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Mission

Christendom College is a Catholic coeducational college institutionally committed to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. The College provides a Catholic liberal arts education, including an integrated core curriculum grounded in natural and revealed truth, the purpose of which at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is to form the whole person for a life spent in the pursuit of truth and wisdom. Intrinsic to such an education is the formation of moral character and the fostering of the spiritual life. This education prepares students for their role as faithful, informed, and articulate members of Christ’s Church and society.

The particular mission of Christendom College, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, is “to restore all things in Christ,” by forming men and women to contribute to the Christian renovation of the temporal order. This mission gives Christendom College its name.

The Notre Dame Graduate School

The Notre Dame Graduate School (NDGS, or the Christendom Graduate School) is Christendom College’s graduate school of theology. Its masters-level programs offer a comprehensive grasp of the Catholic faith, preparing students for advanced graduate studies and for various ministries in the Catholic Church. Its flexible and accommodating program allows students of all ages and from all over the world to attend either part-time or full-time, year-round, summers-only, or winters-only, and also to study at a distance through our online program.

To teach the Faith involves more than the transmission of information about religion; it also requires a manner of teaching that bears witness to the relationship between faith and life. Along with formal instruction in theology, the Christendom Graduate School offers opportunities for growth in both spiritual and social domains. This comprehensive perspective fosters a genuine family spirit among administration, faculty, staff, and students. First and last, the Christendom Graduate School sees itself as the servant of both the universal and the local Church, avowing its fidelity to that faith “which comes to us from the Apostles.”

The Christendom Graduate School is committed to educating in accord with the Vicar of Christ. As an Apostolic institution, the Notre Dame Institute in 1971 was authorized by the Holy See to grant the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma to those students who qualified for it. This diploma signifies the highest ecclesial competency in catechetics. Christendom College continues to award this diploma in addition to its academic degrees.

Christendom College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees and the Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4501 for questions about the accreditation of Christendom College. We provide this contact information “to enable interested constituents (1) to learn about the accreditation status of the institution, (2) to file a third-party comment at the time of the institution’s decennial review, or (3) to file a complaint against the institution for alleged non-compliance with a standard or requirement.” Normal inquiries about Christendom College, e.g., about educational programs, admissions policies, and the like, should be addressed directly to Christendom College.

Christendom College functions in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is licensed by the Virginia State Council on Higher Education to grant the Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Arts degrees. The College is located within the Diocese of Arlington and is submissive to the authority of the Bishop of Arlington regarding the orthodoxy of Catholic doctrine taught at the College.
History

In 1969, the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon, Ohio, and Msgr. Eugene Kevane, then-Dean of the School of Education at the Catholic University of America, founded the Notre Dame Institute in Middleburg, Virginia. Originally, its purpose was to train religious sisters from various communities to teach Catholic doctrine to other teachers, religious and lay.

In 1971, John Cardinal Wright, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, established the Notre Dame Institute as an official catechetical institute recognized and authorized by the Holy See. This association with the Holy See enables Christendom College to award the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, the highest ecclesial award for catechetics. That same year, the Notre Dame Institute affiliated with the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome, through which the Master of Arts degree in Religious Education was granted.

In order to expand its mission, the Notre Dame Institute began to accept lay men and women into the program. Additionally, the Bishop of Arlington entrusted the Institute with the theological formation of candidates for the permanent diaconate. In order to have its degrees more accepted in North America, the Notre Dame Institute terminated its relationship with the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in favor of granting its own degrees under the authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Notre Dame Institute then moved from Middleburg to the Northern Virginia (metro Washington, DC) area. In June 1994, the Institute settled in its present location in Alexandria, Virginia, where its campus includes offices, library, classrooms, chapel and study lounges in a beautiful setting next to Queen of Apostles Church and School.

Upon the recommendation of the Boards of both the Notre Dame Institute and Christendom College, the two institutions merged on February 1, 1997. The Notre Dame Institute became the Notre Dame Graduate School (NDGS) of Christendom College, and began offering its summer residential program at Christendom’s Front Royal campus. In 2006 the Christendom Graduate School, in conjunction with the Institute on Religious Life, began to offer the Vita Consecrata Institute, an annual summer program of study and renewal for religious, as part of the Graduate School Summer Program. Christendom is once again providing theological formation to candidates for the permanent diaconate of the Diocese of Arlington. The Christendom Graduate School introduced its certificate programs in 2007, and the online MA program in 2009. The Christendom Graduate School hopes, with the help of God’s grace, to continue to improve its forty-five-year tradition of service to the Church.

Campus Locations

The Christendom Graduate School is located in the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., in the eastern, “Alexandria” section of Fairfax County. The campus is on Queen of Apostles Parish grounds, in a quiet, residential neighborhood, at 4407 Sano Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22312, within convenient access to Interstates 66, 395, and 495, and other major roads. The campus facilities include offices, classrooms, a chapel, library, computer lab, study and recreational areas, and a beautiful enclosed garden. Classes are held at the Alexandria campus primarily during the fall and spring semesters (with a limited number of summer courses), and most are scheduled during the evenings and on Saturdays. The Alexandria campus does not include residential facilities, but students from out of town are usually able to find affordable housing in the vicinity, and the Graduate School facilitates this search by maintaining a current list of people wishing to rent to Christendom students.

The main campus of Christendom College is at 134 Christendom Drive, Front Royal, Virginia. The Summer Program of the Graduate School is located at this campus, where residence and dining halls make it possible for students from all over the world to attend. The hundred-acre campus is situated in a beautiful pastoral setting on the Shenandoah River near the Blue Ridge Mountains, and includes facilities for a full range of recreational, academic, social, and religious activities. Dulles International Airport serves both campuses, and in addition, Ronald Reagan National Airport is convenient to the Alexandria campus.
Master of Arts in Theological Studies Program

The Christendom Graduate School offers the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree. Students may choose to concentrate their studies in the disciplines of Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Evangelization and Catechesis, Consecrated Life, or Spirituality. Special course requirements for each of these concentrations are outlined subsequently. In general, the student successfully completes a minimum of forty-two (42) graduate credits in theology, including core required courses, special required courses for his concentration, and elective courses. The student may submit a thesis in lieu of six credits of electives. Courses for the MA program may be taken on campus or online, or by a combination of both formats. The student must maintain a “B” (3.0) average throughout the program. The student is expected to become familiar with the works of the Christendom Graduate School Bibliography, which support the curriculum, provide suggested material for research, and help prepare the student for comprehensive exams. Finally, the student must apply for Candidacy for the Master’s Degree, and then pass a Comprehensive Exam including both written and oral portions.

Online MA Program

The Christendom Graduate School’s Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is available online to distance students. The online courses are the same challenging courses that are taught on the Christendom campus, with the same professors; they are available in video format, in which the lectures are recorded during an actual class at Christendom. Many of the courses are delivered in pre-recorded, asynchronous format which allows students to work on their courses whenever they wish. Several courses are also offered in live online format, for which the students log on at a certain time each week and can interact with the professor and with each other. All the courses for the systematic theology, the moral theology, and the evangelization & catechesis concentrations are available online. While students in the consecrated life and spirituality concentrations may take their core requirements online, the consecrated life and spirituality courses are only offered on campus during the residential summer program as part of the 4-week VCI.

Students may combine online courses with classroom courses in any combination that works for them. Many students find that attending the six-week residential Summer Program while taking online courses over the winter combines the great experience of the Christendom community with the advantage of finishing the degree in a shorter time. Degree requirements are the same for on-campus students and for distance students. At the end of their course of studies, distance students must travel to Virginia to take the comprehensive exam.

Admissions requirements and procedures are the same for online/distance and on-campus students. Online students have the same easy access to academic advisement, to the graduate school administrative staff, and to the grad school professors as on-campus students have, usually via telephone and email. The Christendom Libraries are committed to accommodating distance students and providing them full use of the library resources and services for their studies and research.

Summer MA Program

Christendom College offers a residential Graduate Summer Program for those students who wish to pursue graduate theological studies during the summer. It is held at the main Christendom College campus just outside of Front Royal, Virginia, enabling people from all over the United States and abroad to attend the Christendom Graduate School. This program is popular with students who are not able to move to the Northern Virginia area for the regular (fall/spring) graduate program, and with teachers and others who have summers off from work. Many of the fall/spring graduate students also attend the Summer Program, accelerating their studies by going year-round; similarly, many online/distance students attend the Summer Program in order to experience the Christendom academic community.

The Christendom Graduate School Summer Program runs for six weeks, ending around the end of July. A full cycle of courses is offered each summer. Both the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree and the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma may be earned at the Summer Program, over the course of at least four summers, or students may combine the summer program with courses taken online over the fall and spring semesters to finish their degrees in a shorter time. The beautiful riverside campus with its full range of recreational possibilities provides a perfect milieu for the study, prayer, and fellowship that make up Christian academic community life.
Non-degree Programs

The Apostolic Catechetical Diploma

The Christendom Graduate School is authorized by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy to award both the Advanced and the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas. These catechetical diplomas are distinct from the academic Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies, although the two may be earned simultaneously. The diploma is awarded by authorization of the Holy See in recognition of the catechist’s competence in the field of catechesis and his or her personal commitment to teach Catholic doctrine in communion with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

To receive the Advanced Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, a student must have a bachelor’s degree and successfully complete forty-two (42) graduate credits of course work, including the core requirements of the MA and the special requirements for the evangelization and catechesis concentration. The Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diploma may be awarded to those students who do not possess a bachelor’s degree but who complete the forty-two credits of required courses. Either Apostolic Diploma maybe earned online. Research papers are not required of students in the basic diploma program, and comprehensive exams are not required for either catechetical diploma. Students must maintain a “B” (3.0) average in order to be eligible to receive these Apostolic Diplomas.

The Vita Consecrata Institute

The Vita Consecrata Institute (VCI) is a summer program of theological study and spiritual renewal for religious, priests, and other consecrated persons. It is part of the Graduate School Summer Program and is co-sponsored by the Institute on Religious Life. Professors who themselves exemplify the consecrated life teach courses in spirituality and in the theology of the consecrated life, as reflected in the mission and life of the Church. The program is designed to assist participants to grow in a deeper understanding and appreciation of the consecrated life as “a gift of the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit,” to grow in their own spiritual lives, and to be able to act as spiritual mentors or guides for others. The program is ideal for religious in formation, those preparing for perpetual vows, consecrated persons looking for a sabbatical or period of renewal, in addition to those who are preparing for formation or leadership roles within their institutes. Although most participants do not take the courses for academic credit, it is possible to earn graduate credit towards the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree, with a concentration in the theology of the consecrated life or in spirituality, or towards a certificate in theology of the consecrated life or in spirituality. Students may take all of the courses for the MA degree (consecrated life or spirituality concentration) over the course of four consecutive summers, or they may elect to take some of their core requirements either online or on campus during the fall and spring semesters. The spirituality and consecrated life courses are offered only during the summer program in conjunction with the Vita Consecrata Institute. The spirituality courses of the VCI are open to lay persons with approval, but the consecrated life courses are restricted to those living or discerning the consecrated life.

Certificates

For those students who are not interested in a master’s degree, but who want to do more than just “take courses,” the Christendom Graduate School offers several certificate programs. Students may earn certificates in dogmatic theology, moral theology, evangelization/catechesis, consecrated life, spirituality, and scripture studies. Certificate students take the same challenging and informative courses as degree-seeking students. Even students without a bachelor’s degree can earn a certificate, although graduate credit for the courses can only be granted to those who have submitted proof of a bachelor’s degree. Usually 12 – 15 credits are required for each certificate, and a GPA of at least 3.0 (B average) must be maintained. All certificates except spirituality and consecrated life may be earned completely online. Please see below for the course requirements for the various certificates.
Casual & Audit Students

Students may enroll in both on-campus and online courses as casual students without working towards a degree, or they may audit courses, both campus and online, without earning graduate credit. Credits earned as a casual student automatically apply toward the degree program if a student later decides to earn a degree, certificate or diploma. Christendom courses qualify for catechist certification in many dioceses, and for teaching licensure and re-certification in most states. Many students take them for adult Faith formation or for personal enrichment. Casual students seeking graduate credit for transfer to another graduate school must provide proof of a bachelor’s degree.

Diaconate Formation

The Christendom Graduate School provides theological formation to the candidates for the permanent diaconate of its home diocese, the Diocese of Arlington. These courses are also available online to other dioceses who may wish to entrust the academic formation of their deacon candidates to Christendom. A program of twelve to sixteen courses is adaptable to the particular needs of each diocese. For more information, please contact the Christendom Graduate School.

Catechist Formation & Certification

The Christendom Graduate School offers a foundational catechist formation and certification program online to interested individuals who wish to deepen their understanding of the teachings of the Faith, and to parishes and dioceses for formation of catechists. The program is divided into two, semester-long courses, each of which includes thirty hours of online video. The comprehensive courses cover the principles of evangelization and catechesis and guide the student through the Catechism of the Catholic Church, with special emphasis on the Scriptural foundations for Catholic teachings. Reflections from the professor’s personal experiences in catechesis suggest ways to teach doctrinal concepts to various age groups. The student who completes both of the catechist formation courses receives catechist certification from Christendom. Catechist formation courses are not taken for graduate credit, nor do they apply towards the MA degree.

Students looking for further education in evangelization and catechesis beyond the catechist formation program may earn the Christendom Certificate in Evangelization and Catechesis, the MA in Theological Studies degree with the concentration in evangelization and catechesis, or the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma.
Curriculum

The curriculum at Christendom, centered upon Christ as professed in the baptismal faith of the Church, is designed to enable students to penetrate the truths of the Faith, to hand on an authentic understanding of the basics of sacred theology, and to continue their study of theology with competence. In a curriculum that systematically integrates instruction in theology, philosophy, morals, Sacred Scripture, catechetics, and spirituality, each course contributes to the formation of the theologian and catechist. Theology courses provide a rigorous, academic study of core areas of the Faith, while those in philosophy establish the preambles of the Faith and the nature of the human person. The Word of God gets in-depth penetration in Scripture courses; spirituality and morality courses reflect on the meaning of life in Christ; and evangelization and catechesis courses focus on both the content and methods of the Church’s missionary and catechetical tradition.

Christendom College acknowledges in its curriculum the essential role played by St. Thomas Aquinas in Catholic theology. Courses in philosophy and theology are taught according to the spirit, method, and principles of the Common Doctor. The graduate-level courses at Christendom presuppose a general knowledge of the Catholic Faith as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The curriculum delves into the mysteries of the Faith using as primary sources Sacred Scripture, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and magisterial and conciliar documents, especially those of Vatican II, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI. At Christendom the study of theology proceeds within the Faith, being, as St. Thomas Aquinas says, “the science of those things which can be concluded from the articles of Faith.”

Students matriculating in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program choose to concentrate their studies in systematic theology, moral theology, evangelization and catechesis, spirituality, or theology of the consecrated life. All students take certain core courses which are foundational to the various concentrations. Three of these are in dogmatic theology (God the Father, Christology, Holy Spirit & Ecclesiology), one is in Moral Theology, two are in Scripture (Old Testament and New Testament), and another two are in philosophy (Philosophy of God and Man, and Philosophical Errors).

The purpose of the required philosophy courses is to assist students in a philosophical understanding of God, his creation, the nature of the human person, and certain philosophical errors which influence contemporary thought and scholarship, with the ultimate aims of providing a philosophical foundation for theological studies and of enabling students to present the Faith more reasonably and effectively.

The systematic theology concentration allows a student to study the articles of faith more deeply than in the core requirements, by studying them from the vantage point of the writings of the Fathers of the Church, and also historically, by way of the challenges to the Faith encountered in the Church’s history. Following the mandate of Jesus “to teach all nations,” the concentration in evangelization and catechesis equips the student with the history and theology of the Church’s evangelization tradition, along with the practical skills needed to direct successfully a parish’s efforts to extend the Kingdom of God through various faith formation programs and activities. The moral theology concentration aims to train theologians who are steeped in an understanding of the Christian moral tradition, especially as it applies to contemporary moral questions, so they can explain and defend the Church’s moral teaching. The theology of the consecrated life concentration focuses on various aspects of the religious life as reflected in the missions and life of the Church. It is designed for, and limited to, persons called to the consecrated life who attend the summer Vita Consecrata Institute. The spirituality concentration aids the student in developing his own spiritual life and also trains him to act as spiritual guide or mentor to others. Although spirituality courses are only offered in conjunction with the summer Vita Consecrata Institute, they are open to lay persons in addition to religious and clergy.

The curriculum at the Christendom Graduate School is a flexible one, without any prescribed order in which courses must be taken. Students may begin in any semester, may enroll either full-time or part-time, and may combine on-campus with online courses in any combination they wish. Forty-two credits are required for the master’s degree and for the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas.
Program Learning Goals for the MA Degree

ALL MA GRADUATES:

Students will be able to read and think critically, and will have experience working with primary texts, particularly those from the Fathers and Doctors of the Church.

Students will be familiar with the thought of St Thomas Aquinas, will have read substantial portions of the *Summa Theologiae*, and will have experience in critically explicating Thomistic texts.

Students will be familiar with the content of the Old and New Testaments and the relationship between the two, and with Catholic hermeneutical principles, and be able to discern the Scriptural foundations of Catholic doctrines.

Students will be familiar with research databases, periodicals and reference works relevant to the subject area (both print and electronic) and will be able to conduct independent theological research using these resources.

Students will be thoroughly familiar with the major documents of Vatican II, their relevance and proper interpretation.

Students will be able to construct sound theological arguments, and to produce a piece of sustained theological writing in areas such as Trinity, creation, Christology, grace/salvation, ecclesiology, and moral theology.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION:

Students will understand the origins, growth, development and history of the Catholic Church, including the development of doctrine, through the various historical periods and ecumenical councils.

Students will possess a familiarity with the Fathers of the Church and their teachings.

Students will be able to give a theological exposition of the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and its importance for salvation.

MORAL THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION:

Students will understand and be able to defend the Church’s moral teachings, especially those in the areas of life and social issues.

Students will be able to explain the Biblical roots and theological tradition of the understanding of the human person as a free, acting, and moral subject perfected by grace and virtue.

Students will have an understanding of the nature of virtue, both natural and supernatural, and of the cardinal and theological virtues.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS CONCENTRATION:

Students will be familiar with the history, tradition and principles of the Church’s ministry of the Word, especially evangelization and catechesis in general and the on-going discussion of the New Evangelization, and will be able to apply this material to assess, manage and develop parish-based evangelization and catechetical programs.

Students will be able to offer, explain and defend the Catholic Faith to both adults and children of various ages, according to their personal circumstances, natural human development, and faith development.
Students will complete a series of projects, including the development of an administrative policy manual for an evangelization or catechetical program, and the development of a program for the evangelization or catechesis of a specific group of the faithful, as part of their coursework.

**THEOLOGY OF THE CONSECRATED LIFE CONCENTRATION:**

Students will understand the consecrated life as “a gift of the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit,” including the role and value of consecrated life in the contemporary Church as articulated by Vatican II.

Students will understand the Scriptural foundations and historical development of consecrated life in the Catholic Church.

Students will have a basic knowledge of the Code of Canon Law, especially as it applies to the consecrated life, and be able to apply this knowledge to the rules of their own religious orders or institutes.

**SPIRITUALITY CONCENTRATION:**

Students will demonstrate a lived experience of the spiritual life and a basic knowledge of the interior life of grace as it develops in the soul and as it is expressed in the various schools of spirituality.

Students will be able to articulate a comprehensive understanding of the four essential means to holiness, namely prayer, the sacraments, self-denial, and the pursuit of virtue.

Students will acquire the basic foundational training required to act as spiritual guides or mentors to others.
Required Courses for the MA Degree

Core Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree and the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas (all MA students)

THEO 601:  God the Father
THEO 602:  Christology
THEO 603:  Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology
THEO 604:  Moral Theology

PHIL 602:  Philosophy of God and Man
PHIL 603:  Philosophical Errors
SCRI 606:  Old Testament
SCRI 607:  New Testament

Requirements for the Systematic Theology Concentration*

HIST 610:  Church History, Part I
HIST 611:  Church History, Part II
THEO 712:  Patristics
THEO 605:  Liturgy and Sacraments

Requirements for the Moral Theology Concentration*

THEO 720:  Theological Anthropology
THEO 721:  The Virtues
THEO 724:  Sexual and Biomedical Ethics
THEO 802:  Catholic Social Teachings

Requirements for the Evangelization and Catechesis Concentration, and the Apostolic Catechetical Diplomas

EDUC 602:  The Catechetical Tradition
EDUC 603:  Catechetical Program Administration
(THEO 606: Apologetics may be taken in place of EDUC 603 or 604 with permission)
EDUC 604:  Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization
THEO 605:  Liturgy and Sacraments

Requirements for the Theology of the Consecrated Life Concentration
(offered only during the residential summer program, on campus)

CONL 621:  History of the Consecrated Life
CONL 622:  Liturgy and the Consecrated Life
CONL 623:  Scriptural Foundation of Consecrated Life
CONL 624:  The Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas
CONL 625:  Consecrated Life and Vatican II
CONL 626:  Consecrated Life in Canon Law

Requirements for the Spirituality Concentration
(offered only during the residential summer program, on campus)

SPIR 630: The Spiritual Life
SPIR 631: The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life
SPIR 632: Christian Prayer and Contemplation
SPIR 633: Christian Asceticism
SPIR 634: Virtues and the Spiritual Life
SPIR 635: Spiritual Direction

*Latin competency is also required for the moral theology and systematic theology concentrations.
Certificate Requirements

CERTIFICATE IN DOGMATIC THEOLOGY
THEO 601: God the Father
THEO 602: Christology
THEO 603: Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology
THEO 604: Moral Theology
THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments

CERTIFICATE IN MORAL THEOLOGY
THEO 604: Moral Theology
THEO 720: Theological Anthropology
THEO 721: The Virtues
THEO 724: Sexual and Biomedical Ethics
THEO 802: Catholic Social Teachings

CERTIFICATE IN EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
THEO 605: Liturgy and Sacraments
EDUC 602: The Catechetical Tradition
EDUC 603: Catechetical Program Administration
EDUC 604: Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization
THEO 606: Apologetics

CERTIFICATE IN CONSECRATED LIFE
(available summers only, on campus)
CONL 621: History of the Consecrated Life
CONL 622: Liturgy and the Consecrated Life
CONL 623: Scriptural Foundations of Consecrated Life
CONL 624: The Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas
CONL 625: Consecrated Life and Vatican II
CONL 626: Consecrated Life in Canon Law

CERTIFICATE IN SCRIPTURAL STUDIES
SCRI 606: Old Testament
SCRI 607: New Testament
Three additional Scripture courses of the student’s choosing.

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUALITY
(available summers only, on campus)
SPIR 630: The Spiritual Life
SPIR 631: The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life
SPIR 632: Christian Prayer and Contemplation
SPIR 633: Christian Asceticism
SPIR 634: Virtues and the Spiritual Life
SPIR 635: Spiritual Direction
**Prerequisite Course**

Students entering the Master’s program or either Apostolic Catechetical Diploma program without sufficient previous coursework in theology must successfully complete THEO 590: Introduction to Theology, preferably at the beginning of their studies. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and the credits earned do not count in the required credit total for the Master of Arts degree or the Apostolic Diploma. This course is available every semester, but only in online format.

**Language Requirement**

MA students concentrating in systematic or moral theology must demonstrate an ability to read Latin as part of their degree requirements. Students may take a competency exam to satisfy this requirement. The exam consists of a Scriptural or theological passage in Latin to translate into English with the aid of a Latin/English dictionary. Alternatively, students may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing LATN 501: Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin, which is usually offered on campus in the spring semester, online in the fall semester, and occasionally during the summer. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and the credits earned do not count in the required credit total for the Master of Arts degree. There is no language requirement for the consecrated life, evangelization and catechesis, and spirituality concentrations. Occasionally other language courses may be offered as a convenience for students, but the credits earned for language courses do not count towards the Master’s degree or diploma, nor may language courses be audited – they must be taken for credit because of the grading work involved for the professor.

**Online Courses**

At the Christendom Graduate School, the MA curriculum is identical for online/distance students and for local/classroom students. Individual online courses are also as identical as possible to the classroom versions, and in most cases include video recordings of onsite classes. Students may take all of their courses online, or they may combine online and on-site courses in any combination. Students may earn the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree and/or the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma online. Degree requirements are the same for all students, whether local or distance. All courses of the systematic theology, the evangelization and catechesis, and the moral theology concentrations are available online, in addition to some elective courses. While students in the consecrated life and spirituality concentrations may take their core requirements online, the consecrated life and spirituality courses are only offered on campus during the summer as part of the VCI. Online courses at Christendom include both pre-recorded, asynchronous courses which students may access at any time, and live online courses to which students must log on at specified times for an interactive course experience.

**Order of Courses**

There is no prescribed order for taking the courses of the MA program, and the numbering of courses is purely arbitrary. While students may take courses in any order, here are some recommendations that will facilitate learning and help students get more from the program:

- THEO 590 (Introduction to Theology) is a prerequisite course that provides a foundation of the rest of the program and should be taken as close to the beginning of the program as possible.
- Taking Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin early in the program allows students to use their Latin proficiency in future courses.
- Since philosophy is the handmaiden of theology, it is recommended to take PHIL 602, Philosophy of Gad and Man, earlier rather than later – it introduces terminology and concepts that are used in theology.
- Students concentrating in the moral theology should take THEO 604 early in the program, as this fundamental moral theology course introduces many teachings that are expanded in the other moral theology courses.
- Taking Old Testament before New Testament is often recommended – not necessary but a good idea if possible.
- Electives may be chosen from the requirements of other concentrations, or from other elective courses that are occasionally offered.
**The Cycle of Course Offerings**

At the Christendom Graduate School the required courses (both core requirements and special requirements for the concentrations) are divided into four cycles, each containing approximately one-fourth of the requirements. Two cycles are offered every semester, one of them on campus and the other in the online format. Every fall semester, either cycle A or cycle C is offered on campus (and either cycle B or D online), and every spring either cycle B or D is offered on campus and cycle A or C online. The summer cycle sequence is independent from the fall-spring sequence: either Cycle A or Cycle C is offered at Front Royal (and either Cycle B or Cycle D online) in the summers of odd-numbered years, while Cycle B or Cycle D is offered on campus (and either Cycle A or Cycle C online) in even-numbered years. The schedule of cycles for upcoming years is listed below. Required courses in the core program are offered online more frequently, either every fall or every spring online, not merely in their cycles. Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is usually offered on campus in the spring semester and online in the fall, and the prerequisite Introduction to Theology course is offered online every semester. Consecrated life and spirituality courses are offered only in the summer, as part of the Vita Consecrata Institute, at the Front Royal campus.

Full-time students normally attend the Christendom Graduate School for four consecutive semesters in order to take all of the required courses for the master’s degree: either four consecutive summers or two academic (fall & spring) years. It is possible to accelerate the program by combining on-campus and online courses, and also by attending year-round.

The courses offered during each of the cycles are listed below. Courses marked with an asterisk are only offered on campus, during the summer program at the Front Royal Campus.

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<td>Philosophy of God and Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization</td>
<td>The Catechetical Tradition</td>
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<td>Sexual and Biomedical Ethics</td>
<td>Catholic Social Teachings</td>
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<td>Church History, Part I</td>
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<td>CONL 622</td>
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<td>Liturgy and the Consecrated Life*</td>
<td>History of the Consecrated Life*</td>
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<td>Consecrated Life in Canon Law*</td>
<td>The Spiritual Life*</td>
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<td>Christian Asceticism*</td>
<td>Sacraments in Spiritual Life*</td>
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<td>Patristics</td>
<td>Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas*</td>
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<td>Scriptural Foundation of Consecrated Life*</td>
<td>Christian Prayer and Contemplation*</td>
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<td>Consecrated Life and Vatican II*</td>
<td>Spiritual Direction*</td>
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<td>Virtues and the Spiritual Life*</td>
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**Schedule of Cycles**

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### Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered ON CAMPUS

Note: Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is offered on campus every spring semester.

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<th>Core</th>
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**SUMMER 2016/2020 (Cycle B) – IN FRONT ROYAL**

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**FALL 2016/2018/2020 (Cycle A)**

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**SUMMER 2017/2021 (Cycle C) – IN FRONT ROYAL**

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**SUMMER 2018/2022 (Cycle D) – IN FRONT ROYAL**

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**SUMMER 2019/2023 (Cycle A) – IN FRONT ROYAL**

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Schedule of Required Courses to be Offered ONLINE

The prerequisite course, THEO 590: Introduction to Theology, is available online every semester. Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin is offered online every fall semester.

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**Course Descriptions (Required Courses Only)**

**THEO 590: Introduction to Theology:** This introduction to the graduate-level study of theology treats comprehensively the meaning of theology, its various disciplines, major methods and basic terminology. Areas of focus are Divine Revelation and the characteristics of the human response, relationships between faith and reason, Scripture and Tradition, doctrine and its development, and the roles of the Magisterium and the theologian in the Church. Special attention is also given to the history of theology, with particular emphasis on the patristic, medieval, and post-Vatican II periods. **Prerequisite for all M.A. and Diploma students unless exempt because of prior theological study; the credits earned to not count towards the Master of Arts degree.**

**THEO 601: God the Father:** An introduction to the doctrine of God, the Triune Creator, especially from the theological perspective of St. Thomas Aquinas. The course includes the existence of God and the divine attributes; our ability to know and speak about God; God’s knowledge, will, creative action and providence; the patristic development of Trinitarian dogma; the processions and personal relations within the Godhead; the divine persons considered with respect to the one divine essence and to each other; and the external divine missions. This course combines historical and systematic methods in a sustained engagement with primary sources, especially Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae* I. **Required for the M.A. and Diploma.**

**THEO 602: Christology:** An introduction to the mystery of the Incarnation, from the perspectives of Scripture, patristic theology and St. Thomas Aquinas. Course includes the nature and method of Christology, the ‘quests’ for the historical Jesus, foreshadowings of the Incarnation and Jesus in the Old Testament, the patristic development of Christology, the motive for the Incarnation, the personal union of Christ’s divine and human natures, the human nature assumed by the Word, the theological implications of the union of natures, the Paschal Mystery and our redemption. This course combines historical and systematic methods in an engagement with Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae* III. **Required for the M.A. and Diploma.**

**THEO 603: Holy Spirit and Ecclesiology:** A study of the Person of the Holy Spirit, both within the Trinity and with the mystery of the Church, as expressed in Scripture and Tradition. Magisterial documents such as *Mystici Corporis Christi*, *Suprema haec sacra*, and *Lumen Gentium* receive particular attention. Also studied in detail are the properties and marks of the Church, the privileged role of the Mother of God in the Church, and the universal call to holiness. **Required for the M.A. and Diploma.**

**THEO 604: Moral Theology:** A study of the fundamental principles of moral theology in light of the revelation of God’s law and the grace of Christ, including the nature and end of morality, the vocation to beatitude, freedom and the morality of human acts, moral conscience, infused habits, the nature of sin, the commandments and the natural law, the question of moral absolutes, and an examination of some contemporary trends in moral theology. **Required for the M.A. and Diploma.**

**THEO/EDUC 605: Liturgy and Sacraments:** This course is devoted to a study of the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church encompassing the historical, theological and canonical developments of the sacraments, and situating them in their relation to the entirety of the liturgy as a celebration of Christ and His Church. **Required for the Systematic Theology and Evangelization/Catechesis concentrations and Diploma.**

**THEO 606: Apologetics:** the reasonable explanation and defense of the Catholic Faith utilizing Scripture, theology, Church history, and philosophy to explain Catholic beliefs and practices, such as Tradition, the Papacy, justification, the divinity of Christ, miracles, the problem of evil, the Real Presence, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Catholic moral teachings. The course especially focuses on controversial points of Catholic doctrine and their rationale, those teachings which are most often misunderstood by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. **Optional requirement for the Evangelization/Catechesis concentration and Diploma.**
THEO 712: Patristics: a study of the Eastern and Western Fathers of the Church, with emphasis on their contributions to Church doctrine, morals and the spiritual life, including their historical context and the significance of their lives and writings for the contemporary Church. Required for the Systematic Theology Concentration.

THEO 720: Theological Anthropology: This course examines the biblical roots and theological tradition of the study of the human person; the origins of mankind and the nature of the human person as a free and acting subject; Jesus Christ as the archetype and perfection of humanity; the concept of man and woman as image of God; the unity in sexual difference and the nuptial meaning of the body. The course will also examine briefly the question of the end of man and the relationship between nature and grace. Required for the Moral Theology Concentration.

THEO 721: The Virtues: a study of the nature of virtue and the types of virtue continuing with a focus on the particular virtues: the four cardinal virtues with their related virtues, and the three theological virtues. The course is based on the Summa Theologicae II of St. Thomas Aquinas and involves close examination and discussion of the texts. The aim of the course is to revive an authentically Thomistic ethics based on the human person. Required for the Moral Theology Concentration.


THEO 802: Catholic Social Teachings: This course examines the role of the Church in society and focuses on the major papal and conciliar documents since Pope Leo XIII. Special attention is given to teachings about the family, the political and economic spheres of society, the international community, and the Holy See’s unique contributions on the world stage. The sacredness of life, the dignity of man, his creation in the image of God, and his personhood are emphasized as foundational to social morality. Required for the Moral Theology Concentration.

PHIL 602: Philosophy of God and Man: a study of Thomas Aquinas’s metaphysics and philosophy of man, based on the Summa Theologicae, including the proofs of the existence of God; the relations between essence and esse in creatures and in God; the attributes of God; human nature; man’s knowledge, emotions and will; the spirituality, subsistence and immortality of the human soul; the union of soul and body, and man as a person. Required for the M.A. and Diploma.

PHIL 603: Philosophical Errors: a study of some of the false philosophies of man and God, especially in so far as these form the intellectual basis for the errors and shortcomings in contemporary popular thought and in Biblical exegesis, with a critique of these theories and a comparison of them with the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Required for M.A. and Diploma.


HIST 610: Church History, Part I: a survey of the history of the Church from its Apostolic origins through the Middle Ages, with special emphasis on theological issues and the contributions of the Church to culture and civilization. Includes the development of the early Church, major councils of the Church, the Monastic tradition, the Eastern Schism, the rise of Islam, and the Crusades. Required for the Systematic Theology Concentration.

HIST 611: Church History, Part II: a survey of the history of the Church from the High Middle Ages to the present time,
with special emphasis on theological issues and the contributions of the Church to culture and civilization. Includes the Renaissance, Reformation, the Catholic Counter-Reformation, the evangelization of the New World, the scientific revolution and Enlightenment, up to the Second Vatican Council. **Required for the Systematic Theology Concentration.**

**EDUC 602: The Catechetical Tradition:** the theology and history of evangelization and catechesis; the methods, models and experiences of evangelization and catechesis from Biblical times throughout the history of the Church; the teachings and normative directives of the Church on evangelization and catechesis. **Required for the Evangelization/Catechesis Concentration and Diploma.**

**EDUC 603: Catechetical Program Administration:** This course focuses on the practical principles and parameters necessary to run any successful parish or diocesan program in evangelization and/or catechesis, in areas such as religious education, youth ministry, adult education, parish evangelization, and RCIA. It includes planning, budgeting, hiring, time management, legal issues, record keeping, managing meetings, assessment of instructional materials, program assessment, and catechetical methods & models. **Required for the Evangelization/Catechesis Concentration and Diploma.**

**EDUC 604: Methods of Catechesis and Evangelization:** This course explores the purpose and foundations of evangelization and catechesis and the practical processes of the presentation and proclamation of the Faith. Included are a study of human development, natural, moral and spiritual; a survey of evangelization and catechetical methods available for various age groups, levels of spiritual development, and situations; including methods and models for parish evangelization programs, RCIA, sacramental preparation, Bible studies, adult education, retreats, etc. Also included are religious education models, effective public speaking, and use of social media in evangelization. **Required for the Evangelization/Catechesis Concentration and Diploma.**

**EDUC 801: Catechist/DRE Internship:** the student participates in a year-long parish catechetical program, assisting the DRE and teaching in the program. At the conclusion of the course, the student presents a portfolio developed during the internship and appropriate for future use as a DRE or in catechesis.

**CONL 621: History of the Consecrated Life:** an overview of the development of the consecrated life over the centuries showing the Apostolic origins and the growth of consecrated life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit working through founders, saints, and the Magisterium; includes examination of extra-biblical sources with special emphasis on early monastic and Patristic sources. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**

**CONL 622: Liturgy and the Consecrated Life:** the liturgy as the source and summit of the consecrated life, with examination of various liturgical texts and magisterial documents on the liturgy. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**

**CONL 623: Scriptural Foundations of the Consecrated Life:** the Scriptural foundations of the consecrated life as found in the Gospels and other New Testament writings, especially those of St. Paul. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**

**CONL 624: The Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas:** the rich scholastic tradition on the consecrated life as found in St. Thomas Aquinas, including questions in the *Summa Theologiae* as well as “On the Perfection of the Spiritual Life” and the *Contra Retrahentes*. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**

**CONL 625: Consecrated Life and Vatican II:** the post-conciliar teaching on consecrated life, especially that of Pope John Paul II, including *Redemptionis Donum* and *Vita Consecrata*. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**

**CONL 626: Consecrated Life in Canon Law:** a close examination of the various canons of the Code concerning the consecrated life, intended to give a general juridical understanding of the consecrated life, as a basis for understanding and interpreting the proper laws of various institutes. **2 credits. Required for the Consecrated Life Concentration.**
SPIR 630: The Spiritual Life: This course covers general themes concerning the spiritual life such as the universal call to holiness, the stages of the spiritual life, the role of Christ and the Church in the spiritual life, the supernatural organism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, personal vocation, and the four essential means to perfection, namely, the sacraments, the life of prayer, self-denial and asceticism, and charity working through the virtues. It also treats the secondary means to Christian perfection. 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

SPIR 631: The Sacraments in the Spiritual Life: This course examines the sacraments as essential means to Christian perfection, looking at each of the sacraments of Christian initiation and how they insert one into the paschal mystery of the Lord: baptism as the sacrament of rebirth into Christ, confirmation as the sacrament of Christian maturity and spiritual militancy, and the Eucharist as the sacrament of perfection. Also treated are the sacrament of penance as a means of overcoming sin and attachments and growing in virtue, and the various Christian states of life - marriage, consecrated life and priesthood - as concrete ways of living the universal call to holiness. (Students may take THEO 605, Liturgy and Sacraments, in place of this course.) 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

SPIR 632: Christian Prayer and Contemplation: This course first looks at Christian prayer as it is treated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and then at the stages of growth in prayer as presented in the Interior Castles of St. Teresa of Avila. Given those two primary sources, it treats the foundational role of vocal prayer, in particular liturgical prayer, in the spiritual life; but the greater part of the course’s focus is on mental prayer, beginning with meditation and culminating in infused contemplation. The course presents prayer as an essential means to Christian perfection and illustrates how growth in the spiritual life is effected and manifested by growth in prayer. 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

SPIR 633: Christian Asceticism: This course studies the ascetical life of penance and self-denial and the necessary role it plays in the Christian life of virtue and prayer. It takes as its primary framework the teaching of St. John of the Cross on the purifications the soul must experience to reach Christian perfection. Within that context the ascetical practices of fasting and vigils, custody of the senses and the disciplining of the passions, and the mortification of the intellect, memory, and will are explained. Lastly, the course looks at the passive dark nights the soul must endure to reach union with God, and the power of redemptive suffering. 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

SPIR 634: Virtues and the Spiritual Life: This course provides an overview of the theological and moral virtues, their role in living out the Christian life, the necessity of growth in virtue to reach Christian perfection, charity as the essence of Christian perfection, and the role of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The primary focus is on the cardinal or moral virtues which the spiritual director assists the directed person to develop. (Students may take THEO 721, The Virtues, in place of this course.) 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

SPIR 635: Spiritual Direction: This course examines the place and importance of spiritual direction in the Christian spiritual life. It covers the role and limits of psychology and psychological counseling in spiritual development; the qualities that should be found in spiritual directors and those directed; the role of retreats and other religious experiences in spiritual direction; the difference between spiritual formation, spiritual counseling and spiritual direction; the discernment of spirits and vocational discernment; and the various schools of spirituality. It also provides practical advice for the ministry of spiritual direction. 2 credits. Required for the Spirituality Concentration.

LATN 501: Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin: An introduction to the Latin language aimed at achieving a basic competency in reading Ecclesiastical Latin, including resources and techniques for effective learning of Latin, the Latin case system, the five main cases of the first three declensions, all six verb tenses in the active and passive voices of the indicative mood, and complex sentences and subordination, and several Latin prayers. This course may be taken on a pass/fail basis and does not count as graduate credit toward the MA degree. Satisfies the language requirement of the Systematic and Moral Theology concentrations.
Academic Policies

Christendom College is committed to promoting academic freedom. It recognizes the right of students to the Truth, and to receive instruction in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The Graduate School recognizes and defends each faculty member’s freedom and right to teach the Catholic Faith without fear of reprisal. Professors and students enjoy the freedom to explore and research and thereby develop their own insights into Catholic doctrine in accord with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Legitimate pluralism, consistent with fidelity to both the ordinary and extraordinary Magisterium, strengthens the bonds of unity, and honest dialogue is most welcome at the Graduate School.

Students are bound by the academic policies and degree requirements of the Graduate School Bulletin in effect at the time of their first registering as a matriculating student fully admitted to the program. A student who returns to the Graduate School after an absence of more than one semester will be bound by the requirements in force when he returns. Academic policies apply equally to classroom and online students, except where noted.

Admissions

Admission to the Christendom Graduate School is open to all properly qualified persons who desire to develop their knowledge of authentic Catholic teaching in explicit communion with the Holy See and with the principles of renewal in ecclesiastical studies given to the Church by the Second Vatican Council. A prior education in theology is not required, although students are expected to know the teachings of the Catholic Faith as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students without prior formal theological education are required to complete the prerequisite course (THEO 590, Introduction to Theology) at the beginning of their studies. The application process is the same for on-campus and distance students. Christendom College does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, handicap, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school-administered programs.

Applicants for admission to the Christendom Graduate School must present evidence of ability to do graduate work in theology. A baccalaureate degree (B.A. or B.S or equivalent) in any field is required for the Master of Arts Program and the Advanced Apostolic Catechetical Program, but not for the Basic Apostolic Catechetical Diploma or the certificate program. Applicants to the Master of Arts and/or Apostolic Catechetical Diploma programs should send the following materials to the Admissions Office, Christendom Graduate School, 4407 Sano Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22312. There is no application deadline.

- Completed application form (obtainable online at http://www.christendom.edu/admissions/graduate.php.)
- A statement of purpose (approx. 150 words) explaining the reasons for enrolling in the program.
- At least two (2) letters of recommendation, preferably one from a pastor or priest who knows the applicant, and another from a former professor or from a supervisor with whom the applicant has worked.
- Official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work.
- $50.00 application fee (made payable to Christendom College).

Casual (non-degree-seeking) and certificate students have a simplified admission process consisting of an information form only. They must fill out and submit the application form but do not need to submit letters of recommendation nor the application fee. However, they must submit evidence of a bachelor’s degree (in the form of an official transcript) if they wish to receive graduate credit for their courses for transfer to another institution. A student may register for courses as a casual student while completing the application for admission to the MA program, and all credits earned as a casual student apply towards the degree. A student may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee is not satisfied of his ability to do graduate work in theology. The probationary period is two semesters, and the student must earn a GPA of 3.0 to be fully admitted to the MA or Diploma Program. Audit students are welcome at Christendom on a space-available basis; they need not apply for admission, but may simply register for courses.
Transfer Credits

Students who wish to have their previous graduate work in theology or philosophy considered for transfer to Christendom must make this request of the Dean of the Graduate School and provide official transcripts of such graduate work. They may also be required to supply course syllabi or catalog course descriptions establishing that the courses correspond to Christendom courses and are of an academic quality sufficient for graduate work. No more than twenty graduate credits may be transferred. Credits earned more than ten years before matriculation at NDGS may not be accepted. Academic credit is not granted for life experience, for course work done on a non-credit basis, nor for independent study outside of a university or seminary.

Add/Drop/Change of Courses, Cancellations

During the first two weeks of the fall and spring semesters and the first week of the summer semester, students may register for, or add, a course for credit by completing the Add/Drop/Change Form and submitting it to the registrar. No for-credit student will be admitted to a classroom course after this period, although students may register for online courses within the first half of the semester. If a student wishes to change his status from audit to credit after this period, he must obtain permission from the professor before submitting the form.

If a student withdraws from a course within this period, no record of the course will appear on the transcript. If a student withdraws from a course after this period, a grade of “W” will be given for the course. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course (or to change to “audit” status) must notify the registrar in writing, either by submitting the Add/Drop/Change Form or by emailing the registrar. Failure to notify the registrar in writing of one’s intention to withdraw may result in a recorded grade of F. When applicable, the appropriate refund will be issued (or credited to the student’s outstanding balance) according to the schedule indicated below under “financial policies.”

The Graduate School reserves the right to cancel a course at any time due to insufficient enrollment, as determined by the Dean of the Graduate School. If inclement weather necessitates the canceling of classes, the announcement is made on radio station WTOP: 103.5, 103.9, and 107.7 FM, and at www.wtop.com.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lectures for each course in which they are enrolled. Penalties for absences or tardiness are assigned by the professor. Unauthorized absences in excess of 9 contact hours may result in the grade of F. Students are expected to be prompt and to dress and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for pursuing higher studies in theology.

Students may use tape recorders or laptop computers in class only for the purpose of note-taking and study by students; publication beyond the class is forbidden.

Full-time students are those who are enrolled in at least three courses (nine credits) in a fall or spring semester and two courses (six credits) in a summer semester.

Grades

The range of grades, with the explanation and grade point of each, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, 4.0</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Very Good, 3.7</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good, above average, 3.3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good, satisfactory 3.0</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Fair, below average, 2.7</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are required to maintain a B (3.0) average in the Master of Arts, Apostolic Catechetical Diploma, and certificate programs.
Course Extensions & Course Re-activation

If for a grave reason a student is unable to complete the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, he may apply in writing to the professor for an extension, either by filling out the Course Extension Request form or by emailing the professor. If the professor approves the request, he will submit a temporary grade of “incomplete” and the student will have an extended period in which to submit the remaining work, as determined by the professor; however, the deadline may not extend beyond July 31 for the spring semester, October 31 for the summer semester, or March 31 for the fall semester. Extensions/incompletes are granted at the discretion of the professor, and only for grave reasons such as illness, unexpected job-related or family obligations or other serious incapacity. However, because of the intensity of the Christendom Summer Program, full-time summer students (registered for at least 6 hours) may automatically have the extension without having to establish a grave reason: they may have until October 31 to submit any research paper, project, or written assignment other than an exam.

For online courses, the extension permission is intended for research papers and essay final exams, not for regular weekly course work such as viewing videos, taking quizzes and submitting weekly assignments; professors cannot be expected to continue monitoring the e-classroom or to grade weekly assignments after the regular course period is over, and we cannot guarantee access to the e-classroom after the end of the semester.

Course reactivation: If a student (after having been granted an extension) fails to submit the required work by the extension deadline, the only way he may complete the course (to avoid having to re-register for and re-take the course) is to fill out the Course Reactivation Request form and submit it to the Registrar along with the $250 course reactivation fee. If the Dean of the Graduate School approves the request, the Registrar will then reactivate the course and notify the professor that he may accept the remaining required course work. A student may reactivate each incomplete course only once, and only within a year of the original due date (the end of the semester in which the course was taken) by which time all course requirements must be submitted; otherwise, the student must re-take the course if he wants credit for it.

Students with more than two incomplete courses may be refused permission to register for an upcoming semester.

Academic Counseling and Academic Probation

The Dean of the Graduate School normally interviews each student upon matriculation to discuss his program of study, although this “interview” is often conducted via telephone or email with distance students. Each student is assigned an academic advisor from among the faculty, depending on his concentration. Students may seek academic advice or counseling at any time from the Dean, the student’s advisor, or any available faculty member. Online students have the same easy access to academic advisement, to the graduate school administrative staff, and to their professors as on-campus students have: they may call or email the graduate school faculty and staff at any time and expect a prompt response.

Any student whose GPA falls below 3.0 must seek academic counseling from the Dean. A student who receives a grade of F in any exam or course is strongly encouraged to seek academic counseling from the professor, and perhaps also from his academic advisor and/or the Dean.

A student is on probation if his Grade Point Average (GPA) falls below 3.0. He is permitted to register for one more semester in order to raise his GPA to or above 3.0. Failure to do so may result in the necessity of withdrawing completely from Christendom. Students are permitted to retake courses in order to improve their grades, and the second grade received will replace the previous grade. A student who is admitted to the Graduate School on probation has two probationary semesters in which to maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to be fully admitted to the MA or Diploma program.

Directed Readings and Independent Studies Courses

Directed Readings/Independent Study courses may be permitted by the Dean of the Graduate School for special research of interest to a student, provided the student has demonstrated his ability to do independent graduate-level research. A Directed Readings or Independent Study course is not permitted merely for the convenience of the student or because the student has failed to register for the course when it was available. A student who wishes to apply for a
directed readings course must first seek permission from the Dean, and subsequently may ask an individual professor to direct him in such a course. Students must pay an additional fee for an independent study course, and are advised that such a course normally requires at least 90 hours of work.

Research Papers

Research is a necessary and essential part of the learning process at the Christendom Graduate School. A research paper is normally required in every course, although professors may adapt this requirement to the particular needs of the course. The approximate length for a research paper is not more than twenty, nor less than twelve pages in length (typed with double spacing). Basic Diploma students are not required to write papers in any course, and they should notify the professor of their Basic Diploma status at the beginning of the semester. Normally papers follow the Turabian format outlined in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, latest edition (University of Chicago Press), although professors may allow other formats. Students are expected to complete and submit all required research papers prior to the end of the semester unless they have been granted an extension.

Degree Requirements for the MA

The total number of graduate credits required for the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is 42, not counting any prerequisite or language courses. This includes 24 credits of core requirements (eight, 3-credit courses), 12 credits of concentration requirements, and 6 credits of electives. Students may take courses online or on campus in any combination. The degree requirements are identical for on-campus and distance students. No more than 20 credits earned elsewhere are accepted in transfer. Candidates for the MA degree must maintain a “B” (3.0) average, and must pass the comprehensive examination. The requirements for the Apostolic Catechetical Diploma are identical to those for the MA (evangelization and catechesis concentration) except that the comprehensive exam is not required for the diploma.

The MA Thesis

Students may write a master’s thesis, worth six graduate credits, in lieu of two elective courses. The thesis option is recommended for those students who are planning on further, doctoral study. Only matriculating MA students may write a thesis, and they must apply for the dean’s permission to write a thesis, after completing seven courses (21 hours) of their degree program and having demonstrated excellent research and writing abilities. The thesis must be an original piece of research, not shorter than 50 nor longer than 100 pages, typed with double spacing. The required format is Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (latest edition). The thesis must be completed and successfully defended within two years of approval for the project.

The student initiates the thesis process by seeking the permission of the dean at least one year before he expects to graduate. He may then contact a member of the faculty who is able and willing to direct the student’s thesis, and with his assistance decides upon a general thesis topic. The student then submits to the Dean a letter of intent to write the thesis, including the thesis title and the name of the director, along with a description of the thesis, an outline, and a bibliography. This application must be signed by the thesis director signifying his willingness to direct the thesis. Upon approval from the Dean, the student pays tuition equivalent to two (2) three-credit courses.

The student must submit the final draft of the thesis to the thesis director at least two months prior to the planned defense of the thesis. At this time, the student notifies the dean, who arranges for additional readers and for the defense of the thesis at a mutually-convenient time. The student provides final copies of his thesis to the dean and the faculty readers at least two weeks before the scheduled defense.

The thesis defense lasts approximately one hour: the student provides a twenty-minute oral presentation of the thesis, and then responds to questions from the committee members. The grade is determined by the director and readers and is based on the research, the thesis itself, and the defense. The student must provide the library with a bound copy of his thesis before graduation.
The Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Exam is required of all students seeking the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree. The purpose of this exam is to verify a student’s ability to integrate knowledge gained from classes, readings, and research. In the comprehensive exam, the student is expected to demonstrate in-depth theological knowledge commensurate with a Master of Arts degree. The answers should reflect knowledge gained from the core curriculum, the required courses of the student’s concentration, and the Christendom Graduate School Bibliography. The student must demonstrate a solid grasp of the Roman Catholic Tradition and an ability to analyze and synthesize theological knowledge.

The comprehensive exam is normally held three times a year, in October, February, and July. Both written and oral portions of the comprehensive examination must be taken on campus, even by distance students. The written portion is taken first, in two, two-hour periods on the same day, and the student writes a total of seven essays in this time. The oral portion is taken on a later day, usually within a week, and lasts thirty minutes.

For the written portion of the comprehensive exam, each question is graded by at least two professors pass or fail. For the oral portion, the Dean of the Graduate School forms a committee of at least three professors who examine the student particularly in the area of concentration; the committee will grade the oral exam pass or fail. Then the examining panel renders a final grade of pass or fail for the exam as a whole. For an exceptional performance, a grade of “pass with distinction” may be granted. If a student does not pass the comprehensive exam on the first try, he may re-take the entire exam at a later session.

A student may take the comprehensive exam when he has successfully completed all the required courses for his degree program, both core requirements and those of his concentration; he need not have completed all electives or his master’s thesis. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the registrar that he is approaching the completion of his coursework; this should be done in writing/email at least six months before the possible date of the comprehensive exam. Failure to do so may result in the student being unable to take the comprehensive exam when planned and in delayed graduation. Students register for the comprehensive examination by filling out the Comps Registration Form and submitting it, along with the fee, to the registrar at least two months before the scheduled date of the comps exam.

Commencement Exercises

The commencement exercises for the Christendom Graduate School are held on the Saturday ending the Summer Program, in late July or early August. These exercises are held at the Front Royal campus, starting with a Baccalaureate Mass in Christ the King Chapel, followed by the conferral of degrees, and ending with a reception or luncheon for faculty, graduates, and their families and guests. All graduates are expected to attend graduation, but distance students and others for whom this is impossible may be excused by the dean. Degrees are not conferred at any other time of the year, but students who complete the program earlier may be provided with a transcript and letter showing they have completed the degree. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for graduation by April 30. He does this by filling out the Graduation Order Form and submitting it with the required fees to the Registrar. He must do this whether he is attending the commencement exercises or not; failure to do so may delay his graduation until the following year.

Student Records

Student records are private and are available only to authorized members of the faculty or administration who need to see them. Christendom College’s policy complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment).

Unless a student requests in writing that direct information be held private, the Graduate School may release the following direct information to any authorized person on request: name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and dates of attendance. Authorized persons include prospective employers verifying applications, and officials performing security clearance checks. The student who wishes such information to be private must notify the Dean of the Graduate School in writing. Student academic transcripts are released only on the direct request of the student.
The Graduate School publishes a directory of faculty, staff, and students and their contact information, and distributes this directory within the Graduate School. Any student who wishes to have his information withheld may notify the Dean within the first week of the semester.

Student Life

As a Catholic institution, Christendom College seeks to maintain a community life that promotes the academic, spiritual, and social, development of the whole human person. More than just a place to take courses, the Christendom Graduate School is a fellowship of scholars who are also united in liturgy and in leisure. A variety of activities outside the classroom help foster this fellowship and personal growth.

Christendom College does not have residences for graduate students during the fall and spring semesters at the Alexandria Campus. However, many residents in the area rent rooms and apartments to Christendom students, and the graduate school maintains a list of these to aid students in their search for housing. Room and board are provided for summer students attending the Christendom Summer Program at the Front Royal (Christendom undergraduate) Campus.

During the fall and spring semesters, students may attend daily Mass at Queen of Apostles Parish Church, on whose grounds the Graduate School is located. The Graduate School chapel is available for students whenever the campus is open, and Mass is occasionally offered there according to a schedule that is published each semester. During the Summer Program at the Front Royal campus, daily Mass and Confession, and community Morning and Night Prayers at Christ the King Chapel are an essential part of the community life.

Social activities at the Christendom Graduate School vary according to the desires of the current student body, and include receptions at the graduate school, guest speakers, parties at the homes of students or faculty, hikes, field trips, pilgrimages, and informal get-togethers to watch movies, to discuss topics or to go out to eat. During the Summer Program, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, tennis, basketball and racquetball are additional favored activities.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

In light of the gospel message, the Christendom Graduate School expects all students to conduct themselves in accord with the principles of justice and Christian charity. Christendom will strive to treat students with the same principles, and to provide due process in the investigation of any alleged infraction. The Christendom Graduate School defines academic misconduct to include violations of the academic regulations, cheating, plagiarism, disruption of class activity, falsification of information or documents, and lying. Penalties for any misconduct (academic or otherwise) may include permanent dismissal, temporary suspension, probations, or a formal warning. Students accused of misconduct and facing dismissal have the right to a hearing before a disciplinary committee consisting of the Dean of the Graduate School, two professors, and a graduate student whom both the dean and the accused student approve. The judgment of this disciplinary committee is final.

Students have the right to have their complaints heard and addressed, whether these are complaints about a professor, another student, a member of the staff or administration, or an objection about a grade received. The Dean of the Graduate School is the normal person to receive complaints, although students are encouraged to talk first with the professor or other person involved if practical. Complaints about a professor that are not resolved by the Dean of the Graduate School, and complaints about the Dean, are to be addressed to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs of Christendom College.

Any intellectual property produced by a student at Christendom College, excluding tests, exams, and quizzes, to fulfill in whole or part the requirements of a course in which the student is registered, will be owned by the student. The College does not claim ownership of such intellectual property.
Financial Information & Policies

Financial Assistance

The Christendom Graduate School maintains a reasonable and modest tuition charge to ensure that its programs remain accessible to students who wish to attend. Consequently, Christendom College does not offer graduate students financial assistance in the forms of scholarships, grants, or loans. We also schedule our classes in the evenings to allow students to work full- or part-time during the day to finance their education. The Graduate School also offers students an interest-free tuition payment plan whereby students may pay off their tuition in installments throughout the semester. Many students find that their parishes or employers are willing to help fund their studies, and students are encouraged to contact their pastors, principals, or employers to see if such reimbursement is possible.

Federal Aid

To preserve its academic freedom, Christendom College does not accept federal aid or any government funding; this means we do not participate in the Title IV Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs (federal student loan program). From its very beginning, Christendom College made a prudential decision never to accept federal funding; as the only accredited Catholic higher education institution that is not dependent on federal student aid, Christendom is uniquely free to teach the Catholic Faith without government interference. The College’s decision has proven prophetic given the federal government’s expanding use of funding conditions to promote policy preferences. For more information on why Christendom College rejects federal funding, please visit http://www.christendom.edu/giving/federal.php.

Veterans Administration Benefits

Christendom students are eligible to receive Veterans Administration benefits such as Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Veterans qualifying for these benefits should contact the Business Officer of the Graduate School for information and for the necessary enrollment-verification forms.

Private Student Loans

Christendom graduate students may apply to private sources (such as banks) for student loans. These applications are handled directly by the student and are not processed by Christendom, although we are happy to provide documentation or information needed to verify enrollment. Two private lenders who often provide Christendom students with student loans are listed below:

- Sallie Mae – Smart Option Student Loan: www.salliemae.com (887-279-7172)
- PNC Bank – PNC Solution Loan: www.pnconcampus.com (800-762-1001)

Financial Policies

Tuition is due by the end of the first week of the semester. If a student is unable to pay the entire tuition and fees at this time, he must fill out, sign, and return to the Business Office (by the end of the first week of the semester) the Tuition Payment Plan Contract, stipulating the manner in which the debt is to be paid so that the full amount will be paid by the end of the semester. Online students must either pay their tuition in full, or pay a deposit of at least $500 per course and sign the tuition payment contract, before being granted access to the online classroom. In the event of the student’s withdrawal before paying all installments, it is the student’s responsibility to pay the balance due, minus any applicable refund (see below). No grades or transcripts will be released, nor degrees awarded, until all tuition and fees are paid. Students with outstanding balances are not allowed to register for subsequent semesters. Registration fees are due with registration.
Tuition will be refunded to students who find it necessary to withdraw (or to change to audit status) after registration according to the following schedule. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL IS THE DATE UPON WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE IS RECEIVED IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE. Students who withdraw from a course (or drop to audit status) and who have not yet paid the tuition are liable for the tuition amount minus any applicable refund amount. PLEASE NOTE that non-refundable fees, such as the registration fee and technology fees, will NOT be refunded.

Refund Schedule

FOR CLASSROOM AND LIVE ONLINE COURSES:
- Before the second class: 100% of tuition
- Before the third class: 75% of tuition
- Before the fourth class: 50% of tuition
- After the fourth class: No Refund

FOR PRE-RECORDED, ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSES:
During the first week after receiving the access code: 100% of tuition
Within two weeks of receiving the access code: 75% of tuition
Within three weeks of receiving the access code: 50% of tuition
After the third week from receiving the access code: No refund
Library & Learning Resources

The principal learning resource center for the Christendom Graduate School is the St. John the Evangelist Library located on the Christendom College campus in Front Royal, Virginia. The St. John the Evangelist Library has a collection in excess of 100,000 volumes, ten thousand of which are in the fields of religion and theology, and over four thousand in the field of philosophy. The Christendom Graduate School’s Alexandria campus includes the St. Paul Library, which contains more than nineteen thousand volumes, periodicals, and a variety of electronic resources suitable for research in theology and philosophy.

Graduate students have ready access to the whole Christendom collection: the same library card may be used at either campus, the catalog of the Christendom Libraries is available online, and students may request that materials from either library be delivered to them at the other library within a few days. Distance students may also request that library materials be sent to them; they will be required to pay shipping, and some requests may be refused if the material is rare or easily available elsewhere. Students also have access to thousands of libraries around the country via the Interlibrary Loan service. This service is accessible during St. Paul Library office hours and also via the library web page (www.library.christendom.edu/library).

The Christendom Libraries subscribe to several online resource services, which are available to students and faculty not only on-campus, but also off-site. Many of these resources are available through the Libraries’ new computer catalog at https://christendomworldcat.org. These resources include current and past scholarly periodicals, reference works, bibliographies, library catalogs and more. These resources, along with tutorial videos showing to use them, are available on the library web page at http://library.christendom.edu/library.

For online courses, professors provide all course readings, either in the course materials of the online classroom, in the required texts which students purchase from our online bookstore, or in the form of internet resources. This ensures that even those students who do not live near an academic library have the resources they need for their courses.

The Christendom Libraries provide training to students and faculty in research techniques and use of learning resources. A component on theological research is part of the prerequisite Introduction to Theology course. Tutorial videos on the online resources are available on the library website, and other videos on research, papers, and bibliographic form are available on the Graduate Student Resource Center of the Christendom website: http://www.christendom.edu/graduate/resources.php. The graduate school library assistant, and the reference librarian at the St. John Library, are available for instruction in theological research and resources, either as part of a course component, as structured sessions for groups, or as informal, private sessions for help on specific projects. There is a library orientation for students, especially new students, at the start of every semester, and special sessions in theological research and online research are also available by request.

Christendom graduate students and faculty have library privileges at the Woodstock Theological Library and the Lauinger Library of Georgetown University, and at the Dominican House of Studies Library. In addition, currently-enrolled students can access the collections of more than thirty academic institutions in the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virtual Library of Virginia, VIVA, and its Universal Borrowing Pilot Program. The Christendom library card may be used by current matriculating students to check out materials from all of these libraries. The St. Paul Library also offers the student access to the on-line catalog of the Washington Research Libraries Consortium (WRLC), which includes the library holdings of several area universities.
Faculty & Administration

Joseph M. Arias, Lecturer in Theology
S.T.D. candidate, The Catholic University of America
S.T.L., S.T.B., Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies
M.A., Christendom College
B.A., Loyola Marymount University
Professor Arias is the librarian at the Christendom Graduate School. In addition to teaching at the Graduate School, he is an adjunct member of the undergraduate faculty at Christendom College. He also teaches occasionally for the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program of the Diocese of Tulsa, OK. He has published in the National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly.

Kristin Popik Burns, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Dean of Graduate School
Ph.D., Ph.L., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome
M.A., Niagara University
B.A., University of Dallas
Dr. Burns was the first woman to earn the doctorate in Philosophy at the Angelicum, and was a founding faculty member of Christendom College. She is a former Richard Weaver Fellow. She specializes in the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars.

Sebastian Carnazzo, Lecturer in Sacred Scripture
Ph.D., The Catholic University of America
M.A., Christendom College
B.S., California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, CA
Dr. Carnazzo is Lecturer in Sacred Scripture and Biblical Languages at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He is also an adjunct lecturer in Sacred Scripture and Catechetics for the Magdala Apostolate of the Institute of Catholic Culture; the academic director for the formation of deacon candidates for the Diocese of Tulsa, OK; a lecturer in New Testament for the formation of deacon candidates for the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, MA; and a professor of Biblical and Classical Greek for the Academy of Classical Languages. Dr. Carnazzo is a deacon in the Melkite Catholic Church.

Salvatore J. Ciresi, Lecturer in Theology
M.A., Christendom College
B.A., Strayer University
Professor Ciresi is the founder and director of the St. Jerome Biblical Guild, an educational apostolate that promotes the study of Scripture within a theological and practical framework. He is also the publisher of Veritas Scripturae, an international online Scripture journal. He was a diocesan consultant for the revision of the National Directory for Catechesis, and he writes a regular Scripture column for The Latin Mass magazine. Ciresi is a former host of the Catholic radio show CrossTalk and has a special interest in the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy.

Rev. Paul F. deLadurantaye, Assistant Professor of Theology
S.T.D., S.T.L., John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC
S.T.B., Pontificia Universitas Gregoriana, Rome
B.A., St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
Fr. deLadurantaye serves the Arlington Diocese as Judge of the Tribunal, Secretary for Religious Education, Secretary for Sacred Liturgy, and Director of Studies for the Permanent Diaconate Program. He is a member of the boards of the Catholic Distance University and the Natural Law Study Center. He has written and spoken extensively on the human person, bioethics, marital love, and the natural law.
Noelle Hiester, Lecturer in Evangelization and Catechesis
M.A., Christendom College
M.B.A., B.A., Franciscan University
Professor Hiester has served in a variety of positions in the field of catechesis, including as a high school religion teacher, as a parish director of religious education, and in curriculum development. She is trained in all levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and has designed and implemented the CGS program in a parish setting, trained volunteer catechists, and developed educational materials. She is a recipient of the Christopher Dawson Humanities and Catholic Culture Award.

Robert J. Matava, Assistant Professor of Theology
Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, Scotland
M.A., Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC)
B.A., Mount St. Mary’s University
Dr. Matava works principally in the areas of Christian doctrine, philosophical theology and ethics. Topics of special interest include creation, the theology of God, freedom, and the Christological dimensions of moral theology. Matava was the Liddon Fellow in Theology at Keble College, University of Oxford, before coming to Christendom. He was also a fellow of the Center for Medieval Philosophy at Georgetown University. His essay, “Domingo Báñez on Auxilium: An Early Modern Conception of Divine-Human Cooperation,” received the Founder’s Award from the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy in 2009. Dr. Matava has published essays in Studies in Christian Ethics and Cuadernos de pensamiento Español. He has delivered scholarly papers at the University of Oxford, the University of Aberdeen, the University of St. Andrews, the University of Navarre, and Notre Dame University.

Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P., Lecturer in Theology
S.T.L. and S.T.D., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome
M.A., B.A., St. Albert’s College, Oakland, CA
Fr. Brian Mullady is an adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, one of the founders of their Distance Learning program, and a retreat and mission preacher. He is a specialist in Moral Theology and has written three books and has numerous CD lectures. He is a regular on EWTN and writes the question and answer column in Homiletic and Pastoral Review. He is a specialist on questions of nature and grace and in the thought of Thomas Aquinas. He is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Catholic Academy of Sciences as well as staff theologian for the Institute of Religious Life.

Rev. Thomas W. Nelson, O.Praem., Lecturer in Theology of Consecrated Life
S.T.L., M.A., S.T.B., Ph.B., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome
Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.Praem., is a Norbertine priest of St. Michael’s Abbey in Orange, California. He is the Director of Formation at St. Michael’s Abbey and a lecturer in philosophy and spirituality in their Studium. He is the National Director of the Institute on Religious Life, and the Director of the Vita Consecrata Institute.

Rev. Mark Pilon, Associate Professor of Theology
S.T.D., Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome
S.T.L., Pontifical Lateran University, John Paul II Institute
M.A., The Catholic University of America
B.A., University of Detroit
Fr. Pilon is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington who has taught at Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary, at Christendom College, at the Christian Commonwealth Institute in Escorial, Spain, and at the Catholic University of America. He is the author of Magnum Mysterium: The Sacrament of Matrimony, and the translator of Candido Pozo’s Theology of the Beyond.
Donald S. Prudlo, Associate Professor of Theology and Church History
Ph.D., University of Virginia
M.A., B.A., Christendom College
Dr. Prudlo is Associate Professor of Ancient and Medieval History at Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Previously, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Liberty Fund in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also serves as a professor of Theology and Church History for Catholic Distance University. He is the author of The Martyred Inquisitor: The Life and Cult of Peter of Verona (†1252), and The Origin, Development, and Refinement of Medieval Religious Mendicancies, in addition to many articles and chapters on such topics as hagiography, scriptural theology, and Church history. He has just completed a book on the history and theology of sainthood, especially in the Medieval Church, and is currently writing one on the history of the Dominican Order. His specialties include Church History, Hagiography, and Historical and Sacramental theology. He serves as a commentator for canonizations on Vatican Radio, serves on the editorial board of Truth and Charity Forum, and writes for Crisis magazine.

David M. Wallace, Lecturer in Evangelization and Catechesis
M.A., B.A., Christendom College
Professor Wallace has been involved in various educational and catechetical apostolates in the Diocese of Arlington since 2007, including curriculum development, course writing, and serving as a parish director of religious education. He has lived abroad, studying in Germany and Italy. His academic interests include liturgical theology, early patristic catechetical writings, and Sacred Scripture. He is married with five children.

Steve Weidenkopf, Lecturer in Church History
M.A., Christendom College
B.A., Syracuse University
Professor Weidenkopf is the author of The Glory of the Crusades (2014) from Catholic Answers Press and the adult faith formation programs Epic: A Journey through Church History (2009) and The Early Church: An Epic Journey through Church History (2012) time period study from Ascension Press. Catholic Answers has also produced his presentations on The Real Story of the Crusades and The Real Story of the Inquisition as audio products. His presentation on The Real Story of the Protestant Reformers is forthcoming. He has written commentaries on Familiaris Consortio, Lumen Gentium, and Humanae Vitae, and various articles/talks on Church History, Christian marriage, human sexuality, and family life. He served as the Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of Denver (2001 - 2004) and was a theological advisor to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap. He is a member of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, and a knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

M.Ed.Admin., University of San Francisco
3 years post-graduate liturgical studies, Pontificio Istituto Liturgico di Sant’Anselmo, Rome
S.T.B., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome
Fr. Norbert is the Rector of St. John the Baptist Parish Elementary School in Costa Mesa, CA, and Sunday chaplain to the boys at Joplin Juvenile Detention Center in Trabuco Canyon, CA. He has spent twenty-five years in Catholic education, primarily on the secondary level, as teacher, principal and administrator. He is a summer professor at the Vita Consecrata Institute, and he preaches retreats to priests, religious and laity in the US, Canada, India, Australia and the Philippines.
Administrative Staff

Dean of the Graduate School: Kristin P. Burns, Ph.D.
Registrar/Business Officer: Heidi M. Kalian, M.B.A.
Administrative Assistant: Virginia Norris, B.A.
Graduate School Library Assistant: Joseph Arias, S.T.D. (cand.)
Vice-President for Academic Affairs: Gregory Townsend, Ph.D.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Spring semester begins (Cycle B on campus; Cycle A online).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1 - 7</td>
<td>Easter break – no classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Spring semester ends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Online summer semester begins (Cycle C).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle A).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Online summer semester ends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Fall semester begins (Cycle C on campus; Cycle B online).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26 – 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving – no classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19</td>
<td>Fall semester ends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Spring semester begins (Cycle D on campus; Cycle C online).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23 - 29</td>
<td>Easter break – no classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Spring semester ends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Online summer semester begins (Cycle D).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle B).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Online summer semester ends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Fall semester begins (Cycle A on campus; Cycle D online).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Last day to register or to add a course for credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Mid-semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24 - 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving – no classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17</td>
<td>Fall semester ends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017

January 16  Spring semester begins (Cycle B on campus; Cycle A online).
January 27  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 8    Mid-semester.
April 12 - 18  Easter break – no classes.
May 6      Spring semester ends.

May 8      Online summer semester begins (Cycle A).
June 26    Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle C).
June 30    Last day to register or to add courses for credit.
July 3     Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.
July 15    Mid-semester.
July 17    Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.
August 5   On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 15  Online summer semester ends.

September 5  Fall semester begins (Cycle C on campus; Cycle B online).
September 15  Last day to register or add a course for credit.
October 25   Mid-semester.
November 23 – 25  Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 16  Fall semester ends.

2018

January 15  Spring semester begins (Cycle D on campus; Cycle C online).
January 26  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 7    Mid-semester.
March 28 - April 3  Easter break – no classes.
May 5      Spring semester ends.

May 7      Online summer semester begins (Cycle B).
June 25    Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle D).
June 29    Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
July 2     Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.
July 14    Mid-semester.
July 16    Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.
August 4   On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 15  Online summer semester ends.

September 4  Fall semester begins (Cycle A on campus; Cycle D online).
September 14  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
October 24   Mid-semester.
November 22 – 24  Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 15  Fall semester ends.
2019

January 14  Spring semester begins (Cycle B on campus; Cycle A online).
January 25  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 6  Mid-semester.
April 17 – 23  Easter break – no classes.
May 4  Spring semester ends.

May 6  Online summer semester begins (Cycle C).
June 24  Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle A).
June 28  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
July 1  Vita Consecrata Institute, session I begins.
July 13  Mid-semester.
July 15  Vita Consecrata Institute, session II begins.
August 3  On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 15  Online summer semester ends.

September 3  Fall semester begins (Cycle C on campus; Cycle B online).
September 13  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
October 23  Mid-semester.
November 28 – 30  Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 14  Fall semester ends.

2020

January 13  Spring semester begins (Cycle D on campus; Cycle C online)
January 24  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
March 4  Mid-semester.
April 8 - 14  Easter break – no classes.
May 2  Spring semester ends.

May 4  Online summer semester begins (Cycle D).
June 22  Summer semester begins on campus (Cycle A).
June 26  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
June 29  Vita Consecrata Institute, session I, begins.
July 11  Mid-semester.
July 13  Vita Consecrata Institute, session II, begins.
August 1  On-campus summer semester ends. Graduation.
August 15  Online summer semester ends.

September 8  Fall semester begins (Cycle A on campus; Cycle D online).
September 18  Last day to register or to add a course for credit.
October 28  Mid-semester.
November 25 - 27  Thanksgiving – no classes.
December 19  Fall semester ends.
Directions

Directions to the Alexandria Campus

4407 Sano Street
Alexandria, VA  22312

From I-495
Take the exit for Braddock Road East.  At the fifth traffic light turn right onto Lincolnia Rd.; at the third street on the left, turn left onto Sano St.  The Graduate School is on the right after a few blocks, on the Queen of Apostles Parish grounds, at the rear of the parking lot, near the Christendom College sign.

From I-395
Take Little River Turnpike (Duke Street)/Rt. 236 West.  Take a right at the second traffic light onto Beauregard St.; stay to the left and turn left at the traffic light onto Chambliss; take another immediate left at the next traffic light onto Lincolnia Rd.; and then take the first right onto Sano St.  The Graduate School is a few blocks on the right, on the Queen of Apostles Parish grounds, at the rear of the parking lot, near the Christendom College sign.

Directions to the Front Royal Campus

134 Christendom Drive
Front Royal, VA  22630

From I-66
Take Exit 6. Follow S22 South through Front Royal. (Take a left at the traffic light by the Verizon Wireless Store, and another left at the next light.) At 6th Street (next traffic light) take a left. After approximately 2 miles, take a left onto Shenandoah Shores Road. After 1.5 miles, Christendom will be on the left.

Airports: Dulles International Airport serves both campuses, and in addition, Ronald Reagan National Airport is convenient to the Alexandria Campus.

Disclaimer

The Bulletin of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College is published to furnish prospective students and other interested persons with information about required courses, admission policies and procedures, academic policies, and other such information required to communicate a basic understanding of its programs. Readers should be aware that courses listed in this bulletin are subject to change without notice and may not be regarded as a binding obligation of the Christendom Graduate School. Changes in policy or financial conditions may make some alterations in school procedures, curriculum, tuition or fees necessary.

Christendom College does not discriminate against any applicant or student on the basis of race, sex, color, or national origin.