

THEOLOGY PROGRAMS

A GUIDE FOR NEW STUDENTS

Certificate of Theological Studies: CTS

Bachelor of Arts in Theology: BA

Master of Pastoral Studies: MPS

Master of Theological Studies: MTS

Master of Arts in Theology: MA



SPRING HILL
C O L L E G E

*Forming leaders engaged in learning, faith,
justice and service for life.*

Revised November 2017

Welcome

Welcome to Spring Hill! Founded in 1830 by Bishop Michael Portier, first Ordinary of Mobile (including at that time all of Alabama and Florida), Spring Hill was entrusted to the Society of Jesus in 1847. In its early years the Jesuit College of the South offered both the traditional undergraduate liberal arts education and a full course in theology for its seminary track. The seminary section was closed at the turn of the century, as the College tried to meet the challenge of recovery from the Civil War and the Great Fire of 1869. Our theology program was reactivated in 1982, in response to the new needs of the post-Vatican II Church. At the request of Bishop Joseph Brunini, an undergraduate extension program in theology was begun in Jackson, Mississippi, in the Summer of 1980. The success of this first effort led to the establishment of the Master of Theological Studies program, which began in the Fall of 1982 in Jackson, and in the Winter of 1983 in Mobile, at our home campus. In the Winter of 1990 a new extension site was established, in cooperation with the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, and yet another, in the Spring of 1997, in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia.

In the Fall of 2015 we inaugurated our new Blended-Format Program to allow for students throughout the Southeast to have access to academically rigorous, affordable graduate theological education.

Our various programs, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, have built a reputation of serious theological study for men and women of faith who feel called to a more active role in the Church today. In collaboration with the local dioceses and in the centuries-old tradition of Catholic theology, our programs are open to both, clergy and lay students, Catholic and Protestant, as well as those of other faiths. From its founding by Bishop Portier, the college has been dedicated to serving people of all faiths. In an ecumenical atmosphere of sharing and critically reflecting on the ancient traditions and the contemporary challenges to the Christian faith, our programs in theology are not only academically rigorous but also personally enriching.

The theology faculty of Spring Hill College welcomes you and looks forward to sharing this journey of faith and discovery with you.

Timothy R Carmody, PhD
Director of Graduate Programs in Theology & Ministry

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

CTS/MTS Program Requirements:

This is your personal worksheet to keep track of your progress in the Theological Studies Program. Course categories are indicated in the MTS course offering brochures and the Spring Hill College Bulletin of Information.

THL 520 (Theological Research Methods) **Term / Year**

1.

Biblical (2 courses/6 Credits) **Term / Year**

1.

2.

Historical / Systematic (3 Courses/9 Credits) **Term / Year**

1.

2.

3.

Moral (2 Courses/6 Credits) **Term / Year**

1.

2.

Pastoral (1 Course/3 Credits) **Term / Year**

1.

Electives (1 additional Course/3 Credits) **Term / Year**

1.

Graduate Seminar (3/ 1-credit each) **Term / Year**

1.

2.

3.

MPS Program Requirements:

This is your personal worksheet to keep track of your progress in the Pastoral Studies Program. For your information, course categories are indicated in the course offering brochures and the Spring Hill College *Bulletin of Information*.

(All 18 hours of the CSD program can count for MPS requirements)

THL 520 (Theological Research Methods)	Term / Year
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1.

THL 510 (Practical Theology/3 Credits)	Term / Year
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1.

Biblical (1 Course/3 Credits)	Term / Year
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1.

Historical / Systematic (1 Course/3 Credits)	Term / Year
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1.

Moral (1 Course/3 Credits)	Term / Year
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1.

Pastoral / SPT Courses (6-9 Credits)	Term / Year
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1.

2.

3.

Practicum Internships (MIN 590, 595; SPT 591-2; 598-9) (6-9 credits)	Term / Year
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1.

2.

3.

Graduate Seminar (3/ 1-credit each)	Term / Year
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1.

2.

3.

MA Program Requirements:

For MA requirements see *Bulletin of Information* for details.

COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCES

MTS Comprehensive Experience:

The comprehensive experience for MTS graduates requires both written and oral components. The written comprehensive requires three (3) essays chosen randomly out of five (5) comprehensive questions provided to the student. The Comprehensive (3rd) Graduate Seminar serves as the oral component. At the Comprehensive Graduate Seminar, the graduating student will present a major paper from one of their courses, prepared with the help of the professor of the course for which it was written. The student will make their presentation as a synthesis of their program, and will lead a breakout session on the topic of their paper.

MPS Comprehensive Experience:

The MPS comprehensive experience consists of a final Pastoral Project and Paper, (normally done in conjunction with MIN 590, Field Education). The student will present their final Pastoral Project and Paper at their Comprehensive (3rd) Graduate Seminar. There are no written comprehensives for the MPS degree.

MA Comprehensive Experience:

The MA comprehensive involves an oral examination based on a required reading list from the student's particular concentration area and is the prerequisite for writing the thesis.

CTS Comprehensive Experience:

The CTS comprehensive includes both written and oral synthesis of the program as a whole.

Methods and Foundations in Theology: As a guide to the methodology and the basic concepts which are characteristic of the different areas of theological study (biblical, moral, historical, systematic, pastoral), you may wish to consult: *The College Student's Introduction to Theology*, Thomas P. Rausch, ed., Liturgical Press (Michael Glazier Books). The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University offers resources and instructional material for graduate level writing: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

Library Services: In addition to the SHC library, which offers ILL (Interlibrary Loan) service to all our students, students also have access to various theological libraries in the southeast. Students in Atlanta have borrowing privileges at Pitts Theological Library. Students in Birmingham may use Samford University's Library. In Jackson, MS, students may use Millsap College's Library. The diocesan offices in Jackson, MS and Birmingham, AL have basic reference libraries created in partnership with Spring Hill College. In Atlanta, the SHC theology library is housed at Ignatius House Retreat Center.

Theological Journals: For theological research and professional reading, students have access to ATLA (American Theological Library Association) through the SHC Library website (requires student login).

Online Courses: Schoology is our online course system. To access a course on Schoology, go to <https://shc.schoology.com>. This will take you to your school Gmail. Log in with your school Gmail login credentials. Select your class from the Courses drop-down menu.

Style Manual: For all research papers, the standard manual to be followed is the *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Kate L. Turabian, University of Chicago Press.

Graduation:

All candidates for completion (BA, CTS, MTS, MPS, MA) must send in their application for degree or certificate in the semester prior to completion. Participation in graduation ceremonies is expected.

Graduation Exercises: Both certificate (CTS) and degree (BA, MTS, MA) candidates are expected to participate in the graduation exercises in May and a graduation retreat for all students graduating from the Theology and Ministry programs. The Retreat will normally take place on Friday before the baccalaureate Mass. Commencement is on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. This too is a time of community building, as well as personal synthesis.

Change of Status:

Provisional status deadline: Students whose transcripts have not yet been received are assigned provisional status. If official transcripts are not received before the end of the first course, provisional students will not be allowed to register for any further courses until transcripts have been received.

Conditional to unconditional: Once the necessary prerequisite course work and/or Grade Point Average (GPA) has been achieved, there will be official notification of change to unconditional status. Unconditional status must be achieved *before completion of the fifth graduate course*.

CTS to BA: Students in the CTS program may also work towards completion of the undergraduate degree (BA), with a major in theology, by completing the CTS and doing further course work either through Spring Hill or through a local college or university, for students living outside the Mobile area.

MTS to MA: Students may apply for acceptance to the MA program only after successful completion of the MTS comprehensive exams. Once the MA degree is conferred, it supersedes the MTS (Since the MA builds on the MTS, they are overlapping degrees, only one of which is registered on the permanent transcript). See the *Bulletin of Information*.

New Student Interview:

Each new student should schedule, by way of the Graduate or Extension Site Office, a brief appointment with your official academic advisor: either the Extension Director / Coordinator or (for Mobile students only) the Director of Graduate Theology, either after completing your program application or sometime before the end of your first course.

Advising:

The official academic advisor for all students is the Director of Graduate Theology. For those in Atlanta who would like to meet with an advisor face to face, the Atlanta Site Coordinator at Ignatius House is available for appointments.

Evaluation:

Grades are available on BadgerWeb as soon as the grades are submitted by the professor for each course. Since courses beginning in November are part of the College's Spring semester, grades are not officially due until May, but will normally be posted soon after the end of the Winter term.

Incomplete (I) Grades:

If you need an extension on submitting your final assignments, you must *request in writing* an "I" grade. You should set a deadline with the instructor for completing your work, but the maximum allowed by the College is one semester after the end of the course. Incompletes in Fall & Winter are due by end of Spring term. Incompletes in Spring & Summer are due by end of Fall term. For exact dates, see the Registrar's academic calendar on BadgerWeb. After the due date, your grade automatically becomes an "F" and you are dismissed from the Program.

For undergraduate students, all work must be completed no later than 2 weeks after the beginning of the next semester; after this deadline the grade becomes an "F".

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is central to any academic program. The SHC Theology faculty takes seriously any form of plagiarism. On a major paper the student is given an "F" for the course and is dismissed from the Graduate Theology program. For a minor paper the student will be given an "F" for the paper and, depending on the course requirements, could be able to pass the course. Please be certain that you understand what is involved in correctly quoting and citing in a paper so as to avoid plagiarism. Also, be certain you understand all other instances of "academic dishonesty." See the *Bulletin of Information*.

Graduate Office:

For any special questions or concerns, do not hesitate to speak with your course professor. Questions of academic advising are normally referred to the Director of Graduate Theology. Questions of registration, classroom location, course times can be answered either by the Registrar or the Director of Graduate Theology. For issues relating to payments and refunds you may contact the Student Financial Aid office. **All new students should download a copy of the current Bulletin of Information** from BadgerWeb upon registration for their first course; it contains detailed information on all theology program requirements.

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