

THEOLOGY

Mission Statement

The mission of the Theology program is to provide both an academic and a practical competency in Orthodox Christianity, within the context of a broad awareness of other Christian denominations and of world religions.

This program provides a foundation for lifelong engagement, empathetically and critically, with theology and religion, which together laid the foundations of the contemporary west and which continue to be major drivers of human motivation, world events, and global social realities. Students attain religious literacy as they are exposed to the theology and history of Orthodox Christianity, and to its liturgical arts and scriptural tradition. In addition, students study practices related to sustaining and developing an Orthodox Christian community.

This course of study prepares students for either lay or ordained ministry, scholarly work in the academy, or careers which require a strong foundation in theology. The major is designed in particular for students who seek an active role in parish ministry, whether immediately upon graduation or after pursuing graduate programs at Holy Cross.

Theology Program Goals

During their course of study:

1. Students will be prepared for service in the Church or related settings, and for further studies in graduate programs.
2. Seminarian students will be prepared for ordained service in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or in other Orthodox jurisdictions.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Theology program will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Biblical narrative, its theological and liturgical expression, and its historical and cultural context.
2. Identify the doctrines, ethics, and social teachings of the Orthodox Church according to the Church Fathers and Ecumenical Councils, and their articulations in the spiritual and intellectual traditions of the Church across time.
3. Chart the historical legacy of the Christian church, the structure and role played by world religions, and the scholarly study of both.
4. Apply theology to pastoral and parish settings through practical competencies such as religious fundraising, religious education, evangelism, and pastoral guidance.
5. Practice the liturgical arts necessary for Orthodox Christian worship, such as Byzantine chant and typikon, and articulate the theology and history of iconography and church architecture.

Theology Course Requirements

New Testament in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Old Testament in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Great Christian Thinkers	3 cr.
Theories and Methods for Study of Religion	3 cr.
Beginning Ancient Greek I	3 cr.
Beginning Ancient Greek II	3 cr.
Theology Capstone Seminar	3 cr.
Service Rubrics	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Chant I	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Chant II	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Chant III	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Art & Architecture or, Byzantine History	3 cr.
Theology of Icons	3 cr.
Religion in America	3 cr.
Evangelism: Theology & Method	3 cr.
Teaching through Sacred Story	3 cr.
Ministry of Fundraising	3 cr.
Individualism & Secularism	3 cr.
Psychology Elective	3 cr.

General Elective

3 cr.

Total: 54 cr.

Theology Capstone Seminar

All students will complete the Theology Capstone Seminar during their senior year, resulting in a Capstone paper. The completed Capstone paper should bring together one of the Program Learning Outcomes of the Theology program, a student's research expertise, and the student's hoped-for vocational direction. The Capstone necessitates multiple drafts that are subjected to heightened peer review and regular feedback from the instructor.

Suggested Minors for a BA in Theology

The Bachelor of Arts in Theology is explicitly designed to pair with a minor corresponding to a student's career and professional interests. Hellenic College offers Minors in:

Classics - For students interested in graduate work in Patristics, Liturgics, or Theology, or careers in teaching, museum curating, or writing.

Education - For students interested in educational careers, such as teaching, tutoring, youth education, or working in educational administration.

Literature & History - For students considering advanced academic work in Literature or History, or pursuing careers in content creation such as journalism, writing, publishing, or teaching.

Philosophy - For students focusing on questions of theological ethics, social ethics, or systematic theology, or who are interested in pursuing careers in law or in non-profit organizations.

Psychology & Human Development - For students interested in counseling, or who want to prepare for pastoral work, youth ministry, or missionary work.

Seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Because Seminarians of the GOA are preparing to serve in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, GOA seminarians are required to complete a Minor in Modern Greek Language & Culture. This Minor ensures that students entering into the MDiv program will be able to complete the MDiv within three years, instead of the typical four years. Such language and cultural study is one aspect of their general obligation to prepare themselves to serve with dignity and confidence in the cultural milieu of *Romaiosyne* which characterizes our Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, and our Archdiocese, which is its largest eparchy.

Thus, in addition to their Bachelor of Arts in Theology, GOA seminarians must take an additional 15 credits in Modern Greek, or take 12 credits of Modern Greek and then complete a further three credits with a course related to Modern Greek history, culture, or literature.

Since all students will have already completed six credits of Modern Greek through our Foundations Forward Core curriculum, GOA seminarians will graduate with a total of 18-21 credits in the Modern Greek language.

In order to facilitate their mastery of this language, GOA seminarians have the option to avail themselves of Hellenic College's tuition-free Kallinikeion Summer program in Modern Greek. There, they can earn six credits of Modern Greek, at the level appropriate for them, in four intensive weeks ending in mid-June.

GOA seminarians also have the option to spend one of their eight semesters abroad in Greece through College Year in Athens, in order to aid their future success in leading the parishes and ministries of the Greek Archdiocese.

Therefore, a GOA seminarian will finish four years of Hellenic College with:

- A Bachelor of Arts in Theology
- A Minor in Modern Greek Language & Culture

And, by pushing themselves, might also complete:

- A Certificate in Sacred Arts
- A semester abroad in Athens, Greece.

Modern Greek Language

- Students with prior knowledge of Modern Greek may take a placement exam to determine the level at which their studies will begin. Students whose skills in Modern Greek qualify them to skip courses will have those courses waived from their total requirement, and may be given 6 credit-hours to be applied toward the Hellenic College Core language requirement.
- In the event that more than six credits of Modern Greek language are waived, a GOA seminarian could apply a maximum of six additional credits towards the Minor in Modern Greek Language and Culture.
- GOA Seminarian students who are native Modern Greek speakers will receive 6 credits in the Hellenic College Core language requirements and have the option to complete another minor.

The Certificate in Sacred Arts

All students at Hellenic College have the option to complete the Certificate in Sacred Arts. This certificate includes two courses which are already required within the B.A. in Theology program - Theology of Icons and Byzantine Art & Architecture. Thus, by taking an additional four of the 1.5-credit fine arts courses in either Drawing, Iconography, Sculpture, or Calligraphy, etc., Theology students will earn this additional credential as they enter either service to the Church, advanced study, or a professional field of their choice.

The Minor in Theology (15 Credits)

Students in other programs of Hellenic College may choose to minor in Theology. Per the academic policies of Hellenic College, students may not use courses already taken in fulfillment of Hellenic College Core Requirements toward the minor requirement. Taking any five courses in Theology satisfies the requirements for the Minor in Theology.

Bachelor of Arts in Theology Program Map

Fall	Spring
<u>Semester I (Fall)</u>	<u>Semester II (Spring)</u>
Freshman Year	Freshman Year
Ancient World to the Birth of Christ 3 cr.	Byzantium, Holy Russia, and the Medieval World 3 cr.
Intro. to Orthodoxy 3 cr.	Discovering Christ in the Scriptures 3 cr.
World of Greek Heroes 3 cr.	Mathematics for Acct. & Finance 3 cr.
Great Concert Halls of Boston 3 cr.	The Museums of Boston 3 cr.
Composition and Style 3 cr.	Analysis of Literature 3 cr.
Research & Executive Management 1.5 cr.	<i>Spring break: Service trip with Dean</i> 0 cr.
Total Credits: 16.5	Total Credits: 15
<u>Summer I</u>	
Kallinikeion Modern Greek 6 cr.	
<u>Semester III (Fall)</u>	<u>Semester IV (Spring)</u>
Sophomore Year	Sophomore Year
Intro. to Psychology 3 cr.	The Struggle for Identity in the Modern Age 3 cr.
Doctrine and Devotion 3 cr.	The Natural World 3 cr.
Socrates through Augustine 3 cr.	Classics Elective 3 cr.
World Religions in Boston 3 cr.	Business or Lit. Elective 3 cr.
Literature of Vocation 3 cr.	Community Engagement 3 cr.
Total Credits: 15	Service Immersion 1.5 cr.
	Total Credits: 16.5
<u>Semester V (Fall)</u>	<u>Semester VI (Spring)</u>
Junior Year	Junior Year
The NT in the Orthodox Church 3 cr.	The OT in the Orthodox Church 3 cr.
Great Christian Thinkers 3 cr.	Byzantine Art & Architecture <i>or</i> Byzantine History 3 cr.
Teaching through Sacred Story 3 cr.	Individualism & Secularism 3 cr.
General Elective (or Minor course) 3 cr.	The Ministry of Fundraising 3 cr.
Service Rubrics 1.5 cr.	Byzantine Chant I** 1.5 cr.
Total Credits: 13.5	Total Credits: 13.5
<u>Semester VII (Fall)</u>	<u>Semester VIII (Spring)</u>
Senior Year	Senior Year
Theology of Icons 3 cr.	Religion in America 3 cr.
Theories and Methods 3 cr.	Evangelism: Theology & Method 3 cr.
Beg. Ancient Greek I 3 cr.	Beg. Ancient Greek II 3 cr.
Psychology Elective 3 cr.	Capstone Seminar 3 cr.
Byzantine Chant II 1.5 cr.	Byzantine Chant III 1.5 cr.
Total Credits: 13.5	Total Credits: 13.5

Total Credits: 123

** These chant courses can be fulfilled with another liturgical music course appropriate for the student's jurisdiction