

## **Department of Theology**

### **Mission of the Department**

The theology department's mission is to promote careful biblical and theological reflection, spiritual awareness, and an understanding of the Catholic tradition. As mandated by the mission of the college, the theology department serves the college community, the wider civic community and the diocese of Helena in "acting as a mediator between religion and culture (and) by carrying on an academic dialogue with philosophy, science, the liberal arts, the believing community and secular society" (Carroll College's Mission Statement).

### **Department Goals**

- To provide students with an understanding of the basic principles and concepts in biblical, moral and doctrinal theology from a Catholic perspective;
- To acquaint students with a variety of theological perspectives and to provide them with the ability to interpret and evaluate them;
- To provide students with the skills of critical thinking and their application in reading, speaking and writing;
- To require students to investigate and to articulate the relationship between theology and other fields of study;
- To provide students with the necessary background, knowledge, and intellectual skills to succeed in graduate study.

### Major for the Bachelor of Arts Degree

Theology with areas of concentration in:  
Systematic Theology  
Contextual Theology

### Minor for the Bachelor of Arts Degree

Theology

#### Introductory Courses

One basic course (TH 101) and seven (7) second-level courses (TH 201, TH 205, TH 206, TH 207, TH 208, TH 209, and TH 210) are designed to give the student an overall view of theology. Students in the major programs should complete at least three (3) second-level courses before taking specialized courses. Exceptions to this general policy must be approved by the Theology Department chairperson.

#### Specialized Courses

The theology program is designed to allow for a wide variety of course offerings, according to the needs of students and the availability of professors. If necessary, visiting professors will be invited to offer courses.

#### Interdisciplinary Courses

Specified courses from other departments may be taken with the permission of the Theology Department chairperson and in accordance with the needs of an individual student's program. The Theology Department encourages interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary communication.

### Major in Theology with an Area of Concentration

#### I. Major Program Requirements

The theology major requires thirty-nine (39) semester credits of theology courses. Majors in theology may choose from among two (2) areas of concentration for their major (systematic theology or contextual theology). Both concentrations have a common core of nineteen (19) semester credits of theology courses, including:

- TH 205 Moral Theology
- TH 207 Introduction to the Old Testament
- TH 208 Introduction to the New Testament
- TH 209 Christian Social Teachings
- TH 303-304 History of Christian Thought
- TH 495 Theology Seminar
- TH 496 Theology Research Paper or Theology Research Project
- or TH 499 Honors Thesis

#### II. Other Program Requirements

- EN 227 Expository Writing

#### Specific requirements for each area of concentration include:

##### A. Systematic

- HI 301-302 History of the Catholic Church
- TH 201 Church and Worship
- TH 303-304 History of Christian Thought
- TH 321 Christology

##### B. Contextual

- TH 206 Comparative Religion
- TH 327 Sin and Grace in Theology and Literature
- TH 333 Church and State in Latin America
- TH 355 Spirit, Science, and Nature

1. Course sequence for majors: TH 101; then at least three (3) 200-level courses; then upper-division courses. All degree students should review requirements for graduation as described on page 53.

2. The following course may apply toward fulfilling the thirty-seven (37) credits required for the theology major:

- PHIL 216 Philosophy of God and Religion

#### II. Other Program Requirements

Completion of a modern or classical second language through the intermediate level.

### Minor in Theology

#### Minor Program Requirements

Twenty-one (21) semester credits of theology, including:

- TH 205 Moral Theology
- TH 207 Introduction to the Old Testament
- TH 208 Introduction to the New Testament
- TH 303-304 History of Christian Thought
- TH 495 Theology Seminar

The remaining 3 hours must be 200 level or above

### Ministry Formation

Carroll College students interested in preparing themselves for service to the Church in ministry positions may participate in the program of Formation of Lay Ministers of the Diocese of Helena.

The Formation of Lay Ministers program is under the direction of the Office of Ministries of the Diocese of Helena. It is expressly designed for the spiritual, intellectual, and psychological/emotional formation of those who are called by the Church to serve the Church as Lay Ministers. It is an intensive two-year program and involves sixteen (16) weekend sessions. Each weekend involves twelve (12) hours of instruction as well as community building exercises. At the completion of the two-year program, a certificate of completion is granted to the participant by the Diocese of Helena.

Admission to this program for Carroll College students is determined by the Office of Ministries of the Diocese of Helena. Fees for the program are adjusted annually and are the responsibility of the participant.