



Master of Theology (M.Th.)

Program Overview

The Master of Theology (M.Th.) at the Universidad Católica Americana (*UNICA*) stands as a program of high specialization and scholarly rigor, designed to form the next generation of thinkers, academics, and ecclesial leaders capable of addressing fundamental theological questions with methodological precision and pastoral sensitivity.

In the *traditio ecclesialis*, theology is the *scientia Dei*—the pursuit of the intelligence of faith (*fides quaerens intellectum*). In the context of a liquid and fragmented postmodernity, there arises the urgent need to recover the systematic coherence and historical depth of Revelation. This program not only transmits the *depositum fidei* but also prepares the student to engage critically with philosophy, science, and contemporary cultures, updating the voice of faith for today's world.

The intensive two-year curriculum features a strong research component culminating in a Master's Thesis (Final Graduate Work). The program encourages interdisciplinarity, allowing students to explore intersections between theology and other fields such as bioethics, data science, or the sociology of religion through specialized elective courses.

UNICA's *Master of Theology* provides doctoral-propaedeutic training, laying the foundation for academic publication, university teaching, and high-level ecclesial consultancy. Its flexible modality accommodates the professional and ministerial lives of global intellectual leaders.

Justification

The relevance of the *Master of Theology* lies not merely in the archaeological preservation of the doctrinal corpus but in the epistemic urgency to rearticulate Reason within Faith for the *Missio Ecclesiae* in the third millennium.

The Church, immersed in an era of metaphysical fragmentation and ethical relativism, needs intellectuals of faith with the analytical sharpness to dismantle the fallacies of secularism and present Revealed Truth as the ultimate answer to humanity's deepest longing.

This program is justified by the need to:

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1. Provide Propedeutic and Critical Formation: To equip priests, laypersons, and religious with the methodological tools (historical-critical, hermeneutical, and systematic) to read the world from God's perspective and God from the world's perspective—surpassing mere catechetical instruction and fostering original theological research that nourishes the intellectual life of both local and universal Church communities.
2. Develop Epistemic Leadership: To empower pastoral agents and scholars to lead ethical and bioethical reflection in the public sphere, serving as authoritative voices for Natural Law and Christian Anthropology in response to disruptive technologies and contemporary ideologies.
3. Foster Interdisciplinary Openness: To break disciplinary isolation by forming students as intellectual bridges between Theology and the Sciences—both hard and soft. The future of Theology requires informed dialogue with Cosmology, Artificial Intelligence, and Sociology to inculcate the Gospel within the new grammars of human existence.

In sum, this program is both an intellectual and pastoral imperative: to provide the Church with men and women of thought, capable of making Theology a living, relevant, and prophetic science.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (*UNICA*) affirms its commitment to graduate research as the culmination of the dialogue between faith and reason.

Mission

To train Masters in Theology with excellence in research and systematic rigor, capable of deepening the intelligence of faith, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, and contributing original insights to theological knowledge for the service of the Church and society.

Vision

To be recognized as the leading theological graduate school in the Americas, known for the strength of its graduates, the quality of its doctoral-propaedeutic research, and its contribution to contemporary cultural and ecclesial debates.

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Values

Truth, Wisdom, Fidelity to the Magisterium, Methodological Rigor, and Research.

Program Fact Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Master of Theology (M.Th.)
Academic Level	Graduate / Master's Degree
Total Duration	2 years (4 semesters)
Total Credits	60 credits
Average per Semester	15 credits
Modality	Virtual and hybrid (synchronous seminars, individual tutoring, and research residencies)
Language of Instruction	Spanish / English (with emphasis on reading sources in Latin and Greek)
Degree Awarded	Master of Theology — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Graduate Profile

The graduate of UNICA's *Master of Theology* program will be an intellectual and researcher capable of:

1. Systematic Mastery: Coherently articulating the doctrinal corpus of Theology (Dogmatic, Moral, Historical) with a profound understanding of the sources of Revelation (Scripture and Tradition).
2. Methodological Rigor: Applying theological research methodologies (historical-critical, hermeneutical, analytical) at a doctoral-level standard, demonstrating proficiency in textual criticism and source evaluation.
3. Interdisciplinary Dialogue: Acting as an epistemological bridge between Theology and the Sciences (Philosophy, Bioethics, Sociology), integrating their insights into systematic reflection.



4. Academic Production: Conceiving, developing, and defending an original and publishable Master's Thesis that represents a significant contribution to theological knowledge.
5. Teaching and Ecclesial Leadership: Assuming roles in university teaching, seminary formation, high-level consultancy in ecclesial institutions, or ethical leadership in the public sphere.

Curriculum by Semester (2 Years — 60 Credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Emphasis
1	MTE-501	Theological Prolegomena and the Crisis of Reason	6	The epistemological status of Theology, its sources, and the challenge of postmodernity.	Systematic
	MTE-502	Fundamental Theology: Revelation and Credibility	6	Study of Divine Revelation, Tradition, and the act of faith.	Dogmatic
	MTE-503	Methodology of Theological Research I	3	Design of the thesis project, state of the art, and use of specialized academic databases.	Research
	Total		15		
2	MTE-504	Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology of the Word	6	Advanced exegetical methods and the Word of God as the structural principle.	Biblical
	MTE-505	Fundamental Moral Theology and the Human Act	6	Foundations of morality, Natural Law, and the ethics of virtue.	Moral
	MTE-506	Methodology of Theological Research II	3	Comprehensive literature review, source criticism,	Research



				and academic governance.	
	Total		15		
3	MTE-601	Advanced Systematic Theology (Selected Topics)	6	In-depth study of the Trinity, Christology, or Ecclesiology.	Systematic
	MTE-602	Interdisciplinary Elective Course	3	Graduate-level course in AI Ethics, Sociology of Religion, or Political Philosophy.	Interdisciplinary
	MTE-603	Thesis Seminar I (Development and Drafting)	6	Intensive tutored work for the development of the central chapters of the thesis.	Research
	Total		15		
4	MTE-604	Thesis Editing and Defense Workshop	0	Final format review, defense coaching, and preparation of the final manuscript.	Research
	MTE-605	Final Graduate Work (Master's Thesis)	15	Credits assigned to the elaboration and public defense of the Master's Thesis.	Research
	Total		15		

Methodology and Evaluation

- Mixed and Project-Based Methodology: Synchronous lectures, Socratic seminars on primary texts, individualized thesis tutoring, and short research residencies (optional) for academic exchange.
- Concentrated Research: 45% of total credits are dedicated directly to research (Methodology, Thesis Seminars, and the Final Graduate Work), ensuring deep immersion in academic inquiry.
- Graduate-Level Evaluation: Students must submit academic papers, defend research



proposals (protocols), and, as a fundamental requirement, publicly present and defend their Master's Thesis, which must meet standards suitable for academic publication.

Institutional Notes and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt documentation and admission requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and current accreditation standards for religious institutions and virtual/hybrid graduate programs. Admission requires a bachelor's degree and an academic essay demonstrating aptitude for research.

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