

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES MAJOR

Dean David B. Capes

The purpose of Biblical Studies is to familiarize students with the content and concepts of the Bible, the appropriate methodologies for the interpretation and the application of biblical teaching, and the research tools and resources necessary to pursue independent study of biblical texts and topics. For career purposes, the major may be used as a terminal degree, preparing students for employment in church and parachurch agencies by achieving a level of biblical literacy that will enable them to be active in lay church leadership and teaching ministries. As an initial degree, it prepares students for seminary training or for graduate work in theology and related disciplines.

In both required and elective courses, students are trained in basic biblical and theological knowledge. They are encouraged to develop skills that enable them to take into account the original linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural contexts of the Bible. Students are thereby enabled to consider critically religious traditions, beliefs, and practice in order to bring them into conformity with biblical revelation and to evaluate all of life and thought from the perspective of biblical principles.

The ultimate goal of Theological Studies is to ensure that the church's proclamation and the individual's life are faithful to God's revelation of Himself in Scripture. Students with good theological training will know how to evaluate critically their own personal theological leaning, be aware and respectful of other theological positions, and be able to distinguish those values that are distinctly Christian from those that the secular world espouses. Because of the diverse denominational and theological traditions that enrich our faculty and make up our student body, we bring a variety of approaches to the question of the church's role in society.

These objectives are attained through the academic processes that enable students to formulate a constructive, personal stance of Christian faith, to become aware of how culture affected biblical revelation which in turn dynamically affected culture, and to act upon a personal Christian worldview in daily life.

The Biblical and Theological Studies major meets the undergraduate requirements for seminary study suggested by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). Students contemplating graduate studies should consult with the institution in which they are interested to be informed of any particular undergraduate courses needed. Students interested in an accelerated curriculum leading to the bachelor's and master's degrees should consult with their advisors regarding the prerequisites for the Wheaton graduate program.

Requirements

Along with specific requirements for any major, all students in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree programs must meet all general education (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-information/academic-requirements-general-education>) and graduation requirements (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-information/academic-requirements-general-education/#text>) under a single catalog.

Requirements for a major in Biblical and Theological Studies are 32 hours beyond the general education requirement in Biblical and

Theological Studies. The general education requirement (12 hours) includes:

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Select one of the following:		4
BITH 211	Old Testament Literature and Interpretation	
BITH 221	Old Testament Literature in Three Traditions	
ARCH 211	Old Testament Archaeology	
Select one of the following:		4
BITH 213	New Testament Literature and Interpretation	
BITH 317	The New Testament in the Holy Lands	
ARCH 213	New Testament Archaeology	
BITH 374	Systematic Theology	4
Major Core		
BITH 325	Biblical Interpretation and Hermeneutics	4
BITH 372	Historical Theology	4
BITH 375	Christian Ethics	4
BITH 431	Old Testament Criticism	2
	or BITH 452 New Testament Criticism	
BITH 494	Senior Seminar	2
Electives		
Select 2-4 credits of the following Biblical Textual Studies, New Testament, or Biblical Studies courses:		2-4
<i>Biblical Textual Studies</i>		
BITH 323	Literature of the Bible	
BITH 332-345 (see course lists)		
BITH 349	Old Testament Topics	
BITH 433-438 (see course lists)		
BITH 443-449 (see course lists)		
<i>New Testament</i>		
BITH 323	Literature of the Bible	
BITH 351-365 (see course lists)		
BITH 368	The Book of Revelation	
BITH 451	Greek Exegesis	
BITH 454-469 (see course lists)		
<i>Biblical Studies</i>		
BITH 323	Literature of the Bible	
BITH 326	Biblical Theology of Worship	
BITH 327	Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers	
Select 2-4 credits of the following Theological Studies courses:		2-4
<i>Figures</i>		
BITH 483-488 (see course lists)		
<i>Doctrines</i>		
BITH 382	Church	
BITH 385	Triune God	
BITH 388	Person and Work of Christ	
BITH 389	Holy Spirit and Last Things	
BITH 392	Scripture	
BITH 393	Topics in Christian Thought	
<i>Topics</i>		
BITH 373	Marriage, Sex and Family in the Christian Tradition	
BITH 377	Topics in Christian Thought	

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BITH 383 Gender and Theology

BITH 384 Political Theology

BITH 394-398 (see course lists)

Select 8-12 credits in BITH or ARCH or RELI electives 8-12

Students pursuing a major in Biblical and Theological Studies are encouraged to fulfill the General Education language requirement by taking Greek or Hebrew.