Cambridge Companion to Political Theology, eds. E. Phillips and C. Hone (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

JEFFREY L. COOLEY
Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Director
Ph.D., Hubei 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; destination in the ancient Near East

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• “On the Name: Book: Listing and Enigmatic Monarchs, Script, and Elites in VI qr: Orientalia 2012: 234-64.

BOYD TAYLOR COULMAN
Professor
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• “To keep with those who sleep and to rejoice with those who rejoice.” Signatures Divine Affectivity Historically Expounded in Hugh of St Victor.” In: The Center is Jesus Christ Himself! Essays on Revelation, Salvation, and Evangelization in Honor of Robert P. Imbelli (Catholic University of America Press, 2021).
• “The Pneumatically Finality of Goodness in the Summa Theologica.” In: T&T Clark Handbook to History of Christian Ethics; Christology and Ethics; Catholic traditions; emergence of scholastic theology; medieval mystical theologies (T&T Clark, 2022).

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• Ed., Abraham and Comparative Theology. The Crisis in Dialogue with Other Religions (Fordham University Press, 2022).
• “Meaning and Method in Comparative Theology” (Wiley, 2020).

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

YONDER GILLIAN
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• “Associations,” “Menas,” “Grafts and Vows” and “Sectarianism.” In: T&T Clark Companion to Second Temple Judaism, eds. L. Stuckenbruck and D. Guttman (Bloomsbury/ T&T Clark, 2017).
• “Apocalyptic Themes in Harmonian Propaganda.” In: Macabees, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Struggle for Political Legitimacy. In: The Seleucid and Hasmonean Periods and the Apocalyptic Worldview, eds. L. Grabbe et al. (T&T Clark, 2016).

RICHARD B. GAILLARDETZ
Joseph Professor of Theology
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Ecology; Vatican II; authority and ministry; sacrament

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:
• Co-ed., Go Into the Streets! The Welcoming Church of Pope Francis (Paulist Press, 2016).
• An Unfrocked Council: Vatican II; Pope Francis and the Renewal of Catholicism (Liturgical Press, 2019).

YODER GILLIAN
KRISTIN HEYER
Professor
Ph.D., Boston College

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Theological anthropology; ecclesiology; theology of Edward Schillebeeck; ecological theology; feminist theologies; use of participatory action research in theological reflection; Mary Magdalene as a resource for women’s ecclesial leadership.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- Co-ed., T&T Clark Handbook of Theological Anthropology (Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2021).

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

CATHLEEN KAUEY
David 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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DANIEL JOSLIN-SIEMATROWSKI
Kraft Family Professor of Jewish-Christian Relations
Ph.D., Boston College

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Jewish-Christian relations; comparative theology; race and antisemitism; Christian theologians of Judaism; Anglican theologies of religion

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- “Advancing the Liturgical Turn in Comparative Theology: Good Friday as a Case Study.” In The Wily-Blackett Companion to Comparative Theology (Wiley-Blackwell, 2022).

RUTH LANGER
Professor and Graduate Program Director
Associate Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning
Ph.D., Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Jewish liturgy and Christian-Jewish relations

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JAMES F. KEENAN, S.J.
Vice President for Global Engagement
Canisius Professor; Director of Jesuit Institute
S.T.D., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JUDITH KEBE
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Boston College

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Jewish liturgy and Christian-Jewish relations

SELECTED 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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- "The Structure of Theological Theologies: How Debates Over Birth Control Changed American Catholic Theology" (University Press of America, 2012).
- "Anti-Catholicism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice" (Crossroad Press, 2010).
- "Catholicism and American Culture: False Dawn, False Day and the Notre Dame Football Team" (Crossroad Press, 1999).

CARLOS MENDOZA-ÁLVAREZ, OP
Professor
Ph.D., Fribourg University, Switzerland

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Fundamental theology; postmodernity; mimetic and queer theology; decolonial thinking

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- "La reinvención como anticipación misionera" (Iberoamericana University Press, 2020).

PHÈME 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 (Esboniastic, Nag Hammadi, Iwanzos); Pauline epistles; Johannes writings; resurrection and early Christian eschatology

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DIFTER T. ROTH
Associate 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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- "The Test of Marcion's Gospel (New Testament Tools, Studies, and Documents, 46) (Brill, 2015)."
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Theologies of great theologians of Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Erich Przywara; prayer and Ignatian spirituality; liturgy and eschatology
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DAVID VANDERHOOP
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
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

ANDREA VICIN  S.J.
Department Chairperson, Michael P. Walsh Professor of Bioethics
M.D., University of Bologna; Ph.D., Boston College; S.T.D., Georgetown University
RESEARCH INTERESTS
- Theologies of grace; theologies of Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Erich Przywara; prayer and Ignatian spirituality; liturgy and eschatology
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- "Don’t Worry, You Can Trust Me’: Indicators of the Role of Trust in Residents’ Reflective Writing,” Patient Education and Counseling 103 (supplement) (2023): 54.

JASON WELLÉ
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Georgetown University
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Islamic mysticism, Muslim-Christian relations, medieval studies, Franciscan intellectual tradition, virtue ethics, eco-theology
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JEREMY W. DYLKIN
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
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
- "El realismo de Bernard Lonergan y los oficios de la philosophia". En Entre Realismos, ed. F.V. Galán Vélez (Ediciones de la Universidad de Santa Marta, 2023).
### OUTCOMES

**Recent Dissertations**

**2022–2023**

- **Stephen Suth**, “Dante and the Self-Empowering God: Mariology and Theophany in the Commedia”
- **Sara Bernards-Hoverstad**, “From Religious Cosmology to Environmental Praxis: Empowering Agency for Sustainable Social Change”
- **Emma McDonald**, “Forming Families, Forming Agents: Proactive Agency in the Context of Prosperation”
- **John K. M.**, “Charismatic Christ, Charismatic Church: The Development of the Gracia Crisis Data in Thomas Aquinas’s Theology in Light of the Summa Halensis”
- **Lindsay Marcelus**, “Performativity: Ecological Rationality: Acknowledging Sin & The Cardinal Virtue of Humility”
- **Bethany Slater**, “Rescuing Wholeheated: Constructing a Jewish Liturgical Asceticism”
- **Nathan D. Wood-House**, “Toward an Anti-Racist Political Theology: Reading Johann Baptist Metz and James H. Cone Against American Anti-Black Necropolitics”

**2021–2022**

- **Andrew Gertner Belfield**, “Foundations of Scholastic Christology in The Summa Halensis”
- **Jonathan Cahil**, “Emotions, Moral Formation, and Christian Politics: Rereading Karl Barth”
- **Eduardo Gonzalez**, “Neighboring the Invisible: Liberation Theologies, The Exodus Narrative, and The Specter of Canaan”

- **Brian Jonathan Himes**, “Max Scheler on Love and Human Dignity: The Werthen as Resolving the Aporia of Dialogical and Metaphysical Personology on the Knowledge of Persons”
- **Spencer Kyle Johnson**, “Discourse at The Periphery: Race, Coloniality, and the Demoiselle”
- **Jennifer Lemmon-Scribner**, “Disorder and Distortion: A Theological Approach to Addiction”
- **Christopher McLaughlin**, “The Pneumatology of Marius Victorinus: A Rhetorical, Philosophical, and Theological Commentary on Adversus Arianum II”
- **Xavier M. Montecel**, “Communion in Hope: Liturgy and Ethics in the Key of Virtue”
- **Michael VanZandt Collins**, “Climate Change, Virtue, and Moral Agency: An Essay in Muslim-Christian Comparative Theological Ethics”
- **Andrew T. Vink**, “Elazar’s Tripartite Salvation: A Historical-Soteriological Response to The Crisis of Neoliberalism”

**2020–2021**

- **Derek Brown**, “Decisions: Political Theology and the Challenges of Postmodernity”
- **Almen Hain**, “History and Responsibility: An Exeuncial Response to Migration in the United States”
- **Benjamin Hofman**, “Grace and Emergence: Towards an Ecological and Evolutionary Foundation for Theology”
- **Elyse Ruby**, “Toward an Intercorporeal Body of Christ: A Study in Ecclesial Body Images”

**Recent Placements**

Our recent students’ placements include:

- Assumption College
- Augustana University
- Benedictine College
- Boston Interreligious Consortium
- Catholic Theological Union
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of St. Benedict/St. John
- Creighton University
- Denison University
- Duquesne University
- East Carolina University
- Emmanuel College
- Emory University
- Fairfield University
- Georgetown University
- Gettysburg University
- Hekima University, Kenya
- Holy Cross
- Humboldt State University
- La Salle College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Manhattan College
- Marquette University
- Marymount University
- Misericordia University
- Mount Angel Seminary
- Montana State University
- Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- Mount Angel Seminary
- Notre Dame University of the Holy Cross
- Oblate School of Theology
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Portland
- Pepperdine University
- Providence College
- Rorer College
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Anselm College
- St. Bonaventure University
- Saint Gregory University
- Saint John’s University
- Saint Joseph College
- Saint Joseph University
- Saint Leo University
- Saint Mary’s University
- Saint Mary College, Moraga
- San Antonio
- Saint Norbert’s College
- Santa Clara University
- Santa Clara University, JST
- Seattle University
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco
- University of Scranton
- University of Virginia
- Villanova University
- Wake Forest University
- Xavier University
- Yale Divinity School
MORRISSEY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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 900 graduate students and more than 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 BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry (STM) offers its students opportunities for comprehensive graduate theological education and spiritual formation for ministry. The School of Theology and Ministry offers an array of academic, theological, spiritual and pastoral courses for ministry, academic specialization and continuing education in faith.

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH LEARNING

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning is devoted to the multifaceted development and implementation of new relationships between Christians and Jews that are based not merely on tolerance, but also on full respect and mutual enrichment. The building of new, positive relationships between Christians and Jews requires sustained collaborative research. Under the center’s auspices, scholars and thinkers representing diverse Christian and Jewish perspectives engage in intense and ongoing study of all aspects of our related yet distinct traditions of faith and culture.

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 617-552-8903 or visit bclonergan.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, 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; 635,000 e-books; and more than 500 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 15,000 students, 880 full-time faculty and more than 190,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1859, 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 36th among national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers approximately 4,300 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.
STUDENT LIFE AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

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 exhibitions-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together to stimulate 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 revitalizes 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/mcgs for detailed information on how to apply, or contact theolog@bc.edu for more specific information about the department.

Application requirements include:
- Application Form: Submitted online, via the MC GS website.
- Application Fee: $80, 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 and degree conferred from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- GRE General Test: Official score report from within 5 years (required for Ph.D./Joint M.A. recommended for joint M.A.).
- 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 pages double-spaced/1,000 word) discussion of an applicant’s academic goals and reasons for interest in the program.
- 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 $30,000 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. One Goizueta Fellowship of $4,000 per year may also be awarded.

FEDERAL 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. 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. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office by phone at 617-552-3500 or 800-294-0294.