

Make History

We cherish the past,

but we don't live there.

Theological education was not new in 1839. Combining the study of religion with the work of social justice most certainly was. In the 180 years since, Boston University School of Theology (STH) has established itself as a school where history is made, and where people who want to make it prepare to do so.

STH graduated women before they gained the right to vote. We welcomed East Asians when they were excluded from US Citizenship. We trained generations of African-Americans – including some of this country's greatest civil rights leaders – when no other schools would admit them. And STH was the first theological school in the nation to appoint non-Christians to its faculty.

But history is never over.

The past is a springboard to the future. If you believe religion can be a force for good in the world, and have the courage to affect it, we invite you to link your history with ours. Train here, and then go make history of your own, and for your community.

Welcome to the Boston University School of Theology!

WELCOME

The School of Theology (STH) is the founding school of Boston University and a leading theological educator nationally and globally. STH is distinguished by its premier theological faculty, compassionate and energetic staff, and extraordinary alumni leading change and revitalization in churches, the academy, and communities across the globe.

Our world today needs religious leaders who are grounded in their faith tradition and gifted with nimbleness, humility, and conviction to reimagine new ways of being and leading with compassion and courage. In a world where racism continues to plague structures, systems, and processes—let alone individual habits—we need leaders personally and structurally committed to anti-racism and the celebration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In a world where opposing sides of an issue or political viewpoint are increasingly siloed and unable to listen or converse, we need leaders equipped to address conflict and facilitate hard conversations and deep listening.

In a world plagued by the dire effects of climate change, we need leaders who advocate for ecological justice. In a world destabilized by a global pandemic and rising mental health needs, we need leaders trained in trauma care, pastoral care, and spiritual care. In a world where religion continues to be a prime site of conflict, we need the humility and hospitality to invite interreligious conversation and partnerships.

Three key commitments of STH are academic excellence, beloved community, and social justice. We seek to integrate these into everything that we do so that academic excellence is pursued with a commitment to the community and social justice, just as social justice is grounded in community principles and the pursuit of academic excellence. We are a diverse and ecumenical community with a broad and invitational Christian identity rooted in the school's Wesleyan heritage, lived out in dialogue through our Communities of Learning, and embodied in the pursuit of interreligious conversation and partnership in the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium (BTI).

Our amazing faculty, outstanding staff, and innovative alumni are ready and eager to invite you into conversation, learning, and partnership, as we seek to equip the current and future leaders, pastors, ministers, scholars, chaplains, counselors, non-profit and community organizers, and simply the interested seeker to revitalize our world today.

With faith and hope,

G. Sujin Pak

Dean and Professor of the History of Christianity





Learn and Lead

> **Academics aren't the only preparation available to you at STH**, but they are the foundation. And chances are we have a program suited to your own very personal, very individual calling.



Boston University School of Theology is a place for people who want to dig deeply into religious traditions as well as to challenge and rethink the ideas, institutions, symbols, and practices that make up those traditions.

Bryan P. Stone

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

ACADEMICS

Areas of Study

Biblical & Historical Studies

Church History; Mission Studies; New Testament; Hebrew Scripture.

Philosophy, Theology, & Ethics

Social & Theological Ethics; Philosophy & Systematic Theology; Science, Philosophy, & Religion.

Religion, Culture, & Personality

Sociology of Religion; Pastoral Psychology & Psychology of Religion.

Ministry in Church & Society

Religion & Conflict Transformation; Practical Theology; Religious Education; Church Music & the Arts; Homiletics (Preaching); Liturgical Studies (Worship); Spirituality; Evangelism; Leadership.

Certificate Programs

STH offers several certificates that can further customize your curriculum toward your vocational goals. These include:

Religion & Conflict Transformation; Faith & Ecological Justice; Theology & Latinx Studies; International Mission & Ecumenism; Spirituality Studies; Music Ministry; Fundraising Management; Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Evangelism; Arts Management; and Urban Policy Planning.

Innovative Bi-Vocational Ministry

Do you want to serve God in a setting outside of the local church? We offer dual degree programs with the School of Social Work (Master of Social Work) and Wheelock College of Education & Human Development (Master of Arts in Teaching). Additionally, all students have the ability to cross-register for one-third of their program coursework outside of the School of Theology, anywhere in Boston University.

For example, one student might take courses in venue management, restaurant and hotel services, and real estate through the School of Hospitality Administration, with plans to open their own coffee shop or innovative new church start. Another student could take courses at BU's College of Communications and become adept at documentary filmmaking to shed light on social justice issues as part of their calling. The breadth of interdisciplinary work our curriculum allows our students is unmatched by any other seminary.



Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Prophetic, practical leaders grounded in the wisdom of their traditions are essential to the ongoing transformation of both the church and the world. But training for 21st century ministry cannot be “one size fits all.” Our track-based MDiv program allows students to specialize coursework toward their unique vocational callings. Any of our seven tracks can be completed in three years of full-time study and fulfill the requirements for ordination in most traditions.

- **Pastoral Ministry**
Those called to local church ministry often select this track, which emphasizes competencies related to congregation-based leadership.
- **Global & Community Engagement**
This track is for those interested in being local or global change-agents through vocations in conflict transformation, restorative justice, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, ecological justice and sustainability advocacy, social and economic justice, or non-profit leadership.
- **Religion & the Academy**
Want to go on to do doctoral studies after your MDiv in order to teach in the academy? This track is for you, and it relies heavily on one-to-one faculty mentoring.
- **Theology & the Arts**
For a vocation in music ministry, church architecture, liturgical studies, literature and religion, aesthetics, visual arts, film-making or the digital arts, choose this track.
- **Chaplaincy**
Chaplaincy is a growing sector of religious leadership in the 21st century. This track equips students to provide spiritual care within religiously pluralistic and secular contexts, such as prisons, hospitals, hospice, retirement communities, military, airports, police stations, and educational institutions. Coursework emphasizes pastoral care and counseling, spirituality, trauma and theology, cross-cultural exchange, and restorative justice.
- **Interfaith Leadership**
For those planning to work in interfaith contexts or lead interreligious dialogue. Requires substantial core coursework in Christian history and theology, while also providing for the study of other religious traditions.
- **Theology & Social Work**
If you enroll in the dual degree program with the Master of Social Work, choose this track, which ensures efficient progression through coursework in both schools.



My work at STH has provided me with new skills, including stronger analytic skills and a broader perspective about the factors influencing social matters. I’m concerned with social ethics – how we live out our responsibilities and commitments to one another, especially at a systemic level within the public sphere. What we do in public is a reflection of what we learn and believe about God and ourselves in private.

Jessica R. Hamilton

Memphis, Tennessee
MDiv’20
Global & Community Engagement

Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

Two full-time years rigorously studying religion, philosophy, and theology. Once you complete core coursework in theology, history, and biblical studies, you can choose the flexible “open format” in which you take courses in any discipline that fits your interests, or opt for a specialization, which still leaves plenty of free electives. The MTS specializations are:

- **Open Format**
Customizable toward your own interests.
- **Religion & Conflict Transformation**
Theology, theory, and practice of faith-based conflict transformation in the church and in the world.
- **Transcultural Studies**
Interdisciplinary study of faith and leadership across cultural and national borders drawing primarily on sociology, mission, ethics, and culture studies.
- **Theology**
Critical and constructive study of the Christian witness of faith, its meaning, and its relevance in the world.
- **Texts & Traditions**
Historical study of Hebrew and Christian scriptures, church history, and the broader history of Christianity (focus on one or more of these if you like).
- **Religion & Science**
Interdisciplinary study of religion and science, with attention to the challenges and debates, opportunities and interrelationships that arise when they meet.
- **Ecological Theology & Ethics**
Examine the interrelationships between theology, ethics, spirituality, and nature, particularly in light of environmental concerns and employing the tools of ecological sciences.
- **Spirituality Studies**
Study religious experience and spiritual practices, texts, and traditions, with careful attention to the intersections of spirituality, faith communities, culture and public life.



What are the faculty like at STH? They’re extremely intelligent yet approachable. They’re each distinct from one another, so no two class experiences will be the same. I designed a research project into the question of to what extent secularization influences ecclesial communities in Texas. But the whole “nature of God” question was always on my mind, too.

Regan Hardeman

Fort Worth, Texas
MTS’20, PhD student

Master of Arts in Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)

Our founders were religious abolitionists who brought their sense of God’s call for social justice to their communities.

Today our faculty prepare future religious leaders to meet today’s most pressing issues, such as climate change, racialized oppression, and public health and equity. That rigorous training extends online with the MARPL program, designed for those who want to advance their leadership capacities while staying rooted in their communities.

• **What You’ll Study**

The program begins with “Public Theology, Ministry, and Leadership,” a course that prepares you for the challenges of leading in the public square. From here, you’ll focus on key issues such as ecological justice and leadership in interfaith contexts, learn from historical visionaries such as Howard Thurman, and build leadership skills in community organizing and conflict transformation.

• **What You’ll Do After Graduation**

Program courses are designed so that you can truly engage your own values at every stage. This allows MARPL graduates to translate what they learn into various vocations. We expect our students to pursue careers in faith-based non-profits, interfaith leadership, environmental sustainability work, and seek out leadership in diverse fields with ethical responsibilities.

• **How You’ll Connect**

A community commitment to learning across differences undergirds everything we do, including our robust online learning environment where innovative and interactive technology facilitates community between faculty and students from around the world. Our online classrooms are filled with diverse viewpoints, theological backgrounds, and human differences. Here, we learn to work across divides, in connected classrooms.

See our website bu.edu/sth for information about our other degree programs:

- Master of Sacred Music
- Advanced Studies: Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Ministry

Learning online at STH means you will combine the study of religion and leadership with the practical skills to enact change right where you live. You will also study with leading scholars in the field and find a compassionate community where justice and faith are taken seriously.

Debbie Brubaker

Director of Online and Hybrid Programs

COMMUNITY & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Building Community through Love, Justice, and Respect

Our students bring their whole selves to their studies: minds, cultures, identities, and life stories. It’s not easy cultivating a true community across differences, but that’s just what you’ll find at STH. A supportive environment where life-long friendships are forged daily.

Love, Justice, Safety, Rights, Respect, and Responsibility

A decade ago, our faculty adopted these six principles to guide the interactions of students, faculty, and staff, and help individuals speak their truths while holding space for disagreements and dialogue.

STH Student Life Opportunities

Under the umbrella of a very active School of Theology Students’ Association, we have between 12 and 20 student groups each year, depending on student interest. Certain identity groups have enjoyed membership for several decades, and are still going strong:

- Association of Black Seminarians
- Korean Students Association
- Raíces Latinx Student Association
- Sacred Worth (for LGBTQIA+ students and allies)

Current student interest groups include:

- Wesleyan Students Association
- Students of Color Working Group
- TheCOlogy Club (activism for eco-justice)
- Comma (United Church of Christ student group)
- Global Dinner Church

Spiritual Life offerings include:

- Wednesday Chapel worship
- Seminary Singers, a volunteer choir with an 80-year history
- Weekly Eucharist service
- SpiritualTea, a weekly gathering for high tea and conversation
- Storytelling series with the Anna Howard Shaw Women’s Center
- Vigils and marches for social justice concerns
- Labyrinth walks
- Visual art reflection with rotating exhibits in the Community Center
- Reading retreats that integrate study with spiritual practice
- Yoga and meditation
- Student-led initiatives, such as Bible studies, open-mic nights for music and spoken word.



We expect that you will engage theory, concepts, difficult questions, and differences as an integration process that facilitates your own transformation. And with these new understandings and insights, you will make life-changing contributions.

Cristian De La Rosa

Associate Dean for Students and Community Life

Your Turn.

VISIT & APPLY

If you have the inspiration, imagination, and determination, we can provide the preparation.

Connect with our admissions team today.

Find more resources on our website, including our Discernment Tool, online application and instructions, and current deadlines. You can also learn more about how STH utilizes early decision, priority, and final deadlines for each program. Visit bu.edu/sth.

Admissions Office

745 Commonwealth Ave
Suite 108

Boston, MA 02215

617-353-3036

sthadmis@bu.edu

@BUTheology on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook

Changing
the world
is a cliché
only
to those
who don't.



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