

## Instructions for Completing the Personal Statement for Admission to the M.A. in Theology or Pastoral Theology

As part of your application for admission into the MA in Theology or the MA in Pastoral Theology in the Department of Theological Studies, you are required to write a short essay or personal statement. In this essay, the admissions committee asks you to write about your motivations for applying as well as your academic background and personal goals. You may wish to address some or all of the following questions:

1. What motivates you to pursue a **graduate degree** in theology or pastoral theology? Are there academic, career, or ministerial goals that have led you here? Students applying to the MA in Pastoral Theology should also describe their involvement in ministry, community service, and/or pastoral leadership, and explain how further academic study will better equip you in the service of others.
2. Describe your **intellectual interests** in the study of theology. What are you curious about that only graduate study will help you understand better? What theological questions, topics, or areas of study have drawn your attention and why? What is it that you read (or watch or listen to) that helps you think more clearly and more deeply about theological questions?
3. How has your **past academic work** prepared you for graduate work in theology? Please tell us how your university studies, BAEP courses, and/or other intellectual pursuits have made you ready for this step. If your post-secondary academic performance has ever slipped below LMU standards (3.0 GPA or B average), please help us understand why that might have been.
4. The MA program includes persons from different racial and ethnic groups, different generations and genders, different states of life (e.g., lay people, religious sisters, and clergy), and indeed from different nations of the world. What do you see as the benefit of studying theology in classrooms that include people from these **diverse backgrounds**?

The essay should be typed, double spaced, 12-point font, and 3 to 5 pages in length (not to exceed 5 pages). Graduate Admissions provides [additional tips](#) for preparing a personal statement of intent. ***Our expectation is that this essay will be exclusively your own work.***

Revised 10/07/2024