M.A.C.D. FINAL PAPER PROJECT

According to the University catalogue, M.A.C.D. students will write a comprehensive examination paper that integrates what they have learned and applies what they have learned to their careers. 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.

M.A.C.D. students should choose a director (one of Marquette’s full-time theology professors) for the final paper, work in conjunction with the professor in developing the topic and outline of the paper. The paper should be at least twenty pages in length, with appropriate use and citation of sources. It should be, moreover, an original paper, not a revision of a previous course paper. Once the paper is finished and approved by the student’s director, it should be submitted to a second reader (chosen by the student) for evaluation. After both the director and the second reader have read and approved the paper (after appropriate corrections have been made), they will fill out the evaluation form (on line) for the paper and submitted it to the director of the M.A.C.D. program. The student will in turn submit two copies of the corrected and revised and approved paper to the director of the M.A.C.D. program at least a week before the Graduate School deadlines for the submissions of required papers for graduation (in either
December, May, or August). Students should also be aware that they must sign up with the Graduate School for graduation months prior (you need to look up the date on the Graduate School’s calendar of events for each year) to their intended graduation (December, May, or August). Students need to allow their paper director at least a month to approve the paper, and their second reader at least two weeks to examine the paper. Students are responsible for knowing the deadlines for final papers and meeting them accordingly.

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?

An example of a proper cover page for the M.A.C.D. paper is post on the Theology website.