

**MTS SYNTHESIS PAPER GUIDELINES  
REGULATIONS  
FOR THE SYNTHESIS PAPER OF THE MTS PROGRAM**

The synthesis paper in the MTS (Integrating Studies Stream) is intended to demonstrate the student's ability to engage in a responsible dialogue between the theological tradition and her/his life or work experience (see MTS outcomes map, Integrating Studies Stream #3.1). The paper should: (a) demonstrate the student's self-possessed and critical appropriation of life or work experience; (b) identify, synthesize and interpret resources from the theological tradition that can promote a deeper understanding of this experience in the light of faith; and (c) apply those resources to the deeper understanding of experience, so as to offer constructive theological and practical conclusions in the student's own voice.

1. This synthesis paper is registered as a reading course directed by the Mentor, RGT3790Y. It fulfills two credits toward the 20 units of the MTS Degree.
2. The synthesis paper is to consist of about 35 pages double spaced or 8,500 words, with a maximum of 45 pages double spaced or 11,000 words, exclusive of endnotes and bibliography.
3. In the first half of the paper of the student will explore the major topic in relation to the two interrelated topics that have been chosen. The second half of the paper will apply this synthesis to the understanding of specific life experience in such a way that the student can give constructive conclusions in the student's own voice.
4. Before the time of registration for their final semester (a minimum of 15 courses must have been completed), students should determine with the MTS Director:
  - 4.i the discipline of theology on which they will focus (Biblical, Historical, Pastoral, Systematic);
  - 4.ii the Mentor who has agreed to direct the synthetic study and a second reader who has agreed to evaluate the completed synthesis paper.
5. The Mentor must be a member of the Regis College Faculty and must give his or her prior approval to being Mentor. Students will consult the mentor in a timely fashion during the drafting-process of the paper, and the mentor will respond with written comments to at least one draft of the paper.
6. A suggested but not exhaustive list of possible topics that are organized within areas of specialization is appended to these regulations. The specific chosen topics should stem from the student's interest and competency as exemplified in course work within the program. They should be decided in discussion with the Mentor and approved by the MTS Director. Details of the paper should be recorded on the proposal

planning form which is also appended to these regulations. The Registrar should be informed of the title of the paper when it has been determined.

7. The synthesis paper will be graded by the Mentor and by one other member of the Regis College Faculty appointed by the MTS Director in consultation with the Mentor. In particular cases, an exception may be made allowing the second reader to come from other TST Faculty. In the case of a major discrepancy in grading, the Mentor may request the MTS Director for a third reader of the paper. The final grade for the paper is the average of the two top marks.

**SUGGESTED AREAS AND TOPICS OF SPECIALIZATION  
FOR THE SYNTHESIS PAPER OF THE MTS PROGRAM**  
(these are examples—this list is not exhaustive)

1. THE NATURE OF THEOLOGY
  - a. The nature and methods of theology.
  - b. Its construction on the basis of scripture, tradition, experience, reason, the culture to which it is addressed, the pastoral challenges it meets.
  - c. Its specialization and their interrelations.
  - d. How do pastoral practice and dogmatic theology impart on one another?
  - e. Cultural and social implications for the practice of faith and its liturgical expression.
  
2. REVELATION AND FAITH
  - a. The nature of revelation; its relation to mystery and faith; its occurrence in word and event; its occurrence within and outside of the Judaeo-Christian community;
  - b. The relation of faith to beliefs.
  - c. The role of scripture and tradition in revelation; the development of doctrine; infallibility and reception in the Roman Catholic understanding of *magisterium*.
  - d. The literary genres of Scripture; scripture, human experience, and divine transcendence.
  - e. The Councils.
  
3. GOD ONE AND TRIUNE
  - a. God as mystery, as personal, as loving, as immanent/transcendent.
  - b. The basic elements of the doctrine of the Triune God: the One Nature, the Three Persons, the Relations, the Processions.
  - c. Models for speaking about the Trinity: their description, advantages, pitfalls.
  
4. CHRISTOLOGY
  - a. Jesus Christ at the centre of the Christian faith, and the resurrection as the starting point of Christological doctrine.

- b. Ascending and descending Christology; the divinity, humanity, and personal unity of Jesus Christ.
  - c. Jesus as liberator, saviour, redeemer.
  
- 5. CREATION AND ESCHATOLOGY
  - a. The doctrines of creation and eschatology in their basic features and relation to contemporary science.
  - b. The relation of history and eschatology, of resurrection and eschatology.
  - c. The Christian understanding of death, [articular judgement, general judgement, purgatory, heaven, hell.
  
- 6. SIN AND GRACE
  - a. The doctrines of original sin, personal sin, venial sin, mortal sin, concupiscence.
  - b. The doctrines of grace, justification, sanctification, salvation.
  - c. Nature and grace; grace and experience.
  
- 7. ECCLESIOLOGY
  - a. The relation of the Church to Christ, Spirit, mission and culture.
  - b. Fundamental structures of the Church and their development; membership in the Church.
  - c. The mystery of the Church: dimensions and models.
  
- 8. SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY
  - a. The definition of sacrament in general and of each of the sacraments; their institution by Christ.
  - b. The relation of the sacraments to eschatological grace; their symbolic reality.
  - c. Eucharist as sacrament and sacrifice.
  
- 9. MORAL THEOLOGY
  - a. General principles of moral theology.
  - b. Theological principles for medical ethics; for sexual ethics; for social ethics; for environmental ethics; for animal rights.
  
- 10. ECUMENISM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
  - a. Doctrinal areas that are involved in contemporary efforts of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.
  - b. The exhortation to ecumenism and interreligious dialogue in the documents of Vatican II and in recent documents.
  
- 11. SPIRITUALITY
  - a. Ignatian spirituality.
  - b. Spirituality of creation.
  - c. Spirituality and culture; and suffering; and interreligious dialogue; and work; and art.

**PROPOSAL PLANNING FORM  
FOR THE SYNTHESIS PAPER OF THE MTS PROGRAM  
(RGT3790Y)**

1. Please refer to the “Regulations for the MTS Synthesis Paper” (last amended March 15, 2017) when completing this form.
2. Students are to approach a potential mentor from the Regis faculty who teaches in the area in which she or he proposes to specialize to discuss the project. Once there is agreement between student and mentor regarding topics and areas, students will complete this proposal planning form and submit it to the MTS Director for approval.
3. In consultation with their mentor and the MTS Director, students will then approach a Second Reader among the Regis faculty, who will also sign the proposal form.
4. Registration dates:
  - i. This academic activity will be enrolled for you via the Registrar’s Office.
  - ii. Please note the following due dates for request for enrolment and completion of work:

<b>Term of Registration</b>	<b>Due Date of Completed Proposal Planning Form to the Registrar</b>	<b>Completed Paper to Mentor &amp; Second Reader for Evaluation</b>
Summer Session	April 31 (for enrolment May – Aug)	August 15
Winter Session	August 31 (for enrolment Sep – Dec)	December 15
	August 31 (for enrolment Sep – Apr)	April 15
	December 15 (for enrolment Jan – Apr)	April 15

5. Students who have not completed the work in the term of first enrolment will automatically be enrolled to continue registration on a term-by-term basis in the immediate consecutive term, and pay a continuation of program fee equal to one course credit plus incidental fees until completion, i.e. TSZ3333HF (for September term) or TSZ3333HS (for January term) or TSZ3333HF (for Summer session).

**PROPOSAL PLANNING FORM  
FOR THE SYNTHESIS PAPER OF THE MTS PROGRAM**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Synthesis Paper:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Area of Specialized Interest** (check one):

- Biblical       Historical       Pastoral       Systematic

**Major Topic within Area of Specialized Interest:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**First Interrelated Area** (check one):

- Biblical       Historical       Pastoral       Systematic

**First Interrelated Topic:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Second Interrelated Area** (check one):

- Biblical       Historical       Pastoral       Systematic

**Second Interrelated Topic:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

I request to enrol in RGT3790Y MTS Synthesis Paper in the academic term (check and complete one):

- May 201\_\_ to Aug 201\_\_       Sep 201 \_\_ to Dec 201\_\_       Sep 201 \_\_ to Apr 201\_\_

	Name	Signature	Date
Student			
Mentor			
MTS Director			
Second Reader			
For Official Use			

*Revised March 15, 2017*