

Learning Goals for the Department

Students be able to

1. Understand the religious dimensions of human experience, history, and cultures;
2. Critically analyze religious expressions in sacred texts, art, ritual practices, and ethical commitments;
3. Respect cultural and religious diversity in local and global contexts;
4. Appreciate the relationship between religious commitment and efforts to address injustice and live ethically; and
5. Recognize the ways in which the Catholic Christian tradition addresses the fundamental questions of human existence.

Alignment with Academic Learning Goals

Graduates will	1	2	3	4	5
Demonstrate an integrative knowledge of the human and natural worlds;	X				X
Develop habits of critical analysis and aesthetic appreciation;		X			
Apply creative and innovative thinking;					
Communicate skillfully in multiple forms of expression;					
Act competently in a global and diverse world;			X		X
Understand and promote social justice;				X	X
Apply a framework for examining ethical dilemmas;					
Employ leadership and collaborative skills;					
Understand the religious dimensions of human experience.	X				X

TRS Graduate Students are expected to have successfully met all five goals at a *masters* level:

1. Exhibits a nuanced understanding of the key terms and methodologies of the diverse subfields within the academic study of religion, including knowledge of diversity and development within these subfields; is able to articulate and apply in depth a particular methodology to a specific religious question or topic.
2. Critically analyzes religious texts, art, doctrines, practices, and other expressions in light of their historical, cultural, and social contexts; understands the methods, sources, and research tools necessary for academic research of these expressions.
3. Demonstrates a deep awareness of multiple religious worldviews and is able to engage in the kind of inter-religious dialogue that leads to mutual respect and understanding.
4. Assesses and applies multiple religious or ethical frameworks to complex issues, with an awareness of the various interrelated causes of injustice and a commitment to respond evidenced in action for the common good.
5. Exhibits a nuanced understanding of the key terms and methodologies within Catholic systematic theology, and the ability to address strengths and weaknesses of differing theological approaches.

Alignment with Assessment Measures

Measure	1	2	3	4	5
Assignments for Coursework and Thesis/Essay	x	x	x	x	x

There is an additional goal for graduate students:

6. Demonstrates aptitude and facility with standard practices of advanced academic research in theology and religious studies and a potential for original work in the field.

This is assessed through the thesis/essay.