

Master of Arts in Christian Doctrine

The M.A.C.D. focuses on an ecumenical appropriation and communication of Christian doctrine for those teaching in Catholic high schools, for those in other religious education or formation programs, and for persons interested in theological enrichment or in serving various other needs in their religious communities.

Students in this program have full access to an extraordinary collection of faculty experts whose research and scholarship are widely recognized in fields of biblical, historical, systematic and ethical theology. (For an introduction to the faculty, their special competencies, and their published scholarship, see www.marquette.edu/theology.)

What You Will Learn

The M.A.C.D. program is designed for those who seek a fuller grasp and appreciation of their faith and its relationship to their personal and professional endeavors. Your peers will be teachers of religious studies, physicians, lawyers, men and women in business, diocesan and parish employees, and retired persons pursuing second careers as active church lay people. With this degree, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of Scripture, Church History and Christian Doctrine.
- Articulate clear understanding of the historical and social context of all theology and evangelization.
- Use critical tools for reading and interpreting the texts of the Christian tradition, and evidence the skills necessary for theological reflection.
- Employ critical tools for examining contemporary social and ecclesial contexts in which education and pastoral work take place.
- Write an essay examining approaches to teaching and pastoral work in the light of the Christian tradition's understandings of education and evangelization.
- Identify bibliographical resources and guides that will enable a continuation of theological education.

Requirements

The M.A.C.D. degree requires 30 credit hours of course work: 21 credit hours from the core courses (listed below), and 9 credit hours of electives (listed below). At least one-half of the 30 credit hour requirement must be fulfilled in strictly graduate-level course work. Up to 15 credit hours of third-level theology courses are acceptable for graduate credit if additional readings and writing assignments are arranged with the respective professor and completed satisfactorily. After successfully completing all courses, students will write a comprehensive examination paper that integrates what they have learned and that applies it to their careers.

CORE COURSES

Of the 30 credit hours of course work, 21 credit hours must be taken from the core courses (listed below), or, in certain circumstances and in consultation with a student's academic adviser, an equivalent from the third-level theology courses:

THEO 6110 Old Testament Method

THEO 6120 New Testament Method

THEO 6210 Origen to Late Medieval

THEO 6220 Late Medieval to Early Modern

THEO 6410 Introduction to Theological Ethics

THEO 6320 Christian Doctrine #1

THEO 6321 Christian Doctrine #2

ELECTIVE COURSES

Of the 9 credit hours of electives (i.e. three courses), the student must choose one course in each of the principal theological disciplines (biblical, historical, and systematic). With the permission of one's academic advisor, a student may on occasion select electives from the following third level courses in the undergraduate bulletin:

One from any of the following biblical courses: Theo 5000 to Theo 5190

One from any of the following historical courses: Theo 5200 to Theo 5290

One from any of the following systematic courses: Theo 5300 to Theo 5540

Full-time and Part-time Students

The M.A.C.D. is open to full- and part-time students. Depending on their backgrounds, full-time students can complete the program in two years or less. Part-time students will normally complete the program in three to five years of study.

Requirements for Enrollment

• Prerequisite — An undergraduate degree with a major in theology (religion, religious studies) or another appropriate background is required. Opportunities to make up undergraduate deficiencies are available. Student should have some familiarity with Scripture and basic Christian doctrines.

*ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

Applicants for the M.A.C.D. must submit the following special materials to the Graduate School:

- Results of the Graduate Record Examination score (General Aptitude Test).
- Three letters of recommendation.
- A list of undergraduate theology courses taken, including names of teachers if possible.
- A short personal statement specifying reasons for study, vocational objectives, and special areas of interest.

Applications are evaluated beginning in November. Applicants are informed of the admission decision starting in March. Those admitted to the program may begin study at the start of any semester (fall, spring or summer).

Transfer of Credit

After completing six hours of graduate work at Marquette, an M.A.C.D. student may apply for transfer of credit for no more than six credit hours of courses taken at another institution.

Financial Aid Opportunities

The Department of Theology draws on the university's tuition scholarships that are established especially for teachers in Catholic high schools. Catholic high school teachers can apply to the Graduate School for such aid for the M.A.C.D. Program. Visit www.grad.mu.edu for details.