

MATS GRAD COMPETENCIES

Graduates of the program will be equipped and prepared to exercise a vocation of theological scholarship, whether this be in a formal academic setting, in ecclesiastical leadership or in some other setting. Such a vocation should be characterized by independent initiative, personal responsibility, collegial cooperation, ethical behavior consistent with academic integrity, and an appreciation of the limitations of one's own work and discipline, of the complexity of knowledge, and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods and disciplines.

KNOWLEDGE OF A RANGE OF THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES

Graduates of the program will have attained	so that they will be able to
A survey knowledge of theological disciplines	<p>Demonstrate engagement with diverse biblical hermeneutical approaches, historical and theological methodologies</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of biblical texts and their contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and discuss the narrative/poetic artistry, content, key critical exegetical issues, and theological/ideological issues of the text • Describe the social, cultural and historical forces that contributed to the formation of the texts and assess how those interacted with its message and theology <p>Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods to accomplish an introductory level interpretation of a biblical text both in its ancient context and in contemporary contexts, including a discussion of interpretive insights from a variety of hermeneutical approaches and compare these to one's own interpretation</p> <p>Demonstrate introductory level critical historical skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of primary and secondary source materials effectively • demonstrate analytical skills applied to historical data and pertinent historiographical approaches <p>As a model of critical historical knowledge, demonstrate general knowledge of the major historical themes, significant historical events, persons and controversies in late Antiquity and describe the social, historical, political and theological factors in that era</p> <p>Analyze the central topics in theology and engage in theological reflection in light of particular issues and topics and articulate an understanding of the theological task</p> <p>Be able to articulate the social, cultural and political location, the social commitments and the limitations of various historical and theological trajectories</p> <p>Demonstrate introductory level awareness of the content, methods, issues, and contexts of one other theological discipline (liturgics, spirituality, public and pastoral leadership, pluralism, or ethics)</p>

KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA OF CONCENTRATION

<p>Graduates of the program will have attained</p>	<p>so that they will be able to</p>
<p>A basic knowledge of their discipline of concentration commensurate with a first degree in theology</p>	<p>Identify the basic working concepts in the critical study of the discipline of concentration and be able to offer general critical reflection on subjects related to that discipline. To provide basic answers to most questions from first-year students arising from a typical introductory course (e.g., in the context of a tutorial);</p>
<p>Competence in introduction and intermediate discussion of subjects central to the basic orientation of the discipline of concentration</p>	<p>Offer disciplined critical discussion of the working concepts of the discipline of concentration at a level commensurate with a first degree in theological studies</p>
<p>Working knowledge of introductory and intermediate level course content</p>	<p>Offer discussion of the basic content of the discipline of concentration and deploy research skills sufficient to present the basic content of that discipline critically</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>Biblical Studies In at least one focused biblical book, area or topic for each Testament, demonstrate intermediate knowledge of content, issues, and contexts</p> <p>Demonstrate a willingness and ability to relate biblical texts to contemporary life and issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the interpretive principles upon which biblical texts can be used and applied in contemporary situations • Evaluate and describe the application of texts to contemporary issues, including a discussion of interpretive insights from a variety of hermeneutical approaches and compare these to one’s own interpretation • Engage the complexities of using biblical texts in relation to contemporary societal challenges and political ideologies in case studies/applications in public and pastoral contexts <p>History and Theology Demonstrate critical historical skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulate effective research questions applicable to historical and contemporary public and ecclesial situations and contexts <p>In at least one focused area or topic in church history, demonstrate intermediate knowledge of content, issues, and contexts</p> <p>Relate and assess the continuing influence of significant historical events, themes, persons and controversies and articulate implications of historical knowledge for the future of theological practice particularly within the context of rapid global urbanization</p>

	<p>In at least one area of theology, articulate a significant understanding of several major theologians or theological issues, being able to articulate the social, cultural and political location, the social commitments and the limitations of these models as well as their understanding of the theological task</p> <p>Engage and analyze the intersection of religious faiths and contemporary culture, especially a critically reflective articulation of how the student holds Christianity and culture in conversation as well as analysis of the impact of contemporary issues like globalization upon religions and religious practice</p> <p>Demonstrate general knowledge of the major historical themes, significant historical events, persons and controversies in major eras of western church history and describe the social, historical, political and theological factors in those eras</p> <p>Demonstrate awareness of theological analysis (social, economic, socio-psychological, postcolonial, ecological) of concerns arising for human persons and human communities, engaging the intersection of religious faiths and contemporary culture</p> <p>Integrative Studies Demonstrate intermediate level familiarity with the content, methods, issues and contexts of two or more theological disciplines (as selected by the student) based in the courses chosen in the student's program</p> <p>Identify the basic working concepts in the critical study of the disciplines chosen and be able to offer general critical reflection on subjects related to those disciplines</p> <p>Demonstrate ability to make connections across the disciplines chosen, in appropriate formats (compare and contrast, draw analogies, differentiate methods, content, issues and contexts, explain relationships)</p> <p>Demonstrate ability to make integrative judgments between or among the fields chosen (theorize connections, formulate appropriate or creative associations, hypothesize critical engagements)</p>
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ABILITY WITH SCHOLARLY TOOLS, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES

Graduates of the program will have attained	so that they will be able to
A working competence of appropriate of languages for scholarship	Carry out research in the subject of specialization, including undertaking critical readings of scholarly discussion and a basic analysis of original documents central to the discipline of concentration
Proficiency in library use and the construction of a bibliography	Produce bibliography relevant to the thesis topic of investigation
Competence or proficiency in the use of pertinent electronic and web-based resources	Produce bibliography relevant to the thesis topic of investigation
Ability to present a paper, deliver a presentation, respond to an oral presentation or lecture at a level commensurate with a first degree in theological study	Demonstrate proficiency in the following skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms; • the construction of a logical argument; • the making of informed judgments on complex issues • the use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing
Understanding of their vocational responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the importance of working with scholarly peers and associates in a collegial manner; • Recognize the ecumenical character of theological scholarship and its place within the broader world of scholarly discourse • Recognize the importance of making their theological expertise available in appropriate ways to wider circles in the church and society

ABILITY TO REPORT RESULTS OF RESEARCH IN SUMMATIVE FORMAT

Graduates of the program will have	so that they will be able to
Identified, outlined, critically engaged, and successfully defended a general outline of the topic under investigation, and offered conclusions on approaches to the topic under investigation, at a level commensurate with a first degree in theological studies	<p>Comprehensive Exam Summative Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to questions about the content, methods, issues, and contexts of the field of concentration • demonstrate familiarity with the key scholarly literature related to the field of concentration • describe critical approaches to issues of scholarly importance in the field of concentration and assess the relative merits of those approaches • Offer informed and critical insights about issues in the field of concentration <p>Thesis or project Summative Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate an ability to write a research proposal • deploy research methods appropriate to the topic of investigation • critically discuss a topic relevant to the discipline of concentration • survey scholarly approached to a topic relevant the discipline of concentration • offer conclusions assessing the relative strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to the topic under investigation

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