

CATHOLIC STUDIES

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Program Director

Catholic Studies refers to academic programs that allow students to explore the Catholic Intellectual Tradition as it is manifested in any and every academic field. Catholic Studies programs are broadly interdisciplinary and so distinguished from programs of study that are exclusively theological or religious, although the foundation of the Catholic Studies minor is naturally based in the teaching and history of Catholicism. Catholic Studies embraces the human quest for knowledge, with a particular focus on the role of Catholic thinkers, Catholic ideas and values and Catholic institutions in that quest. The insight here is that the exploration of the particular gives a deeper appreciation of the universal. Thus, the word “Catholic” in the phrase “Catholic Studies” has two meanings. On the one hand, it conveys a scholarly focus on the Roman and Eastern Catholic heritage in its theological, philosophical, historical, literary, artistic and scientific expressions. On the other hand, it suggests an intellectual quest that is truly catholic—“universal” in the sense of considering how a tradition of ideas, beliefs and values has exerted influence “throughout the whole” of Western culture and, indeed, of global society.

The goal of the minor and certificates is to provide students an interdisciplinary exposure to the ideas that constitute the Catholic intellectual traditions. The courses that are applicable to the Catholic Studies Minor or certificate change every semester; they are listed in the schedule of courses issued by the Registrar’s Office. Students should consult with the Director of the program to plan their course of study.

Minor in Catholic Studies

The minor in Catholic Studies requires the completion of 18 credits.

REQUIRED FOUNDATION COURSE

TRS 220	Introduction to Catholic Theology (should be taken within first two years of study)
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REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Any two from the following core courses:

- at least one course in Ancient or Medieval Philosophy
- at least one of the following in Theology/ Religious Studies: TRS 240, TRS 327, TRS 332.

Remaining three elective courses must be selected from at least two distinct disciplines in consultation with the director of the program, but overall the minor course of study should include no more than three courses in any one discipline.

All students taking a minor in Catholic Studies must complete as a final course either an Independent Study capstone course and capstone paper or prepare a capstone paper based on the final course taken for the Catholic Studies minor. The candidate for the minor in Catholic Studies has full discretion in the selection of department for the Independent Study or the final course that will generate the capstone paper; however, the director of the minor must be able to participate in the criteria for the capstone paper in the latter circumstance. The purpose of the capstone course and paper is to afford the candidate an opportunity to integrate his/her Catholic Studies academic history of the Catholic intellectual tradition in Catholic Studies courses into a systematic and meaningful curriculum of readings and scholarship.