Bachelor of Philosophy/Bachelor of Theology

About Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame:

The root meaning of ‘philosophy’ is ‘the love of wisdom’, but what does this mean for us today? Essentially the impulse to philosophise is the desire to understand the most fundamental and enduring questions concerning human beings. In this sense, our quest for truth in religion and science, our quest for values for living, for beauty in art and literature, for meaning in politics and history, are all driven by the philosophical impulse to find answers to some of the most fundamental questions of human existence.

Students of Philosophy are encouraged to reflect deeply and critically on these fundamental questions and are challenged to examine their own beliefs and values and their practical implications for living. Students learn to apply various methods of evaluating the arguments of both Christian and secular thinkers, and develop cultural literacy by exploring how philosophical thought has influenced western culture.

From The Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian, 1990

The role of the theologian is to pursue an ever deeper understanding of the Word of God found in the inspired Scriptures and handed on by the living Tradition of the Church. He or she does this in communion with the Magisterium which has been charged with the responsibility of preserving the deposit of faith.

Why study Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame?

At Notre Dame, students are educated to think critically and to become knowledgeable and considerate citizens. The university works to develop qualities that will allow students to contribute positively to the communities with which they identify. The aim is to educate the whole person by facilitating engagement with the deeper questions of individual and social life, through the study of philosophy within the Catholic liberal arts tradition. The history of philosophy, including medieval philosophy, provides the foundation of a broad and balanced philosophical education. Students are taught to approach philosophy from within the traditions of Ancient, Medieval and Modern philosophy while also grappling with the contemporary problems addressed by both analytic and continental philosophy.

Students may want to study Theology if they:

- have vocational, ministerial or academic goals relevant to rational enquiry about God in Catholic tradition
- wish to deepen their own understanding of the Catholic Faith
- have the desire to contribute to serious theological reflection
- are preparing for a graduate entry degree, such as Medicine or Law (also available at Notre Dame)

Course Duration:

The Bachelor of Philosophy/Bachelor of Theology generally takes five years to complete on a full-time basis. It is also available on a part-time basis (domestic students only).

Course Outline:

The Bachelor of Philosophy/Bachelor of Theology degree is open to all students but has been designed to meet the needs of seminarian and Religious education in philosophy and theology. The course structure is modelled on the Ratio for Australia and is a response to the 2011 Decree on the Reform of Ecclesiastical Studies of Philosophy.

The Bachelor of Philosophy

The Bachelor of Philosophy offers students an all-round education in the history of philosophy and various philosophical disciplines including major topics and thinkers in contemporary philosophy. It also includes treatment of the Catholic philosophical tradition. Students will develop high-level critical thinking skills, linguistic ability and the ability to defend a reasoned point of view. Students will be equipped to engage critically with the views of others as they develop their own views on ethical issues and on the force and reliability of claims to truth and knowledge.

The Bachelor of Theology

The Bachelor of Theology includes the study of Revelation in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, upon which all theological development is based. Units within the degree explore such questions as the nature of God, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the human person, the Church, the moral life and the life of grace in the Holy Spirit and the liturgy.

The areas of study are:

- Biblical Studies
- Church History
- Doctrinal or Systematic Theology
- Moral Theology
- Sacramental Theology and the Liturgy

Course Structure:

A full-time study load consists of four units per semester.

Students are required to undertake:

- At least 13 units of philosophy
- At least 18 units of theology
- At least 1 Biblical language

Seminarians and Religious may, at the request of their Dean of Studies, replace the Core Curriculum units with alternative philosophy and theology units. Core Curriculum units are studied by all students of the University of Notre Dame Australia.
Year One
- Basic Method and Problems of Philosophy
- Critical Thinking
- Logos I
- Logos II
- Moral Philosophy
- History of Philosophy: Ancient
- Philosophy of the Human Person
- History of Philosophy: Medieval
- Natural Law

Year Two
- History of Philosophy: Modern
- Epistemology – Ways of Knowing
- Philosophy of Science
- Logos III
- Introduction to Formal Logic
- History of Philosophy: Contemporary
- Political Philosophy
- Introduction to Metaphysics
- Aquinas: Analytic and Phenomenological Approaches (or)
- Metaphysics, Being, and God

Year Three
- Faith and Culture: Fundamental Theology
- Introduction to the Old Testament
- Liturgy
- Introduction to Greek or Hebrew
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Early Church History
- Translating Greek/Hebrew
- Fundamental Moral Theology

Year Four
- Pentateuch
- Ecclesiology and Mariology
- Greek/Hebrew/Latin
- Ministry of Social Justice
- Trinity
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Christology
- The Gospels of Mark and Matthew

Year Five
- Johannine Literature
- Sacraments of Healing
- Eucharist
- Medieval Church History
- Introduction to Christian Spirituality
- Marriage and Sexuality
- Letters
- Marriage and Orders

* indicates a core curriculum unit

Mode of Study & Assessment:
This course is only offered in internal mode. Students will be provided with a copy of a Unit Outline for each unit in a given semester. This outline will provide the assessment method for the unit, which may include: assignments, essays, presentations, performances, practicum, internships, placements, research papers, theses, tests, and examinations.

Admission Requirements:
School Leavers:
- ATAR of 70 - Indicative only. Must have been obtained within the last five years. Or
- IB of 25+ - Indicative only. Must have been obtained within the last five years.

Post School Leaver / Mature Age Applicants:
- Other University Studies - Notre Dame will also consider applicants who have successfully completed a minimum of four units within a Bachelor's Degree from another University. Or
- Successful completion of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate IV level qualification or higher from a recognised provider such as TAFE or an RTO. Or
- Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) – This option is only available for applicants who are over 20 years of age as at 1 March in the year of admission. A score of 150 for both the Multiple Choice component and the Written English component is required. STAT results are valid for five years. Or
- Successful completion of the Notre Dame Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) or Foundation Year (FY).

Vocational and Career Opportunities:
Graduates from the Bachelor of Philosophy/Bachelor of Theology will have enhanced employment prospects in such areas as:
- Academic teaching, public libraries, and research institutes
- Advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged and disabled people
- Church Ministry
- Coordinator of Parish Adult Faith Programs
- Critical thinking in management roles in business and industry
- Federal Government agencies such as:
  - the Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs (DIMA)
  - Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
  - Australian Journalism, editing, media script writing, advertising, the arts.
- International diplomacy & trade missions to other cultures
- Leadership positions in Catholic schools
- Leadership, vision & sound values in voluntary organisations
- Policy development and administration in government
- Religious Education Coordinators
- Service in a range of Church agencies
- Teaching in Catholic/Christian Schools
- Youth work
- Vision and innovative thinking in community/local politics.

Further Information: The information contained in this publication is designed as a basic course description. If you would like further information regarding the course, or information pertaining to admissions, fees or the University itself, please contact the Prospective Students Office on (02) 8204 4404 or at sydney@nd.edu.au.

All international enquiries may be directed to the International Students Office at sydney.international@nd.edu.au.

Please also visit our website at www.nd.edu.au
Feb 2016