

Theology informs almost every aspect of our lives. From deliberations about war and peace, to the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court, people's embedded beliefs about God and the world infuse everything they do. This is why theology is such an important part of a liberal arts education.

The leap between faith and life. Theology helps us appreciate the deeper meaning of life and questions that arise on our life journey. When you study theology at St. Ambrose, you'll make those connections between faith and reason, and faith and life. A mature reflection on faith—whether it's your own or our common experience—helps you understand how cultures are shaped and how religious traditions begin and evolve.

Growth in theological and spiritual life. Our theology program challenges you to develop wider perspectives about Church, religious thought and practice, Catholicism, and the Judeo-Christian tradition. Moreover, theological reflection opens you to the beauty and spiritual plurality of other religious traditions. As a theology graduate, you'll be prepared to address the cultural, social, political and theological challenges within your personal and professional life.

Exceptional faculty. Taught by a diverse, exceptional faculty, our theology courses address contemporary theological issues, ethics and moral life, prayer, spirituality and worship, as well as specialized topics such as the Bible and justice, women theologians, the Jewish and Black experiences, the Protestant perspective, and world religions. Our Campus Ministry Office provides a wide range of opportunities to become involved in campus spiritual and liturgical life through special Masses and ecumenical services, prayer groups, Bible studies, retreats and service organizations as volunteers.

Ambrose Advantages

Faculty who know you. In the St. Ambrose Theology Department, we believe that, as Socrates said, the unexamined life is not worth living. We scrutinize our beliefs, how we come to hold them, and how they interface with a rapidly changing world. Faculty members are very available to students. We have regular meetings with our majors over dinner. We have movie nights and other discussions. Our faculty will know who you are, what you want to do, and will be a resource for you for years to come.

One major or two. Your theology degree will work particularly well as a companion major. We have had students pair theology with engineering, communications, nursing, pre-OT, pre-physical therapy, and more. In all of these cases, students find innovative ways to explore the theological and ethical components of their first majors; such as the ethics involved in engineering decisions or the



understanding of disability from a theological point of view.

Grounded in ethics, justice and faith—the Catholic Studies minor. Students wishing to grow intellectually in their faith tradition are not the only ones to benefit from a Catholic studies minor. Anyone can enrich and deepen their humanities education through this interdisciplinary minor, providing them additional perspectives grounded in ethics, justice and faith.

A long tradition at St. Ambrose—the Peace and Justice minor. Continuing St. Ambrose's long tradition in Catholic social teaching and justice issues, the peace and justice minor provides students the opportunity to examine issues related to injustice, violence and social change in creating a more just and peaceful world.

Service learning and social justice. Beyond the classroom, you'll have opportunities to work with churches, human services agencies, educational organizations and advocacy programs. Other opportunities include service trips to Appalachia or inner-city shelters to work with the less fortunate—work that is so much a part of St. Ambrose's traditions of service learning and social justice.

Career Opportunities

Students who earned their bachelor's degree in theology have gone on to graduate studies in social work, theology, theater, and many other areas. Students can also go directly into ministry with a theology degree. We have graduates who teach high school in religious contexts and students who work in parishes or in other types of ministry.

Career Outlook

- > Many theology majors pursue careers in social work and social service. More than 114,000 jobs in social work are expected to be added through 2022. The median pay for social work in 2012 was \$44,200, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- > The need for healthcare social workers is expected to increase by 27 percent in the next eight years, while the outlook for child, family and school social workers is 15 percent growth.
- > Growth in the social and community service manager field is projected to be 21 percent through 2022. The 2012 median salary for the position was just under \$60,000.
- > Some theology graduates teach religion. Among professions requiring a four-year degree, elementary, secondary and middle school teaching are expected to have the third, fourth and seventh most annual future job openings, according to a 2014 study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Alumni Success Stories

- > “The quality of education I received at St. Ambrose became apparent immediately upon entering graduate school. Because of the great preparation I received in my undergraduate classes, especially in Scriptures, I was able to handle master’s level work much better than most of my classmates.” —Becky David, Genesis Health System, Director of Spiritual Care and Mission Officer
- > “Studying theology at SAU gave me the opportunity to look seriously at my understandings of the Church and the understandings of those around me. This led to recognizing how these perceptions affected the way I lived my life and practiced my upcoming profession. Questions challenged my world-views, professors encouraged and guided my own questioning, and experiences provided by SAU engaged my growing knowledge.” —St. Ambrose theology student

Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. St. Ambrose and the Quad City community at large are known for their activism and volunteerism in the areas of the environment and peace and justice. Students have a number of opportunities to become involved not only with many of the churches and their affiliated groups, but also in associations such as the Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) Coalition, Quad-Citians Affirming Diversity, Churches United and River Action. These are just a few of the organizations that contribute to exceptional opportunities for networking, internships and jobs.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Theology degree. A minor also is offered in this discipline. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.