Theology and Religious Studies Major

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Program Director: Brett Grainger, Ph.D.
Office Location: 203 Saint Augustine Center
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Website

About

Theological and religious studies as conceived, studied, and advanced at Villanova are interdisciplinary and integrative. Students pursue their objectives from diverse theological and religious perspectives, place them in dialogue with each other, and integrate religious and theological knowledge with experience and other forms of knowing.

Our programs explore the intersections of Catholic theology, religion, and cultures(s) and prepare students for graduate studies and for careers in humanitarian, philanthropic or other non-profit, charitable organizations; and in religious organizations as campus, youth or parish minister, educator, catechist, retreat worker, administrator, counselor, spiritual director or in one of the many other positions such organizations offer.

Program: Theology and Religious Studies
Type: Bachelor of Arts

PRIMARY MAJOR (122 credits)

Required Major Credits (30 credits)

The primary major emphasizes a broad understanding of Christian and non-Christian theological and religious traditions. It is a stand-alone program, and students may take it in conjunction with another major (i.e., the traditional “double” major).

Program Notes:

- Total number of elective courses from outside the TRS Department (including courses taken overseas) must not exceed nine credit hours.
- Theology majors are required to select a concentration that will give shape and focus to the major.
- Students must also take 1 Portfolio Course: THL 6600 (0 cr).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THL 1000</td>
<td>Faith, Reason, and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theology Major Seminars</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>THL 6300</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Theology Tracks for Primary Major</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THL Elective</td>
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Core Curriculum Requirements (38 credits)

Theology and Religious Studies Primary Majors meet the following core requirements in the major and therefore are omitted from the summary below:

- Core Theology - THL 1000 (3 cr)
- Upper-Level Theology (3 cr)

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<td>ACS 1001</td>
<td>Moderns</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PHI 1000</td>
<td>Knowledge, Reality, Self</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ETH 2050</td>
<td>The Good Life: Eth &amp; Cont Prob</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>History (1 course)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social Sciences (2 courses)</td>
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<td>Fine Arts (1 course)</td>
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<td>Language Requirement (Proficiency)</td>
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<td>Diversity Requirement (2 courses)</td>
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Free Elective Requirement (54 credits)

Students with a Theology and Religious Studies primary major have fifty-four (54) required free elective credits.

Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 30 credits
- **Core Credits:** 38 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 54 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

Note: *The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.*
SECONDARY MAJOR (24 credits)

The secondary major highlights the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature of theological inquiry and of the study of religion. It must be taken in conjunction with another major and completed concurrently with it.

Program Notes:

- Total number of elective courses from outside the TRS Department (including courses taken overseas) must not exceed six credit hours.
- Theology majors are required to select a concentration that will give shape and focus to the major.
- Students must also take 1 Portfolio Course: THL 6600 (0 cr).

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<td>Theology Tracks for Secondary Major</td>
<td>9</td>
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Category Descriptions

Theology Major Seminars

Credits: 6
Take THL 5001 and THL 5002 (6cr)

Theology Tracks for Primary Major

Credits: 12
Select 1 focus track of four courses from the options below (12 cr)

Catholic Studies

Catholic Studies - take four courses with the number THL 5003 (12 cr).
This track provides an academic context for exploring Catholic and Augustinian values at the heart of the university, as well as a platform for exploring the enormous intellectual, social, and cultural diversity within global Catholicism.
Theology and Culture

Theology and Culture - take four courses with the number THL 5004 (12 cr).
This track allows Theology and Religious Studies students to explore faith, reason, and culture in their many textured relationships. The paradigm of theology engaging culture encourages Theology and Religious Studies students to breach the walls and barriers that often separate academic pursuits from everyday life and also to open new windows for understanding the way in which religious commitments shape and are influenced by larger cultural forces.

Global Religious Experience

Global Religious Experience - take four courses with the number THL 5005 (12 cr).
This track provides a broad-based religious literacy to Theology and Religious Studies students, which is one of the hallmarks of an Augustinian education, in addition to placing them in a prime position to understand and to appreciate various religious traditions as they exist and interact in our globalized context.

Self-Designed Studies

Self-Designed Studies - take any four THL courses with the CTHL attribute (12 cr).
This track allows a Theology and Religious Studies student whose academic interests lie outside the other three tracks an opportunity to sculpt an individualized course of studies in consultation with the Director of the Undergraduate Program.

THL Elective

Credits: 3

Select THL 6001 or any one course with the CTHL attribute (3 cr).

Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)

Credits: 3

Students must take one course in either Mathematics or Statistics. Any course offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement. Certain courses offered by other departments (e.g., Computer Science and Philosophy) also fulfill the requirement. These courses are designated by the Mathematics A & S Core attribute.

Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)

Credits: 8

Non-science majors meet the Core Curriculum Natural Science requirement by taking two semesters of Mendel Science Experience (MSE), thematically-based lecture/laboratory courses designed for non-science majors; or two semesters of lecture/laboratory courses designed for science majors.
Science (AST, BIO, BIOC, CHM, CBN, CSC, ENV, MAT, PHY - B.S. only, PSY - B.S. only) majors meet the science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.

**Theology Major Seminar**

Credits: 3

Take THL 5001 (3 cr)

**Theology Tracks for Secondary Major**

Credits: 9

Select 1 focus track of three courses from the options below (9 cr)

**Catholic Studies**

Catholic Studies - take three courses with the number THL 5003 (9 cr).
This track provides an academic context for exploring Catholic and Augustinian values at the heart of the university, as well as a platform for exploring the enormous intellectual, social, and cultural diversity within global Catholicism.

**Theology and Culture**

Theology and Culture - take three courses with the number THL 5004 (9 cr).
This track allows Theology and Religious Studies students to explore faith, reason, and culture in their many textured relationships. The paradigm of theology engaging culture encourages Theology and Religious Studies students to breach the walls and barriers that often separate academic pursuits from everyday life and also to open new windows for understanding the way in which religious commitments shape and are influenced by larger cultural forces.

**Global Religious Experience**

Global Religious Experience - take three courses with the number THL 5005 (9 cr).
This track provides a broad-based religious literacy to Theology and Religious Studies students, which is one of the hallmarks of an Augustinian education, in addition to placing them in a prime position to understand and to appreciate various religious traditions as they exist and interact in our globalized context.

**Self-Designed Studies**

Self-Designed Studies - take any three THL courses with the CTHL attribute (9 cr).
This track allows a Theology and Religious Studies student whose academic interests lie outside the other three tracks an opportunity to sculpt an individualized course of studies in consultation with the Director of the Undergraduate Program.