MASTER OF THEOLOGY
2014-2015
OBJECTIVES
The degree of Master of Theology (Th.M.) is conferred after completion of a one-year program of second-level graduate theological and pastoral study, intended to deepen and focus a student’s foundational knowledge of theological disciplines and ministerial practice. The degree normally requires an M.Div. degree. It is especially suited to Jesuits and other candidates for ordination in their fourth year of theological studies, as well as those with ministerial experience who wish to further their theological education. The degree requires six academic courses (both options require three advanced courses, each with a twenty-page research paper), plus a thesis or biblical language study (A), or ministry practicum and ministerial focus paper (B).

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

Two program options are offered:

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
24 credit hours (= 8 courses) of course work

9 hours (3 courses) minimum in field of concentration

9 hours (3 courses) in same or related areas of study

6 hours credit for Th.M. thesis and oral examination

or

6 hours credit (2 courses) in biblical languages for those concentrating in biblical studies

Note: The credits for biblical languages do not count toward the 9 credits required for the area of concentration. Course work should be planned in careful consultation with the Program Director.

THESIS REQUIREMENTS
The Th.M. thesis is an advanced research paper in your area of concentration. It is intended to demonstrate competence in a particular area of theological studies beyond the M.Div. level. The topic of the thesis should be narrowly enough defined to permit some depth of treatment within the usual scope of 50-60 pages.

Thesis Director: In consultation with the Th.M. program director, the student is responsible for selecting a thesis director from the STM faculty. The thesis director is responsible for working with the student to develop a thesis proposal and recommending a second reader. The thesis director usually has the primary responsibility for assisting in the research and writing and schedules the oral examination on the completed
thesis. It is highly recommended that the thesis director be a member of the STM faculty. The second reader may be from outside the STM.

**Thesis Proposal:** The written proposal presents the topic of the thesis and describes the problem or area of investigation and its significance. It should include a statement of the writer’s approach and methodology with a preliminary bibliography and list of any other resources. The proposal should be 5-7 pages in length and must be approved by the thesis director and the second reader.

**Thesis Registration:** The student should register for ThM Thesis (6 credits) in the final semester. Credit will be granted upon successful completion of the oral examination.

**Format:** The thesis is to be typed or printed in letter-quality form. The thesis should include a title page, abstract, table of contents, and bibliography in addition to the body of the paper. A standard academic paper format must be followed consistently throughout the paper: e.g., Turabian, *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* or *The MLA Handbook*, or a social science format such as the style sheet of the American Psychological Association (APA) or other standard reference work in that field.

**PROCESS, DEADLINES AND DOCUMENTATION**

There are several steps to follow through the process of earning the degree and writing the thesis. Forms accompany each of these steps and are to be submitted to the designated persons by the dates indicated below. Dates are for completion of the thesis in the second semester. For theses completed in the first semester of the year, you should assume corresponding dates in the previous second semester dates for the various steps.

1. Complete the area of concentration form with the general thesis topic and names of the thesis director and second reader and submit the form, signed by each of them, to the program director by **Tuesday, November 18, 2014**.

2. The thesis proposal is developed in consultation with the thesis director and must be submitted to the thesis director and second reader by Thanksgiving recess. Any changes must be made and approved by the director and the second reader by **Friday, December 12, 2014**. This proposal acceptance form, signed by the director and second reader, is given to the Program Director by that date with a copy to each reader.

3. During the writing of the thesis, it is important to submit chapters or sections of the thesis to the director for comments and suggestions for revision regularly through the semester. A review draft of the entire thesis should be given to the thesis director no later than **Friday, March 20, 2015** with written comments and required revisions returned by **Friday, April 3, 2015**.

4. Revisions required by the thesis director must be made and the completed thesis submitted to both readers by **Monday, April 20, 2015**.

5. The thesis director will arrange a date for the oral examination on the thesis any time after that, and no later than **Wednesday, May 6, 2015**. The thesis director will submit a form to the Program Director indicating the completion of the oral exam and a grade for the thesis.
Option B aims at developing advanced understanding and pastoral competence in a particular form of church ministry. It permits students to specialize in one aspect of ministry through a combination of course work and professional ministry practica. With the assistance of Dr. Francine Cardman, Program director/faculty advisor, and Melissa Kelley, director of Contextual Education, students plan a coherent program of courses selected for their relevance to the work being done in the ministry placement. Areas of specialization in ministry include the preaching of the Word, spiritual direction, and cross-cultural ministries.

The interim director of the Th.M. program is Dr. Francine Cardman.