

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

INTRODUCTION

Degree Offered

Ph.D.

Objectives

The doctoral program in Christian Spirituality prepares students to read and interpret biblical texts for Christian Spirituality; to contextualize the major figures, texts, and themes in the historical development of Christian Spirituality; to achieve a dialogical understanding of another spirituality not within the Christian tradition; and to do research and create analytical arguments in this interdisciplinary field. With these skills students have graduated from the program and gone on to teach religious studies, Christian Spirituality, and theology in undergraduate and graduate programs in colleges, universities, and seminaries; to administer and deliver programs at retreat centers; and to serve churches at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Admission Requirements

A master's degree providing a broad grounding in the various disciplines of Christian theology.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to attain proficiency in two research languages other than their native language, one of which is ordinarily French or German, or Spanish, and the other an ancient or modern language pertinent to the student's research.

COURSEWORK

Required courses include the introductory area seminar (SP 5090), an advanced level course in New Testament, Biblical Issues in Christian Spirituality (SPOT 4444), the History of Christian Spirituality seminar (SPHS 5000), and two advanced level courses in Theology.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Students are required to complete four comprehensive examinations: a four-hour examination in the history of Christian spirituality, an exam in the form of an extended research paper (30-40 pages) on a topic specifically in the field of Christian Spirituality, an exam on a spirituality outside the Christian tradition, and an exam on an outside field of study within the human and social sciences, the natural sciences, or literature and the arts. Students conclude their comprehensive examinations with a three-hour oral examination.

DISSERTATION

After successfully completing comprehensive exams, the student forms a dissertation committee and proceeds to formulate a dissertation proposal approved by the Area faculty and the Doctoral Council. An oral defense takes place upon completion of the dissertation.

ALLIED FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Doctoral students in other areas who pursue Christian Spirituality as an allied field are required to take the introductory area seminar (SP 5090) and either Biblical Issues in Christian Spirituality (SPOT 4444) or the History of Christian Spirituality seminar (SPHS 5000), and to complete a comprehensive exam approved by a member of the Christian Spirituality area faculty designated as the student's Allied Field advisor.