

Pre-Seminary Studies

This program of study is administered by the Department of Theology through its Center for Church Vocations.

Pre-Seminary Studies is an interdisciplinary program that may be taken only as a complementary academic major, typically along with a first academic major in one of the humanistic disciplines.

Objectives. The complementary major in Pre-Seminary Studies is intended to assure that a student preparing for graduate studies at a seminary or divinity school will meet the standards of the ideal pre-seminary curriculum recommended by the Association of Theological Schools as well as the entrance requirements of most seminaries (in particular the seminaries of the Lutheran church bodies in North America). Accordingly, Valparaiso's program stresses both depth in at least one area of the humanities as well as breadth in the various humanistic disciplines. In addition, it provides a solid preparation in the biblical languages of Hebrew and Koine Greek. The equivalent of a minor in Theology is an integral part of the program, and that minor may be declared by students who do not choose a first major in Theology. A Church Vocations Symposium (THEO 399) is the curricular anchor for this program, where pre-seminary students are joined by students preparing for other church vocations in considering topics of mutual interest.

Major. A total of 57 credits constitute this complementary major. A substantial number of these credits will meet a variety of requirements in General Education, and other credits will often meet requirements in the student's first major. Students should consult with the chair of the Department of Theology, who will assign an academic advisor.

Program Requirements. The General Education for the Bachelor of Arts degree is required (see page 44). Careful selection of courses from the list below will meet the General Education Requirements in Theology (9 credits), Foreign Languages (8 credits), History or Philosophy (3 credits), and Global Diversity (3 credits).

A first major in one of the humanistic disciplines or human sciences (e.g., history, philosophy, theology, art, music, classics, psychology, sociology, geography, political science, economics) is also required. Depending on the student's interests, virtually any major may be chosen; consultation with the chair of the Department of Theology or the Program Director of the Center for Church Vocations is advised.

In addition, the following coursework is required:

Symposium	0 Cr.
THEO 399 Church Vocations Symposium (each semester the student is enrolled at Valparaiso University)	
English Composition	3 Cr.
One of the following:	
ENGL 300 Introduction to Professional Writing	
ENGL 301 Introduction to Creative Writing	
ENGL 321 Intermediate Composition	
ENGL 431 Advanced Composition	
Literature	3 Cr.
One of the following:	
ENGL 365 Studies in American Literature	
ENGL 390 Topics in Literature	
ENGL 401 American Literature I	
ENGL 402 American Literature II	
ENGL 405 Masterpieces of World Literature	
Western or U.S. History	3 Cr.
One of the following:	
HIST 200 Developments in Western Culture through the Ages	
HIST 325 The Age of Anxiety: United States since 1945	
Non-Western History	3 Cr.
One of the following:	
HIST 240 Introduction to East Asian Culture	
HIST 250 African History and Society	
HIST 341 Revolution and Its Roots: The Making of Modern China	
HIST 342 Tragedy and Triumph: The Making of Modern Japan	
HIST 350 Colonialism and Independence: Understanding Modern Africa	
Logic	3 Cr.
PHIL 150 Logic and Critical Thinking	

Philosophy 3 Cr.
 One of the following:
 PHIL 275 Ancient and Medieval
 Philosophy
 PHIL 280 Early Modern Philosophy
 PHIL 330 Philosophy of Religion

Greek 16 Cr.
 FLGK 101 First Semester Greek
 FLGK 102 Second Semester Greek
 FLGK 203 Intermediate Greek
 FLGK 320 Koine Greek

Hebrew 8 Cr.
 FLH 101 First Semester Hebrew
 FLH 102 Second Semester Hebrew

Theology/Bible 6 Cr.
 THEO 311 Understanding the Old
 Testament
 THEO 312 Understanding the New
 Testament

Theology/Doctrine 6 Cr.
 THEO 332 Luther and Lutheran
 Confessional Theology
 Substitutions may be made for students
 planning to enter a seminary of another
 church body.
 One of the following:
 THEO 330 Topics in Contemporary
 Theology
 THEO 334 Constructive Christian
 Theology

Theology/World Religions 3 Cr.
 One of the following:
 THEO 360-369 An upper level course
 in non-Christian religions

Recommended Additional Elective Courses
 MUS 473 Church Music
 MUS 213 Basic Conducting
 MUS 050 Kantorei
 MUS 003 Lessons in piano/organ/voice

Courses which are specified as required in
 the Pre-Seminary Studies Major and which
 are from the discipline of the student's first
 major may be counted toward both major
 concentrations.