

Admissions



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■ Letter from the Dean of Enrollment and Student Services

If you are thinking about attending graduate school, I encourage you to consider several things. First, we live in an increasingly complex world and this trend shows no sign of reversing. Within this complexity, there is a need for leaders who can facilitate positive social change. Iliff is one of the premier graduate schools in North America for preparing for this task. In addition, Iliff has a legacy of Justice and Peace Studies, which is the historical foundation for our Social Change curriculum.

Secondly, we recognize that your life is complex with multiple demands on your time and finances. With this in mind, we have attempted to construct degree programs, courses, and internship opportunities that are both appropriately rigorous and sustainable. At Iliff, I am confident that you will be both challenged and supported to grow academically, personally and professionally, while maintaining a reasonable life balance.

Finally, we are located in sunny and beautiful Denver, Colorado. Denver is considered the “Gateway to the Rocky Mountains” and includes many amazing cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities. Some of the best outdoor recreation opportunities in the world are within an hour of our campus and one of the most vibrant downtowns and cultural centers in America is just a few minutes away. Denver is a fabulous place to be.

I encourage you to take the next step and visit our campus. Our Admissions office will coordinate a customized campus visit to fit your interests and needs. Please call us at 303-765-3117 or email us at admissions@iliff.edu to schedule a visit. I hope to see you here!



David Worley

Dean of Enrollment and Student Services



■ Introduction to the Degree Programs

The Iliff School of Theology offers degrees for students seeking graduate professional education for ministry and other forms of community leadership as well as for those seeking academic preparation in religious and theological studies.

Iliff invites applications to the following graduate professional degrees:

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the most recognized theological degree and is designed for those who seek vocations in ministry; including parish ministry, chaplaincy, not-for-profits and a variety of other settings. The MDiv is the primary way to meet educational requirements for those seeking ordination in most traditions. This degree requires 120 quarter credit hours across the theological curriculum and includes a part-time or full-time internship, and other attention to personal and professional formation. This degree can be acquired in both a residential or flexible residency track of study. Please see pages 20-25 for more details for both options.

The Master of Arts in Specialized Ministry (MASM)) is being phased out and applications are no longer being accepted. These degrees have been replaced by the MASC and the MAPSC. See descriptions below.

The Master of Arts in Social Change (MASC) is a professional masters degree for students interested in employment through religious organizations, non-profit agencies, educational institutions, the media or corporate settings. This includes persons seeking ordination/consecration as a deacon or lay minister in many denominational traditions. The curriculum provides an interdisciplinary approach through courses that combine political theory, sociology, ethics, theology, and the history, theory, and practice of social change movements. Awareness of religious difference, motivation and communities inform our approach to social issues and movements for change toward more just social structures. Students are encouraged to combine personal and academic reflection with community activism and issue advocacy throughout the program. The degree program also includes two formation courses - Vocation and Orientation, Identity Power and Difference, and part-time or full-time internship placement related to the student's vocational trajectory.

The Master of Arts in Pastoral and Spiritual Care (MAPSC) is a professional masters degree for students interested in employment as chaplains or spiritual caregivers through religious organizations, health care

organizations, and hospice programs. This may include persons seeking ordination/consecration as a deacon or lay minister in many denominational traditions. The curriculum provides an interdisciplinary approach through courses in the comparative study of religion; historical, biblical, theological and ethical studies of Christianity; and historical and contemporary approaches to pastoral and spiritual care. Using a practice-reflection model of learning, students integrate knowledge and are formed as pastoral and spiritual caregivers through professional formation, one unit of clinical pastoral education, and a counseling and guidance program that enhances self-reflection.

Iliff invites application to the following academic degrees in religious and theological studies:

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is an 80 credit hour degree designed for those who want to explore various areas of theological studies. This flexible degree allows students to explore courses within the curriculum. It is appropriate as a form of personal development or as theological supplement to other graduate or professional education. Courses and focus are planned in conjunction with the advisor and include a summative integrative project.

The Master of Arts (MA) is an 80 credit hour degree intended for students with academic interests in theological and religious studies. It is often used as a foundation for PhD studies. This degree provides a broad background in theological and religious studies, work in an area of concentration, and a thesis project

The Doctor of Philosophy in Religious and Theological Studies (PhD) is offered jointly by Iliff and the University of Denver. The PhD is designed for those preparing for research, scholarship, and teaching. Please visit the [Joint PhD website](#) for more information on this degree.

■ Admission Requirements for All Masters Degrees

Candidates for all of the masters degree programs must hold a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an agency acceptable to Iliff. Admission is based on several factors including, but not limited to, grade point average, personal references and a personal statement of background and purpose in seeking admission to Iliff.

Normally, a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale is required for admission to the Master of Divinity, the MASC, the MAPSC, and the Master of Theological Studies degree programs. A cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for admission to the Master of Arts degree program.

Many persons choose to come to Iliff after pursuing another career, preparation for which may not have included a liberal arts background. In many cases, life experience and service in the local church help bridge this gap in education.

In general, preparation at the undergraduate level should include courses that provide the cultural and intellectual foundations essential to an effective theological education. In accordance with policy recommended by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, pre-seminary education should include many of the following subjects: English language and literature; history, including non-western cultures as well as European and American; philosophy, particularly its history and method; natural sciences, both the physical and life sciences; social sciences, especially psychology, sociology, anthropology and communications; fine arts and music; language other than English; and religion in the Jewish, Islamic, Christian and the near and far eastern traditions.

The faculty may require additional work to remove any evident deficiencies, especially in research, writing and public speaking skills.

The Iliff School of Theology seeks students of the highest moral character. A criminal conviction may disqualify applicants from admission to a degree program.

Iliff reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant.

■ Application Deadlines

Deadline for application is July 1 for fall, November 1 for winter, February 1 for spring, and April 1 for summer quarters.

■ Transfer Students

Iliff accepts transfer credit from accredited colleges, universities, and seminaries. Requirements for transfer students are the same as for new (first-time) candidates. For more information about transfer credits, contact the Admissions team at 303-765-3117 or email them at admissions@iliff.edu

■ Academic Advising Centers

When students are admitted to Iliff, they will be assigned an advisor from the Advising Center who will assist them in navigating and completing their degree programs. These assigned advisors will be available for consultation throughout the academic year. Academic advisors are available for consultation in choosing courses, helping students plan their overall academic programs, and gaining approval for special petitions. Advisors meet with students a number of times each year, including registration for each term and are also available for additional counseling as needed, by appointment or phone.

Students alone are responsible for fulfilling the requirements of their degree programs and other academic requirements. If advice obtained is contrary to published statements of the school, the student should seek clarification from the Office of the Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty.

