Purpose and Nature of the Degree Program

Admission Requirements

Program Requirements

Core Courses

Doctor of Philosophy in Religious and Theological Studies Degree:

- Biblical Interpretation Concentration
- Religion and Psychological Studies Concentration
- Religion and Social Change Concentration
- Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Theory Concentration
DU/Iliff Joint PhD Program in the Study of Religion

Purpose and Nature of the Degree Program

The Joint PhD Program prepares students for independent research and teaching in the fields of religious and theological studies. Some graduates will use these abilities as university, college, or seminary scholar/teachers. Others will find vocational fulfillment within the context of religious organizations, institutions, counseling centers, or governmental agencies.

*Important Note: The DU/Iliff Joint PhD Program is currently undergoing a number of significant curricular changes. The information listed below reflects current admission requirements and offerings. Applicants for the 2015-16 academic year should check back frequently for updated information and contact the program with any questions that they may have. For more information, please visit our website: www.du.edu/duiliffjoint or contact us at (303) 765-3136.

Admission Requirements

Applications should be submitted online through DU’s Office of Graduate Studies. In addition to the application fee, the following items should be included in the application packet:

1. Official transcripts of the applicant’s complete academic record from each college, university, and/or seminary attended. An official transcript must include the original signature of the registrar and/or the seal of the issuing institution, and must be enclosed in an envelope with the stamp or signature of the registrar across the sealed flap. Proof of a bachelor’s and master’s degree is required from a regionally accredited college or university. Graduates of the University of Denver do not need to submit an official transcript at the time of application.

2. All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Applicants whose first language is not English should submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). (Note: When reporting scores to the Joint PhD Program, please use the institution code for the University of Denver #4842.)

3. Three letters of recommendation are required from qualified persons, including undergraduate and/or graduate faculty familiar with the applicant’s academic work. Letter of recommendation requests are
sent to the recommender via email within one business day of the submission of the online application. Applicants will be asked to provide names and email addresses of individuals who will be writing recommendations.

4. A statement of purpose outlining the professional and/or academic goals of the applicant (may be combined with #5 below). It is strongly recommended to identify specific faculty with whom you wish to work.

5. An essay discussing the applicant’s interest and background in the chosen concentration (may be combined with #4 above Combined length is typically 3-5 pages).

6. A research paper or essay that represents the applicant’s best effort in an academic field of study directly related to the proposed field of study. (Length is typically 10-20 pages, not to exceed 25 pages).

Other requirements for matriculation are:

- A completed two-year master’s degree relevant to the student’s proposed concentration(s). In special cases, if a student is admitted with a master’s degree in a field other than Religious Studies or a closely related field, the student’s advisory committee may require remedial coursework that would not count as part of the student’s program. Such course work would not be covered by financial aid.

- A grade point average from all graduate work of no less than 3.0 (B).

- If applying to the Biblical Interpretation concentration, applicants must demonstrate competency in ancient Greek and Hebrew equivalent to one year of full-time study.

Applications for admission are processed on an annual basis. The complete application dossier is due January 15th and must be accompanied by the application fee.

International students should consult with DU’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office, which can assist students with necessary F-1 and J-1 visa paperwork. Students also have access to the University of Denver’s Foreign Student Advising Office, which serves many of the needs of international students. All international students are urged to consult with DU’s Office of Graduate Studies or ISSS with questions regarding international admissions.
Summary of Requirements for the Doctoral Degree

1. Formal admission to the DU/Iliff Joint Ph.D. Program in Religious and Theological Studies
2. Preliminary Interview and completion of Program Statement
3. Core curriculum (3 courses)
4. Completion of required courses for one concentration
5. 90 quarter hours of graduate-level credits including at least:
   - 82 credit hours of coursework
   - 4 credit hours of dissertation research credits (THEO 6995)
   - 4 credit hours of additional credits (comprehensive exam credits, independent study, coursework, or additional dissertation research credits)
   - With approval, up to 15 transfer credits may be applied toward the 90 required, as long as those credits have not been applied toward another degree
   - Students must be in-residence for at least six quarters, including two consecutive quarters of full-time attendance.
6. Language Proficiency Requirement
7. Three Written Comprehensive Examinations
10. GPA at least 3.0
11. Completion of program in no more than 7 years
12. Graduation

All requirements for the degree must be completed in seven years from the time of admission.

Core Courses

THEO 6001/RLGS 4000: Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion
This course covers theories of religion in the modern period and highlights important contemporary theoretical debates in the academic study of religion.

THEO 6002/RLGS 4010: Pedagogy and the Teaching of Religion
This course will look at pedagogical methods as they relate to the teaching of religion. Students will design syllabi and materials appropriate for the teaching of religion in at least two different contexts. In addition, the course will cover theoretical issues related to the teaching and learning process.
THEO 6003/RLGS 4090: Dissertation Proposal Seminar
This seminar will focus upon the range of research topics and methods in religious and theological studies by examining dissertations and dissertation proposals related to the Joint PhD Program at Iliff and the University of Denver. Bibliographic and research methods and matters of style and format will receive particular emphasis. Students will present their own dissertation proposals for discussion.

Biblical Interpretation Concentration
This concentration focuses on Hebrew Bible and early Christian (canonical and apocryphal) literature. Students in this concentration will have competence to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the literature, history and religion of ancient Israel and early Christianity. In addition to teaching competencies, graduates will be prepared to conduct research and scholarship in biblical studies. Students may specialize in select areas of either Hebrew Bible or the New Testament and their cognate literatures.

A specialization in this concentration requires demonstration of advanced competency in biblical languages (ancient Hebrew and Greek) equal to one year of full-time study, along with usage of each language within the past three years.

Concentration Faculty
http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/Faculty.html

Course List
http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/CourseDescriptions.html

Religion and Psychological Studies Concentration
The concentration in Religion and Psychological Studies has two emphases: (a) Religion and Behavioral Sciences and (b) Pastoral Theology and Care. Other combinations are possible.

(a) The Religion and Behavioral Sciences track is designed to help students explore the relationships between behavioral sciences, personality theory, and religion. Students in this track will be prepared to conduct research and teach in the fields of religion and personality and psychology of religion. Graduates from this track will be equipped to teach at the college, university, or seminary level
in the general field of psychology of religion. Successful degree candidates will be conversant with other disciplines and methods of inquiry in religious studies.

(b) The Pastoral Theology and Care track is designed to train students critically and constructively to relate theological and psychological resources to spiritual/pastoral care, clinical work, teaching, and research in the field of pastoral theology and care. This track is not designed to prepare students to meet the requirements for licensing in any mental health discipline, including psychology.

Preference in admission will be given to those entering the Religion and Behavioral Sciences emphasis who have at least an undergraduate major in psychology or its equivalent. Preference in admission will also be given to those entering the Pastoral Theology and Care emphasis who have more than one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, and who have had clinical experience in Pastoral Counseling.

Concentration Faculty

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Religion and Social Change Concentration

The concentration in Religion and Social Change is an interdisciplinary research program focusing on relationships between religions and societies. Religion sometimes functions to conserve values in the midst of change; sometimes it functions to inhibit urgently needed change; and sometimes it functions to empower and motivate qualitative change. This concentration provides a scholarly context for pursuing descriptive, analytic and constructive examination of these complex social processes. A commitment to explore the ways religious thought may contribute to responsible engagement with contemporary societal and global challenges is a major dimension of this concentration. A critical aspect of this exploration is the systemic whole of globalization within which particular contexts and problems are located.

Academic disciplines especially germane to this interdisciplinary concentration are social sciences (e.g. sociology, anthropology, international studies); religious, intellectual and cultural histories; and critical reflection (ethics, philosophy, theology, cultural theory). An assumption of this
program is that the interrelationships between religions and societies are most fruitfully understood through a combination of descriptive, historical and critical theories and methods.

Within this concentration, special resources are available in:

- Religion, politics and social change in varied societal contexts (e.g. Europe, First Nation Peoples, Middle East, North America, South Asia, Southern Africa)
- Religious and cultural diversity in varied societal contexts
- Postcolonial thought and critiques of globalization
- Critical theory pertaining to systemic analysis
- American Indian cultures and religious traditions
- Human rights
- Latina/o Religion and Religion on the Border

Concentration Faculty

http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/Faculty.html

Course List

http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/CourseDescriptions.html
Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Theory Concentration

Four subfields comprise the concentration in Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Theory:

- **Theology:** modern and contemporary theology and Western religious thought;
- **Philosophy:** Western philosophies that have had a major impact on developments in theology and the study of religion;
- **Comparative Studies:** theories of cross-cultural comparison and their application to the study of non-Western religion and philosophy;
- **Cultural Theory:** modern theories and critiques of religion and culture.

Students graduating with a specialization in this concentration will have developed competency to teach at least one undergraduate course in each of the four subfields. They will also be prepared to conduct research, publish, and teach in their subfield of specialization. Admission into this concentration presupposes master’s degree with an appropriate background for study in the subfields.

**Concentration Faculty**

[http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/Faculty.html](http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/Faculty.html)

**Course List**

[http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/CourseDescriptions.html](http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/CourseDescriptions.html)