

competency requirement for the sacred Scripture concentration, students may successfully complete GREK 501/Introduction to Biblical Greek or HEBR 501/Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. The credits earned in language courses do not count toward the 42 graduate-level theology credits required for the MA degree or Apostolic Diploma, and students may take language courses either for a letter grade or on a pass/fail basis. Language courses may not be audited—they must be taken for credit and active participation is required. Students with prior experience with Latin, Greek, or Hebrew may test out of the respective course by taking a competency exam consisting of a Scriptural or theological passage to be translated into English with the aid of a dictionary.

5.3.10. 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.

5.3.11. Sequence of Courses

In general, there is no strictly required order for taking the courses in the MA program. While students may take courses in any order, below 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 for the rest of the program and should be taken as close to the beginning of your studies as possible.
- It is a good idea to fulfill any language requirements early on so that the skills gained may be applied in subsequent coursework.
- Since philosophy is the handmaiden of theology, it is recommended students fulfill their philosophy requirements earlier rather than later – these courses introduce terminology and concepts that are employed in theology courses.
- Because “the study of the sacred page is ... the soul of Theology” (DV 24), students are encouraged to fulfill their core Scripture requirements toward the beginning of their program of studies.
- Students must take OT courses before NT—the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old.
- It is a good idea to take THEO 601 before THEO 602 or THEO 603.
- Students concentrating in 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.
- Electives may be chosen from the requirements of other concentrations, or from other elective courses that are occasionally offered.