

Theology and Religious Studies Major

Chairperson: Kevin Hughes, Ph.D.
Program Director: Mark Graham, Ph.D.
Office Location: 203 Saint Augustine Center
Telephone: 610-519-4730
[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, places 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 (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).

Required Courses:

Item #	Title	Credits
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
	Theology Major Seminars	6
THL 6300	Research Seminar	3
THL 6500	Advanced Seminar	3
	Theology Tracks for Primary Major	12
	THL Elective	3

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).

Required Courses:

Item #	Title	Credits
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
	Theology Major Seminar	3
THL 6300	Research Seminar	3
THL 6500	Advanced Seminar	3
	Theology Tracks for Secondary Major	9
	THL Elective	3

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)

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.

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.

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).

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)

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.

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.

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.