

# CHRISTENDOM GRADUATE SCHOOL

## GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR MA PROGRAM

This document is meant to help Christendom graduate students plan their course programs and ensure that they can take the courses they need in a timely manner. It contains information about what courses you need to take, when they are offered, both on campus and online, and the order in which you should take your courses. Once you know your concentration and have decided how many courses you will be able to take each semester, you should work out a plan of when you will take the courses you need, paying special attention to when courses are offered so that you don't get caught short needing a final course that may not be offered for a few semesters.

Courses are divided into four cycles, with two cycles of courses being offered each semester, one on campus and one online. So if you are limited to on-campus OR online courses, please be aware that in general any particular course is offered only about once every fourth semester. However, the courses of the "core," which are required of all MA students regardless of concentration, are offered *online* more frequently: every year, either in the fall or spring semester. On the other hand, they are offered *on campus* only in their cycles. So the number one rule of planning your program is to make sure you take your less-frequently-offered requirements when they are offered and not leave them to the end, especially if you plan to graduate within the next two years.

There is no prescribed order for taking the courses of the MA program, and the numbering of courses is purely arbitrary. While you may take courses in any order, however, here are some suggestions that will facilitate your learning and help you get more from the program:

- THEO 590 (Introduction to Theology) is a prerequisite course that provides a foundation of the rest of the program and should be taken as close to the beginning of the program as possible.
- If you take Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin early in your program, you can then use your Latin proficiency in your other courses!
- Since philosophy is the handmaiden of theology, it is recommended to take PHIL 602, Philosophy of God and Man, earlier rather than later – it introduces terminology and concepts that are used in theology.
- If you are in the moral theology concentration, you should take THEO 604 earlier rather than later, as this fundamental moral theology course introduces many teachings that are expanded in the other moral theology courses.
- Old Testament is required before taking New Testament – these courses are offered online every spring and fall.

Most MA students need to take two or more electives in addition to the required courses. You may choose for your electives any courses that interest you, either the required courses of the other concentrations or other elective courses that are occasionally offered.

## REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE MA DEGREE

### Core Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in all concentrations, and for the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas (all MA students must take these courses)

THEO 601: God the Father	PHIL 602: Philosophy of God and Man
THEO 602: Christology	PHIL 603: Philosophical Errors
THEO 603: Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology	SCRI 606: Old Testament
THEO 604: Moral Theology	SCRI 607: New Testament

### Requirements for the Systematic Theology Concentration\*

HIST 610: Church History, Part I	THEO 712: Patristics
HIST 611: Church History, Part II	THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments

### Requirements for the Moral Theology Concentration\*

THEO 720: Theological Anthropology	THEO 724: Sexual and Biomedical Ethics
THEO 721: The Virtues	THEO 802: Catholic Social Teachings

### Requirements for the Evangelization and Catechesis Concentration, and the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas

EDUC 602: The Catechetical Tradition	EDUC 604: Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization
EDUC 603: Catechetical Program Administration	THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments
(EDUC 606: Apologetics may be taken in place of EDUC 603 or 604 with permission)	

### Requirements for the Theology of the Consecrated Life Concentration

(offered only during the residential summer program, on campus)

CONL 621: History of the Consecrated Life	CONL 624: The Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas
CONL 622: Liturgy and the Consecrated Life	CONL 625: Consecrated Life and Vatican II
CONL 623: Scriptural Foundation of Consecrated Life	CONL 626: Consecrated Life in Canon Law

### Requirements for the Spirituality Concentration

(offered only during the residential summer program, on campus)

SPIR 630: The Spiritual Life	SPIR 633: Christian Asceticism
SPIR 631: The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life	SPIR 634: Virtues and the Spiritual Life
SPIR 632: Christian Prayer and Contemplation	SPIR 635: Spiritual Direction

\*Latin competency is also required for the moral theology and systematic theology concentrations.

## THE CYCLE OF COURSE OFFERINGS

At the Christendom Graduate School the required courses (both core requirements and special requirements for the concentrations) are divided into four cycles, each containing approximately one-fourth of the requirements. Two cycles are offered every semester, one of them on campus and the other in the online format. Every fall semester, either cycle A or cycle C is offered on campus (and either cycle B or D online), and every spring either cycle B or D is offered on campus and cycle A or C online. The summer cycle sequence is independent from the fall-spring sequence: either Cycle A or Cycle C is offered at Front Royal (and either Cycle B or Cycle D online) in the summers of odd-numbered years, while Cycle B or Cycle D is offered on campus (and either Cycle A or Cycle C online) in even-numbered years. The schedule of cycles for upcoming years is listed below. Required courses in the core program are offered online more frequently, either every fall or every spring online, not merely in their cycles. Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is usually offered on campus in the spring semester and online in the fall, and the prerequisite Introduction to Theology course is offered online every semester. Consecrated life and spirituality courses are offered only in the summer, as part of the Vita Consecrata Institute, at the Front Royal campus.

Full-time students normally attend the Christendom Graduate School for four consecutive semesters in order to take all of the required courses for the master's degree: either four consecutive summers or two academic (fall & spring) years. It is possible to accelerate the program by combining on-campus and online courses, and also by attending year-round.

The courses offered during each of the cycles are listed below. Courses marked with an asterisk are only offered on campus, during the summer program at the Front Royal Campus.

### Cycle A

THEO 601	God the Father
PHIL 602	Philosophy of God and Man
EDUC 604	Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization
THEO 724	Sexual and Biomedical Ethics
HIST 610	Church History, Part I
CONL 622	Liturgy and the Consecrated Life*
CONL 626	Consecrated Life in Canon Law*
SPIR 633	Christian Asceticism*

### Cycle C

THEO 603	Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology
<b>SCRI 606</b>	<b>Old Testament**</b>
EDUC 603	Catechetical Program Administration
THEO 720	Theological Anthropology
THEO 712	Patristics
CONL 623	Scriptural Foundation of Consecrated Life*
CONL 625	Consecrated Life and Vatican II*
SPIR 634	Virtues and the Spiritual Life*

**\*\*SCRI 606 is required before taking SCRI 607. SCRI 606 is offered online every spring**

### Schedule of Cycles

### Cycle B

THEO 602	Christology
PHIL 603	Philosophical Errors
EDUC 602	The Catechetical Tradition
THEO 802	Catholic Social Teachings
HIST 611	Church History, Part II
CONL 621	History of the Consecrated Life*
SPIR 630	The Spiritual Life *
SPIR 631	Sacraments in Spiritual Life*

### Cycle D

THEO 604	Moral Theology
<b>SCRI 607</b>	<b>New Testament**</b>
THEO 605	Liturgy and Sacraments
THEO 721	The Virtues
CONL 624	Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas*
SPIR 632	Christian Prayer and Contemplation*
SPIR 635	Spiritual Direction*

campus / online
SPRING 2016: D / C
SPRING 2017: B / A
SPRING 2018: D / C
SPRING 2019: B / A

campus / online
SUMMER 2016: B / D
SUMMER 2017: C / A
SUMMER 2018: D / B
SUMMER 2019: A / C

campus / online
FALL 2016: A / D
FALL 2017: C / B
FALL 2018: A / D
FALL 2019: C / B

## *Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered ON CAMPUS*

Note: Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is offered on campus every spring semester.

<b>Core</b>	<b>Systematics</b>	<b>Morals</b>	<b>Evang/Cate</b>	<b>Consecrated Life &amp; Spirituality</b>
<b>SPRING 2017/2019/2021 (Cycle B)</b>				
PHIL 603 THEO 602	HIST 611	THEO 802	EDUC 602	
<b>SUMMER 2017/2021 (Cycle C) – IN FRONT ROYAL</b>				
THEO 603 SCRI 606	THEO 712	THEO 720	EDUC 603	CONL 623 CONL 625 SPIR 634
<b>FALL 2017/2019/2021 (Cycle C)</b>				
THEO 603 SCRI 606	THEO 712	THEO 720	EDUC 603	
<b>SPRING 2018/2020/2022 (Cycle D)</b>				
THEO 604 SCRI 607	THEO 605	THEO 721	THEO 605	
<b>SUMMER 2018/2022 (Cycle D) – IN FRONT ROYAL</b>				
THEO 604 SCRI 607	THEO 605	THEO 721	THEO 605	CONL 624 SPIR 632 SPIR 635
<b>FALL 2018/2020/2022 (Cycle A)</b>				
PHIL 602 THEO 601	HIST 610	THEO 724	EDUC 604	
<b>SUMMER 2020/2024 (Cycle B) – IN FRONT ROYAL</b>				
PHIL 603 THEO 602	HIST 611	THEO 802	EDUC 602	CONL 621 SPIR 630 SPIR 631
<b>SUMMER 2019/2023 (Cycle A) – IN FRONT ROYAL</b>				
PHIL 602 THEO 601	HIST 610	THEO 724	EDUC 604	CONL 622 CONL 626 SPIR 633

## *Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered ONLINE*

The prerequisite course, THEO 590: Introduction to Theology, is available online every semester. Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is offered online every fall semester.

<b>Core</b>	<b>Systematics</b>	<b>Morals</b>	<b>Evangelization &amp; Catechesis</b>
<b>SPRING 2017/2019/2021 (Cycle A)</b>			
PHIL 602 THEO 601 THEO 603 SCRI 606	HIST 610	THEO 724	EDUC 604
<b>SUMMER 2017/2021 (Cycle A)</b>			
PHIL 602 THEO 601	HIST 610	THEO 724	EDUC 604
<b>FALL 2017/2019/2021 (Cycle B)</b>			
PHIL 603 THEO 604 THEO 602 SCRI 607	HIST 611	THEO 802	EDUC 602
<b>SPRING 2018/2020/2022 (Cycle C)</b>			
PHIL 602 THEO 601 THEO 603 SCRI 606	THEO 712	THEO 720	EDUC 603
<b>SUMMER 2018/2022 (Cycle B)</b>			
PHIL 603 THEO 602	HIST 611	THEO 802	EDUC 602
<b>FALL 2018/2020/2022 (Cycle D)</b>			
PHIL 603 THEO 602 THEO 604 SCRI 607	THEO 605	THEO 721	THEO 605
<b>SUMMER 2019/2023 (Cycle C)</b>			
THEO 603 SCRI 606	THEO 712	THEO 720	EDUC 603
<b>SUMMER 2020/2024 (Cycle D)</b>			
THEO 604 SCRI 607	THEO 605	THEO 721	THEO 605

