

DSPT Master of Arts (Theology), Thesis Option Sequence of Courses and Fulfillment of Requirements (Typical)

The Master of Arts (Theology), Thesis Option program curriculum follows a standard ordering among subdisciplines of theology, with philosophy as an allied discipline, so that there is an integration and progression of both methodologies and content over the time in the program. In general, the order is as follows: foundational philosophy, Biblical studies, church history, systematic theology, and moral theology. In each subdiscipline, the program provides a required, introductory course (or courses) to be taken early in the program, allowing for the student, through approved electives and the thesis, to undertake intermediate and advanced studies in a concentration that is found within any of these areas. As outlined in the sequence below, all core courses are normally completed by the time the student has earned 24 units in the program. Ordinarily, a 4000-level course must be completed during the second semester, to ensure that the student has an opportunity: (1) to complete a RRP within the first year, (2) to develop research skills in a timely manner, and (3) to pursue thesis-related specialization at an early enough stage of the program.

Semester	Course or Requirement(†)	Units	Level
1 st	PH-1xxx Systematic Philosophy	3.0	1
1 st	BS-1560 Intro to Sacred Scripture	3.0	1
1 st	HS-1105 History of Christianity I	3.0	1
1 st	ST-1091 Theology: Nature and Method	3.0	1
1 st	WS-1000 Academic Research & Writing Salon 1	1.5	1
2 nd	PHHS-1xxy History of Philosophy	3.0	2
2 nd	HS-2195 History of Christianity II	3.0	2
2 nd	CE-2045 Fundamental Moral Theology	3.0	2
2 nd	Elective 1: 4000-level*	3.0	4
2 nd	WS-1001 Academic Research & Writing Salon 2	1.5	1
2 nd	Research Readiness Paper	0	2
2 nd	Foreign Language Requirement	0	1
3 rd	Elective 2: 4000-level*	3.0	4
3 rd	Elective 3*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	Elective 4*	3.0	1-4
3 rd	MA-5000 MA In Thesis	3.0	4
3 rd	MA-5500 MA Thesis Proposal	0	4
4 th	Interreligious Course*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 5*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Elective 6*	3.0	1-4
4 th	Presentation at MA Colloquium	0	4
4 th	MA 5999 MA Thesis Defense	0	4

Level: 1=Introductory, 2-3=Intermediate, 4=Advanced

*Electives chosen must ensure that (1) MATH requirements for the Area of Concentration are fulfilled, (2) at least 24 units (of all units earned) are from above the 1000 level, (3) at least 6 units are from the advanced level (numbered 4000) or above, and (4) no more than 6 units are from outside the Theology area. Normally, at least one 4000-level course is completed by the time the student has completed 24 units in the program.

(†) If for any reason DSPT is not offering a required course during the semester needed for the student to make timely progress in the program, the student is to confer with the Advisor, who will arrange for an approved substitute, with the assistance and approval of the Academic Dean.