

Theology / Philosophy Requirements at Jesuit Colleges and Universities: 2015

BOSTON COLLEGE: At Boston College, the core curriculum requires 6 hours of philosophy and 6 hours of theology, usually in a 2-course sequence; both requirements can also be fulfilled in one of two, 12-credit interdisciplinary sequences that fulfill both theology and philosophy core requirements: *Perspectives in Western Culture* and *PULSE (Person and Social Responsibility)*. We do not accept substitutions for theology core courses, although students could fulfill that requirement through non-BC courses if they had the same content as ours (e.g. transfer students or those taking summer courses elsewhere).

CANISIUS COLLEGE: The requirements are as follows:

Religious Studies/Theology (6 credits):

- *Religious Studies 101* – 3 credit foundation course (usually taken in freshman year).
- *Religious Studies and Theology “Field” Course* – 3 credits (students gain a clearer understanding of the role that religion plays in human life through a careful and systematic examination of religious ideas, institutions, values, or patterns of belief and practice).

Philosophy (6 credits):

- *Philosophy 101* – 3 credit foundation course (usually taken in freshman year).
- *Philosophy “Field” Course* (enables students to understand, articulate, and evaluate the values, principles, and assumptions on which individual and social decisions rest).

Students must also complete one 3-credit course that carries an Ethics attribute and one 3-credit course that carries a Justice attribute. This may or may not overlap with the Field course the student has selected. A student can complete these requirements with a minimum of 12 credits (4 courses) or a maximum of 18 credits (6 courses) based on their particular needs, major, etc.

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS: Philosophy - 1 course (courses are 1 unit = 4 credit hours), Religious Studies - 1 course (courses are 1 unit = 4 credit hours). Standing courses that fulfill such requirements must be approved by the college curriculum committee; there are a few offered outside of the religious studies department that fulfill the religious studies requirement.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY: At Creighton, in our newly revised CAS core, we require the following:

1. *Introductory Philosophy Course* (3 credits). Students can choose from several and we strongly recommend this be completed in the freshman year.
2. (a) *Introductory Theology Course* (3 credits). Student can choose but, due to the newness of the ‘choice,’ we have not seen many developed beyond “The Christian Tradition.” (b) A course in biblical traditions (3 credits). There are several to choose from.

In addition to the three courses listed above, students must take an introductory Ethics course (generally sophomore year) and fulfill an upper level component: Ultimate Questions. Both of these components are offered in PHL and THL. Students must choose at least one of these from the PHL department.

Thus, the minimum requirement is 6 hours of PHL and 6 hours of THL, and an additional 3 hours from either department. These 15 hours are specific to PHL and THL and the requirements cannot be satisfied outside of those two departments.

We also have lower level (first year) and upper level (senior year) components that are multi-disciplinary and have a service and justice 'flavor.' Currently, THL has proposed a couple of courses for the lower level and we anticipate courses from both THL and PHL for the upper level component. It is possible that a student could take one or both of these components from PHL and/or THL.

And... we have some designations within the major, included a designated Ethics component. We anticipate that some PHL and/or THL faculty may be involved in those courses even though they will be technically in the majors. For more information: <https://ccas.creighton.edu/academics/magis-core-curriculum>.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY: All undergraduate colleges at Fordham require two Philosophy courses, 1) *Philosophy of Human Nature*, 2) *Philosophical Ethics*, and two Theology courses, 1) *Faith and Critical Reason*, 2) a course on religious scriptures (e.g., Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Koran, Sacred Texts of the Middle East, Buddhist scriptures, Hindu scriptures, etc.). Note: Theology is distinct from Religious Studies at Fordham; there may be Theology courses cross listed with Religious Studies, but purely Religious Studies courses do not satisfy the core.

In addition, seniors are required to take a capstone course: *The Senior Seminar in Values and Moral Choices*. Courses with this designation can be from any department, but a good number are from theology and philosophy. There are also courses from English, Economics, Theatre and Computer Science, to name a few. Students may take the senior seminar in their major, but cannot be required to do so by the department.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY: Theology (one introductory and one elective). All students take two semesters of theology. Students begin with either THEO-001: *The Problem of God* or THEO-011: *Introduction to Biblical Literature* in their first year. The second half of the requirement can be fulfilled with any intermediate-level theology course (anything 001-199; THEO-011 can serve as an intermediate course for students who begin with 001) or any course in another department that is cross-listed with Theology.

Philosophy: The first course is taken in the first year, and the second course is normally taken in the sophomore year. First-year students should begin with either PHIL-020 *Introduction to Philosophy* or PHIL-010 *Introduction to Ethics*. The second course must be in the opposite area either at the introductory level (010 or 020) or the bridge level (100–199). Thus, while students are permitted to fulfill the core requirement with the combination of PHIL-010 and PHIL-020, all students are encouraged (and potential majors are required) to take their second course at the bridge level. Students who begin with PHIL-020 should choose a bridge course in Ethics (100–149); students who begin with PHIL-010 should choose a bridge course in general philosophy (150–199).

LE MOYNE COLLEGE: For Le Moyne College, in the new, regular (non-honors) Core, we require 6 hours of Philosophy (PHL 110 and PHL 210), 3 hours of Theology, and 3 hours of Religious Studies. As for the substitutions, any course granting credit for PHL, REL, or THE has to be listed as such, so no ENG courses, for example, would count for any of those requirements, but exceptions can be made on an individual basis when needed.

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY: It is complicated with the design of our new core, but basically students take 2 philosophy and 2 theological studies 4-unit classes. These numbers can vary a little or a lot because a faculty member from any department can have a course approved as a philosophical

inquiry or theological inquiry course. Also, students can take First-year seminar courses taught by theologians and philosophers. So literally no philosophy or theology classes are required, but the average student ends up taking 3.5-5 theology and philosophy classes depending on the version of the classes.

So the answers to the questions are:

Probably two 4-unit classes of philosophy

Probably two 4-unit classes of theological studies

Yes, courses from any discipline can count for those categories.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO: Loyola University Chicago's University Core Curriculum is not limited to the College of Arts and Sciences, but extends to all undergraduate programs in the Schools and Institutes that comprise Loyola. It is supervised by a committee currently led by Dr. David Slavsky, passed on by the Board of Undergraduate Studies. The program itself is set forth online (<http://luc.edu/core/index.shtml>), including information about the Core as it was in force before Fall 2012. Here is information on the Core as it is currently in force, known as the F12 Core:

1. Students are required to complete **6 credit-hours of *Philosophical Knowledge* courses**, one "foundational" course and one "Tier 2" course. There is a single foundational course, taught by the Department of Philosophy. Students choose between 13 Tier 2 courses, one of which is taught by the Department of Political Science, the others by the Department of Philosophy. See <http://luc.edu/core/philknowcoursesub-first.shtml>.

2. Students are required to complete **6 credit-hours of *Theological & Religious Studies Knowledge* courses**, one "foundational" course and one "Tier 2" course. All courses in this area are taught by the Department of Theology. See <http://luc.edu/core/theoreligstudiescoursesub-first.shtml>. Students choose between one of two foundational courses (one Theological, one Religious Studies), then one of 14 courses in Tier 2 (variously Theological and Religious Studies).

3. In addition to the *Philosophical Knowledge* and *Theological & Religious Studies* knowledge areas, Loyola undergraduates are also required to complete 3 credit-hours of *Ethics*, choosing one course of two taught by the Department of Philosophy and two by the Department of Theology. See <http://luc.edu/core/ethicscoursesub-first.shtml>.

Thus, the answers to the questions are, for students completing their whole academic careers at Loyola, 6 hours Philosophy (one 3-hour course of which may be substituted for by one specific course taught by the Department of Political Science), 6 hours Theology/Religious Studies, plus 3 hours Ethics, which may be in either Philosophy or Theology. Transfer students may take as few as 6 credit-hours in Philosophy, Theology/Religious Studies or 3 hours in each, unless courses whose credits they are transferring to Loyola articulate specifically with "mission-specific" courses in the three areas of *Philosophical Knowledge*, *Theological & Religious Studies Knowledge*, and *Ethics*.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND: Data for Loyola University Maryland is as follows:

1. Number of required hours for **philosophy: 7.5 (2 courses, plus ethics with either philosophy or theology)**

2. Number of required hours for theology / religious studies: 7.5 (2 courses, plus ethics with either philosophy or theology)

3. Do you allow substitutions for theology / religious studies requirements: No substitutions are made for theology / religious studies courses.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS: The stated required number is as follows:

6 hours of Philosophy

6 hours of Religious Studies

3 hours of Ethics that can be fulfilled in either Philosophy or Religious Studies

This is a total of 15 hours. This requirement stands as it is generally for Humanities and Social Science majors. However, there are a number of exceptions for "electively challenged" majors like Business, Music, and some Natural Sciences. Generally, these majors take a total of 12 hours (6 in Philosophy and 6 in Religious Studies), three of which must be an approved Ethics course.

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY: Marquette currently requires, as part of its core curriculum, for all students to take two PHIL courses (3 credits each) and two THEO courses (3 credits each). These courses are taught by faculty in these departments. The PHIL courses are 1) *Philosophy of Human Nature* and 2) *Theory of Ethics*. The THEO classes are 1) *Introduction to Theology* and 2) a second level course. Currently, the College of Arts and Sciences requires a third course in each department (from a range of courses). Beginning in Fall 2015, those two additional courses will be dropped from the College curriculum. We do not currently allow substitutions from other departments.

REGIS UNIVERSITY: For Regis College, we have 6 hours of required religious studies, and 3 hours of required philosophy. However, we also have 4 integrative core courses that all students take, and they would likely fall into your "substitutions" category (courses under themes of justice and meaning, for example). So depending on how you count, we might actually have 9/6 hours in the respective areas.

ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY: At Rockhurst, we require two courses in Philosophy, two in Theology, and one more course (as elected by the student) in either Philosophy or Theology (for a total of 15 hours).

- One of the two required courses in Philosophy is *Ethical Theory*.
- At least one of the two required Theology courses must be in the field of Christianity.
- No course from outside of the disciplines satisfies the requirements. So, although an English or History course might satisfy a Catholic Studies requirement, neither would satisfy a Theology requirement.

SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY: Data for Saint Joseph's University is as follows:

1. Number of required hours for philosophy-6 hours.

2. Number of required hours for theology / religious studies- 6 hours

3. Do you allow substitutions for theology / religious studies requirements, e.g. English courses that focus on Catholic writers? No, but two additional requirements are related: *Faith and Reason*—primarily taught by Phil or Theology, but faculty members from other disciplines can apply to teach and some are approved. Ethics overlay—a fair amount of Philosophy and Theology, but many other disciplines also teach an ethics in the major and this counts for the requirement.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY: SLU requires 9 hours of theology and 9 hours of philosophy. We don't allow substitutions, but the third philosophy course is supposed to bridge to one's discipline, e.g. philosophy of literature or philosophy of science.

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY: Santa Clara University requires one 4-hour course in Ethics (taught through Philosophy) and three 4-5 hour courses in Religious Studies (one at three different levels which must be taken in order). There are a few courses at the second level that fulfill the religious studies courses. None of the religious studies courses are required to be in theology or even Christian [assuming this is Christianity-DH?].

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY: Each student is required to take two theology and two philosophy courses. Each course is 5-credit (4 hours and 10 minutes each). The course titles are as follows:

UCOR 2100 *Theological Explorations*
UCOR 2500 *Philosophy of the Human Person*
UCOR 2900 *Ethical Reasoning*
UCOR 3100 *Religion in a Global Context*

As a clarifying reminder, Seattle U is on the quarter system (along with only Santa Clara of the AJCU member institutions). Hence, students take three 5-credit courses per quarter, rather than taking five 3-credit courses in the standard semester system.

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY: In UDM's current core (which is now being revised):

3 hours of philosophy
3 hours of religious studies
PLUS: 3 hours of philosophy or religious studies

There is also a 3-hour ethics requirement, which can be fulfilled by a philosophical ethics class or a professional ethics class depending on major or program.

No substitutions can be made for theology / religious studies requirements.

The proposed revised core includes a total of one to three philosophy and/or religious studies courses depending on the courses chosen. This is contentious and currently being challenged.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO: The University of San Francisco has three required 4-unit courses in in our 44-unit Core (<http://www.usfca.edu/catalog/core/>):

Area D: Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, and Ethics (12 credits)

- Philosophy (4 credits)
- Theology and Religious Studies (4 credits)
- Ethics (4 credits)

We have a First Year Seminar program with courses that count for the Core, including this area. Courses from other departments could be substituted with approval from the Core Area D Committee, which is made of faculty from the Theology and Religious Studies and Philosophy departments, but this is not common.

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON: At Scranton, students are required to take five courses (15 credit hours) of Theology and Philosophy.

In Philosophy, they take "*Introduction to Philosophy*" and "*Ethics*." In Theology, they take "*Introduction to the Bible*" and "*Introduction to Christian Theology*." The fifth class is chosen from a fairly long list of courses approved for our Core Curriculum. All of these courses are in Philosophy and Theology, taught by faculty in those departments.

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY: We require six hours of Philosophy and six hours of Religious Studies. In addition, we require an additional three-hour Ethics course in either Philosophy or Religious Studies/Theology.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: In our recently approved new core, Xavier students will take 6 required hours each of Philosophy and Theology. The new core also includes a humanities elective that can be fulfilled by a course in any humanities discipline including, but not limited to, Philosophy and Theology. We allow substitutions but figure these on an ad-hoc basis.