

### **M.A.C.D. FINAL PAPER PROJECT: Evaluation Criteria**

According to the Marquette University Graduate Bulletin, M.A.C.D. students will be required to write a comprehensive paper that integrates what they have learned in their courses and applies what they have learned to their career goals. This M.A.C.D. final paper should aim to integrate biblical, historical and systematic sources while examining a topic of interest to the student. The writer can use a biblical, historical, and/or systematic method in constructing the paper. Papers, moreover, can be focused on one's future career and therefore can have a practical aim: e.g., developing a method of communicating a particular doctrine or moral value to high school students or to children or to adults in religious education programs; developing a lesson plan for teaching a particular moral or doctrinal issue; suggesting ways of dealing with health care crises in a hospital or home situation; dealing with problems that occur in explaining Christian doctrines in a pastoral situation or in secular and pluralistic culture.

The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Did the paper clearly formulate and state the topic to be addressed, identifying those aspects of Scripture, Church History, and Christian Doctrine to be treated?
2. Did the paper accurately and critically represent the historical and social contexts of theological texts and topics?
3. Did the paper state the particular career goals or religious or theological interests to which the student seeks to reflectively apply what he or she has learned?
4. Is the paper well-written, with clear thesis statement, a well developed argument, appropriate topic sentences, and clear concluding paragraph? Are correct grammar, mechanics, usage and spelling employed?
5. Did the paper show evidence of the proper use and citation (following the Chicago Manual of Style) of sources?

Examples of M.A.C.D. papers that have been approved can be obtained from the Theology Department's Assistant to the Chair, Mrs. Gale Prusinski.