

THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Major Portfolio Requirement

Using the University's Taskstream software, every Theological Studies or Religious Studies major must build a portfolio over the course of his/her undergraduate studies. The student must upload the six or more documents as applicable to your specific majors by May 1st during their final semester at Loyola University Chicago.

Theological Studies and Religious Studies Theological Studies or Religious Studies majors are strongly encouraged to save all papers to Taskstream every semester. Taskstream may be accessed via <https://eportfolio.luc.edu/ep/login>

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. It is recommended that you seek advice from a faculty member, perhaps your instructor in the Theology or Religious Studies Capstone Course (Theo 373 or Theo 353) as you prepare the portfolio.
2. With **one exception**, you do not need to create new documents for this portfolio; rather you send examples of work you have already done. **It has been suggested that you submit the graded paper whenever possible as a pdf file.**
3. **The new document you need to compose and include:** Please compose and then include a brief (2-3 page) introductory statement about your experience with the Major, including a list of the courses taken toward fulfillment of the Major. In other words, briefly discuss your overall learning/experience in the light of the program's objectives, and of how these were fulfilled during the course of various learning experiences and assignments.
4. **Deadline for submission: May 1st of your graduation year**

Specific Instructions for THEOLOGICAL STUDIES Majors

In your portfolio, please include:

1. A (2-3 page) introductory statement about your experience with the Major (see above), including a list of the courses taken toward fulfillment of the Major.
2. One item from a historical theology course or one that addresses catalysts in doctrinal development, with particular attention to Roman Catholicism
3. One item from a biblical studies class or one that demonstrates your ability to utilize scholarly methods when studying scripture

4. One item from a systematic theology course or one that displays your familiarity with central Christian doctrine from the perspective of at least two major theologians
5. One item from a religious studies course or one that shows a fundamental familiarity with at least one other religious tradition outside Christianity
6. One item from a Christian ethics course or one that displays sources and methods used to engage a pressing modern ethical problem

Specific Instructions for RELIGIOUS STUDIES Majors

In your portfolio, please include:

1. A (2-3 page) introductory statement about your experience with the Major (see above), including a list of the courses taken toward fulfillment of the Major.
2. One item from an Ethics course or that addresses ethical reasoning and issues
3. One item that relates to your study of a religion other than Christianity
4. One item that demonstrates the study of scripture
5. One item that demonstrates your understanding of religion in a social or cultural context.
6. One item that applies a method, discipline or theory to the study of religion—this would ideally be something developed during the capstone course Theo 353.

APPENDIX: Learning Outcomes for the Theological Studies and Religious Studies Majors

*(Approved by the Department of Theology Faculty, March 23, 2011)

Students completing the Theological Studies Major should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the sources, historical development of beliefs and practices of Christianity with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition;
2. Apply scholarly methods to the understanding of scripture;
3. Demonstrate familiarity with key theological concepts and doctrines of the Christian faith (e.g., Christology, trinity, ecclesiology, sacramental theology, etc.) as enunciated by at least two theologians;
4. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how Christian perspectives and sources inform responses to pressing ethical questions.

Students completing the Religious Studies Major should be able to:

1. Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the general concept of religion and specific knowledge of key features of two or more religions. For example:

*Delineate the key features of a religion and discuss how they interact.

- * Describe and compare the central elements of two or more world religions.
 - * Demonstrate knowledge of the major scriptures, doctrines and practices of two or more religions.
2. Know and use academic and analytical scholarly methods and terminology employed in the field of Religious Studies. For example:
 - * Demonstrate knowledge of a range of scholarly methodologies
 - * Accurately use the academic and scholarly terminology used in the field of religious studies
 - * Be able to apply scholarly methodologies to research questions
 3. Analyze how a religion's components interact with the culture to which it belongs, explaining how it shapes and is shaped by the surrounding society. For example:
 - * Articulate how religions shape aspects of people's everyday lives. Discuss aspects such as: family organization and relationships, social structure, food choices, clothing choices, ethical behavior, or gender roles.
 - * Describe how religions interact with popular culture (as evidenced by literature, visual arts, film, music, TV, the Internet, etc.) and how that interaction functions to influence public opinion and belief.
 4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religious approaches to ethics and ethical issues.

The software will assist you in dating the paper, specifying the course for which you wrote the paper and indicating the specific requirement that each of the four papers fulfills. For each paper, please include all of this basic information.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- In order to graduate, you must submit a portfolio via using the University's Taskstream software.
- Yes, this is a graduation requirement for all Theology majors.
- The papers do NOT need to be the original copies with your instructor's comments on them. We would actually prefer that you submit a clean copy. Be sure to indicate the course for which you wrote the paper and the semester in which you wrote it.
- All graduating Theological Studies or Religious Studies majors are required to submit a portfolio.
- **THE PORTFOLIO IS NOT GRADED.** As long as you make your best effort to turn in the required items, you will meet the portfolio requirement.
- We hope that we have clarified that all History majors must submit an electronic portfolio.
- The portfolio that you submit is a great help to all of us who teach in the Department of Theology. We use it to assess whether we are achieving the goals that we have set for the majors. Do your best to submit items that meet the requirements of the portfolio. Start on

this process early in your Theology or Religious Studies career. Ask your professors if a given paper, in which you take pride, fulfills one of the requirements. We do realize that you might not have a certain type of paper. Again, by keeping your eye on the requirements throughout your undergraduate years of study, you can think about ways to fill a given gap. For example, the Senior Capstone Seminar provides you the ideal opportunity to write a research paper based upon primary sources. If you have questions, please email the Director of Majors.