



B.A. in Theology & Franciscan Studies

Overview

Theology and Franciscan studies is a major unique to this campus that combines two fields of academic inquiry. While theology studies God, things in relation to God, and the language used to convey those realities, Franciscan studies focuses on figures and movements connected to the religious way of life initiated by Francis (d. 1226) and Clare of Assisi (d. 1253).

The intersection of these two disciplines ensures that majors are educated in both speculative and historical disciplines that contribute to a broad understanding of theology and its connection to the Franciscan intellectual and religious tradition.

Taking our cue from Francis and Clare who sought to follow the Gospel as closely as possible, we recognize that the study of theology must incorporate a solid grounding in the Bible. Francis and Clare also sought to remain faithful to the Church even as they provided new visions of what a vocation in the Church meant.

Thus, we recognize that a solid grounding in the theological teaching of the Church is essential. Francis and Clare also lived their life of faith in the service they performed for others. Thus, we recognize that Christian theology also entails a lived, social, ethical dimension.

These convictions connect with the classic Franciscan approach to academic theology, which holds that theology is a wisdom that transforms the mind and the desires of the student and professor.

Career Opportunities

Theology and Franciscan studies, unlike professional majors designed for a particular career path, provides students with a truly liberal (freedom-inducing) education that can prepare them for future

study in various disciplines as well as future careers in education and ministry.

Since the major requires 33 credits, a student may double major easily or select a minor that can widen possible career paths. Students who have majored or minored in theology and Franciscan studies recently have gone on to graduate programs of study in theology and have pursued religious vocations.

Program of Study

The major in theology and Franciscan studies requires a total of 33 hours of course work (eleven courses) in the department. Students are allowed a substantial degree of freedom in selecting the courses that will count toward their major.

For a full description of the major requirements, see the undergraduate catalog or the departmental website. Students who major in theology and Franciscan studies have ample room in their schedules to complete a minor or even a second major. The minor in theology and Franciscan studies requires 18 hours of course work (six courses).

Student Activities

Students who are interested in ministry opportunities and training will find a host of options through University Ministries. Students considering full-time ministry are encouraged to explore vocational direction through the Franciscan religious community on campus.

Study Abroad

Theology and Franciscan studies majors and minors are encouraged to pursue study abroad opportunities, including the university's regular summer programs in Oxford (England), Seville (Spain), and Perugia (Italy).



www.sbu.edu/admissions • admissions@sbu.edu • (800) 462-5050

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www.sbu.edu/theology • Dr. Joshua C. Benson, Chair • jbenson@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2180

Faculty

Theology and Franciscan studies faculty are first and foremost teachers who care deeply about their students. This concern is demonstrated by the way faculty challenge students to think, write, and speak with greater clarity and precision about important theological matters that touch their lives directly.

The theology and Franciscan studies faculty bring a strong international flavor to the classroom. All full-time faculty hold advanced degrees from major universities based in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. They are productive scholars in addition to challenging teachers.



Statue of Saint Bonaventure on campus