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# Theology

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## Mission Statement

“Catholic theology, taught in a manner faithful to Scripture, Tradition, and the Church’s Magisterium, provides an awareness of the Gospel principles which will enrich the meaning of human life and give it a new dignity” (*Ex corde ecclesiae*, 20). Faithful to the Christian message as it has come to us through the Church, our mission is to introduce students to Catholic theology as an exercise in “faith seeking understanding.” Mindful of its ethical obligations to the Church and to the world, the department also seeks to foster ecumenical awareness and concern for social justice and to prepare student majors for teaching, parish work, youth ministry, and graduate studies.

## Requirements for a major in Theology:

36 credit hours with the following distribution:

Th 101, Introduction to Theology

Th 200, Christian Moral Life

Th 450, Seminar

3 hours – Old Testament Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 210, Old Testament I: Pentateuch

Th 310, Old Testament III: Prophets

Th 315, Old Testament II: Wisdom Literature

3 hours – New Testament Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 240, New Testament I: Synoptic Gospels

Th 350, New Testament II: Pauline Literature

Th 356, New Testament III: Johannine Literature

3 hours – Historical Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 390, History of the Catholic Church I

Th 395, History of the Catholic Church II

3 hours – Ecumenical Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 365, Christianity and World Religions

Th 410, To the East and Back: Inter-Religious Dialogue

Th 420, The Protestant Tradition

3 hours – Christian Life Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 320, Sacraments and Liturgy

Th 330, Christian Marriage

Th 370, Catholic Social Teaching

Th 375, Benedictine Spirituality

3 hours – Doctrinal Studies. One course chosen from:

Th 307, Faith and Reason (Note: *Prerequisite: Ph 306*)

Th 360, Theology of the Church

Th 340, Christ and the Trinity

Nine hours of electives. Note: any Theology course may count as an elective; up to one Evangelization and Catechesis course may also count (but not more than one Evangelization and Catechesis course).

## Requirements for a major in Evangelization and Catechesis:

This major is designed for persons who wish to become effective instruments of Christ’s mission on earth to make disciples of all nations. Students will choose between two concentrations: The *Youth Ministry and Catechesis* track is aimed at students seeking to make ministry their lifework while the *New Evangelization Studies* track is geared toward those who seek to carry out the work of the New Evangelization through their own various occupations.

## Required Evangelization and Catechesis Courses (all EC majors)

Ea 280, New Evangelization I (3)

Ea 285, New Evangelization II (3)

Ea 440, Seminar (3)

## Required Theology Courses (all EC majors)

Th 101, Introduction to Theology (3)

Th 200, Christian Moral Life (3)

Th 210, Pentateuch, OR Th 310, Prophets,

OR Th 315, Wisdom Literature (3)

Th 240, Synoptic Gospels

OR Th 356, Johannine Literature (3)

- Th 340, Christ and the Trinity (3)
- Th 345, Theology of Vatican II (3)
- Th 377, Spiritual Theology (3)
- Th 395, History of the Catholic Church II (3)

### **Additional Requirements for a Track in New Evangelization Studies**

Choose six credit hours from the following courses:

- Ea 321, Divine Pedagogy: Catechesis in Scripture (3)
- Ea 331, Catechetical and Missionary Saints (3)
- Ea 341, The Papacy and the New Evangelization (3)
- Ea 477, Catechetical Practicum (1–4)

### **Additional Requirements for a Track in Youth Ministry and Catechesis**

- Ea 380, Youth Ministry and Catechesis I (3)
- Ea 385, Youth Ministry and Catechesis II (3)
- Ea 479, Supervised Internship in Youth Ministry (1–4)

### **Recommended Interdisciplinary Courses for Students in the Youth Ministry Track (not required):**

- Cr 302, Juvenile Delinquency
- Mc 380, Web Design
- Ph 325, Ethics
- Ph 350, Philosophical Psychology
- Py 100, General Psychology
- Py 263/264, Developmental Psychology I & II
- Py 401, Introduction to Counseling Psychology
- Py 482, Social Psychology
- Ps 275, Public Policy Analysis
- So 201, Social Problems

### **Theology/Secondary Education Major:**

The Theology/Secondary Education major is designed to prepare theology graduates to become outstanding high school theology teachers. Throughout courses, associated field experiences, and culminating with a 12-week supervised teaching internship in a Catholic high school, graduates will demonstrate a mastery of theology content as well as

pedagogical competency as a beginning teacher. Although this program does not qualify for Kansas state teacher licensure, graduates will nevertheless meet the same high standards required of all teacher education program candidates.

### **Theology Curriculum:**

- Th 101, Introduction to Theology (3)
- Th 200, Christian Moral Life (3)
- Th 210, Old Testament I: Pentateuch (3)
- Th 240, New Testament I: Synoptic Gospels (3)
- Th 320, Sacraments and Liturgy (3)
- Th 330, Christian Marriage (3)
- Th 365, Christianity and World Religions (3)
- Th 370, Catholic Social Teaching (3)
- Th 390, History of the Catholic Church I (3)
- Th 395, History of the Catholic Church II (3)
- Th 450, Seminar (3)
- Th 457, Methods of Teaching Theology (2)
- Theology Elective – 3 credit hours (any Th or Ea listed course of 3 or more credit hours)

### **Education Curriculum: See “Requirements for a B.A. Degree in Secondary Education” (Education Department)**

### **Requirements for a Minor in Theology:**

18 credit hours with the following distribution:

- Th 101, Introduction to Theology
- Th 200, Christian Moral Life
- 3 hours – Biblical Studies. One course chosen from:
  - Th 210, Old Testament I: Pentateuch
  - Th 315, Old Testament II: Wisdom Literature
  - Th 310, Old Testament III: Prophets
  - Th 240, New Testament I: Synoptic Gospels
  - Th 350, New Testament II: Pauline Literature
  - Th 356, Johannine Literature
- 9 hours electives (Note: Any theology course may count as an elective.)

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Note: The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas requires all of its teachers to have at least eighteen hours of theology. High school teachers of religion must have thirty hours.

## **Concentration in Theology for the Education Major:**

Fulfill the requirements for a Minor in Theology as listed above (18 hours).

Transfer students pursuing a major or minor in Theology must take a minimum of 40% of the coursework required for the major or minor at Benedictine College.

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### **Ea 280**

#### **New Evangelization I: The History and Practice of Evangelization and Catechesis (3) (F)**

This course will offer an in-depth study of the practice of evangelization and catechesis throughout the history of the Church with special concentration on the pedagogy of God, Christ the Divine Pedagogue and the major contributions to catechesis up to the Second Vatican Council.

### **Ea 285**

#### **New Evangelization II (3) (S)**

This course will offer an in-depth study of the practice of evangelization and catechesis in the world today. Particular emphasis will be given to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and Church teaching on the topic of evangelization and catechesis following the Council. The New Evangelization itself will be defined in contradistinction to traditional evangelization and studied in depth. The causes of the new situation in Western culture, the re-evangelization of the baptized and the method by which to accomplish this re-evangelization will be examined in particular.

### **Ea 321**

#### **Divine Pedagogy: Catechesis in Scripture (3) (D)**

This course will provide an overview of Sacred Scripture, with the aim of developing a Catholic Biblical worldview; the course will seek to connect Catholic life and doctrine with its Scriptural foundations. In developing these biblical principles which underlie

Catholicism, the student will acquire the ability to utilize Scripture effectively in the work of Catechesis.

### **Ea 331**

#### **Catechetical and Missionary Saints (3) (D)**

This course will introduce students to the saints of the past who both successfully initiated evangelical and catechetical endeavors as well as profoundly taught how to do so. Particular emphasis will be given to those saints who greatly influenced the Church's catechetical tradition and who spread the faith to different cultures and geographical regions. American missionaries and figures will be given special notice.

### **Ea 341**

#### **The Papacy and the New Evangelization (3) (D)**

This course explores the nature and methods of the New Evangelization from the privileged vantage point of papal teaching. Students will read writings from one or more twenty-first century pontiffs, touching on a broad array of issues alive in the Church today. Above all students will focus on how they can apply the principles of papal thought in their ministry, especially in view of addressing challenging issues that are vital to get right in order to effectively communicate the Catholic faith in the world today.

### **Ea 380**

#### **Youth Ministry and Catechesis I (3) (F)**

The Church's plan for distinctly Catholic transmission of the faith to youth and adolescents will be unpacked both in theory and praxis. Magisterial catechetical texts and texts from the field will teach students how to educate increasingly complex youth about the faith, while at the same time nurturing a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Professional development as a lay minister will be explored. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.*

**Ea 385****Youth Ministry and Catechesis II (3) (S)**

Building on Youth Ministry and Catechesis I, this course will continue to teach youth ministry and catechetical theory and will pay particular attention to developing students as strong practitioners in both the art and craft of youth ministry and catechesis, preparing them to serve as an ecclesial professional. *Prerequisite: Ea 380.*

**Ea 440****Seminar (3) (S)**

The purpose of the course is to give an in-depth presentation of evangelical and catechetical questions and/or missionary and catechetical methods through reading and discussion, research and papers. The subject matter of the seminar will vary from semester to semester.

**Ea 477****Catechetical Practicum (1–4) (B)**

The Catechetical Practicum is designed to give students an opportunity to practice the New Evangelization. Each student in the class will engage in one work which seeks to bring about the directives of the Second Vatican Council or the teaching of the Church thereafter regarding ecumenism, evangelization or catechesis. This will consist of a project in the college or local community which is designed by the student and will foster a better understanding of the Faith and a deeper level of commitment to living this faith.

**Ea 479****Supervised Internship in Youth Ministry (1–4) (B)**

The goal of the internship in Youth Ministry is to provide a practical experience in the service of youth in the Church that bridges the academic training and the application of this training in the concrete setting of the local church. The internship will usually occur over the course of several semesters or during the summer.

**Ea 488****Senior Comprehensive (cr) (B)****Th 101****Introduction to Theology (3) (B)**

This course examines the origins, development, beliefs and practices of Christian tradition and initiates students into the methods and discipline of theology. Special attention will be given to the course of salvation history as narrated in the Bible, the content of the Catholic faith as set forth in the creeds, and the Christian way of life. The relevance of Christianity in our contemporary society and the distinctiveness of the Christian vision of the world will also be explored. (C)

**Th 200****Christian Moral Life (3) (B)**

This course is an examination of the way that all the principles of the moral life (nature, grace, law, virtue, happiness, etc.) work together to bring humans to their ultimate end. Students are specifically taught how to become virtuous and happy. The second half of the course studies the individual virtues and their corresponding moral norms. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

**Th 210****Old Testament I: Pentateuch (3) (D)**

This course on the first five books of the Bible (or Pentateuch) will provide a solid foundation to biblical theology by beginning with important hermeneutical questions concerning inspiration, inerrancy, and the senses of Scripture. These interpretative principles will then be applied as the themes of creation, covenant, sin, justice, mercy and redemption are probed. This course will be taught from a historical-theological perspective and according to a canonical approach to biblical interpretation. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, GP)

**Th 240****New Testament I: Synoptic Gospels (3) (D)**

This course will examine the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Special attention will be given to the deeds and miracles of Jesus, how Jesus embodies the fulfillment of the Old Testament messianic expectations, Jesus' moral teachings, and the application of the Gospel to our lives today. Attention will also be given to patristic, medieval and contemporary exegesis within the rich Catholic tradition. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, GP)

**Th 307****Faith and Reason II (4) (D)**

This is the second course in a three-semester sequence meeting the general education requirements in the *Faith* and *Philosophical Inquiry* Foundation areas. The classes are taught using the *Great Books* approach. Great texts in philosophy and theology will be read, analyzed, and discussed, with a special emphasis upon the relationship between the two disciplines: the harmony of faith and reason. This second course addresses works written from the year 1000 through about 1700. *Prerequisite: Ph 306.* (F, PI)

**Th 308****Faith and Reason III (2) (D)**

This is one-half of the third course in a three-semester sequence meeting the general education requirements in the *Faith* and *Philosophical Inquiry* Foundation areas. The classes are taught using the *Great Books* approach. Great texts in philosophy and theology will be read, analyzed, and discussed, with a special emphasis upon the relationship between the two disciplines: the harmony of faith and reason. This course addresses works written from about 1700 to the present. *Prerequisites: Ph 306 and Th 307. Corequisite: Ph 308.* (F, PI)

**Th 310****Old Testament III: Prophets (3) (D)**

This course will examine the biblical writings of the Major and Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. It will be taught from a historical-theological perspective and according to a canonical approach to biblical interpretation. Special attention will be given to grappling with both the prophetic message in its own historical context, as well as its ultimate fulfillment in the work of Jesus Christ. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

**Th 315****Old Testament II: Wisdom Literature (3) (D)**

This course will investigate selections of the sapiential literature of the Bible, namely, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, the Wisdom of Solomon, and Sirach. The themes of sin, suffering, good and evil, divine providence, justice, love and wisdom will be explored. Special attention will be given to the Book of Job and its relevance for Christian life. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

**Th 320****Sacraments and Liturgy (3) (D)**

This course will probe the biblical, historical, and theological foundations for the seven sacraments of the Church and their appropriate liturgical celebration, including brief considerations of Christian anthropology. Topics including the liturgies of the Eastern rites, para-liturgical activities, and the sacramentals may also be discussed. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

**Th 330****Christian Marriage: Catholic Perspectives (3) (S)**

An exploration of the Catholic tradition on marriage and family as a communion of life

and love, the foundations of conjugal morality, the canonical regulation of marriage in the Catholic Church, and the purpose and future of marriage in the Christian vocation and in American society. Practical topics related to preparation for the wedding, married life and parenting are included. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, WP)

### **Th 335, 336**

#### **Natural Family Planning (1, 1) (D)**

A presentation of the physiological, theological, and practical foundations of Natural Family Planning; a widely-recognized and Church-supported method of determining periods of fertility for the purposes of family planning. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.*

### **Th 340**

#### **Christ and the Trinity (3) (D)**

A survey of the message, dying and rising of Jesus Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit as presented in the New Testament, and its deepened understanding through writings of classic theologians and the Church Councils. Examination of the Trinitarian faith in God as a communion of love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit concludes this course. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, WP)

### **Th 345**

#### **The Theology of Vatican II (3) (D)**

The theology of the Second Vatican Council serves as the primary source for modern Catholic understanding of the Church and its renewal. This course considers the importance of ecumenical Councils, the historical and theological background of Vatican II, and the meaning and application of the Council's teachings in the Church today. The documents of Vatican II, as well as their implementation in subsequent magisterial teachings, will be examined. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 350**

#### **New Testament II:**

##### **Pauline Literature (3) (D)**

This course is an introduction to the Pauline epistles. Special attention will be given to Paul's life, career and theology, his doctrine of justification by faith, his understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ, and his moral teachings. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, GP)

### **Th 355**

#### **American Catholic History (3) (D)**

Volunteerism, separation of Church & State, and religious pluralism are a few of the factors that make the United States a distinct culture offering unique opportunities and challenges for the growth of the Catholic Church in America. Raising questions of identity this course will trace the growth of the Church in America from the time of exploration, through the three Plenary Councils, study American bishops' involvement in the first and second Vatican Councils, and highlight other related issues up to the present time. This course will introduce students to some of the key historical figures, events, and phenomena that make up the American Catholic experience, exploring the various ways in which history, theology, and culture intersect. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 356**

#### **Johannine Literature (3) (B)**

This course will focus upon the principal themes, images, symbols, and theology of the fourth Gospel, with special attention given to the use of the Old Testament within the Gospel. At the discretion of the instructor, the Johannine epistles and/or the Book of Revelation may also be treated. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 360**

#### **Theology of the Church (3) (D)**

A study of the Church as a sign of God's universal self-giving to humanity. An examination of the Church's self-understanding as it emerges from the scriptural images of the People of God and Body of Christ, as it develops in tradition, and as reflected in various models. It takes up a study of the mission and tasks of the Church, her relationship to the great world religions, to human culture and to the world in which it finds itself. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 365**

#### **Christianity and World Religions (3) (D)**

This course introduces students to the worldview and religious experience found in primal religions, in the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and in the major spiritual traditions of India and Asia. While understanding these religions on their own terms, the course also attends to how they converge and differ from Christianity and to the challenge and enrichment which they present to Christians. The course familiarizes students with the Church's traditional and magisterial approaches to the truth claims of other religions and with the theory and practice of interreligious dialogue. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, GP, WP)

### **Th 370**

#### **Catholic Social Teaching (3) (D)**

An examination of the topics of world peace, a just world order, an equitable distribution of goods and resources, favorable terms of trade, the widening gap between the wealthy and poor nations and religious freedom in the light of major Catholic documents and papal teaching. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 375**

#### **Benedictine Spirituality (3) (D)**

This course provides a general introduction to Benedictine Spirituality. Topics covered include *The Rule of St. Benedict* (with special emphasis on its application to lay persons in today's world), Benedictine history including its impact on Western civilization, and the history and lifestyles of the local Benedictine communities. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 377**

#### **Spiritual Theology (3) (D)**

This course explores the great works and major themes of spiritual theology that have emerged in the Christian tradition over the past two millennia. From these works, students will acquire and apply the theological principles necessary for pursuing an ever greater commitment to Christian holiness. *Prerequisites and/or corequisites: Major or minor in Theology or Youth Ministry or permission of instructor.* (F)

### **Th 390**

#### **History of the Catholic Church I: From Apostolic Times to the 16th Century (3) (F)**

An examination of the cultural, theological and philosophical history of the Church from apostolic times up to the Protestant Reformation. Attention will be given to major figures, movements and schools of thought. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, HP, WP)

### **Th 395**

#### **History of the Catholic Church II: From the Reformation to the Present (3) (S)**

An examination of the cultural, theological, and philosophical history of the Church from the Protestant Reformation through today. Attention will be given to major movements

and schools of thought that serve as the basis and backdrop of current conditions within the Church. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F, HP)

### **Th 398**

#### **Special Topics (1–3)**

These are topics not included in the regular catalogue. They may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.*

### **Th 400**

#### **Great Catholic Thinkers (1–3) (D)**

This course will focus on the theological contribution of a particular individual or group within the Catholic tradition. Since the topic of the course will regularly change, it may be taken more than once. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 405**

#### **Christian Bioethics (3) (F)**

This course is designed to teach students how to make ethical decisions by examining moral methodology within the realm of Bioethics. The first half of the course is a study of moral principles with a special emphasis on current Church teaching and the Catholic tradition. The second half of the course is an application of these principles to bioethical issues. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 420**

#### **The Protestant Tradition (3) (F)**

This class will explore some of the major thought, figures and traditions of Protestantism. Special attention will be given to the theological thought of key Protestant reformers (including Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli) and to major events and ideas associated with

Anabaptism and the English Reformation. Major causes of the Protestant Reformation, including the Roman Catholic Church's situation at the time, will also be explored. Important developments in the thought and history of Protestantism in the United States will also be considered, focusing especially on Protestant Evangelicalism. Attention will be given to influential figures, denominations, and movements. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.* (F)

### **Th 450**

#### **Seminar (3) (B)**

Subject matter of the Seminar varies. The purpose of the course is to give an in-depth presentation of theological questions and/or theological methods through reading and discussion, research and papers. Course can be taken more than once. *Required for all majors; open to others with approval of instructor.*

### **Th 457**

#### **Methods of Teaching Theology (2) (B)**

This advanced course in methods of teaching theology prepares students with specific knowledge of the principles and processes involved in planning for secondary theology instruction and evaluation in Catholic high schools. Students will explore and use a variety of methods and media to teach religion lessons. *Prerequisite: Th 101 or permission of the instructor.*

### **Th 488**

#### **Senior Comprehensive (cr)**

### **Th 499**

#### **Independent Study**

The department invites students (individuals or groups) to propose areas of special interest to them for investigation. *Departmental approval required.*

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## Suggested sequence of courses for a bachelor's degree in Theology

### Freshman Year

En 101, English Composition	3	Aesthetic Foundation	3
Gs 150, BC Experience	cr	Foreign Language	4
Th 101, Introduction to Theology	3	Ph 175, Principles of Nature	3
Historical Foundation	3	Historical Foundation	3
Foreign Language	4	Theology – Old Testament	3
Pe Activity course	1		
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	14		16

### Sophomore Year

Person and Community Foundation	3	Aesthetic Foundation	3
Theology – New Testament	3	Theology – Doctrinal	3
Philosophical Inquiry Foundation	3	Th 200, Christian Moral Life	3
Natural World Foundation	4	Electives	8
Elective	3		
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	16		17

### Junior Year

Theology – Historical	3	Theology – Christian Life	3
Philosophical Inquiry Foundation	3	Theology elective	3
Natural World Foundation	3–4	Pe 115, Wellness for Life	1
Electives	6	Electives	9
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	15–16		16

### Senior Year

Theology electives	6	Theology elective	3
Philosophical Inquiry Foundation	3	Th 450, Seminar	3
Electives	7	Electives	10
		Th 488, Senior Comprehensive	cr
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	16		16

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## Suggested sequence of courses for a bachelor's degree in Evangelization and Catechesis

### Freshman Year

En 101, English Composition	3	Person and Community Foundation	3
Gs 150, BC Experience	cr	Foreign Language	4
Th 101, Introduction to Theology	3	Ph 175, Principles of Nature	3
Historical Foundation	3	Elective	3
Foreign Language	4	Theology – Old Testament	3
Pe Activity course	1		
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	14		16

### Sophomore Year

Aesthetic Foundation	3	Aesthetic Foundation	3
Theology – New Testament	3	Th 395, History of Catholic Church II	3
Philosophical Inquiry Foundation	3	Th 200, Christian Moral Life	3
Natural World Foundation	4	Ea 285, New Evangelization II	3
Ea 280, New Evangelization I	3	Electives	5
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	16		17

### Junior Year

Ea 380, Youth Ministry and Catechesis I (For NES track: Ea 321, 331, or 341)	3	Ea 385, Youth Ministry and Catechesis II (For NES track: Ea 321, 331, or 341)	3
Philosophical Inquiry Foundation	3	Th 377, Spiritual Theology	3
Natural World Foundation	3–4	Pe 115, Wellness for Life	1
Th 345, Theology of Vatican II	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Electives	6
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	15–16		16

### Senior Year

Th 340, Christ and the Trinity	3	Ea 440, Seminar	3
Electives	13	Electives	10
		Ea 479, Youth Ministry Internship (For NES track: Ea 477, Catechetical Practicum)	1–4
		Ea 488, Senior Comprehensive	cr
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	16		14–17