BULLETIN

Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College

Last Revised Spring 2023

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Christendom College

Graduate School Bulletin

1. Mission

Christendom College is a Catholic coeducational college institutionally committed to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. The College provides a Catholic liberal arts education, including an integrated core curriculum grounded in natural and revealed truth, the purpose of which at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is to form the whole person for a life spent in the pursuit of truth and wisdom. Intrinsic to such an education is the formation of moral character and the fostering of the spiritual life. This education prepares students for their role as faithful, informed, and articulate members of Christ's Church and society.

The mission of Christendom College, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, is "to restore all things in Christ," by forming men and women to contribute to the Christian renovation of the temporal order. This mission gives Christendom College its name. The Graduate School in particular contributes to the restoration of all things in Christ by working for the renewal of the Catholic mind. The Graduate School exists to form those who seek to respond more fully to their baptismal vocation to understand, relate, explain and defend the Catholic faith, especially those in educational apostolates.

2. The Notre Dame Graduate School

The Notre Dame Graduate School (NDGS) is Christendom College's Graduate School of Theology. Its masters-level program offers a comprehensive grasp of the Catholic faith, preparing students for advanced graduate studies and for various ministries in the Catholic Church. The program is flexible and accommodating, allowing students of all ages and from all over the world to attend either part-time or full-time, year-round, summers-only, or winters-only, and also to study at a distance through online delivery of course content.

To teach the Faith involves more than the transmission of information about religion; it also requires a manner of teaching that bears witness to the relationship between faith and life. Along with formal instruction in theology, the Christendom Graduate School offers opportunities for growth in both spiritual and social domains. This comprehensive perspective fosters a genuine family spirit among administration, faculty, staff, and students. First and last, the Christendom Graduate School sees itself as the servant of both the universal and the local Church, avowing its fidelity to that faith "which comes to us from the Apostles."

The Christendom Graduate School is committed to educating in accord with the Vicar of Christ. As an Apostolic institution, the Notre Dame Institute in 1971 was authorized by the Holy See to grant the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma to those students who qualified for it. This diploma signifies the highest ecclesial competency in catechetics. Christendom College continues to award this diploma in addition to its academic degrees.

2.1. Accreditation and Affiliation

Christendom College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degrees. Christendom College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Christendom College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website www.sacscoc.org.

Christendom College functions in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is licensed by the Virginia State Council on Higher Education to grant the Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Arts degrees. Students and prospective students may find the information resources of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) of use in planning for college and careers. SCHEV has created an institutional profile for each Virginia public college and university, and for each independent college or university participating in the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program: http://www.schev.edu/.

The Graduate School also offers distance learning to students located outside the state of Virginia and accepts the scope of authorization provided under State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) "Policies and Standards" document issued by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). The Graduate School accepts oversight from SCHEV in all SARA-related matters.

Christendom College is located within the Diocese of Arlington and submits to the authority of the Bishop of Arlington regarding the orthodoxy of Catholic doctrine taught at the College.

Inquiries about Christendom College's admissions policies, financial aid, and the like, should be addressed directly to Christendom College.

2.2. History

In 1969, the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon, Ohio, and Msgr. Eugene Kevane, then-Dean of the School of Education at the Catholic University of America, founded the Notre Dame Institute in Middleburg, Virginia. Originally, its purpose was to train religious sisters from various communities to teach Catholic doctrine to other teachers, religious and lay.

In 1971, John Cardinal Wright, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, established the Notre Dame Institute as an official catechetical institute recognized and authorized by the Holy See. This association with the Holy See enables Christendom College to award the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, the highest ecclesial award for catechetics. That same year, the Notre Dame Institute affiliated with the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, through which the Master of Arts degree in Religious Education was granted. In order to expand its mission, the Notre Dame Institute began to accept lay men and women into the program. Additionally, the Bishop of Arlington entrusted the Institute with the theological formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate. In order to have its degrees more accepted in North America, the Notre Dame Institute terminated its relationship with the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in favor of granting its own degrees under the authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Notre Dame Institute then moved from Middleburg to the Northern Virginia (metro Washington, DC) area. In June 1994, the Institute settled in Alexandria, Virginia, next to Queen of Apostles Church and School.

Upon the recommendation of the Boards of both the Notre Dame Institute and Christendom College, the two institutions merged on February 1, 1997. The Notre Dame Institute became the Notre Dame Graduate School (NDGS) of Christendom College and began offering summer residential courses at Christendom's Front Royal campus. In 2006, the Christendom Graduate School, in conjunction with the Institute on Religious Life, began to offer the *Vita Consecrata* Institute (VCI)— an annual opportunity for study and renewal for consecrated persons— as part of the Graduate School's summer academics. Christendom is once again providing theological formation to candidates for the permanent diaconate of the Diocese of Arlington. The Christendom Graduate School introduced its certificates in 2007, and the online delivery of the MA program began in 2009. In the summer of 2022, the Christendom Graduate School moved from its Alexandria, VA campus—where it had been located since 1994—to permanently co-locate with Christendom's undergraduate campus in Front Royal, VA. From this new location, the Christendom Graduate School hopes, with the help of God's grace, to continue to improve its half-century tradition of service to the Church.

2.3. Campus Locations

The main campus of Christendom College is located at 134 Christendom Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630. The Graduate School's summer academics have been located on this campus for many years. As of Summer 2022, the Graduate School is now permanently located on this campus year-round. In the Summers, use of the residence and dining halls make it possible for students from all over the world to attend. The hundred-acre campus is situated in a beautiful pastoral setting on the Shenandoah River near the Blue Ridge Mountains, and includes facilities for a full range of recreational, academic, social, and religious activities.

The Graduate School is located within St. Martha's Hall, on the East side of campus. Within St. Martha's Hall, there are offices, a classroom, and a selected collection of books from the St. Paul Library. Other campus facilities include the St. John the Evangelist Library, Christ the King Chapel, walking trails, and esay access to the river. Currently, there are no residential facilities available for graduate students during the Fall and Spring

semesters. However, students from out of town should be able to find affordable housing in the vicinity of Front Royal. The closest airport is Dulles International Airport (IAD).

3. Master of Arts in Theological Studies Program

The Christendom Graduate School offers the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree. Students may choose to concentrate their studies in the subdisciplines of systematic theology, moral theology, sacred Scripture, evangelization and catechesis, consecrated life, or spirituality. Special course requirements for each of these concentrations are outlined subsequently. In general, the student successfully completes a minimum of forty-two (42) graduate credits in theology, including core required courses, special required courses for his or her concentration, and elective courses. The student may submit a thesis in lieu of six credits of electives. Courses for the MA program may be taken on campus or online, or by a combination of both formats. The student must maintain a "B" (3.0) average throughout the program. The student is expected to become familiar with the works of the Christendom Graduate School Bibliography, which support the curriculum, provide suggested material for research, and help prepare the student for comprehensive exams. Finally, the student must apply for Candidacy for the Master's Degree, and then pass a Comprehensive Exam including both written and oral portions.

3.1. Online MA

The Christendom Graduate School's Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is available online to distance students. The online courses are the same challenging courses that are taught on the Christendom campus, with the same professors; they are available in video format, in which the lectures are recorded during an actual class at Christendom. Many of the courses are delivered in pre-recorded, asynchronous format, which allows students to work on their courses whenever they wish. Most courses are also offered in live online format, for which the students log on at a certain time each week and can interact with the professor and with each other. While students in the consecrated life and spirituality concentrations may take their core requirements online, the consecrated life and spirituality courses are only offered on campus as residential summer courses, as part of the 4-week *Vita Consecrata* Institute, detailed below. Therefore, the degree cannot be earned entirely online if either of these two concentrations is pursued.

Students may combine online courses with classroom courses in any combination that works for them. Many students find that attending the six-week residential summer courses, and also taking online courses over the winter, combines the great experience of the Christendom community with the advantage of finishing the degree in a shorter time. Degree requirements are the same for on-campus students and for distance students. At the end of their course of studies, distance students must travel to Virginia to take the comprehensive exam. Admissions requirements and procedures are the same for online/distance and on-campus students. Online students have the same easy access to academic advisement, to the Graduate School administrative staff, and to the Graduate School professors as on-campus students have, usually via telephone and email. The Christendom Libraries are committed to accommodating distance students and providing them full use of the library resources and services for their studies and research.

The Graduate School also offers distance learning to students located outside the state of Virginia and accepts the scope of authorization provided under State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) "Policies and Standards" document issued by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). The Graduate School accepts oversight from SCHEV in all SARA-related matters

3.2. 5th Year MA

Christendom Graduate School's Master of Arts in Theological Studies may also be awarded one year after earning a Bachelor's degree from any accredited institution. This can be done by taking advantage of the Graduate School's summer terms as early as the summer following a student's junior year of undergraduate studies. The Graduate School's summer term and August commencement date make it possible to complete four academic terms—the standard equivalent of two traditional academic years—by August of the year following the student's completion of his or her undergraduate degree.

3.3. Summer MA

The Graduate School offers residential summer courses for those students who wish to pursue graduate theological studies during the summer. These courses are held at the main campus of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. Residential summer classes are popular with students who are not able to move to the Northern Virginia area, and with teachers and others who have summers off from work. Many of the fall/spring graduate students also attend residential summer classes, thus accelerating their studies by going year-round; similarly, many online/distance students attend residential summer classes in order to experience the Christendom academic community.

The Christendom Graduate School's summer residential courses run for six weeks, ending around the end of July. A full cycle of courses is offered over the course of four summers. Both the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree and the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma may be earned by taking summer courses, over the course of at least four summers. Students may also combine residential summer classes with courses taken online over the fall and spring semesters in order to finish their degrees in a shorter time. The beautiful riverside campus with its full range of recreational possibilities provides a perfect milieu for the study, prayer, and fellowship that make up Christian academic community life.

4. Non-degree Academics

4.1. The Apostolic Catechetical Diploma

The Christendom Graduate School is authorized by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy to award both the Advanced and the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas. These catechetical diplomas are distinct from the academic Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies, although the two may be earned simultaneously. The diploma is awarded by authorization of the Holy See in recognition of the catechist's competence in the field of catechesis and his or her personal commitment to teach Catholic doctrine in communion with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

To receive the Advanced Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, a student must have a bachelor's degree and successfully complete forty-two (42) graduate credits of course work, including the core requirements of the MA and the special requirements for the evangelization and catechesis concentration. No academic credits are awarded to those students pursuing the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diploma; for this reason, the basic diploma may be awarded to students who do not possess a bachelor's degree but who complete the required fourteen (14) courses. Tuition rates for students pursuing the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diploma are the same as the tuition rates for those students taking for-credit courses.

Either Apostolic Diploma may be earned online. Research papers are not required of students who are pursuing the basic diploma, and comprehensive exams are not required for either catechetical diploma. Students must maintain a "B" (3.0) average in order to be eligible to receive these Apostolic Diplomas.

4.2. The Vita Consecrata *Institute*

The *Vita Consecrata* Institute (VCI) is an annual summer opportunity for theological study and spiritual renewal for the ordained and those in consecrated life. It is part of the Graduate School's summer academics, and it is co-sponsored by the Institute on Religious Life. Professors who themselves exemplify the consecrated life teach courses in spirituality and in the theology of the consecrated life, as reflected in the mission and life of the Church. The VCI is designed to assist participants to grow in a deeper understanding and appreciation of the consecrated life as "a gift of the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit," to grow in their own spiritual lives, and to be able to act as spiritual mentors or guides for others. The VCI is ideal for religious in formation, those preparing for perpetual vows, consecrated persons looking for a sabbatical or period of renewal, in addition to those who are preparing for formation or leadership roles within their institutes. Although most participants do not take the courses for academic credit, it is possible to earn graduate credit towards the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree, with a concentration in the theology of the consecrated life or in spirituality, or towards a certificate in theology of the consecrated life or in spirituality. Students may take all of the courses for the MA degree (consecrated life or spirituality concentration) over the course of four consecutive summers, or they may elect to take some of their core requirements either online or on campus during the fall and spring semesters. The spirituality and consecrated life courses are offered only during the summers, in conjunction with the *Vita Consecrata* Institute. The spirituality courses of the VCI are open to lay persons with approval, but the consecrated life courses are restricted to those living or discerning the consecrated life.

4.3. Academic Certificates

For those students who are not interested in a master's degree, but who still desire to complete an organized sequence of courses, the Graduate School offers several academic certificates. Students may earn certificates in systematic theology, moral theology, evangelization & catechesis, consecrated life, spirituality, and scripture studies. Certificate students take the same challenging and informative courses as degree-seeking students.

Even students without a bachelor's degree can earn a certificate, although graduate credit for the courses can only be granted to those who have submitted proof of a bachelor's degree. Usually 12 – 15 credits are required for each certificate, and a GPA of at least 3.0 (B average) must be maintained. All certificates except spirituality and consecrated life may be earned completely online. Please see below for the course requirements for the various certificates.

4.4. Casual & Audit Students

Students may enroll in both on-campus and online courses as casual students without working towards a degree, or they may audit courses, both on campus and online, without earning graduate credit. Credits earned as a casual student automatically apply toward the degree program if a student later decides to earn a degree, certificate or diploma. Christendom courses qualify for catechist certification in many dioceses, and for teaching licensure and re-certification in most states. Many students take them for adult faith formation or for personal enrichment. Casual students seeking graduate credit for transfer to another graduate school must provide proof of a bachelor's degree.

4.5. Diaconate Formation

The Christendom Graduate School provides theological formation to the candidates for the permanent diaconate of its home diocese, the Diocese of Arlington. These courses are also available online to other dioceses who may wish to entrust the academic formation of their deacon candidates to Christendom. A curriculum of twelve to sixteen courses is adaptable to the particular needs of each diocese. While most students take these courses strictly for ministerial formation, courses offered by the Graduate School for diaconal formation can be taken for academic credit and applied toward the completion of the Master of Arts degree. For more information, please contact the Christendom Graduate School.

4.6. Catechist Formation & Certification

The Christendom Graduate School offers basic catechist formation courses and advanced, Master Catechist formation courses. While the basic catechist formation courses were designed to serve catechists of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, IL, they are open to students from any diocese. The Master Catechist formation courses were designed to serve catechists from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA and are currently only open to students endorsed by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. Students looking for further education in evangelization and catechesis beyond the catechist formation options detailed above may earn the Christendom Academic Certificate in Evangelization and Catechesis, the MA in Theological Studies degree with the concentration in evangelization and catechesis, or the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma.

4.6.1. Basic Catechist Formation

The Christendom Graduate School offers basic catechist formation and certification online to interested individuals who wish to deepen their understanding of the teachings of the Faith, and to parishes and dioceses for formation of catechists. Basic catechist formation is divided into two courses, each one semester-long, containing thirty hours of online video. These basic courses cover the principles of evangelization and catechesis and guide the student through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, with special emphasis on the Scriptural foundations for Catholic teachings. Reflections from the professor's personal experiences in catechesis suggest ways to teach doctrinal concepts to various age groups. The student who completes both of the catechist formation courses receives catechist certification from Christendom. Catechist formation courses are not taken for graduate credit, nor do they apply towards the MA degree.

4.6.2. Master Catechist Formation

The Graduate School offers advanced-level catechist formation to catechists of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA. Master Catechist certification courses are taken over a two-year period of formation that leads to a Master Catechist certification through the Diocese of Arlington. The curriculum comprises six courses in total. Four-courses, each one tracking one of the four parts of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church,* constitute the nucleus of the curriculum. These courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters of two successive academic years and may be taken on campus, live online, or asynchronously online. In addition, one asynchronous online course is taken each of the two summers following the fall-spring academic cycle. All students take one summer course in sacred Scripture, and have an option between Fathers of the Church and Apologetics for their second summer course.

Master Catechist courses can be taken for two academic credits each and can be applied toward the Master of Arts degree. To earn academic credit for Master Catechist courses, a student must fulfill certain extra requirements specified in the syllabus for each Master Catechist course. The table below sets out the Master Catechist curriculum and details how its courses intersect with the Master of Arts degree program. Please contact your academic advisor or the Registrar with specific questions or to seek advice on academic planning.

Master Catechist Year 1

Master Catechist Curriculum		Credit value	MA correlate
Spring 1	MCP 501/The Profession of Faith	2 cr.	EDUC 604
Summer 1	MCP 505/Introduction to the Bible (online)	2 cr.	SCRI 607
Fall 1	MCP 502/The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	2 cr.	Elective (2 of 9 cr.)

Master Catechist Year 2

Master Catechist Curriculum		Credit value	MA correlate
Spring 2	MCP 503/Life in Christ	2 cr.	Elective (2 of 9 cr.)
Summer 2	MCP 506/Fathers of the Church (online) or MCP 507/Apologetics (online)	2 cr. 2 cr.	THEO 712 THEO 606
Fall 2	MCP 504/Christian Prayer	2 cr.	Elective (2 of 9 cr.)

5. Curriculum

5.1. Description

The curriculum at Christendom, centered upon Christ as professed in the baptismal faith of the Church, is designed to enable students to penetrate the truths of the Faith, to hand on an authentic understanding of the basics of sacred theology, and to continue their study of theology with competence. In a curriculum that systematically integrates instruction in theology, philosophy, morals, sacred Scripture, catechetics, and spirituality, each course contributes to the formation of the theologian and catechist. Theology courses provide a rigorous, academic study of core areas of the Faith, while those in philosophy establish an understanding of the preambles of the Faith and the nature of the human person. The Word of God gets in-depth penetration in Scripture courses; spirituality and morality courses reflect on the meaning of life in Christ; and evangelization and catechesis courses focus on both the content and methods of the Church's missionary and catechetical tradition.

Christendom College acknowledges in its curriculum the essential role played by St. Thomas Aquinas in Catholic theology. Courses in philosophy and theology are taught according to the spirit, method, and principles of the Common Doctor. The graduate-level courses at Christendom presuppose a general knowledge of the Catholic Faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The curriculum delves into the mysteries of the Faith using as primary sources Sacred Scripture, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and magisterial and conciliar documents, especially those of Vatican II, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI. At Christendom the study of theology proceeds within the Faith, being, as St. Thomas Aquinas says, "the science of those things which can be concluded from the articles of Faith."

Students matriculating in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program choose to concentrate their studies in systematic theology, moral theology, sacred Scripture, evangelization and catechesis, the theology of the consecrated life, or spirituality. All students take certain core courses which are foundational to the various concentrations. Three of these are in systematic theology (God the Father, Christology, Holy Spirit & Ecclesiology), one is in moral theology, two are in Scripture (Old Testament and New Testament), and another two are in philosophy (Philosophy of God and Man, and Philosophical Errors).

The purpose of the required philosophy courses is to assist students in a philosophical understanding of God, his creation, the nature of the human person, and certain philosophical errors which influence contemporary thought and scholarship, with the ultimate aims of providing a philosophical foundation for theological studies and of enabling students to present the Faith more reasonably and effectively.

The systematic theology concentration allows a student to study the articles of faith more deeply than in the core requirements, by studying them from the vantage point of the writings of the Fathers of the Church, and also historically, by way of the challenges to the Faith encountered in the Church's history. The moral theology concentration aims to train theologians who are steeped in an understanding of the Christian moral tradition, especially as it applies to contemporary moral questions, so they can explain and defend the Church's moral teaching. The sacred Scripture concentration forms students in a deep contemplation of the narrative of salvation history, enabling them to grasp the content and unity of the Old and New Testaments, and the theological significance of the Bible. Following the mandate of Jesus "to teach all nations," the concentration in evangelization and catechesis equips the student with the history and theology of the Church's evangelization tradition, along with the practical skills needed to direct successfully a parish's efforts to extend the Kingdom of God through various faith formation activities. The theology of the consecrated life concentration focuses on various aspects of the consecrated life as reflected in the missions and life of the Church. It is designed for, and limited to, persons called to the consecrated life who attend the summer *Vita Consecrata* Institute. The

spirituality concentration aids the student in developing his or her own spiritual life and also trains him to act as spiritual guide or mentor to others. Although spirituality courses are only offered in conjunction with the summer *Vita Consecrata* Institute, they are open to lay persons in addition to consecrated persons and clergy. The curriculum at the Christendom Graduate School is a flexible one, without any prescribed order in which courses must be taken. Students may begin in any semester, may enroll either full-time or part-time, and may combine on-campus with online courses in any combination they wish. Forty-two credits are required for the master's degree and for the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas.

5.2. Program Learning Goals for the MA Degree

1) Scripture and Hermeneutics: Students will be able to explain and apply Catholic principles of biblical interpretation, understand the unity and content of the Old and New Testaments in light of apostolic Tradition and with attention to the analogy of faith, and be able to discern the scriptural foundations of Catholic doctrines.
2) Magisterial Teaching: Students will be able to explain and apply sound interpretive principles to magisterial teaching and will know principal doctrines contained in such major acts of the Magisterium as the first four ecumenical councils, the Council of Trent, the First and Second Vatican Councils, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and papal teachings of the last century.
3) Thomas Aquinas: Students will understand and apply the principles and methods of St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as develop a basic firsthand knowledge of his teaching on such core topics as (but not limited to) the relationship of faith and reason, creation, the human person, the Trinity, the Incarnation and the moral life.
4) **Analytics and Dialectics:** Students will be able to formulate a sound argument, discern and appropriately employ distinctions, and to pick out, analyze, sympathetically recast, critique and defend arguments.
5) **Research:** Students will demonstrate the ability to produce a sustained piece of research-based theological writing, drawing upon such resources as periodicals, databases, reference works and other primary and secondary literature relevant to theology.

5.3. Required Courses for the MA Degree

5.3.1. Core Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree and the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas

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

5.3.2. Requirements for the Systematic Theology Concentration*

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

5.3.3. Requirements for the Moral Theology Concentration*

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

5.3.4. Requirements for the Sacred Scripture Concentration†‡

SCRI 602: Pentateuch	SCRI 610: Synoptic Gospels
SCRI 701: Prophets	SCRI 710: Johannine Corpus
SCRI 702: Psalms & Wisdom Literature	SCRI 711: Pauline Epistles & Acts of the Apostles

5.3.5. Requirements for the Evangelization and Catechesis Concentration, and for the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas

EDUC 602: The Catechetical Tradition	EDUC 604: Methods of Catechesis & Evangelization
THEO/EDUC 606: Apologetics	THEO 605: Liturgy & Sacraments

5.3.6. Requirements for the Theology of the Consecrated Life Concentration

(Offered only during the summers, on campus)

CONL 621: History of the Consecrated Life	CONL 624: The Vows According to St. Thomas
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

5.3.7. Requirements for the Spirituality Concentration

(Offered only during the summers, 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

Special Notes:
†Students concentrating in sacred Scripture are exempt from the core OT and NT requirements. In lieu of these, they take two additional concentration-specific courses.
*Competency in Latin is also required for the moral theology and systematic theology concentrations. Please see §5.3.9 below for details.
‡Competency in Greek, Hebrew, or another biblical language is also required for the sacred Scripture concentration. Please see §5.3.9 below for details.

5.3.8. Prerequisite Course

Students entering the MA program without sufficient previous coursework in theology must successfully complete THEO 590: Introduction to Theology, preferably at the beginning of their studies. The credits earned in this course do not count in the required credit total for the Master of Arts degree or the Apostolic Diploma, and a student may request that the Registrar record his or her grade for this course as a "pass/fail" instead of a letter grade, which is included in the student's GPA. This course is available every semester, but only in online format.

5.3.9. Language Requirements

It is an MA-degree requirement that students concentrating in systematic or moral theology demonstrate an ability to read Latin. It is an MA-degree requirement that students concentrating in sacred Scripture demonstrate

an ability to read Greek, Hebrew, or another biblical language, with permission from the Dean. There is no language requirement for the consecrated life, evangelization and catechesis, and spirituality concentrations. To fulfill the language competency requirement for the systematic theology and moral theology concentrations, students may successfully complete LATN 501/Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin. To fulfill the language competency requirement for the sacred Scripture concentration, students may successfully complete GREK 501/Introduction to Biblical Greek or HEBR 501/Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. The credits earned in language courses do not count toward the 42 graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree or Apostolic Diploma, and students may take language courses either for a letter grade or on a pass/fail basis. Language courses may not be audited—they must be taken for credit and active participation is required. Students with prior experience with Latin, Greek, or Hebrew may test out of the respective course by taking a competency exam consisting of a Scriptural or theological passage to be translated into English with the aid of a dictionary.

5.3.10. Online Courses

At the Christendom Graduate School, the MA curriculum is identical for online/distance students and for local/classroom students. Individual online courses are also as identical as possible to the classroom versions, and in most cases include video recordings of onsite classes. Students may take all of their courses online, or they may combine online and on-site courses in any combination. Students may earn the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree and/or the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma online. Degree requirements are the same for all students, whether local or distance. All courses of the systematic theology, the evangelization and catechesis, and the moral theology concentrations are available online, in addition to some elective courses. While students in the consecrated life and spirituality concentrations may take their core requirements online, the consecrated life and spirituality courses are only offered on campus during the summer as part of the VCI. Online courses at Christendom include both pre-recorded, asynchronous courses which students may access at any time, and live online courses to which students must log on at specified times for an interactive course experience.

5.3.11. Sequence of Courses

In general, there is no strictly required order for taking the courses in the MA program. While students may take courses in any order, below are some recommendations that will facilitate learning and help students get more from the program:

- THEO 590 (Introduction to Theology) is a prerequisite course that provides a foundation for the rest of the program and should be taken as close to the beginning of your studies as possible.
- It is a good idea to fulfill any language requirements early on so that the skills gained may be applied in subsequent coursework.
- Since philosophy is the handmaiden of theology, it is recommended students fulfill their philosophy requirements earlier rather than later – these courses introduce terminology and concepts that are employed in theology courses.
- Because “the study of the sacred page is … the soul of Theology” (DV 24), students are encouraged to fulfill their core Scripture requirements toward the beginning of their program of studies.
- Students must take OT courses before NT—the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old.
- It is a good idea to take THEO 601 before THEO 602 or THEO 603.

- Students concentrating in moral theology should take THEO 604 early in the program, as this fundamental moral theology course introduces many teachings that are expanded in the other moral theology courses.
- Electives may be chosen from the requirements of other concentrations, or from other elective courses that are occasionally offered.

Tier Order of Courses

Below is a broad ideal ordering to give students a general idea of which classes should come before others. This is not a strict linear order or requirement.

Tier 1	THEO 590, PHIL 602, SCRI 606 Scripture Concentration: SCRI 602 (or, SCRI 701, SCRI 702)
Tier 2	PHIL 603, SCRI 607, THEO 601, THEO 604, Languages Sripture Concentration: SCRI 701 (or, SCRI 702, SCRI 610)
Tier 3	THEO 602, THEO 603, THEO 604, Languages Scripture Concentration: SCRI 610 (or, SCRI 710, SCRI 711)
Tier 4	Scripture: Remaining courses (ideally, OT courses before NT courses) Systematic Theology: HIST 610, HIST 611 Moral Theology: THEO 720, THEO 721 Evangelization & Catechesis: EDUC 602, EDUC 604
Tier 5	Scripture: Remaining courses (ideally, OT courses before NT courses) Systematic Theology: THEO 712, THEO 605 Moral Theology: THEO 724, THEO 802 Evangelization & Catechesis: THEO 605, THEO 606
Tier 6	Thesis, Electives

5.4. Certificate Requirements

Certificate in Systematic Theology	**Certificate in Moral Theology**
THEO 601: God the Father THEO 602: Christology THEO 603: Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology THEO 604: Moral Theology THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments	THEO 604: Moral Theology THEO 720: Theological Anthropology THEO 721: The Virtues THEO 724: Sexual and Biomedical Ethics THEO 802: Catholic Social Teachings
Certificate in Scriptural Studies Any five Scripture courses with a 2/3 split between OT and NT weighted either way toward OT or NT =OR= Any four Scripture courses with an even 2/2 split between OT and NT, and two semesters of a biblical language (six courses total)	**Certificate in Evangelization and Catechesis** EDUC 602: The Catechetical Tradition EDUC 604: Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments THEO 606: Apologetics SCRI 606: Old Testament* * Another scripture course may be substituted by special permission.
Certificate in Consecrated Life	**Certificate in Spirituality**

(Available summers only, on campus)	(Available summers only, on campus)
CONL 621: History of the Consecrated Life	SPIR 630: The Spiritual Life
CONL 622: Liturgy and the Consecrated Life	SPIR 631: The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life
CONL 623: Scriptural Found. of Consecrated Life	SPIR 632: Christian Prayer and Contemplation
CONL 624: The Vows According to St. Thomas	SPIR 633: Christian Asceticism
CONL 625: Consecrated Life and Vatican II	SPIR 634: Virtues and the Spiritual Life
CONL 626: Consecrated Life in Canon Law	SPIR 635: Spiritual Direction

5.5. The Cycle of Course Offerings

At the Christendom Graduate School, the required courses (both core requirements and special requirements for the concentrations) follow an academic cycle made up of four semesters. Each semester contains approximately one-fourth of the requirements. Every fall semester, courses from either Semester A or Semester C are offered live on campus (and also livestreamed). Every spring, courses from either Semester B or Semester D are offered live on campus (and also livestreamed). The summer academic cycle is independent from the fall-spring course sequence. Summer course offerings follow their own independent four-year sequence, and do not necessarily track with the preceding spring semester (for example, a summer semester following Spring Semester B will not necessarily be Semester C; rather, each summer semester sequentially follows the summer semester that preceded it).

During the Fall and Spring semesters, there is no separate cycle of asynchronous courses. However, in order to prevent students from having to wait for an extended period to take a core course, all **core courses** will be offered either live or asynchronously every year. So, for example, when the courses from Fall Semester A are being offered live on campus, the core courses for Fall Semester C are simultaneously being offered asynchronously. Likewise, when Fall Semester C is being offered live on campus, the core courses of Fall Semester A are at the same time being offered asynchronously. The same is true of the B/D pairing of Spring semesters. Whenever schedules permit, the alternate semester's core courses will be offered live in addition to the regularly scheduled live courses for that semester (eg., whenever possible during Fall Semester A, the core courses from Fall Semester C will run live; if this is not possible, the core courses from Fall Semester C will at least run asynchronously). In the summers, there is a separate cycle of asynchronous courses. The summer asynchronous online schedule is independent of the summer on-campus schedule. Summer courses offered live on campus are not livestreamed to online students; only asynchronous courses are available online in the summers.

The cycle of semesters for upcoming years is listed below. The prerequisite courses, Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin and Introduction to Theology, are typically offered asynchronously online every semester. Consecrated life and spirituality courses are offered only in person and only in the summers, as part of the *Vita Consecrata* Institute.

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: this can be accomplished either in four consecutive summers or in 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 semester are listed below. Courses marked with an asterisk are only offered during the summers at the Front Royal Campus (i.e., they are not available to be taken online).

(FALL) SEMESTER A		(SPRING) SEMESTER B	
PHIL 602	Philosophy of God and Man	THEO 601	God the Father
SCRI 606	Old Testament	SCRI 607	New Testament
HIST 610	Church History, Part I	HIST 611	Church History, Part II
THEO 720	Theological Anthropology	THEO 721	The Virtues
SCRI 602	Pentateuch	SCRI 701	Prophets
EDUC 602	The Catechetical Tradition	EDUC 604	Methods of Catechesis & Evangelization
CONL 622	Liturgy & the Consecrated Life*	CONL 621	History of the Consecrated Life*
CONL 626	Consecrated Life in Canon Law*	SPIR 630	The Spiritual Life*
SPIR 632	Christian Prayer and Contemplation*	SPIR 631	Sacraments in Spiritual Life*

(FALL) SEMESTER C		(SPRING) SEMESTER D	
THEO 602	Christology	THEO 603	Holy Spirit & Ecclesiology
PHIL 603	Philosophical Errors	THEO 604	Moral Theology
THEO 712	Patristics	THEO 605	Liturgy & Sacraments
THEO 724	Sexual & Biomedical Ethics	THEO 802	Catholic Social Teachings
SCRI 702	Psalms & Wisdom Literature	SCRI 710	Johannine Corpus
SCRI 610	Synoptic Gospels	SCRI 711	Pauline Epistles & Acts of the Apostles
THEO 606	Apologetics	CONL 624	Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas*
CONL 623	Scriptural Foundations of Consecrated Life*	SPIR 633	Christian Asceticism*
		SPIR 635	Spiritual Direction*
CONL 625	Consecrated Life and Vatican II*		
SPIR 634	Virtues and the Spiritual Life*		

Academic Cycle: Schedule of Semesters
(Summer semesters show on-campus/ online)

Fall 2022: A	Spring 2023: B	Summer 2023: A/C
Fall 2023: C	Spring 2024: D	Summer 2024: B/D
Fall 2024: A	Spring 2025: B	Summer 2025: C/A
Fall 2025: C	Spring 2026: D	Summer 2026: D/B
Fall 2026: A	Spring 2027: B	Summer 2027: A/C

*5.6. Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered **On Campus & Livestreamed****

Core	Systematic	Moral	Scripture	Evang. & Cat.	Con.L. & Spir.
		Fall 2022/2024/2026 (Semester A)			
PHIL 602 SCRI 606	HIST 610	THEO 720	SCRI 602	EDUC 602	
		Spring 2023/2025/2027 (Semester B)			
THEO 601 SCRI 607	HIST 611	THEO 721	SCRI 701	EDUC 604	
		Summer 2023/2027 (Semester A)			
PHIL 602 SCRI 606	HIST 610	THEO 720	SCRI 602	EDUC 602	CONL 622 CONL 626 SPIR 632
		Fall 2023/2025/2027 (Semester C)			
THEO 602 PHIL 603	THEO 712	THEO 724	SCRI 610 SCRI 702	THEO 606	
		Spring 2024/2026/2028 (Semester D)			
THEO 603 THEO 604	THEO 605	THEO 802	SCRI 710 SCRI 711	THEO 605	
		Summer 2024/2028 (Semester B)			
THEO 601 SCRI 607	HIST 611	THEO 721	SCRI 701	EDUC 604	CONL 621 SPIR 630 SPIR 631
		Summer 2025/2029 (Semester C)			
THEO 602 PHIL 603	THEO 712	THEO 724	SCRI 610 SCRI 702	THEO 606	CONL 623 CONL 625

					SPIR 634
			Summer 2026/2030 (Semester D)		
THEO 603	THEO 605	THEO 802	SCRI 710	THEO 605	CONL 624
THEO 604			SCRI 711		SPIR 633
					SPIR 635

**On-campus summer courses are not live-streamed*

*5.7. Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered **Asynchronously Online***

The prerequisite courses, THEO 590: Introduction to Theology, and LATN 501: Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin are offered asynchronously online every semester.

Core	**Systematics**	**Morals**	**Scripture**	**Evang. & Cat.**	**Con.L. & Spir.**
Fall 2022/2024/2026 (Semester C **core** courses)					
THEO 602					
PHIL 603					
Spring 2023/2025/2027 (Semester D **core** courses)					
THEO 603					
THEO 604					
Summer 2023/2027 (Semester C)					
THEO 602	THEO 712	THEO 724	SCRI 610	THEO 606	
PHIL 603			SCRI 702		
Fall 2023/2025/2027 (Semester A **core** courses)					
PHIL 602					
SCRI 606					
Spring 2024/2026/2028 (Semester B **core** courses)					
THEO 601					
SCRI 607					
Summer 2024/2028 (Semester D)					
THEO 603	THEO 605	THEO 802	SCRI 710	THEO 605	
THEO 604			SCRI 711		
Summer 2025/2029 (Semester A)					
PHIL 602	HIST 610	THEO 720	SCRI 602	EDUC 602	
SCRI 606					
Summer 2026/2030 (Semester B)					

THEO 601	HIST 611	THEO 721	SCRI 701	EDUC 604
SCRI 607				

5.8. Course Catalog

CONL 621/History of the Consecrated Life (2 credits): An overview of the development of the consecrated life over the centuries showing the Apostolic origins and the growth of consecrated life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit working through founders, saints, and the Magisterium; includes examination of extra-biblical sources with special emphasis on early monastic and Patristic sources.

CONL 622/Liturgy and the Consecrated Life (2 credits): The liturgy as the source and summit of the consecrated life, with examination of various liturgical texts and magisterial documents on the liturgy.

CONL 623/Scriptural Foundations of the Consecrated Life (2 credits): The Scriptural foundations of the consecrated life as found in the Gospels and other New Testament writings, especially those of St. Paul.

CONL 624/The Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas (2 credits): The rich scholastic tradition on the consecrated life as found in St. Thomas Aquinas, including questions in the *Summa Theologiae* as well as "On the Perfection of the Spiritual Life" and the *Contra Retrahentes.*

CONL 625/Consecrated Life and Vatican II (2 credits): The post-conciliar teaching on consecrated life, especially that of Pope John Paul II, including *Redemptionis Donum* and *Vita Consecrata.*

CONL 626/Consecrated Life in Canon Law (2 credits): A close examination of the various canons of the Code concerning the consecrated life, intended to give a general juridical understanding of the consecrated life, as a basis for understanding and interpreting the proper laws of various institutes.

EDUC 602/The Catechetical Tradition: the theology and history of evangelization and catechesis; the methods, models and experiences of evangelization and catechesis from Biblical times throughout the history of the Church; the teachings and normative directives of the Church on evangelization and catechesis.

EDUC 604/Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization: This course explores the purpose and foundations of evangelization and catechesis and the practical processes of the presentation and proclamation of the Faith. Included are a study of human development, natural, moral and spiritual; a survey of evangelization and catechetical methods available for various age groups, levels of spiritual development, and situations, including methods and models for parish evangelization programs, RCIA, sacramental preparation, Bible studies, adult education, retreats, etc. Also included are religious education models, effective public speaking, and use of social media in evangelization.

GREK 501-K/ Koine Greek I: An introductory course aimed at a reading knowledge of Greek especially as used in classical, biblical, and patristic sources. This course focuses on the vocabulary, forms, and syntax of classical, biblical and patristic Greek. This course may be taken on a pass/fail basis and does not count toward the graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree. The course may be taken for undergraduate credit.

HIST 501/Early Christian Literature: An introduction to the literature of early Christianity in historical context. Topics include the spread and inculturation of Christianity as well as its relationships to first-century Judaism and imperial Rome. This course explores the development of the idea of Christianity through early councils and controversies with attention on the thinkers who shaped the history of this development. Focus is placed on an analysis of primary sources from the period. This course may be taken for undergraduate credit.

HIST 610/Church History, Part I: A survey of the history of the Church from its Apostolic origins through the Middle Ages, with special emphasis on theological issues and the contributions of the Church to culture and civilization. Includes the development of the early Church, major councils of the Church, the Monastic tradition, the Eastern Schism, the rise of Islam, and the Crusades.

HIST 611/Church History, Part II: A survey of the history of the Church from the High Middle Ages to the present time, with special emphasis on theological issues and the contributions of the Church to culture and civilization. Includes the Renaissance, Reformation, the Catholic Counter-reformation, the evangelization of the New World, the scientific revolution and Enlightenment, up to the Second Vatican Council.

HIST 700/The Crusades: This course seeks to impart knowledge of the crusading movement from the 11th – 17th centuries with specific emphasis on exploring the modern myths surrounding the Crusades and providing an authentic response. The Crusades are presented primarily as "armed pilgrimages" driven by a holy zeal to liberate conquered Christian lands, and as an organic and integral movement in the life of the Catholic Church. Finally, the course presents a narrative history of the crusading epoch in Church history by focusing on the persons, places and events that shaped this fascinating period of history.

LATN 501-E/ Ecclesiastical Latin I: An introduction to the Latin language by which students may begin to develop reading competency in Latin. The course covers resources and techniques for effective learning of Latin, the Latin case system, the five main cases of the first three declensions, all six verb tenses in the active and passive voices of the indicative mood, and complex sentences and subordination, and several Latin prayers. This course may be taken on a pass/fail basis and does not count toward the graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree. The course may be taken for undergraduate credit.

LATN 502-E/ Ecclesiastical Latin II: A more advanced course in ecclesiastical Latin, building on the introductory-level course, using the same textbook and approach as LATN 501. This course includes the subjunctive mood, the sequence of tenses, the grammar of conditional clauses, common pronouns, the syntax of indirect statements, some irregular verbs, comparative adjectives, the fourth and fifth declensions, and much more. This course may be taken on a pass/fail basis and does not count toward the graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree. The course may be taken for undergraduate credit.

MCP 501/The Profession of Faith (The Creed) (2 credits): This course explores Part I of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It is structured around the Apostles' creed and covers such topics as the existence of God, the nature of revelation and faith, the Trinity, creation, the human person, providence and sin, the Incarnation and saving work of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the last things. This course is the first in a series of courses intended to provide advanced-level catechetical formation through an exploration of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Accordingly, attention will also be given to pedagogical and apologetical issues, as relevant.

MCP 502/The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (2 credits): This course explores Part II of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It begins with the liturgy and the sacramental economy in light of the

Incarnation and Paschal mystery of Christ. Within this broad context, each of the seven sacraments is considered in turn. This course is the second in a series of courses intended to provide advanced-level catechetical formation through an exploration of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Accordingly, attention will also be given to pedagogical and apologetical issues, as relevant.

MCP 503/Life in Christ (2 credits): This course explores Part III of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It begins by considering the final end of the human person created to the image of God, namely, the beatitude to which Christ calls us and enables us to achieve by his grace and law. Within this context, each of the Ten Commandments is considered in turn. This course is the third in a series of courses intended to provide advanced-level catechetical formation through an exploration of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Accordingly, attention will also be given to pedagogical and apologetical issues, as relevant.

MCP 504/Christian Prayer (2 credits): This course explores Part IV of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It begins by considering the biblical foundations for the Christian's call to the life prayer, followed by a consideration of the means of growth in prayer and the progressive stages of union with God. Within this context, each of the parts of the Lord's Prayer is explained in light of the Catholic exegetical and spiritual tradition. Finally, the relationship between liturgy and certain forms of popular piety is explored, along with special issues related to the discernment of spirits, private revelations, and devotions. This course is the fourth in a series of courses intended to provide advanced-level catechetical formation through an exploration of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Accordingly, attention will also be given to pedagogical and apologetical issues, as relevant.

MCP 505/The Bible (2 credits): An investigation of the religious content of the Christian Scriptures in light of the historical, social, and intellectual contexts out of which they emerged. The student will be introduced to problems and methods of interpretation.

MCP 506/Fathers of the Church (2 credits): This is a survey of the literature and authors of Christian antiquity (AD 50-550). Through a reading of primary sources from the period, students will develop an appreciation for the individual voices and personalities of more than a dozen Church Fathers spanning Africa, the Ancient Near East and present-day Europe. Attention will also be given to events, as well as cultural and linguistic contexts that shaped the development of ideas in Christian antiquity. This course, if taken for credit, is worth two graduate academic credits. By permission of the Dean, this course can be exchanged with the cognate courses THEO 712/Patristics and HIST 501/Early Christian Literature.

MCP 507/Apologetics (2 credits): Apologetics is the reasonable explanation and defense of the Catholic Faith utilizing Scripture, theology, Church history, and philosophy to explain Catholic beliefs and practices, such as Tradition, the Papacy, justification, the divinity of Christ, miracles, the problem of evil, the Real Presence, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Catholic moral teachings. The course especially focuses on controversial points of Catholic doctrine and their rationale, those teachings which are most often misunderstood by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

PHIL 602/Philosophy of God and Man: A study of Thomas Aquinas's metaphysics and anthropology, based on the *Summa Theologiae.* Includes the proofs of the existence of God; the relations between essence and *esse* in creatures and in God; the attributes of God; human nature; knowledge, emotions and will; the spirituality, subsistence and immortality of the human soul; the union of soul and body, and the concept of *personhood*.

PHIL 603/Philosophical Errors: A study of some of the false philosophies of man and God, especially in so far as these form the intellectual basis for the errors and shortcomings in contemporary popular thought and in Biblical exegesis, with a critique of these theories and a comparison of them with the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas.
SCRI 502/The Bible: An investigation of the religious content of the Christian Scriptures in light of the historical, social, and intellectual contexts out of which they emerged. The student will be introduced to problems and methods of interpretation. This course may be taken for undergraduate credit.

SCRI 602/The Pentateuch: This course explores God's revelation in the inspired writings of ancient Israel as contained in the first five books of Sacred Scripture. It focuses on the continuity of the accounts recorded in these books, issues concerning their historicity, and their teachings, including their profound typological significance. This course presents the biblical theology of Creation, Man, sin, election, covenant, revelation, as well as the reception of these books in the Church Fathers and other commentators in order to interpret these writings through solid Catholic exegesis.

SCRI 606/Old Testament: This course entails a study of the Old Testament canon as being fulfilled in the New Testament. Special focus will be on the revelatory stages of salvation history, on biblical typology and prophecy, and on other teachings taught explicitly in these books and through the examples of Old Testament figures. In this course, students will be introduced to Catholic hermeneutical principles and will interpret biblical texts using careful analysis aided by commentators, especially those in the Catholic tradition.

SCRI 607/New Testament: This course entails a study of the books of the New Testament as a fulfillment of the Old Testament. It focuses especially on Jesus Christ as the divine Messiah, the institution of the Kingdom of God, the growth of the Church, and the teachings for living between the first and second coming of Christ. This course is geared to acquiring experience in interpreting biblical texts using careful analysis aided by commentators, especially those in the Catholic tradition.

SCRI 610/The Synoptic Gospels: The course reflects on the meaning and content of the gospel genre in the New Testament. It highlights the relationship between the Synoptic Gospels and the Johannine gospel. It also provides an in-depth study of Ss. Matthew, Mark, and Luke, as well as the Acts of the Apostles. Special emphasis is given to the Infancy Narratives, the Lord's Supper, and his passion, death and glorious resurrection.

SCRI 701/The Prophets: This course explores the prophets, their messages, and their contexts in order to gain a fuller appreciation of their role in history, especially in foretelling the coming of the divine Messiah, the institution and nature of the Church, and the End Times. This course will also focus on the prophets as allegories of Christ, the use of the prophecies in the New Testament, as well as their relevance for life in the modern/postmodern world. The reception of the prophetic books in the Chuch Fathers and other commentators will also be explored in order to interpret these writings through solid Catholic exegesis.

SCRI 702/The Psalms and Wisdom Literature: This course entails an examination of the Psalms and Wisdom literature of ancient Israel. Students will study these texts as inspired Scripture, written by the ancient sages and scribes, and will learn to read and appreciate these texts as guides for right living, for prayer, and for Christological reflection. This course also focuses on the reception of these books in the Church Fathers and other commentators in order to interpret these writings through solid Catholic exegesis.

SCRI 710/The Johannine Corpus: This course entails a study of John's gospel, his epistles, and the Apocalypse, focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Beloved Disciple. The contribution of

this corpus to the New Testament, as well as the influence of the Old Testament on this literature, will be examined. Students will study the reception of this corpus in the Church Fathers and other commentators in order to interpret the writings of St. John through solid Catholic exegesis.

SCRI 711/The Pauline Epistles & Acts of the Apostles: This course explores the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul. It addresses St. Paul's teachings related to the tensions Christians face in living in the world during the time after the inception of the messianic age yet before its manifest consummation. Major topics include: the growth of the early Church and its continuity with the Catholic Church today, the relationship between the Old Law and the New Law, the inclusion of the gentiles, and the reception of St. Paul's letters in the Church Fathers and other commentators in order to interpret these writings through solid Catholic exegesis.

SCRI 723/The Gospel of St. John: The purpose and beauty of the Johannine text are examined in light of the Catholic Faith; included are the Fourth Gospel's complementary role to the Synoptic Gospels, its significance for Trinitarian dogma, its contribution to sacramental theology, its value for Christological research, its place in the devotional life, and the unique role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in redemption.

SCRI 724/Gospel of Mark: This exegesis of the action-filled Gospel of St. Mark highlights the doctrinal and spiritual truths within the text and examines themes such as the New Exodus of the New Covenant, the Messiah as "Servant," the miracles that disclose Christ's deity, the real humanity of the Son of God, his justice and mercy to sinners, the opposition between Jesus and the devil, the Last Supper within the economy of salvation, and the vivid accounts of the Savior's Passion, Resurrection and Ascension.

SCRI 801/The Deuterocanonicals: This course explores the deuterocanonical books of the Old Testament (Baruch, Judith, Tobit, Sirach, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom). This course will especially focus on the Hellenistic age, which entailed the fight of the Jews to preserve their faith in an encroaching and antagonistic Greek culture. By examining the texts written in and around this period, students will gain an understanding of the ideas (such as resurrection, sacrifice, prayers, tribute), institutions (such as the Pharisaical schools, Sadducees), and the political situation current in the world of Jesus Christ in the Gospels.

SPIR 630/The Spiritual Life (2 credits): This course covers general themes concerning the spiritual life such as the universal call to holiness, the stages of the spiritual life, the role of Christ and the Church in the spiritual life, the supernatural organism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, personal vocation, and the four essential means to perfection, namely, the sacraments, the life of prayer, self- denial and asceticism, and charity working through the virtues. It also treats the secondary means to Christian perfection.

SPIR 631/The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life (2 credits): This course examines the sacraments as essential means to Christian perfection, looking at each of the sacraments of Christian initiation and how they insert one into the paschal mystery of the Lord: baptism as the sacrament of rebirth into Christ, confirmation as the sacrament of Christian maturity and spiritual militancy, and the Eucharist as the sacrament of perfection. Also treated are the sacrament of penance as a means of overcoming sin and attachments and growing in virtue, and the various Christian states of life - marriage, consecrated life and priesthood - as concrete ways of living the universal call to holiness. (Students may take THEO 605, Liturgy and Sacraments, in place of this course.)

SPIR 632/Christian Prayer and Contemplation (2 credits): This course first looks at Christian prayer as it is treated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church,* and at the stages of growth in prayer as presented in the *Interior Castles* of St. Teresa of Avila. In light of these primary sources, it treats the foundational role of vocal prayer, in particular liturgical prayer, in the spiritual life; but the greater part of the course's focus is on mental

prayer, beginning with meditation and culminating in infused contemplation. Prayer is presented as an essential means to Christian perfection and illustrates how growth in the spiritual life is effected and manifested by growth in prayer.

SPIR 633/Christian Asceticism (2 credits): This course studies the ascetical life of penance and self-denial and the necessary role it plays in the Christian life of virtue and prayer. It takes as its primary framework the teaching of St. John of the Cross on the purifications the soul must experience to reach Christian perfection. Within that context the ascetical practices of fasting and vigils, custody of the senses and the disciplining of the passions, and the mortification of the intellect, memory, and will are explained. Lastly, the course looks at the passive dark nights the soul must endure to reach union with God, and the power of redemptive suffering.

SPIR 634/Virtues and the Spiritual Life (2 credits): This course provides an overview of the theological and moral virtues, their role in living out the Christian life, the necessity of growth in virtue to reach Christian perfection, charity as the essence of Christian perfection, and the role of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The primary focus is on the cardinal or moral virtues which the spiritual director assists the directed person to develop. (Students may take THEO 721, The Virtues, in place of this course.)

SPIR 635/Spiritual Direction (2 credits): This course examines the place and importance of spiritual direction in the Christian spiritual life. It covers the role and limits of psychology and psychological counseling in spiritual development; the qualities that should be found in spiritual directors and those directed; the role of retreats and other religious experiences in spiritual direction; the difference between spiritual formation, spiritual counseling and spiritual direction; the discernment of spirits and vocational discernment; and the various schools of spirituality. It also provides practical advice for the ministry of spiritual direction.

THEO 590/Sacred Doctrine: Principles & Mission: This introduction to the graduate-level study of theology treats comprehensively the meaning of theology, its various disciplines, major methods and basic terminology. Areas of focus are Divine Revelation and the characteristics of the human response, relationships between faith and reason, Scripture and Tradition, doctrine and its development, and the roles of the Magisterium and the theologian in the Church. Special attention is also given to the history of theology, with particular emphasis on the patristic, medieval, and post-Vatican II periods. Prerequisite for all M.A. and Diploma students unless exempt because of prior theological study. The credits for this 500-level course do not count toward the graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree.

THEO 601/God the Father: An introduction to the doctrine of God, the Triune Creator, especially from the theological perspective of St. Thomas Aquinas. The course includes the existence of God and the divine attributes; our ability to know and speak about God; God's knowledge, will, creative action and providence; the patristic development of Trinitarian dogma; the processions and personal relations within the Godhead; the divine persons considered with respect to the one divine essence and to each other; and the external divine missions. This course combines historical and systematic methods in a sustained engagement with primary sources, especially Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae* I.

THEO 602/Christology: An introduction to the mystery of the Incarnation, from the perspectives of Scripture, patristic theology and St. Thomas Aquinas. Course includes the nature and method of Christology, the 'quests' for the historical Jesus, foreshadowings of the Incarnation and Jesus in the Old Testament, the patristic development of Christology, the motive for the Incarnation, the personal union of Christ's divine and human natures, the human nature assumed by the Word, the theological implications of the union of natures, the

Paschal Mystery and our redemption. This course combines historical and systematic methods in an engagement with Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae* III.

THEO 603/Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology: A study of the Person of the Holy Spirit, both within the Trinity and within the mystery of the Church, as expressed in Scripture and Tradition. Magisterial documents such as *Mystici Corporis Christi*, *Suprema haec sacra*, and *Lumen Gentium* receive particular attention. Also studied in detail are the properties and marks of the Church, the privileged role of the Mother of God in the Church, and the universal call to holiness.

THEO 604/Moral Theology: A study of the fundamental principles of moral theology in light of the revelation of God's law and the grace of Christ, including the nature and end of morality, the vocation to beatitude, freedom and the morality of human acts, moral conscience, infused habits, the nature of sin, the commandments and the natural law, the question of moral absolutes, and an examination of some contemporary trends in moral theology.

THEO 605/Liturgy and Sacraments: This course is devoted to a study of the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church encompassing the historical, theological and canonical developments of the sacraments, and situating them in their relation to the entirety of the liturgy as a celebration of Christ and his Church.

THEO 606/Apologetics: The reasonable explanation and defense of the Catholic Faith utilizing Scripture, theology, Church history, and philosophy to explain Catholic beliefs and practices, such as Tradition, the Papacy, justification, the divinity of Christ, miracles, the problem of evil, the Real Presence, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Catholic moral teachings. The course especially focuses on controversial points of Catholic doctrine and their rationale, those teachings which are most often misunderstood by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

THEO 701/Grace: This course explores the Catholic doctrine of grace through Scripture, the Fathers of the Church and St Thomas Aquinas. Topics include the relation of law and grace, justification, divine/human cooperation, human participation in divine life, the relationship between nature and grace, sanctification, merit, and the divisions of grace.

THEO 705/The Second Vatican Council: The course provides an overview of the historical and theological context of the Second Vatican Council, surveying its documents and their continuing implementation in the life of the Church. Students will acquire an understanding of the underlying theology, historical context and pastoral orientation of the Council, familiarity with the content and structure of significant conciliar documents, and a deeper understanding of the Church and its role in the world.

THEO 712/Patristics: A study of the Eastern and Western Fathers of the Church, with emphasis on their contributions to Church doctrine, morals and the spiritual life, including their historical context and the significance of their lives and writings for the contemporary Church.

THEO 720/Theological Anthropology: This course examines the biblical roots and theological tradition of the study of the human person, the origins of mankind and the nature of the human person as a free and acting subject, Jesus Christ as the archetype and perfection of humanity, the concept of man and woman as image of God, the unity in sexual difference, and the nuptial meaning of the body. The course will also examine briefly the question of the end of man and the relationship between nature and grace.

THEO 721/The Virtues: A study of the nature of virtue and the types of virtue continuing with a focus on the particular virtues, specifically, the four cardinal virtues with their related virtues, and the three theological virtues. The course is based on the *Summa Theologiae* II of St. Thomas Aquinas and involves close examination and discussion of the texts. The aim of the course is to revive an authentically Thomistic ethics based on the human person.

THEO 724/Sexual and Biomedical Ethics: Moral and canonical issues related to procreation and the care of human life, including fornication, homosexual acts, contraception, sterilization, natural family planning, the prophylactic use of condoms, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, cloning, embryo adoption/rescue, abortion/craniotomy, ectopic pregnancies, organ transplantation, "permanent vegetative states," end-of-life issues, euthanasia, brain death, and the mission and identity of Catholic health care institutions.

THEO 802/Catholic Social Teachings: This course examines the role of the Church in society and focuses on the major papal and conciliar documents since Pope Leo XIII. Special attention is given to teachings about the family, the political and economic spheres of society, the international community, and the Holy See's unique contributions on the world stage. The sacredness of life, the dignity of man, his creation in the image of God, and his personhood are emphasized as foundational to social morality.

THEO 820/Marian Spirituality & Devotion: This course examines the life, dispositions, and actions of the Mother of God insofar as she is the unique human model of a created person giving a perfect response to the offer of grace from the Triune God through the Incarnate Word. Our devotional life in relation to the Blessed Virgin Mary is studied as aiming at the forming of her exemplary dispositions in our own lives. Some particular issues focused on include: magisterial and liturgical sources of Marian devotion, reasons for devotion to the "hearts" of Jesus and Mary, Mary as a model for different vocations in the Church, traditional Marian prayers, principles for discerning the credibility and messages of private revelations, and an examination of certain approved Marian apparitions.

6. Academic Policies

Christendom College is committed to promoting academic freedom. It recognizes the right of students to the Truth, and to receive instruction in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The Graduate School recognizes and defends each faculty member's freedom and right to teach the Catholic Faith without fear of reprisal. Professors and students enjoy the freedom to explore and research and thereby develop their own insights into Catholic doctrine in accord with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Legitimate pluralism, consistent with fidelity to both the ordinary and extraordinary Magisterium, strengthens the bonds of unity, and honest dialogue is most welcome at the Graduate School.

Students are bound by the academic policies and degree requirements of the Graduate School Bulletin in effect at the time of their first registering as a matriculating student fully admitted to the program. A student who returns to the Graduate School after an absence of more than one semester will be bound by the requirements in force when he or she returns. Academic policies apply equally to classroom and online students, except where noted.

6.1. Admissions

Admission to the Christendom Graduate School is open to all properly qualified persons who desire to develop their knowledge of authentic Catholic teaching in explicit communion with the Holy See and with the principles of renewal in ecclesiastical studies given to the Church by the Second Vatican Council. A prior education in theology is not required, although students are expected to know the teachings of the Catholic Faith as presented in the C*atechism of the Catholic Church.* Students without prior formal theological education are required to complete the prerequisite course (THEO 590, Introduction to Theology) at the beginning of their studies. The application process is the same for on-campus and distance students. Christendom College does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, handicap, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school-administered programs.

6.1.1. Application requirements

Applicants for admission to the Christendom Graduate School must present evidence of their ability to do graduate work in theology. A baccalaureate degree (B.A. or B.S) or the equivalent—in any field—is required before any graduate credit can be awarded. Thus, a baccalaureate degree is required in order for an applicant to begin pursuit of the Master of Arts and/or the Advanced Apostolic Catechetical Diploma. However, such a degree is not required for pursuit of the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diploma or for the certificates, as these certifications can be completed without the conferral of graduate credit. As the Graduate School has rolling admissions, there is no application deadline. Applicants for the Master of Arts and/or Apostolic Catechetical Diploma should send the following materials to the Christendom Graduate School (Attn: Mary Castano) at 134 Christendom Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630:

- Completed application form (obtainable online at https://graduate.christendom.edu/admissions/).
- A statement of purpose (approx. 150 words) explaining the reasons for enrolling in the program.
- At least two (2) letters of recommendation, preferably one from a pastor or priest who knows the applicant, and another from a former professor or from a supervisor with whom the applicant has worked.
- Official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work.
- $100.00 application fee (made payable to Christendom College).

6.1.2. Casual Students

Casual (non-degree-seeking) and certificate students have a simplified admission process consisting of an information form only. They must fill out and submit the application form but do not need to submit letters of

recommendation nor the application fee. However, they must submit evidence of a bachelor's degree (in the form of an official transcript) if they wish to receive graduate credit for their courses for transfer to another institution. A student may register for courses as a casual student while completing the application for admission to the MA program, and all credits earned as a casual student can apply towards the degree, upon admisison. A student may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee is not satisfied of his or her ability to do graduate work in theology. The probationary period is two semesters, and the student must earn a GPA of 3.0 to be fully admitted. Audit students are welcome at Christendom on a space-available basis; they need not apply for admission, but may simply register for courses.

6.1.3. Transfer Credits

Students who wish to have their previous graduate work in theology or philosophy considered for transfer to Christendom must make this request of the Dean of the Graduate School and provide official transcripts of such graduate work. They may also be required to supply course syllabi or catalog course descriptions establishing that the courses correspond to Christendom courses and are of an academic quality sufficient for graduate work. No more than twenty graduate credits may be transferred. Credits earned more than ten years before matriculation at NDGS may not be accepted. Academic credit is not granted for life experience, for course work done on a non-credit basis, nor for independent study outside of a university or seminary.

6.1.4. Deferral and Reinstatement

Any student who is accepted to the Christendom Graduate School may choose to defer his or her enrollment for any reason. If the student enrolls in courses within three years of his initial acceptance, he or she does not need to reapply for admission. After three years, the student will need to reapply.

Degree-seeking students may pause the pursuit of their degree at any time. If a student takes a break of no more than two consecutive years, he or she may be automatically reinstated to active student status.
Students who have paused their course of study—for no more than five consecutive years—due to military service will be automatically entitled to reinstatement in their degree program without the need to reapply. A student who is leaving his or her course of study due to military service should submit a notice of departure in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School. He or she should also submit a written notice of intent to return to the Christendom Graduate School no later than three years after the completion of the period of military service. There may be some exceptions to these time frames under the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

Any degree-seeking student who pauses his or her course of study for more than two consecutive years must meet with the Academic Dean to determine whether extended absence from the program has been detrimental to his or her ability to complete the degree, and whether there are any courses that need to be repeated. Students returning from military service will be provided with one-on-one academic advising in order to determine what the next steps are for completing their degree. If a particular course of study is no longer available or suitable for the student, these circumstances will be addressed as well.

6.2. Taking Courses

6.2.1. Add/Drop/Change of Courses, Cancellations

During the first two weeks of the fall and spring semesters and the first week of the summer semester, students may register for, or add, a course for credit by completing the *Add/Drop/Change Form* and submitting it to the

registrar. No for-credit student will be admitted to a classroom course after this period, although students may register for online courses within the first half of the semester. If a student wishes to change his or her status from audit to credit after this period, he or she must obtain permission from the professor before submitting the form.

If a student withdraws from a course within this period, no record of the course will appear on the transcript. If a student withdraws from a course after this period, a grade of "W" will be given for the course. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course (or to change to "audit" status) must notify the registrar in writing, either by submitting the *Add/Drop/Change Form* or by emailing the registrar. Failure to notify the registrar in writing of one's intention to withdraw may result in a recorded grade of F. When applicable, the appropriate refund will be issued (or credited to the student's outstanding balance) according to the schedule indicated below under "financial policies."

The Graduate School reserves the right to cancel a course at any time due to insufficient enrollment, as determined by the Dean of the Graduate School. If inclement weather necessitates the canceling of classes, the announcement is made on the Graduate School home page https://graduate.christendom.edu by 2 PM the day of class.

6.2.2. Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lectures for each course in which they are enrolled. For online students, this means attentively watching all course lecture videos in their entirety and participating in any other mandatory online sessions the professor may require (including, but not limited to live video conferencing, discussion threads, and online journal entries or essay posts). Penalties for absences or tardiness (including online non-participation) are assigned by the professor. Unauthorized absences in excess of 9 contact hours may result in the grade of F. Students are expected to be prompt and to dress and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for pursuing higher studies in theology.

Students may use voice recorders or laptop computers in class only for the purpose of note-taking and study by students; publication beyond the class is forbidden.

Full-time students are those who are enrolled in at least three courses (nine credits) in a fall or spring semester and two courses (six credits) in a summer term.

6.2.3. Research and Writing

Research is a necessary and essential part of the learning process at the Christendom Graduate School. A research paper is normally required in every course, although professors may adapt this requirement to the particular needs of the course. The approximate length for a research paper is not more than twenty, nor less than twelve pages in length (typed with double spacing). Basic Diploma students are not required to write papers in any course, and they should notify the professor of their Basic Diploma status at the beginning of the semester. Normally papers follow the Turabian format outlined in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, latest edition (University of Chicago Press), although professors may allow other formats. Students are expected to complete and submit all required research papers prior to the end of the semester unless they have been granted an extension.

6.2.4. Directed Studies Courses

Directed studies courses may be permitted by the Dean of the Graduate School for special research of interest to a student, provided the student has demonstrated his or her ability to do independent graduate-level research. A directed studies course is not permitted merely for the convenience of the student or because the student has failed to register for the course when it was available. A student who wishes to apply for a directed studies course must first seek permission from the Dean, and subsequently may ask an individual professor to direct him in such a course. Students must also submit a Directed Studies Application Form to the Dean. This form is available in the Student Resources section of the Graduate School website. Students must pay an additional fee for an independent study course, and are advised that such a course normally requires at least 90 hours of work.

6.2.5. Course Extension

If for a grave reason a student is unable to complete the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, he or she may apply *in writing* to the professor for an extension, either by filling out the *Course Extension Request* form or by emailing the professor. If the professor approves the request, he or she will submit a temporary grade of "incomplete" and the student will have an extended period in which to submit the remaining work, as determined by the professor; however, the deadline may not extend beyond July 31 for the spring term, October 31 for the summer term, or March 31 for the fall term. Extensions/incompletes are granted at the discretion of the professor, and only for grave reasons such as illness, military service, unexpected job-related or family obligations or other serious incapacity. However, because of the intensity of the six-week summer residential courses, full-time summer students (registered for at least 6 hours) may automatically have the extension without having to establish a grave reason: they may have until October 31 to submit any research paper, project, or written assignment other than an exam.

For online courses, the extension permission is intended for research papers and essay final exams, not for regular weekly course work such as viewing videos, taking quizzes and submitting weekly assignments. Professors cannot be expected to continue monitoring the online classroom or to grade weekly assignments after the regular course period is over, and we cannot guarantee access to the online classroom after the end of the academic term.

6.2.6. Course Reactivation

If a student (after having been granted an extension) fails to submit the required work by the extension deadline, the only way he or she may complete the course (to avoid having to re-register for and re-take the course) is to fill out the *Course Reactivation Request* form and submit it to the Registrar along with the $300 course reactivation fee. If the Dean of the Graduate School approves the request, the Registrar will then reactivate the course and notify the professor that he or she may accept the remaining required course work. A student may reactivate each incomplete course only once, and only within a year of the original due date (the end of the academic term in which the course was taken) by which time all course requirements must be submitted; otherwise, the student must re-take the course if he or she wants credit for it.

6.2.7. Grading

The range of grades, with the corresponding explanations and grade points, is as follows:

Grade	Meaning	G.P.A.

A	Excellent	4.00
A-	Very good	3.65
B+	Good, above average	3.35
B	Good, satisfactory	3.00
B-	Fair, below average	2.65
C+	Poor	2.35
C	Low pass	2.00
F	Failing	0.00
W	Withdrew	No credit
I	Incomplete	No credit

During pursuit of the Master of Arts degree, the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, and all certificates, students are required to consistently maintain a B (3.0) average in order to remain in good standing. Students with more than two incomplete courses may be refused permission to register for an upcoming academic term.
Grade appeals. Academic grade appeals are not handled under the formal complaint and grievance policy detailed in §7.3 below. A student who wishes to appeal a grade should first appeal directly to his or her professor. If the matter is not resolved by direct appeal to the professor, the student may have recourse to the Dean of the Graduate School. Appeals to the Dean of the Graduate School should be made in writing. In the event that the Dean of the Graduate School is the professor of the course in which the disputed grade occurred, and the matter is not resolved by direct appeal to the Dean, the student should appeal to the Dean of Students.

6.2.8. Academic Counseling and Academic Probation

The Dean of the Graduate School normally interviews each student upon matriculation to discuss his or her plan of study, although this "interview" is often conducted via telephone or email with distance students. Each student is assigned an academic advisor from among the faculty, depending on his or her concentration. Students may seek academic advice or counseling at any time from the Dean, the student's advisor, or any available faculty member. Online students have the same easy access to academic advisement, to the Graduate School administrative staff, and to their professors as on-campus students have: they may call or email the Graduate School faculty and staff at any time and expect a prompt response.

Any student whose GPA falls below 3.0 must seek academic counseling from the Dean. A student who receives a grade of F on any exam or in course is strongly encouraged to seek academic counseling from the professor, and perhaps also from his or her academic advisor and/or the Dean.

A student is on probation if his or her Grade Point Average (GPA) falls below 3.0. He or she is permitted to register for one more academic term in order to raise his or her GPA to or above 3.0. Failure to do so may result in the necessity of withdrawing completely from Christendom. Students are permitted to retake courses in order

to improve their grades, and the second grade received will replace the previous grade. A student who is admitted to the Graduate School on probation has two probationary academic terms in which to maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to be fully admitted to the MA program.

6.2.9. Student Records

Student records are private and are available only to authorized members of the faculty or administration who need to see them. Christendom College's policy complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment).

The Graduate School protects student records through Populi, a secure third-party Learning Management System (LMS), and through secure on-site storage of student files.

Only relevant Graduate School administrators with the appropriate permissions can access a student's personal information in the secure LMS, which uses 256-bit SSL-encrypted connections. Permissions are assigned to members of staff on an as-needed basis only. On the user end, a student's personal information is accessed using two-factor authentication (unless the student personally requests single-factor authentication) and a school-assigned username. The LMS performs daily backups and uses servers that are stored in an SSAE 16 Type II compliant data center that is physically secured behind a battery of compartmentalized security zones with biometric access controls. Additional security in the event of a catastrophe is provided by redundant security, power supply, and infrastructure protections. More details about our LMS provider's security protocols can be found online.

Documents which exist in hard copy are stored in a student's file, which is protected under lock and key on campus at the Graduate School. To protect active student files in the event of a catastrophe, the files are stored in a locked, fire-resistant drawer in the file room in the basement of the Graduate School. The file room itself is protected by lock and key, and is opened only when the room needs to be accessed. The file room is protected externally from water damage and file cabinets are elevated off the floor and spaced from the exterior walls to protect their contents in the event that normal water protections fail, such as in a catastrophic flooding situation. Finally, the Graduate School entrance itself is locked outside of normal business hours to prevent unauthorized access at times when the appropriate Graduate School administrators are not present.

Unless a student requests in writing that direct information be held private, the Graduate School may release the following direct information to any authorized person on request: name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and dates of attendance. Authorized persons include prospective employers verifying applications, and officials performing security clearance checks. The student who wishes such information to be private must notify the Dean of the Graduate School in writing. Student academic transcripts are released only on the direct request of the student.

The Graduate School publishes a directory of faculty, staff, and students and their contact information, and distributes this directory within the Graduate School. Any student who wishes to have his or her information withheld may notify the Dean within the first week of the academic term.

6.2.10. Contingency Plans

If due to a catastrophe or persistent infrastructure failure it becomes impossible for the Graduate School to offer or continue offering in the normal format a course for which a student has registered, reasonable efforts will be

made to deliver equivalent instruction to the student by means of an independent study format, using any appropriate combination of in-person meetings, video conference, email, and/or telephonic communications. If workarounds fail and it proves impossible for the Graduate School to deliver instruction, the student's tuition will be refunded, as indicated in our financial policies (detailed below).

6.3. Completing your MA, Diploma or Certificate

6.3.1. Degree Requirements for the MA

The total number of graduate credits required for the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is 42, not counting any prerequisite or language courses. This includes 24 credits of core requirements (eight, 3-credit courses), 12 credits of concentration requirements, and either 6 credits of electives or a 6-credit MA thesis (see 6.3.2. below). Students may take courses online or on campus in any combination. The degree requirements are identical for on-campus and distance students. No more than 20 credits earned elsewhere are accepted in transfer. Candidates for the MA degree must maintain a "B" (3.0) average, and must pass the comprehensive examination. The requirements for the Advanced Apostolic Catechetical Diploma are identical to those for the MA (evangelization and catechesis concentration) except that the comprehensive exam is not required for the diploma.

At the Christendom Graduate School, course credit is normally assigned based on classroom lecture hours. Standard three-credit courses meet for a total of 30 lecture hours, not including exams, reading and writing assignments, and student research (estimated at 8 hours per week for a 15-week term, or 20 hours per week for a 6-week summer term). Accordingly, two-credit courses meet for a total of 20 hours of lecture (with approximately five hours of independent work per week for a 15-week term or approximately 18 hours per week for a 4-week summer VCI term). Since courses delivered in online format utilize video recordings of the same lectures as our on-campus courses, the number of lecture hours required of the student are the same in both formats. Therefore, online courses are assigned the same number of credits as their on-campus counterparts.

6.3.2. The MA Thesis

Students may write a master's thesis, worth six graduate credits, in lieu of two elective courses. The thesis option is recommended for those students who are planning to pursue more advanced graduate work, especially doctoral studies. Students who wish to write a thesis must apply for the dean's permission. A matriculating MA student may apply to write a thesis only after completing seven courses (21 hours) towards his or her degree, and having demonstrated excellent research and writing abilities. The thesis must be an original piece of research, not shorter than 50 nor longer than 100 pages, typed with double spacing. The required format is Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (latest edition). The thesis must be completed and successfully defended within two years of approval for the project.

The student initiates the thesis process by seeking the permission of the dean at least one year before he or she expects to graduate. He or she may then contact a member of the faculty who is able and willing to direct the student's thesis, and with his or her assistance decides upon a general thesis topic. The student then submits to the Dean an MA Thesis Application Form (available in the Student Resources section of the Graduate School website), together with a formal thesis proposal. The thesis proposal comprises an abstract, outline and bibliography. Students should seek detailed advice on the proposal from their advisors. Upon approval from the Dean, the student pays tuition equivalent to two (2) three-credit courses.

The student must submit the final draft of the thesis to the thesis director at least two months prior to the planned defense of the thesis. At this time, the student notifies the Dean, who arranges for additional readers and for the defense of the thesis at a mutually-convenient time. The student provides final copies of his or her thesis to the Dean and the faculty readers at least two weeks before the scheduled defense.
The thesis defense lasts approximately one hour: the student provides a twenty-minute oral presentation of the thesis, and then responds to questions from the committee members. The grade is determined by the director and readers and is based on the research, the thesis itself, and the defense. For an exceptional performance on the thesis and defense, a student may earn a distinction on his or her thesis. The student must provide the library with a bound copy of his or her thesis before graduation.

6.3.3. The Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Exam is required of all students seeking the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree. The purpose of this exam is to verify a student's ability to integrate knowledge gained from classes, readings, and research. In the comprehensive exam, the student is expected to demonstrate in-depth theological knowledge commensurate with a Master of Arts degree. The answers should reflect knowledge gained from the core curriculum, the required courses of the student's concentration, and the Christendom Graduate School Bibliography. The student must demonstrate a solid grasp of the Roman Catholic Tradition and an ability to analyze and synthesize theological knowledge.

The comprehensive exam is normally held three times a year, in October, February, and July. Both written and oral portions of the comprehensive examination must be taken on campus, even by distance students. The written portion is taken first, in two, two-hour periods on the same day, and the student writes a total of seven essays in this time. The oral portion is taken on a later day, usually within a week, and lasts thirty minutes.
For the written portion of the comprehensive exam, each question is graded by at least two professors *pass* or *fail*. For the oral portion, the Dean of the Graduate School forms a committee of at least three professors who examine the student particularly in the area of concentration; the committee will grade the oral exam *pass* or *fail.* Then the examining panel renders a final grade of *pass* or *fail* for the exam as a whole. For an exceptional performance, a grade of "pass with distinction" may be granted.

If a student does not pass the comprehensive exam on the first try, he or she may re-take the entire exam at a later session. Students are limited to one retake unless a special appeal has been granted by the Dean of the Graduate School. In the rare event of an extreme medical disability which makes travel to the Graduate School impossible, the student who needs to take the comprehensive exam may petition the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President of Academic Affairs to request permission to have the exam conducted and proctored in a location that is accessible to the student. Such exceptional permission is not guaranteed, subject to feasibility, and determined on a case-by-case basis.

A student may take the comprehensive exam when he or she has successfully completed all the required courses for his or her degree, both core and concentration requirements; he or she need not have completed all electives or his or her master's thesis. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the registrar that he or she is approaching the completion of his or her coursework; this should be done in writing/email at least six months before the possible date of the comprehensive exam. Failure to do so may result in the student being unable to take the comprehensive exam when planned and in delayed graduation. Students register for the comprehensive examination by filling out the Comprehensive Exam Registration Form (available in the Student Resources

section of the Graduate School website) and submitting it, along with the fee, to the registrar at least two months before the scheduled date of the comps exam.

6.3.4. Graduation Honors

Students who have performed exceptionally well in their courses may be granted honors at their graduation. Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or above will be recognized with the honor of *Cum laude.* Students with a cumulative GPA or 3.8 above will be recognized with the honor of *Magna cum laude.* Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.9 or above will be recognized with the honor of *Summa cum laude.*

6.3.5. Commencement Exercises

The commencement exercises for the Christendom Graduate School are held on the Saturday following the end of on-campus summer courses, in late July or early August. These exercises are held at the Front Royal campus, starting with a Baccalaureate Mass in Christ the King Chapel, followed by the conferral of degrees, and ending with a reception or luncheon for faculty, graduates, and their families and guests. All graduands are expected to attend graduation, but distance students and others for whom this is impossible may be excused by the Dean. Degrees are not conferred at any other time of the year; however, students who complete degree requirements at a different time of year may be provided with a transcript and letter showing they have completed the degree. It is the responsibility of the graduand to apply for graduation by April 30. He or she does this by filling out the Graduation Order Form and submitting it with the required fees to the Registrar. The graduand must do this whether or not he or she is attending the commencement exercises; failure to do so may delay his or her graduation until the following year.

7. Student Life

7.1. Social, Religious and Recreational Dimensions

As a Catholic institution, Christendom College seeks to maintain a community life that promotes the academic, spiritual, and social, development of the whole human person. More than just a place to take courses, the Christendom Graduate School is a fellowship of scholars who are also united in liturgy and in leisure. A variety of activities outside the classroom help foster this fellowship and personal growth.

Christendom College does not have residences for graduate students during the fall and spring terms. However, many residents in the area rent rooms and apartments to Christendom students, and the Graduate School maintains a list of these to aid students in their search for housing. Room and board are available for summer students attending on-campus summer courses on the Front Royal campus.

Christendom College offers daily Mass and Confession in Christ the King Chapel. During the summers, community Morning and Night Prayers are an essential part of the community life.

Social activities at the Christendom Graduate School vary according to the desires of the current student body, and include receptions at the graduate school, guest speakers, parties at the homes of students or faculty, hikes, field trips, pilgrimages, and informal get-togethers to watch movies, to discuss topics or to go out to eat. During the summers, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, tennis, basketball and racquetball are additional favored activities.

7.2. Student Conduct

In light of the gospel message, the Graduate School expects all students to conduct themselves in accord with the principles of justice and Christian charity. Christendom will strive to treat students with the same principles, and to provide due process in the investigation of any alleged infraction. The Christendom Graduate School defines academic misconduct to include violations of the academic regulations, cheating, plagiarism, disruption of class activity, falsification of information or documents, and lying. Penalties for any misconduct (academic or otherwise) may include permanent dismissal, temporary suspension, probations, or a formal warning. Students accused of misconduct and facing dismissal have the right to a hearing before a disciplinary committee consisting of the Dean of the Graduate School, two professors, and a graduate student whom both the Dean and the accused student approve. The judgment of this disciplinary committee is final.

The Christendom Graduate School expects that all faculty, staff, and students abide by the sexual misconduct policy promulgated by Christendom College. This policy can be found in section IV of the Christendom College Student Handbook, linked here: https://www.christendom.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/22-23-Christendom-College-Student-Handbook.pdf. This policy applies both to in-person interactions and to online interactions.

7.3. Grievances and complaints

Christendom College seeks to maintain effective and supportive relationships between students and faculty/staff members within the Graduate School. Students are encouraged to make efforts to resolve misunderstandings and conflicts with school staff or faculty members before serious problems develop. Students are encouraged where possible to seek resolution through informal means as a first-approach to resolving the issue at hand. However, when a student believes he or she has been treated unjustly, in a way that violates his or her personal rights or is in opposition to Graduate School policies, the student may complain to the Graduate School and expect appropriate resolution. There are two avenues for registering a complaint with the Graduate School. These are the Informal Student Complaint and the Official Grievance. If normal channels of communication

break down and/or a situation does not permit or lend itself (e.g. sexual harassment) to informal resolution or does not seem to be resolving itself, students are encouraged to seek recourse through the official grievance process. The Graduate School accepts SCHEV (State Council for Higher Education in Virginia) oversight in resolving complaints from students taking distance education under the aegis of SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements).

Issues regarding academic grades are not handled under the grievance policy (for academic grade appeals, please see under "Grading", §6.2.7, above). A student who wishes to appeal a grade should first appeal directly to his or her professor. If the matter is not resolved by direct appeal to the professor, the student may have recourse to the Dean of the Graduate School. A student with an unresolved appeal within one of the Dean's own courses may have recourse to the Dean of Students. Appeals to the Dean of the Graduate School (or Dean of Students) should be made in writing.

7.3.1. Informal Student Complaints

Informal Student Complaints are complaints or conflicts which do not escalate, either by their nature or by the request of the student, to the level of an Official Grievance, yet are still important in the evaluation process for the Graduate School. Informal complaints should be made to the Dean of the Graduate School.

7.3.2. Official Grievances

Official Grievances are official complaints of a more serious nature permitted to be submitted by faculty, staff or students.

The procedure for an Official Grievance. Students who wish to file a grievance must begin by submitting a Student Grievance Form (available in the Student Resources section of the Graduate School website) with their attached grievance letter. Completed grievances are to be returned to the Dean of the Graduate School.
If a student wishes to file a grievance against the Graduate School Dean, the student submits the grievance to the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs who will appoint appropriate College officials as a committee to investigate and resolve the grievance.

All grievances must be filed within ninety calendar days after the incident/event/issue causing the grievance occurred**.** After filing a grievance, the student is contacted within ten business days with an initial response, although, often progress will be made sooner than the ten-day time frame. During the entire grievance process every effort is made to respect confidentiality.

The Graduate School Dean, Vice President of Academic Affairs or their designee investigates the grievance and communicates with the appropriate students, staff, or faculty to address the problem, as is warranted. Resolution of the grievance occurs once the final response or outcome is determined. The student filing the grievance is notified of the action or non-action that will be taken in response to the grievance.

If the determined resolution is not perceived to be sufficient by the student, the student may appeal to the Grievance Appeal Committee, by submitting to the office of the President a letter of appeal addressed to the Grievance Appeal Committee. This committee is made up of members chosen by, but not including, the President of the College. The committee will make a decision to hear or decline the letter of appeal. In the case that the appeal committee declines the letter of appeal, the previous resolution decision remains in effect. If the Appeal Committee accepts the letter of appeal, the student will have his or her case heard and subsequently the

committee will determine whether a new resolution will take place or the resolution will remain as decided by the prior College official. The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee is final.

The above mentioned procedures are for the allowance of student grievances when a student feels he or she is personally afflicted by unjust treatment and seeks fair resolution. Complaints about College policies, simply in their nature, definition, or enforcement, are not to be addressed through this process. Rather, students should initiate contact with the Dean of the Graduate School.

7.4. Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property produced by a student at Christendom College, excluding tests, exams, and quizzes, to fulfill in whole or part the requirements of a course in which the student in registered, will be owned by the student. The College does not claim ownership of such intellectual property.

7.5. Procedures to Protect the Privacy of Online Students

The Graduate School observes the following procedures to protect the privacy of online students:

1. Registration for online courses is securely received at the Graduate School office via our password-protected Populi platform or the USPS.
2. The only staff members who see this registration information are the Administrative Assistant to the Dean and the Registrar/Business Officer.
3. Social Security numbers are not asked for as part of the registration process. Those Social Security numbers received with the application to the MA program are kept in the students' files under lock. Social Security numbers are used only for tax reporting purposes (1098-T forms).
4. Students' access to the online classroom is password protected and integral to the registration process in Populi.
5. Access to the classroom (and thus to the students' work and grades) is provided only to the student, the professor of the course, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Registrar and the Classroom Technician.

7.6. Student Achievement

At the Graduate School, student achievement is evaluated through three primary measures: Success rates on the capstone comprehensive exam, annual number of graduates, and certain metrics of our student satisfaction survey.

The mission of Christendom College is to "form the whole person for a life spent in the pursuit of truth and wisdom" so that students are prepared "for their role as faithful, informed, and articulate members of Christ's Church and society." The comprehensive exam and graduation rates, as indicators of intellectual preparedness, reflect the level at which our students succeed in pursuit of truth and wisdom. Additionally, the relevant sections of our student satisfaction survey also reflect the level at which our students think they are equipped for life specifically as faithful, informed and articulate members of Christ's Church and society.

7.6.1. Comprehensive exams

An indication of success for student achievement in any given year is a pass rate of 95% with at least 10% earning a superior pass (P+) and not more than 10% earning a marginal pass (P-). Comprehensive exam scores from the last seven years are reported in the following table and reflect student success.

Comprehensive exam results from AY'14-15 to AY' 21-22

	Fail	Marginal Pass (P -)	Pass (P)	Superior (P+)
2014-2015	0%	10%	80%	10%
2015-2016	0%	0%	88%	12%
2016-2017	5%	16%	63%	16%
2017-2018	0%	11%	65%	24%
2018-2019	0%	7%	73%	20%
2019-2020	0%	11%	68%	21%
2020-2021	7%	14%	58%	21%
2021-2022	0%	23%	71%	6%

7.6.2. Graduation rates

"Graduation rate" is the percentage of students admitted to the program who complete it. Graduation rate is determined by dividing graduating class size (the number of members of a graduating class) by the number of admissions within a given time frame. It takes the typical full-time student 5-6 semesters (2- 2.5 years, depending on particular concentration requirements and on how the summer semesters are leveraged) to complete the MA degree. We calculate graduation rate based on a 200% degree completion time of 5 years, in order to take into account the various external responsibilities that impinge upon a typical student's degree completion, such as full-time employment, apostolic work, and family responsibilities.

The admissions and graduation data in the first table below provide a basis for one means of assessing graduation rate: namely, dividing graduating class size by the number of admissions five years earlier. We call this an "aggregated graduation rate" (AGR) since it compares generalized numbers of graduates to admissions, whereas "individualized graduation rate" (IGR) compares graduates to admissions by tracking specific students, as presented in the second table below.

Aggregated Graduation Rate

Admissions Year	Number of Admissions	Graduation Year	Graduating Class Size	5-Year Aggregated Graduation Rate
2013-14	53	2018	18	34%
2014-15	43	2019	16	37%
2015-16	53	2020	17	32%
2016-17	31	2021	17	55%
2017-18	26	2022	17	65%
2018-19	(31)	2023	-	-
2019-20	(21)	2024	-	-
2020-21	(32)	2025	-	-
2021-22	(27)	2026	-	-
Average	**41 (35)**		**17**	**41% (49%)**

Individualized Graduation Rate

Admissions Year	Number of Admissions	Adjusted Number of	Number of Graduates	Number of Graduates	Graduation Rate (total	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate (5-

		Admissions (subtracting outliers who were admitted, but did not begin the program in earnest)	(total as of summer 2022)	**within 5 years**	as of summer 2022)	("earnest-student" adjusted)	year adjusted for earnest students)
2013-14	53	41	22	15	42%	54%	37%
2014-15	43	38	18	11	42%	47%	29%
2015-16	53	43	25	23	47%	58%	53%
2016-17	31	21	11	6	35%	52%	29%
2017-18	26	22	11	11	42%	50%	50%
TOTAL	**206**	**165**	**87**	**66**	**42%**	**53%**	**40%**

7.6.3. Student satisfaction

Viewed in concert with the other two measures of student achievement detailed above, three sections of the student exit survey are directly relevant for assessing student achievement. Those are the sections concerning the Catholic identity of the program, the section concerning the academic quality of the program and the section concerning student development and research competency. These three series of questions indicate how well students, when reflecting back on their experience in the program, find themselves to be equipped for life as responsible and intellectually engaged members of the Church and wider world.
The 2019 survey results indicate an overall student satisfaction rate of 9.8/10 across all sections of the survey. The result on the Catholic identity section was 10/10, the academic quality section was 9.6/10 and the result on student development and research competency was 7.6/10.

8. Financial Information & Policies

8.1. Tuition Payment Policy

Tuition is due by the end of the first week of the academic term. If a student is unable to pay the entire tuition and fees at this time, he or she must fill out, sign, and return to the Business Office (by the end of the first week of the term) the Tuition Payment Plan Contract, stipulating the manner in which the debt is to be paid so that the full amount will be paid by the end of the academic term. In the event of the student's withdrawal before paying all installments, it is the student's responsibility to pay the balance due, minus any applicable refund (see below). No grades or transcripts will be released, nor degrees awarded, until all tuition and fees are paid. Students with outstanding balances are not allowed to register for subsequent terms.

8.2. Refund Policy

Christendom Graduate School of Theology strives to provide the best education to our students for the best price. Our tuition and fees go directly toward covering the costs of our Master's program. We do all we can to keep our costs as low as possible to provide quality education to those who work for the Catholic Church, are active in the apostolate, or who wish simply to learn about the Catholic faith.

If due to a catastrophe or persistent infrastructure failure it becomes impossible for the Graduate School to offer or continue offering in the normal format a course for which a student has registered, reasonable efforts will be made to deliver equivalent instruction to the student by means of an independent study format, using any appropriate combination of in-person meetings, video conference, email, and/or telephonic communications. If workarounds fail and it proves impossible to deliver instruction, the student's tuition will be refunded.

8.2.1. Non-refundable Fees

All registration and technology fees are non-refundable. These fees cover services provided prior to the beginning of a term. Room and board fees (for summer residential courses) are considered non-refundable after the start of the term. If the student withdraws **before** the term begins, he or she may receive a full refund for room and board fees. If a student is unable to complete the summer term on campus due to an emergency, he or she may be eligible for a prorated refund of room and board fees, based on the number of days left in the term.

8.2.2. Refund Schedule

Students who withdraw from a course (or drop to audit status) and who have not yet paid the tuition are still liable for the tuition amount, minus any applicable refund amount. **The effective date of withdrawal is the date upon which written notice (i.e. the Add/Drop Form) is received by the business officer**. For students students who find it necessary to withdraw (or to change to audit status) after the start of the semestser, tuition refunds will be prorated according to the following refund schedule. Please note that no refunds will be issued after Saturday of the third week of the semester.

For all on-campus and online courses	
During the first week of the semester	100% of tuition
During the second week of the semester	75% of tuition
During the third week of the semester	50% of tuition
After the third week* of the semester	0% of tuition (no refund)

***Each "week" ends on Saturday.**

8.3. Financial Assistance

The Christendom Graduate School of Theology maintains a reasonable and modest tuition charge to ensure that its courses remain accessible to students who wish to attend. Consequently, Christendom does not presently offer graduate students financial assistance in the form of scholarships, grants, or loans. We also schedule our classes in the evenings to allow students to work full-time or part-time during the day to finance their education. The Graduate School offers students a **tuition payment plan** whereby students may pay off their tuition by installments throughout the term. Many students find that their parishes or employers are willing to help fund their studies, and students are encouraged to contact their pastors, principals, or employers to see if funding is possible.

8.4. Federal Aid

To preserve its academic freedom, Christendom Graduate School of Theology does not accept federal aid or any government funding; this means we do not participate in the Title IV Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs. From its very beginning, Christendom College made a prudential decision never to accept federal funding. As the only accredited Catholic higher education institution that is not dependent on federal student aid, Christendom is uniquely free to teach the Catholic Faith without interference. The prudence of this decision has been demonstrated by the federal government's expanding use of funding conditions to promote policy preferences.

8.5. Student Status Thresholds

In the fall and spring semesters, Christendom graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in 9 credits or more. During the summer term, Christendom graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in 6 credits or more. During the fall and spring semesters, students are considered half-time if they are enrolled in between 5 and 8 credits. During the summer term, students are considered half-time if they are enrolled in between 3 and 5 credits. Students are considered less than half-time in the fall and spring if they are enrolled in 4 credits or less. Students are considered less than half-time in the summer if they are enrolled in 2 credits or less. All half-time and less than half-time students are considered part-time students.
These designations are determined by semester, not by academic year. For instance, a student who takes 3 credits in the fall, 9 credits in the spring, and 3 credits in the summer will be considered less than half-time in the fall, full-time in the spring, and half-time in the summer. These designations are most relevant for students who are looking to defer undergraduate student loans.

8.6. Private Student Loans

Christendom graduate students may apply to private sources (such as banks) for student loans. These applications are handled directly by the student and are not processed by Christendom, although we are happy to provide documentation or information needed to verify enrollment. Two private lenders who often provide Christendom students with student loans are listed below:

- Sallie Mae – Smart Option Student Loan: www.salliemae.com (887-279-7172)
- PNC Bank – PNC Solution Loan: www.pnconcampus.com (800-762-1001)

8.7. International Students

International students seeking information on foreign bank payment options should contact the Graduate School Business Officer at 703-658-4304.

9. Library & Learning Resources

9.1. The Collection

The principal learning resource center for the Christendom Graduate School is the St. John the Evangelist Library located on the Christendom College campus in Front Royal, Virginia. The St. John the Evangelist Library has a collection in excess of 100,000 volumes, 10,000 of which are in the fields of religion and theology, and over 4,000 in the field of philosophy. The Christendom Graduate School also maintains the St. Paul Library, which contains more than 19,000 volumes, periodicals, and a variety of electronic resources suitable for research in theology and philosophy.

9.2. Borrowing Privileges

Graduate students have ready access to the whole Christendom collection: the same library card may be used at either campus, the catalog of the Christendom Libraries is available online, and students may request that materials from either library be delivered to them at the other library within a few days. Distance students may also request that library materials be sent to them; they will be required to pay return shipping only, and some requests may be refused if the material is rare or easily available elsewhere. Students also have access to thousands of libraries around the country via the Interlibrary Loan service. This service is accessible during St. Paul Library office hours and through the library web page at library.christendom.edu.

9.3. Partner Libraries

Christendom graduate students and faculty have library privileges at the Woodstock Theological Library and the Lauinger Library of Georgetown University, and at the Dominican College Library of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC). In addition, currently-enrolled students can access the collections of more than thirty academic institutions in the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) and its Universal Borrowing Pilot Program. The Christendom library card may be used by current matriculating students to check out materials from all of these libraries. Distance learning students may also be able to gain guest access to local university libraries with their Christendom library card. Students should contact the St. Paul Library or their academic advisor if a letter is required by the host library in order to grant access privileges.

9.4. Online Resources

The Christendom Libraries subscribe to several online databases, which are available to students and faculty not only on campus, but also off-site. These resources include current and past scholarly periodicals, reference works, bibliographies, and more. These resources, along with tutorial videos showing to use them, are available on the library web page at library.christendom.edu.

9.5. Research Assistance

The Christendom Libraries provide training to students and faculty in research techniques and the use of learning resources. A research proseminar video is available in the online classroom and live research proseminars are periodically conducted on campus. The Graduate School Library Assistant and the Reference Librarian at the St. John Library are available for assistance with research, whether in structured sessions for groups, or as informal, private sessions for individual help on specific projects.

9.6. Writing Center

Editorial assistance for writing assignments is available through the St. Paul Writing Center. Assistance is provided at every level of the writing process, from initial research to final revisions.

10. Core Faculty

Graduate School courses are mainly taught by core faculty members. The core faculty of the Graduate School comprises full-time and part-time members. The Graduate School's curriculum is also supported by occasional faculty who are not members of the core faculty. Core faculty are defined in *Faculty Handbook* §1.7 as "full-time Christendom faculty members whose primary teaching duties are at the Graduate School and part-time faculty members who regularly teach at the Graduate School: They normally teach at the Graduate School every academic term or summer, or they regularly teach a certain course whenever it is offered, and have done so for at least two years."

10.1. Full-time Faculty

Joseph M. Arias
Assistant Professor, Dean of Students

STD, The Catholic University of America
STL, **STB**, Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC)
JCL, The Catholic University of America
MA, Christendom College
BA, Loyola Marymount University

In addition to teaching at the Graduate School, Dr. Arias has worked as an adjunct member of the undergraduate faculty at Christendom College. Dr. Arias has presented scholarly papers at meetings of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht, Netherlands, the Mariological Society of America, the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, and the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy. Dr. Arias has published articles in the *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly, The Linacre Quarterly: The Journal of the Catholic Medical Association,* and *Crisis Magazine*.

Stephen A. Hipp
Professor

STD, STL, Pontifical Faculty of Theology, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
MA, University of Notre Dame
BA, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)

Professor of theology and philosophy at the Graduate School, Dr. Hipp has taught at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. He is internationally recognized for his work on the metaphysics of personhood and subsistence, the author of numerous scholarly articles and several books, including *The One Church of Christ: Understanding Vatican II* (Emmaus Academic, 2018), and a member of the Academy of Catholic Theology and the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

Robert J. Matava
Associate Professor, Dean of the Graduate School

PhD, University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
MA, Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC)
BA, Mount St. Mary's College (Emmitsburg, MD)

Dr. Matava works at the juncture of philosophical theology, Christian doctrine and moral theory. At Christendom, he teaches core topics in systematic theology. Dr. Matava is the author of *Divine Causality and Human Free Choice: Domingo Báñez, Physical Premotion and the Controversy* de Auxiliis *Revisited* (Brill, 2016). He was the Liddon Fellow in Theology at Keble College, University of Oxford, and a fellow of the Center for Medieval Philosophy at Georgetown University. He received the Founder's Award from the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy in 2009. Dr. Matava has published essays in various journals and edited volumes. He has delivered scholarly papers at Oxford, Aberdeen, St. Andrews, Navarre, and Notre Dame.

Andrew Montanaro
Assistant Professor

PhD, The Catholic University of America
MA, The Catholic University of America
BS, Rochester Institute of Technology

Dr. Montanaro is interested in harnessing Catholic sources, as well as the best of modern research, to teach Sacred Scripture for the strengthening of the Church in her mission of evangelization and catechesis. He centers his research and teaching on biblical theology, the internalization and textual transmission of Sacred Scripture, and its use in pedagogy and formation. He teaches courses in Sacred Scripture and biblical languages in order to assist students to read the Bible as the inspired and inerrant word of God, with the Fathers, scholars, and saints of the Catholic tradition. He is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars.

10.2. Core Part-time Faculty

Salvatore J. Ciresi

MA, Christendom College
BA, Strayer University

Professor Ciresi is the founder and director of the St. Jerome Biblical Guild, an educational apostolate that promotes the study of Scripture within a theological and practical framework. He is also the publisher of *Veritas Scripturae,* an international online Scripture journal. He was a diocesan consultant for the revision of the *National Directory for Catechesis,* and he writes a regular Scripture column for *The Latin Mass* magazine. Ciresi is a former host of the Catholic radio show *CrossTalk* and has a special interest in the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy.

Rev. Brian Mullady, OP

STD, **STL**, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome)
MA, BA, St. Albert's College (Oakland, CA)

Fr. Brian Mullady is an adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, one of the founders of their Distance Learning program, and a retreat and mission preacher. He is a specialist in Moral Theology and has written three books and has numerous CD lectures. He is a regular on EWTN and writes the question and answer column in *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*. He is a specialist on questions of nature and grace and in

the thought of Thomas Aquinas. He is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Catholic Academy of Sciences as well as staff theologian for the Institute of Religious Life.

Rev. Thomas W. Nelson, O.Praem.

STL, MA, STB, PhB, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome)

Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.Praem., is a Norbertine priest of St. Michael's Abbey in Orange, California. He is the Director of Formation at St. Michael's Abbey and a lecturer in philosophy and spirituality in their Studium. He is the National Director of the Institute on Religious Life, and the Director of the *Vita Consecrata* Institute.

Donald S. Prudlo

PhD, University of Virginia
MA, **BA**, Christendom College

Dr. Prudlo is Associate Professor of Ancient and Medieval History at Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Previously, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Liberty Fund in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is the author of *Certain Sainthood: The Origins of Papal Infallibility in Canonization* (Cornell, 2016)*, The Origin, Development, and Refinement of Medieval Religious Mendicancies* (Brill, 2011), and *The Martyred Inquisitor: The Life and Cult of Peter of Verona (†1252)* (Rutledge, 2008), in addition to many articles and chapters on such topics as hagiography, historical theology, and Church history. He is currently writing a book on the history of the early Dominican Order and cooperating on an edition and commentary of the lives of St. Omobono of Cremona. His specialties include Church History, Hagiography, and Historical and Sacramental theology. He serves as a commentator for canonizations on Vatican Radio, is on the editorial board of Truth and Charity Forum, and writes for Crisis Magazine and ThoseCatholicMen.com.

David M. Wallace

MA, **BA**, Christendom College

Professor Wallace has been involved in various educational and catechetical apostolates in the Diocese of Arlington since 2007, including curriculum development, course writing, and serving as a parish director of religious education. He has lived abroad, studying in Germany and Italy. His academic interests include liturgical theology, early patristic catechetical writings, and Sacred Scripture. He is married with five children.

Steve Weidenkopf

MA, Christendom College
BA, Syracuse University

Professor Weidenkopf is the author of *Light from Darkness: Nine Times the Catholic Church was in Turmoil and Came Out Stronger than Before* (2021), *The Church and the Middle Ages: Cathedrals, Crusades, and the Papacy in Exile* (2020), *Timeless: A History of the Catholic Church* (2019), *The Real Story of Catholic History: Answering Twenty Centuries of Anti-Catholic* Myths (2017), and *The Glory of the Crusades* (2014). He is also a contributor to *Religion and World Civilizations: How Faith Shaped Societies from Antiquity to the Present* (forthcoming from ABC-CLIO in 2023). Professor Weidenkopf is the creator, co-author, and presenter of *Epic: A Journey through Church History*— a 20 session parish-based study published by

Ascension Press (2009) and the author and presenter of *The Early Church,* a 10 session program on the first 500 years of Church history, also available from Ascension pRESS (2012). He served as the Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of Denver (2001 - 2004) and was a theological advisor to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap. He is a member of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, and a knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

11. Administrative Staff and Executive Members

11.1. Administrative Staff of the Graduate School

Dean of the Graduate School:	Robert J. Matava, PhD
Dean of Students:	Joseph M. Arias, STD
Business Officer | Assistant to the Dean | Library:	Olivia Colville, MA
Registrar | Admissions Officer | Classroom Technician:	Mary Castano, BA
Enrollment Representative:	Vladimir Rudenko, MA

11.2. Executive Members of the College

President of Christendom College:	Timothy O'Donnell, STD
Executive Vice President of Christendom College:	Mark Rholena, JD
Vice President of Academic Affairs, Christendom College:	Gregory Townsend, PhD

12. Academic Calendar

2022

Fall

September 6	Fall semester begins (Semester A).
September 16	Last day to register or add a course for credit.
October 26	Mid-semester.
November 24 – 26	Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 17	Fall semester ends.

2023

Spring

January 16	Spring semester begins (Semester B).
January 27	Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 8	Mid-semester.
April 5 – 11	Easter break – no classes.
May 6	Spring semester ends.

Summer

May 15	Online summer semester begins (Semester C).
May 26	Last day to register or to add courses for credit (online).
June 26	Summer semester begins on campus (Semester A).
June 30	Last day to register or to add courses for credit (summer residential courses).
July 1	Online mid-semester.
July 3	Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.
July 17	Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.
August 5	On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 12	Online summer semester ends.

Fall

September 5	Fall semester begins (Semester C).
September 15	Last day to register or add a course for credit.
October 25	Mid-semester.
November 23 – 25	Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 16	Fall semester ends.

2024

Spring

January 15	Spring semester begins (Semester D).
January 26	Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 6	Mid-semester.
March 27 – April 2	Easter break – no classes.
May 4	Spring semester ends.

Summer

May 13	Online summer semester begins (Semester D).
May 24	Last day to register or to add courses for credit (online).
June 24	Summer semester begins on campus (Semester B).
June 28	Last day to register or to add courses for credit (summer residential courses).
June 29	Online mid-semester.
July 1	Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.
July 15	Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.

August 3	On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 10	Online summer semester ends.

Fall

September 3	Fall semester begins (Semester A).
September 1	Last day to register or add a course for credit.
October 23	Mid-semester.
November 28 – 30	Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 14	Fall semester ends.

2025

Spring

January 13	Spring semester begins (Semester B).
January 24	Last day to register or add a course for credit
March 5	Mid-semester
April 16 – 22	Easter break – no classes
May 3	Spring semester ends

Summer

May 12	Online summer semester begins (Semester A).
May 23	Last day to register or add a course for credit
June 23	Summer semester begins on campus (Semester C).
June 30	VCI I
July 14	VCI II
August 2	Onsite classes end
August 9	Online classes end

Fall

September 2	Fall semester begins (Semester C).
September 12	Add/drop period
October 22	Mid semester
November 27 – 28	Thanksgiving break
December 13	End of semester

13. Traveling to Campus

13.1. Directions to the Front Royal Campus

Address: 134 Christendom Drive
Front Royal, VA 22630

From I-66:

Take Exit 6. Follow 522 South through Front Royal. (Take a left at the traffic light by the Verizon Wireless Store, and another left at the next light.) At 6th Street (next traffic light) take a left. After approximately 2 miles, take a left onto Shenandoah Shores Road. After 1.5 miles, Christendom will be on the left.

13.2. Airports

Dulles International Airport (IAD) is the closest airport to the main College campus in Front Royal, where the Graduate School is now based.

14. Disclaimer

The Bulletin of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College is published to furnish prospective students and other interested persons with information about required courses, admission policies and procedures, academic policies, and other such information required to communicate a basic understanding of its program. Readers should be aware that courses listed in this bulletin are subject to change without notice and may not be regarded as a binding obligation of the Christendom Graduate School. Changes in policy or financial conditions may make some alterations in school procedures, curriculum, tuition or fees necessary. Christendom College does not discriminate against any applicant or student on the basis of race, sex, color, or national origin.

15. Contact Information

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