

Department of Theology

Mission Statement

The Department of Theology (<https://www.apu.edu/theology/theology/>) helps undergraduate students become complete people who reason and think reflectively about responses to the world. The department equips and encourages undergraduate students to become effective and faithful as scholars and servants by bringing them into fruitful engagement with a broad range of theological and philosophical resources and developing in them suitable analytical, reflective, and expressive skills.

Extracurricular Activities

The department recognizes that a successful learning experience must go beyond the classroom to interact with real-life issues that are the focus of modern faith. Toward this end, the theology program sponsors several ongoing extracurricular activities that bring the academic study of theology into conversation with the elements of a living Christian faith.

Coram Deo

Coram Deo (<https://www.apu.edu/theology/theology/lectures/theologycoramdeo/>) is a student-led association of friends of theology. The Latin phrase *coram deo* means “before God,” “in the presence of God,” or “face to face with God,” and through this association, students serve as facilitators of theological dialogue for the university community, choosing relevant themes for interdisciplinary discussion that bring theology into direct engagement with the challenges of faith in a modern world. Each year, student facilitators choose a broad theme for discussion by an interdisciplinary panel of faculty from the APU community. This experience enhances theological reflection, develops leadership skills among the student facilitators, and broadens their understanding of the parameters of theology to move it beyond intellectual deliberation to serve the Church and the world.

Biennial Rome Study Away Program

Every other summer, a faculty member from the theology program directs an in-depth study-away experience in Rome and northern Italy to explore the origins of the Christian faith through an examination of the art, architecture, and history of the Roman Empire through the Italian Renaissance. This experience provides an opportunity for direct engagement with the Western foundations of Christianity and Western civilization.

Theology Conferences

On a periodic basis, the theology program hosts world-renowned theologians whose work is studied by theology students. This experience enhances faith integration and invites further theological reflection beyond the classroom. Past guests have included Stanley Hauerwas and Justo González.