Iliff’s 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. More details about the requirements for the master’s degrees can be found in the Master’s Student Handbook.
The **Master of Divinity (MDIV)** is the most recognized professional theological degree. Designed for those who seek vocations in ministry in a variety of settings, the MDIV is the primary way to meet educational requirements for those seeking ordination in many Christian traditions. This degree requires 120 quarter credit hours across the theological curriculum, includes an internship, and other attention to personal and professional formation. This degree can be acquired in both a residential or flexible-residency (Journey Program) track of study. The Journey Program is comprised primarily of online and hybrid classes with short visits to Iliff’s campus in Denver up to four times per year.

The **Master of Arts in Social Justice and Ethics (MASJE)** is a professional master’s degree that prepares students to understand, navigate, and engage diverse social, political, and educational contexts and to critically engage complex analysis of historical and contemporary social change strategies and movements. Graduates of the MASJE program lead social change efforts within diverse professional settings including domestic and international religious organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, the media, and businesses.

As a professional degree, the 80 quarter credit MASJE program combines personal, spiritual/religious, and academic learning with critical reflection, community engagement, and service learning. The curriculum provides an interdisciplinary approach with courses that combine political theory, sociology, ethics, theology, and the history, theory, and practice of social change movements. In addition, courses in management, leadership, and community collaboration, along with the internship provide opportunities for students to gain practical knowledge and experience.
The Master of Arts in Pastoral and Spiritual Care (MAPSC) is a professional master’s degree for students who are specializing in pastoral and spiritual care within religious communities or other organizations like hospitals, hospice, and military organizations. The 80 quarter credit curriculum implements an intercultural approach to spiritual care, integrating contextual understandings of religious truth with a social justice orientation. Clinical pastoral education provides intense group learning and supervision of the practice of pastoral and spiritual care in clinical settings. The MAPSC is also available as a 40 credit degree for military chaplains who already have an MDIV.

The Master of Arts (MA) is a 72 quarter credit degree program intended for preparing for further graduate work in religious studies or other humanities disciplines at the PhD level; those preparing for teaching positions at community colleges or for adjunct instructor positions at colleges or universities; those preparing for professional careers in non-academic settings (e.g., journalism, foreign service, non-profit organizations); or those simply seeking to enjoy the intellectual rewards of a liberal arts education at the graduate level. The curriculum includes study in an area of concentration, required courses to ensure breadth of religious and theological background, an MA seminar, language study, and the development of a thesis. Students will work with both the advising center and the Director of the MA program and area faculty within their chosen concentration throughout the program.

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a 72 quarter credit interdisciplinary degree designed for students who are preparing for doctoral work in religious studies as well as others who are interested in rigorous exploration across the breadth of religious studies. The flexible curriculum includes courses to ensure breadth of religious and theological background, an MTS colloquium, and the development of an interdisciplinary thesis.

The Cooperative Master of Social Work (MSW) degree is a cooperative arrangement between Iliff and the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. This program allows qualified Iliff master’s students to study concurrently at both institutions in order to apply theological learning to social services settings.
The **Doctor of Philosophy in the Study of Religion (PhD)** is offered jointly by Iliff and the University of Denver. The PhD is designed for those preparing for research, scholarship, and teaching. Innovative and exciting academic inquiries depend on conversations between people who approach the study of religion from different angles. For this reason, the program is designed to foster collegial relationships between students and faculty who have overlapping approaches to the study of religion but locate themselves in different areas of specialization. In addition to Iliff’s faculty and DU’s department of religious studies, faculty from philosophy, anthropology, literature, art history, media studies, psychology and international studies play an active role in the program.

The core curriculum is structured around where these overlapping approaches come together to create conversation among those who study different places, spaces, texts, rituals, images, and religious traditions. With the guidance of faculty, students define their academic specializations through course work, comprehensive exams, and the completion of a dissertation. Please visit the [Joint PhD website](#) for more information.