

B.A. Theology

2023-24

WEBSITE

<https://www.swau.edu/religion>

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Chair

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The B.A. in Theology will give you a solid foundation in theology, practical ministry and biblical studies. You will understand the historical background, the exegetical process, and the message of the Bible more deeply and explore answers to significant theological, philosophical and spiritual questions of life and mission. You will be prepared to continue seminary studies or to serve others through the different ministries in the Church. The Department of Religion provides a Christ-centered and Bible-based religious education that is in line with the global mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The B.A. in Theology offers unique opportunities for practical ministry and evangelism through required church internships and its Field School of Evangelism.

Job Market

Most of our graduates are hired as pastors in various Adventist Conferences. Other graduates attend the Seminary or enter other programs for chaplaincy, counseling, or teaching. They also become qualified to work as full time missionaries, Bible workers, or departmental directors and administrators at various levels of the Adventist Church.

Job Outlook

Our graduates are interviewed every year by Conference Presidents within the Southwestern Union as well as from outside of the Union. About 95% of our graduates are hired as pastors or as youth/associate pastors. Employment opportunities will increase in the next few years as a significant number of pastors in North America will retire from active ministry.

Earnings

Although earnings will vary widely by region and position an average salary for a pastor is about \$60,000. The beginning salary for a new pastor just starting out may be somewhat less.

Educational Qualifications

Graduates are strongly encouraged to pursue graduate work in order to meet the demands of a highly educated society and the needs of local parishioners. A doctorate will be required for those who want to teach religion at an Adventist college or Seminary level.



Required Courses

The curriculum of the BA in Theology is devised to meet the prerequisites for admission to the M. Div. program at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Item #	Title	Credits
RELB 211	Life and Teachings of Jesus	3
RELB 322	Daniel	3
RELB 323	Revelation	3
RELB 325	Pentateuch	3
RELB 328	Survey of the Old Testament	3
RELB 335	Introduction to the New Testament	3
RELH 230	History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church	3
RELH 320	Ellen White Writings	3
RELH 332	History of Christianity II	3
RELP 220	Personal Evangelistic Ministry	3
RELP 215	Introduction to Pastoral Ministry	3
RELP 323	Biblical Preaching I	3
RELP 324	Biblical Preaching II	3
RELP 415	Pastoral Ministry	3
RELP 425	Field Evangelism	3
RELP 428	Hospital Ministry	2
RELT 406	Christian Theology I	3
RELT 407	Christian Theology II	3
RELT 410	Biblical Conflict Resolution	3
	Sub-Total Credits	56

Required cognates

Item #	Title	Credits
COMM 111	Speech	3
HIST 331	History of Christianity I	3
PSYC 212	General Psychology	3
	Sub-Total Credits	9

Recommended Cognates

Item #	Title	Credits
ACCT 211	Accounting Principles I	3
BUAD 120	Personal Finance	3
BUAD 301	Principles of Management	3
EDUC 385	Philosophy of Christian Education	3
HIST 364	Ancient Cultures	3
	Sub-Total Credits	15

Sample 4 Year Curriculum

General Education Requirements

To view general education requirements for this major please visit: <https://catalog.swau.edu/core-curriculum-for-a-bachelors-degree>

First Year First Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
ENGL 121	Freshman Composition	3
RELB 211	Life and Teachings of Jesus	3
	Kinesiology GE Requirement	1
	Life and Physical Science GE Requirement	4
	Mathematics GE Requirement	3
	Sub-Total Credits	14

First Year Second Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
COMM 111	Speech	3
RELH 230	History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church	3
UNIV 111	Wellness for Life	2
	Fine Arts GE Requirement	3
	Life and Physical Science GE Requirement	4
	Sub-Total Credits	15

Second Year First Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
ENGL 220	Research Writing	3
RELL 240	New Testament Greek I	5
RELP 215	Introduction to Pastoral Ministry	3
	History GE Requirement	3
	Sub-Total Credits	14

Second Year Second Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
PSYC 212	General Psychology	3
RELL 241	New Testament Greek II	4
RELP 220	Personal Evangelistic Ministry	3
	History GE Requirement	3
	Sub-Total Credits	13

Second Year Summer Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
RELL 340	Intermediate New Testament Greek	3
	Sub-Total Credits	3

Third Year First Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
HIST 331	History of Christianity I	3
RELB 325	Pentateuch	3
RELL 343	Biblical Hebrew I	3
RELP 323	Biblical Preaching I	3
	Kinesiology GE Requirement	1
	Literature GE Requirement	3
	Sub-Total Credits	16

Third Year Second Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
RELB 335	Introduction to the New Testament	3
RELH 320	Ellen White Writings	3
RELH 332	History of Christianity II	3
RELL 344	Biblical Hebrew II	3
RELP 324	Biblical Preaching II	3
	Sub-Total Credits	15

Third Year Summer Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
RELP 425	Field Evangelism	3
	Sub-Total Credits	3

Fourth Year First Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
RELB 322	Daniel	3
RELH 314	Origin & Development of the Bible	3
RELT 410	Biblical Conflict Resolution	3
RELT 406	Christian Theology I	3
	Sub-Total Credits	12

Fourth Year Second Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
RELB 323	Revelation	3
RELB 328	Survey of the Old Testament	3
RELP 415	Pastoral Ministry	3
RELP 428	Hospital Ministry	2
RELT 407	Christian Theology II	3
	Sub-Total Credits	14