Department of Biblical & Theological Studies

Mission Statement

The Department of Biblical & Theological Studies seeks to equip students for ministry and Christian living by studying what the Bible says, learning how to interpret and apply it, and thinking about theological, philosophical, and ethical issues from a biblical perspective.

The department further specializes in advanced training for students who want to excel in biblical studies, theology and philosophy.

The Department of Biblical & Theological Studies offers the following degree programs: Bachelor of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, and an Accelerated B.A./Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS). Students may add a minor in Ancient and Classical Languages, Bible, Philosophy, or Science and Theology. A Certificate in Bible, a secondary major in Bible, and an Associate of Arts & Bible are also available.

Zondervan/University of Northwestern Awards

With the intent of inspiring students in their studies, Zondervan Publishing House initiated annual award programs to recognize outstanding achievement in the study of biblical Greek, biblical Hebrew and theology. University of Northwestern has entered into a participation agreement with Zondervan, according to which the Biblical & Theological Studies Department establishes selection criteria and the university presents these awards at the yearly Honors Convocation. The winners receive the prize of a Zondervan product, a commemorative item and the recognition of having his/her name engraved on a perpetual plaque displayed in the Berntsen Library. Northwestern has an additional Ancient & Classical Languages Award for an advanced language student each year. For more information, contact the chairperson of the Department of Biblical & Theological Studies.

Accelerated MATS

The department offers an accelerated pathway from the Biblical and Theological Studies major into the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS). Students will save time and tuition by integrating two existing programs. Overlapping credits are applied toward both the undergraduate degree and graduate degree. Students complete 14 credits of graduate coursework within their undergraduate major. After graduating with their B.A. degree, students then complete the remaining 22 graduate credits online. Accelerated graduate program requirements are listed following the Biblical and Theological Studies major description.

This B.A./MATS program is designed to prepare men and women for ministry in a church, para-church, or academic setting. Students complete advanced courses in theological methods, biblical interpretation, theology, and biblical languages.

The program may culminate with the writing of an optional thesis guided by a faculty mentor that contributes to one of three fields of study: Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, or Theological Studies. By the end of this program, students will have improved skills in research, critical thinking, project management, and writing. This preparation is especially helpful for students who are considering doctoral studies.

The total program requires 147 credits (125 credits for the B.A., 22 remaining credits for the MATS). Upon completion of all undergraduate requirements, the B.A. in Biblical & Theological Studies is awarded. This B.A. degree must be completed prior to enrollment in the MATS program. Upon completion of the remaining graduate requirements, the MATS degree is awarded. B.A. requirements are specified on pages 51–52 (40 credits must be successfully completed in 3000- or 4000-level courses).

Policies

Students wishing to enroll in the accelerated M.A. in Theological Studies program must first be admitted to UNW and then apply for the accelerated program through the Biblical & Theological Studies Department during or after their sophomore year. Graduate-level courses taken within the undergraduate program must be completed with a grade of C or better in order to fulfill graduate degree requirements. Upon completion of the undergraduate degree, students apply to the graduate school and then complete the remainder of their graduate degree. Requirements for the MATS are listed in the graduate school catalog.

Biblical & Theological Studies Major

Bachelor of Arts

The Biblical & Theological Studies major is designed to provide in-depth study and preparation in Bible and related areas and subjects. It is intended for students who wish to pursue graduate studies in preparation for teaching, for those who desire a solid pre-seminary program, or for persons who wish to gain a high proficiency in biblical studies. The degree is granted upon successful completion of credits specified here and on pages 51–52 (40 credits must be successfully completed in 3000- or 4000-level courses).

- **Biblical Thinking & Living** theology requirement in core curriculum: BIB4360 or BIB4825.

Required Courses . . . . . 28 cr

BIB4365	Historical Theology	4
BIB4460	Biblical Theology	4
BIB4835	Seminar in Theological Method **[OCE]**	4
BIA3235	Second Temple Judaism	4
BIA3236	Biblical Customs and Geography	4
BIA4837	Seminar in Exegetical Method **[WCE]**	4
HIS3125	History of the Christian Church from Apostolic Times to the Present	4

Select from the following . . . . . 10 cr

Courses with ACL, BIA, BIB, or PHI prefixes*

Foreign Language . . . . . 8 cr

ACL2001	Elementary Greek I	4
ACL2002	Elementary Greek II	4

WCE = WRITTEN COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
OCE = ORAL COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
SEE PAGE 49 FOR EXPLANATION AND PREREQUISITES.

* MAY NOT INCLUDE COURSES USED TO MEET CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS.

Course Requirements for Biblical and Theological Studies/Accelerated MATS

Students who are accepted into the accelerated graduate degree program may substitute the following graduate-level courses into the undergraduate degree, in place of the related undergraduate courses, to fulfill major or core curriculum requirements. Refer to the graduate catalog for specific graduate program requirements.

- **Biblical Thinking & Living** theology requirement in core curriculum: BIB4360 or BIB4825.

Undergraduate Courses . . . . . 14 cr

BIA4837	Seminar in Exegetical Method **[WCE]**	4
Theological Philosophy (core curriculum)		2
BIB4460	Biblical Theology	4
HIS3125	History of the Christian Church from Apostolic Times to the Present	4

Graduate Courses Substitutions. . . . . 14 cr

BIA5015U	Biblical Hermeneutics **[WCE]**	4
BIA5021U	Apologetics	2
BIB6312U	Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments	4
HIS5019U	History of Christianity	4

Foreign Languages . . . . . 8 cr

ACL2011	Classical Hebrew I	4
ACL2012	Classical Hebrew II	4

Ancient & Classical Languages Minor . . . . . .16 cr

Required Courses: ACL3201, 3202; 8 additional credits of courses with ACL-prefix excluding ACL2001 and 2002.

Science and Theology Minor . . . . . .20 cr

Required Courses:

- Two courses (8 credits) with BIO, CHE, PHY, or SCI prefix
- 8 credits selected from BIA/BIB prefix (2–4 credits); BIO4841 (2–4 cr); BIO4995 (2–4 credits); PHI3035; PHI3805 (Topics); SCI1008; one additional BIO, CHE, PHY, or SCI prefix course (4 credits)
- SCI3037

Bible (Secondary Major)

Bachelor of Arts

This is not a stand-alone major and exists only and explicitly as a secondary major for current Traditional Undergraduate students. See page 53.

Required Courses . . . . . 30 cr

BIA1007	Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 Honors)	2
BIA1015	Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 Honors)	2
BIB2005	Survey of the Old Testament (or BIB2827 Honors)	4
BIB2008	Survey of the New Testament (or BIB2826 Honors)	2
Theological Philosophy (see page 46)		4
Bible Exposition (see page 46)		10

Select one of the following:

BIB4360	Systematic Theology (or BIB4825 Honors)	4
BIB4365	Historical Theology	4
BIB4460	Biblical Theology	4

Students may apply 2 credits from the following Leadership (LDR) courses or select 2 additional credits with any BIB or BIA prefix.

LDR1011	Spiritual and Personal Formation for Leadership	2
LDR4425	Leading with Courage and Calling (or LDR4825 Honors)	2

Note: Completion of the Great Books & Ideas (Secondary Major) (see Classical Christian Honors College section) meets the Bible Minor requirements. Students may earn the Bible (Secondary Major), rather than the minor, by completing 6 additional credits in Bible Exposition (excluding BIB3115 and BIB3223).

Bible Minor . . . . . 16 cr

Required Courses: BIA1007 (or BIA1826); BIA1015 (or BIA1827); BIB2005 (or BIB2827); BIB2008 (or BIB2826); Theological Philosophy course (see page 46) (2 cr); BIB4360 (or BIB4825) or BIB4365 or BIB4460.

Note: Completion of the Great Books & Ideas (Secondary Major) (see Classical Christian Honors College section) meets the Bible Minor requirements.

Philosophy Major

Bachelor of Arts

The Philosophy major is designed to develop capacities and desires for sustained and careful thinking about fundamental questions regarding the world and life and for extended critical conversation regarding others' worldviews, the truth of basic beliefs and logical relations between beliefs. It is also designed to develop a set of skills needed for these. All of this is rooted in a background of historic Christian theology, in particular the basic truth that God is acting according to plan for his purpose in Christ. Students completing this major will, therefore, possess intellectual abilities important for life as a whole, beyond the knowledge and skills required for any particular profession. The degree is granted upon successful completion of credits specified here and on pages 51–52 (40 credits must be successfully completed in 3000- or 4000-level courses).

Required Courses . . . . . 24 cr

PHI2006	Fundamentals of Logic	2
PHI2016	Ethics	4
PHI3015	Early Philosophy	2
PHI3016	Modern Philosophy	2
PHI3025	God and Philosophy **[WCE]**	2
PHI3028	The Problem of Suffering	2
PHI3035	The Nature of Reality	2
PHI3057	Christian Apologetics	2
PHI3145	The Nature of Knowledge **[OCE]**	2
PHIX805	Topics in Philosophy **or**	
PHI2825	Honors Topics in Philosophy	2
PHI4855	Senior Capstone	2

Select from the following . . . . . 6 cr

Must select at least one PHI-prefix course

Any course with PHI-prefix*

ART3365	Aesthetics	2
BIB4365	Historical Theology	4
BIB4835	Seminar in Theological Method	4
LTH4155	Literary Theory	4
PHI2055	Introduction to Theological Philosophy	2
PHIX805	Topics in Philosophy **or**	
PHI2825	Honors Topics in Philosophy	2
PSY4306	History and Philosophy of Psychology	4
PHI/SCI3037	Science and Theology	4

Foreign Language . . . . . 8 cr

Must achieve second semester of first-year language sequence or higher. See page 50.

WCE = WRITTEN COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
OCE = ORAL COMMUNICATION EMPHASIS.
SEE PAGE 49 FOR EXPLANATION AND PREREQUISITES.

*MAY NOT INCLUDE COURSES USED TO MEET CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Philosophy Minor . . . . . 16 cr

Required Courses: Select 16 credits from PHI-prefix courses.

Associate of Arts & Bible (60–62 cr)

The Associate of Arts and Bible program is designed to prepare the graduate for transfer to an upper-level degree program at Northwestern or another institution. The degree is granted upon successful completion of credits specified here. Students complete credits from Northwestern's Core Curriculum with a focus on biblical studies.

Core Curriculum . . . . . 49–51 cr

Biblical Thinking & Living . . . . . 20 cr
- BIA1007 Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 Honors) 2
- BIA1015 Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 Honors) **or**
  - MIN2016 Biblical Interpretation for Study 2
- BIB2005 Survey of the Old Testament (or BIB2827 Honors) . . . 4
- BIB2008 Survey of the New Testament (or BIB2826 Honors) . . 2
- Theological Philosophy (select from list on page 46) 2
- **Select one of the following:**
  - BIB4360 Systematic Theology (**or** BIB4825 Honors) 4
  - BIB4365 Historical Theology 4
  - BIB4460 Biblical Theology 4
- **Select additional BIB, BIA, or ACL credits 4**

Leadership & Professionalism . . . . . 4 cr
- LDR1011 Spiritual and Personal Formation for Leadership 2
- LDR2112 Relational and Cultural Awareness in Leadership 2

Effective Communication . . . . . 3 cr
- COM1075 Public Speaking (or COM1825 Honors) 3

Critical Thinking & Information Literacy . . . . . 4–5 cr
(reinforces Effective Communication outcomes)
- ENG1107 College Writing & Research **and, if required,**
  - ENG1107L College Writing & Research Lab **or**
  - LAN1107L College Writing & Research Lab 4-5

Cultural & Global Engagement . . . . . 6-7 cr
- HIS1005 Historical Perspectives on Culture, Belief, and Civilization (or HIS1825 Honors or HIS1826 Honors) **and**, if required,
  - HIS1005L Historical Perspectives Lab 4-5
- Approved Cultural & Global Engagement Course or Modern World Language (select from list on page 46) 2

Creative Expression . . . . . 4 cr
Art, Film, Music, Literature, Theatre (select from list on page 47)
A MAXIMUM OF 2 CREDITS IN MUSIC ENSEMBLES OR THE1045 MAY APPLY

Scientific & Quantitative Literacy . . . . . 8 cr
Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science (select from list on page 47)
MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MATHEMATICS AND ONE NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE. EXCLUDES BIO1025.

Selectives . . . . . 11 cr

Select any 1000 level or above courses to bring the total credits earned to at least 60.

Certificate in Bible

The Certificate in Bible is designed for those desiring concentrated training in the Word of God. It assists students to become established in the faith, rooted and grounded in the Word, and fortified with answers to humanity's primary questions regarding life's purpose and destiny. It provides tools for continuing Bible study and for effective Christian witness. It is of value to professionals seeking a concentrated study of the Bible to support both personal and professional ministry roles.

Required Competency

Competency in reading and composition must be demonstrated in one of four ways. Any credits earned to demonstrate competency do not count as part of the 30 credits needed for the certificate.

1. By English coursework successfully completed at another college or university
2. By an ACT English or ACT English/Writing score of 25 or higher or an SAT Writing and Language score of 32 or higher.
3. If none of the above methods apply, by completing ENG1107.

Required Courses . . . . . 30 cr

- BIA1007 Christian Thinking & Living (or BIB1826 Honors) 2
- BIA1015 Interpreting Scripture (or BIA1827 Honors) 2
- BIB2005 Survey of the Old Testament (or BIB2827 Honors) . . . 4
- BIB2008 Survey of the New Testament (or BIB2826 Honors) . . 2
- Theological Philosophy (see page 46) 4
- Bible Exposition (see page 46) 10
- **Select one of the following:**
  - BIB4360 Systematic Theology (or BIB4825 Honors) 4
  - BIB4365 Historical Theology 4
  - BIB4460 Biblical Theology 4
- **Students may apply 2 credits from the following Leadership (LDR) courses or select 2 additional credits with any BIB or BIA prefix.**
  - LDR1011 Spiritual and Personal Formation for Leadership 2
  - LDR4425 Leading with Courage and Calling (or LDR4825 Honors) . . . 2