

Stretching Your Dollars

in the
Division of Religious and Theological Studies

AY 2009-2010

These strategies are economic rather than academic, and they may not be appropriate for your program in every case. The purpose of this information is to make you aware of your options as you plan your graduate studies in the Division.

Take STH courses as a part-time student

The university charges full-time students – those enrolled in 12-18 credit hours – a fixed tuition rate, set by the college to which the student belongs. As a Division student, you are enrolled in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GRS). If you take 12 or more hours, you pay full GRS tuition (\$18,955 per semester in 09-10) no matter where you take your courses.

If, however, you register for less than a full course load (2-11 credit hours), you pay by the credit hour and according to the tuition rate of the school or college within Boston University that is offering the course. The School of Theology (STH) tuition rate for one credit hour has been set at \$485.00 for AY 2009-2010. The Graduate School (GRS) tuition rate for one credit hour in AY 2009-2010 will be \$1,184.00. And because Division (GRS RN) courses are often cross-listed with School of Theology (STH) courses, students can save a considerable amount of money by enrolling part-time and registering for their courses using the STH course numbers. Here are some comparative costs:

Full-time GRS student (12-18 credit hours)

\$18,955

Part-time GRS student (10 STH credit hours)

\$4,850 (485 x 10)

Savings on tuition costs for one semester: \$14,105

Savings on tuition costs for one academic year: \$28,210

Furthermore, courses offered in the other schools that are members of the Boston Theological Institute (Harvard Divinity, Boston College, Andover-Newton, Gordon Conwell and more) cost the same amount as STH courses, so DRTS students have a wide range of courses from which to choose.

Certified full-time status

A student who takes 12 or more credit hours is automatically considered a full-time student, and one who takes fewer than 12 hours is considered part-time. However, by utilizing the “Stretching Your Dollars” program, students are certified full time, even though they are registered for less than 12 credit hours of coursework. This is accomplished by submitting a completed “Certificate of Full-Time Participation in Graduate Program” form with your registration form each semester. (This form is included in registration packets that are mailed twice each year to your home.)

Certified full-time status meets the requirements of many loans and other financial aid programs while allowing students to take advantage of the savings outlined in this document.