

RELIGION & THEOLOGY

Honours Major

Upon completion of the honours major program, the successful student will:

- I. Depth and Breadth of Content
 - A. Identify and articulate an understanding of the basic features of Christianity: it's Scriptures, history and theology.
 - B. Have a developed understanding of the place of Christianity within Western culture and its relationship to other religious traditions.
 - C. Have a specific familiarity with the Reformed tradition and its unique approach to religious, theological, and educational questions.
 - D. Have a deep and detailed knowledge of one particular stream of study: biblical studies, theology, or ethics.
 - E. Have a developed, detailed knowledge in an area of the Christian theological disciplines and a level of research, writing, or creative work which suggests readiness to pursue that field beyond the undergraduate level
 - F. Demonstrate creativity and imagination in approaching critical and analytical practices of one of the disciplines of Christian theology.

- II. Knowledge of Methodologies
 - A. Have a developed knowledge and critical understanding of the key concepts, methodologies, theoretical approaches, and assumptions in the theological disciplines of the Christian tradition.
 - B. Have a deep knowledge of the methods of one of the specialized areas or disciplines within the broader spectrum of theological disciplines in the Christian tradition.
 - C. Begin to discern and critique the worldview components ingredient to the theological disciplines of the Christian religion.
 - D. Demonstrate advanced acumen and creativity in the implementation of theological methods.

- III. Application of Knowledge
 - A. Be able to review and critically assess the variety of approaches to theological disciplines.
 - B. Articulate and debate these approaches with clarity and care.
 - C. Demonstrate the ability to propose alternatives and solutions to problems and challenges that arise within theological disciplines.
 - D. Demonstrate the ability to investigate relevant scholarly resources in the review and critical assessment of biblical and theological texts. Students will also demonstrate the ability to judge the relevance and value of various scholarly and research sources.

- IV. Communication Skills
 - A. Articulate their understanding of the biblical story and its application to vocation and culture in tests, coursework and classroom discussion.
 - B. Demonstrate an advanced ability to compose, formulate and express theological and biblical arguments in writing, class discussion and presentations.
 - C. Demonstrate scholarly Christian virtues in the above practices of communication.

- V. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge
 - A. Recognize the limits of knowledge with regard to the historical, sociological and cultural contexts with respect to the texts and sources of theology.
 - B. Demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their own theological practices within these same contemporary ethoi.
 - C. Articulate an advanced critical understanding of the unique relevance challenges of contemporary (postmodern) theories for theological disciplines.

- VI. Maturity and Professional Capacity
 - A. Demonstrate the relevant skills which would transfer to involvement with their local communities, with special capacities for contributing to the life of their church community.
 - B. Possess the advanced ability to work with and relate to people of different faith and cultural backgrounds and understandings in classwork, discussion and projects with grace, honesty and integrity.
 - C. Bear and apply the virtuous practices of discipleship in their scholarship which is reflective of the Christian tradition.
 - D. Demonstrated practices and knowledge which indicates the skills and capacities for pursuing further graduate studies in a theological discipline or ministry.

General Major

Upon completion of the major program, the successful student will:

- I. Depth and Breadth of Content
 - A. Identify and articulate an understanding of the basic features of Christianity: it's Scriptures, history and theology.
 - B. Have an understanding of the place of Christianity within Western culture and its relationship to other religious traditions.
 - C. Have a familiarity with the Reformed tradition and its unique approach to religious, theological, and educational questions.
 - D. Have a developed knowledge of one particular stream of study: biblical studies, theology, or ethics.
 - E. Have an extensive knowledge in an area of the Christian theological disciplines and a capacity for research and written work which evidences an ability to analyse and communicate the central material in this area
 - F. Demonstrate creativity and imagination in analysing and evaluating practices of one of the disciplines of Christian theology.
- II. Knowledge of Methodologies
 - G. Have knowledge and critical understanding of the key concepts, methodologies, theoretical approaches, and assumptions in the theological disciplines of the Christian tradition.
 - H. Discern the methods of one of the specialized areas or disciplines within the broader spectrum of theological disciplines in the Christian tradition.
 - I. Begin to recognize and evaluate the worldview components ingredient to the theological disciplines of the Christian religion.
 - J. Demonstrate acumen and creativity in the implementation of theological methods.
- III. Application of Knowledge
 - A. Be able to review and critically assess the variety of approaches to theological disciplines.
 - B. Articulate and debate these approaches with clarity and care.
 - C. Demonstrate the ability to propose alternatives and solutions to problems and challenges that arise within theological disciplines.
 - D. Make use of the relevant scholarly resources to review and critical assess biblical and theological texts.
- IV. Communication Skills
 - A. Articulate their understanding of the biblical story and its application to vocation and culture in tests, coursework and classroom discussion.
 - B. Demonstrate an ability to compose, formulate and express theological and biblical arguments in writing, class discussion and presentations.
 - C. Demonstrate Christian virtues in the above practices of communication.
- V. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

- A. Recognize the limits of knowledge with regard to the historical, sociological and cultural contexts with respect to the texts and sources of theology.
 - B. Demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their own theological practices within these same contemporary ethoi.
 - C. Articulate a critical understanding of the unique relevance challenges of contemporary (postmodern) theories for theological disciplines.
- VI. Maturity and Professional Capacity
- A. Demonstrate the relevant skills which would transfer to involvement with their local communities, with special capacities for contributing to the life of their church community.
 - B. Possess the ability to work with and relate to people of different faith and cultural backgrounds and understandings in classwork, discussion and projects with grace, honesty and integrity.
 - C. Bear and apply the virtuous practices of discipleship in their scholarship which is reflective of the Christian tradition.
 - D. Demonstrate the proficiencies and capacities for communicating and implementing the above skills

Youth Ministry Program

Upon completion of the youth ministry program, the successful student will be able to:

- I. Depth and breadth of content
 - A. Articulate the core convictions of the Christian faith with theological maturity embedded within biblical literacy.
 - B. Practice the tools necessary for wise cultural discernment, understanding the spirits of the age, how these spirits are expressed, and how they shape the ministering environment and the identities of adolescents and their families in particular.
- II. Knowledge of methodologies
 - A. Demonstrate awareness of various key ministry philosophies, be able to articulate a biblically and theologically strong ministry philosophy, and develop wise strategies for ministry rooted in this philosophy.
- III. Application of knowledge
 - A. Reflect deeply on his/her own ministry identity, articulating how his/her ministry identity is situated within the trajectory of his/her life-story, and how a sense of calling and a vision for the future flows from that trajectory.
 - B. Articulate how his/her mental map has been equipped for ministry, which includes a commitment to lifelong on-going equipping.
- IV. Communication skills
 - A. Practice the spiritual disciplines essential for ministry, including prayer, Scripture reading, self-differentiation, appropriate vulnerability that seeks support, being held accountable, pastoral sensitivity, clear communication.
- V. Awareness of Limits of knowledge
 - A. Describe how profoundly challenging ministry is, and recognize how a university degree provides a humble beginning for a lifetime for maturation and equipping for ministry.
- VI. Maturity and professional capacity
 - A. Name the principal skills required for ministry, assess his/her own capacity for embodying and practicing these skills, and develop strategies for dealing with those areas that are weak.
 - B. Find his/her place within a ministry team and a ministering community, having developed a capacity for collegiality and team leadership.

