**FIRE** is the Graduate Program of the Theology Department of the School of Humanities Ateneo de Manila University and receives institutional support from the Loyola School of Theology. It offers a scholarship program that forms highly qualified and motivated teachers and catechists personally committed to the vocation of educating Filipinos in the Christian faith.

**FIRE** responds to the pressing need of the Catholic Church in the Philippines for competent teachers in Religious Education at all levels, and for Religion coordinators in private and public schools, parishes, and dioceses. Today’s urgent call is for “education towards authentic Filipino maturity in the faith.”

**FIRE** has an integrated formation program that includes the following:

**CONTENT** basic Scripture courses as source for classes in essential Catholic doctrine (Creed), morals (Commandments and values) and worship (Sacraments);

**METHODOLOGY** a foundational theory of Religious Education grounded in sound theology, education, psychology, and cultural anthropology - as relevant to the Philippine context;

**PRACTICE** actual exercise in class teaching, lesson planning, creating scope and sequence charts, course syllabi, high school and college levels and in parish and diocesan catechetical programs.

**FIRE FOCUS**

**FIRE**’s unique contribution lies in its tested and integrated program based on the National Catechetical Directory of the Philippines (2007) and the national Catechism for Filipino Catholics.

The program focuses on:

- The essentials of faith connecting doctrine, morals and prayer-worship in an integrated harmonious approach for a holistic grasp of faith;
- Using experiential methods that exercise the FIRE’s scholars’ skills in addressing the students’ own context and communicating the Gospel message in a manner that is truly Christ-centered, nourished by the living biblical word of God, and authentically Filipino; and
- Draws on the unique resources of Loyola School of Theology and FIRE’s unmatched catechetical and theological materials.

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**FIRE COURSES**

All FIRE courses are offered in the summer, organized in a three-summer cycle and a fourth summer for comprehensive exams. FIRE students who qualify for graduate credits toward an Ateneo degree, can choose either of the two degrees:

1. Master of Arts, Major in Theological Studies (30 units with Thesis [6 units])
2. Master of Arts, Major in Religious Education (45 units without Thesis)

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**MASTER OF ARTS, MAJOR IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

This thesis program primarily aims to develop catechists, religion or theology teachers by a sound grounding in the basic sources (Scripture, Church Teaching and Human Experience), stressing structural integration (Doctrine, Morals and Worship), together with a critical formation in professional religious education, its nature and methodologies. It focuses on the unique values and skills exercised in modest research and composition of a well-ordered thesis in religious education.

**CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED SUBJECTS:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Basic</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Major</td>
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**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS**

**THESIS WRITING AND ORAL DEFENSE** 6 units

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**MASTER OF ARTS, MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

This non-thesis program aims to provide a holistic approach to the formation of catechists, religion, and theology teachers by understanding, actually practicing and exercising the various forms of integrations in their catechetical and classroom teaching.

**CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>REQUIRED SUBJECTS:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Foundation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Practicum</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS**

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**Chart for 36 units thesis MA in Theological Studies**

| CURRICULUM | 30 units |
|-------------------|
| I. Basic | THEO 231 | THEO 203 | 6 |
| II. Core | THEO 207 | 204 | 6 |
| III. Major | THEO 205 | THEO 208 | THEO 222.2 | THEO 288.8 | THEO 233 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS PREPARATIONS | 18 |
| | THEO 401 | THEO 402 | 6 |
| | | | 36 |

**Chart for 36 units thesis MA in Theological Studies**

| CURRICULUM | 45 units |
|-------------------|
| I. Foundational | THEO 205 | THEO 207 | THEO 208 | THEO 204 | THEO 209 | 15 |
| II. Concentration | THEO 231 | THEO 206.1 | THEO 222.2 | THEO 203 | THEO 288.8 | THEO 233 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS PREPARATION | 18 |
| III. Electives | THEO 248 | THEO 286 | 6 |
| IV. Practicum | THEO 260 | THEO 254 | 6 |
| | | | 45 |
ADMISISON REQUIREMENTS
Applicants for the FIRE program must:
• Hold a bachelor’s degree with at least 12 units in Theology or Religious Education;
• Have a satisfactory score in the Ateneo Graduate School Entrance Test; and
• Undergo a personal interview with the Program Director

ADMISISON PROCEDURES
1. Obtain an Application and Recommendation Forms at the Office of Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Ground Floor Kostka Building, Ateneo de Manila University or download and print the forms go to http://ls.ateneo.edu/adgp.
2. Fill-out and submit the forms together with the other requirements to the Office of Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs and pay the application fee at the Cashier’s Office.
3. Each application should be accompanied by:
   • the filled-out Application Form; one photocopy
   • two photocopies of student’s official transcript of undergraduate and graduate records (if applicable);
   • two photocopies of personal essay;
   • four colored 2x2 ID pictures;
   • three duly accomplished Recommendation Forms;
   • two photocopies of the applicant’s birth certificate;
   • two photocopies of marriage certificate (for married women); and
   • the testing fee
4. Applicants are required to take the Ateneo Graduate Entrance Test. Schedules are posted at the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. (Applicants are scheduled for testing after they have submitted the completed application form and documents.)
5. Applicants will be notified in due time about the results of the application.

SCHOLARSHIP
All applicants accepted in the FIRE Program are granted a full academic scholarship that covers each summer’s registration, tuition, and library fees.

FORMATION INSTITUTE for RELIGION EDUCATORS

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