

## KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Majors will demonstrate a basic understanding of the breadth of human religious experience. This includes:
  - a. Awareness of how religious beliefs both reflect and influence the larger society of which they are a part;
  - b. Familiarity with the various ways in which people have sought to achieve and express union with the divine.
- 2) Majors will demonstrate a grasp of a Christian theological mindset, with literacy in scripture, theology, spirituality and ethics. Such literacy includes a conceptual and practical knowledge of:
  - a. the central texts, doctrines, symbols, and practices of Christianity
  - b. scholarly resources in scripture, theology, spirituality and ethics (e.g., primary texts, journals, reference materials);
  - c. the technical language in these fields;
  - d. and questions of method, including
    - o hermeneutics (i.e., theories of interpretation);
    - o critical methods for biblical interpretation and criticism (e.g., form, source, text, redaction, historical).

In other words, not only will students understand (conceptually) these aspects of theology as readers, but also use them (practically) in their oral and written work, at least on a selective basis.

- 3) Majors will demonstrate a working knowledge of global religious traditions that includes:
  - a. An awareness of pluralism both among and within religions;
  - b. A familiarity with the ideas, symbols and practices of at least one non-Christian tradition.

## SKILLS

- 4) Majors will be able to exegete critically passages from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, and convey the relevance of the Bible to the contemporary world.
- 5) Majors will be able to pursue theological inquiry in a systematic fashion. This includes raising significant theological questions, seeking and collecting the relevant data, proposing theological interpretations, analyzing assumptions and implications, drawing constructive conclusions.
- 6) Majors will be able to analyze and critique important ethical issues by utilizing methods that draw from pertinent religious sources and values, including Catholic social teaching.
- 7) Majors will be able to enter into interreligious and intra-religious dialogue in a respectful and critical manner.
- 8) Majors will be strong in liberal arts skills, and specifically be able to:
  - a. Pursue research in theological topics using appropriate scholarly methods;
  - b. Write clearly, coherently, and creatively;
  - c. Speak articulately using language and ideas from Theology and Religious Studies.

## VALUES

- 9) Majors will cultivate an appreciation for
  - a. the insights and contributions of different religions and cultures;
  - b. the abiding value of the Bible for the Judeo-Christian tradition;
  - c. the value of beauty expressed in religious traditions and spirituality;
  - d. the place of spirituality as the basis for living;
  - e. the Mercy/Catholic linking of faith and justice;
  - f. the complexities of moral issues in a pluralist society.