

# Boston University School of Theology

745 Commonwealth Avenue • Boston, Mass. 02215 •  
617-353-3036 • [sthadmis@bu.edu](mailto:sthadmis@bu.edu) • [www.bu.edu/sth](http://www.bu.edu/sth)



Admissions Office Address: 745 Commonwealth Avenue,  
Suite 108 • Boston, Mass. 02215

## Description of the Institution

**Availability of on-campus housing:** Yes—for single and married students. Close-to-campus independent apartment complexes also offer a wide range of spaces for a wide range of budgets.

**Cost per year:** Housing is \$550-\$1000/month/student, \$4950-\$9000/academic year. Students generally budget \$750/month for a wide range of housing opportunities.

**Location:** Urban

**Surrounding Neighborhood Description:** Located at the center of the Boston University campus in the heart of Boston. There are no fences between the city and the school; nothing separates its students from the history, culture, challenge, and delight of "Beantown." Yes, there are grassy lawns and ivy-covered walls, but Commonwealth Avenue, where the school is located, is a lively urban street lined with shops, restaurants, and offices. Student residences are in historic brownstones or high-rises, and transportation is urban too. Students routinely hop on "the T," Boston's mass transit system, to ride from one end of the 1.8-mile-long campus to the other. Or they might ride a bike to and from class along the Charles River Esplanade, only a few steps behind the school itself. The urban location gives students infinite opportunities to learn, experience, get involved, and make a difference in the world.

**Formal Arrangements with Local Universities:** Member of the Boston Theological Institute, an interfaith consortium of ten schools of theology in the Boston area, including Boston College, Harvard Divinity School, Hebrew College, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Students may take classes, participate in programs, attend lectures, and enjoy library privileges at any member school at no additional cost.

## Areas of Study and Class Structure

**Degrees Offered:** M.Div. (4 tracks: Pastoral Ministry, Religion and the Academy, Global and Community Engagement, and Church and the Arts), M.T.S., Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.), Master of Sacred Theology, Ph.D., Th.D., D.Min. Dual degree programs available: M.Div./M.S.M., M.Div./Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), M.T.S./M.S.W., D.Min./M.S.W.

**Special Areas Taught:** Church Music and the Arts; Hebrew Bible (Old Testament); History of Christianity; Homiletics (Preaching); Mission and Evangelism; New Testament; Theology; Philosophy of

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Religion; Practical Theology; Religion and Conflict Transformation; Religious Education; Social Ethics; Sociology of Religion; Pastoral Psychology and Psychology of Religion; Worship and Liturgical Studies; and Spirituality. Certificate Programs are available in Evangelism, Sacred Music, Spirituality, and (in conjunction with the BTI) International Mission and Ecumenism and Religion and Conflict Transformation.

**Pass/Fail Option:** Each MDiv, MSM, and MTS student may enroll in one free elective course during the program on a pass/fail basis.

**Average Class Size:** 18      **Introductory Classes:** 35-50      **Upper Level Classes:** 12

**Opportunities/Requirements for Internships or Field Experience:** Each M.Div. and M.T.S. student is required (typically in the second year) to participate in a Contextual education placement that fits with his or her vocational goals – M.Div. for at least one year, and M.T.S. for at least one semester. The School employs two Contextual Education Directors, to help with placements in churches or in community agencies engaged in advocacy, social services, grassroots organizing, or other service ministries. Students work with the Contextual Education office to develop a setting that fits their vocational goals. Additionally, all students in the “Religion and Conflict Transformation Program” take an additional internship or residency in the field. Students have traveled abroad to Korea, Israel, Jordan, Switzerland, South Africa, and Ireland, or to the United Nations and other agencies in the U.S. to fulfill this requirement.

**Availability of online classes:** Limited, but some are available through the Boston Theological Institute

## Finances

**Application Fee:** \$70

**Application Deadline:** December 15 – Doctoral Admissions Deadline

February 1 -Priority Admission Deadline (with a guaranteed scholarship if admitted; applicants with 3.3 G.P.A. or above considered for additional Dean’s Fellowships)

March 1 – Priority International Admissions Deadline (with a guaranteed scholarship if admitted))

May 15 -Final fall deadline with possibility of tuition scholarship

July 15 -Final fall deadline

September 15 -Final spring deadline. Consult the STH Website for doctoral and international deadlines.

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**Tuition Fees per Hour:** \$513

**Tuition Fees Full-Time:** \$16,400

**Other Fees:** Scholarships: 100 percent tuition scholarship for all M.Div./M.T.S./S.T.M./M.S.M. Candidates for United Methodist Ordained Ministry; 70 percent tuition scholarship for all other M.Div. students; 55 percent tuition scholarship for all other M.T.S. and M.S.M. students; 30 Merit Scholarships available beginning at full-tuition and many including a stipend ranging from \$5000 to \$10,000. The \$518 annual fee includes Student Activities, Health Services, Community Meals, and Fitness & Recreation (FitRec) Membership.

**Estimated Cost of Books for One Semester:** \$450

**Estimated Cost of Supplies for One Semester:** \$50

## Time Commitment

**Hours required to graduate for each degree offered:** The majority of courses are 4 hours/credits each. M.Div. - 96; M.T.S. - 64; Master of Sacred Music - 48 (choral conducting) and 45 (organ); Master of Sacred Theology - 32; Ph.D. - 48, plus Comprehensive Exams and Dissertation; Th.D. - 48, plus Comprehensive Exams and Dissertation; D.Min. - 40, plus Supervised Ministry and Final Project

**If a student attends full-time, how long will it take to earn the different degrees?** M.Div. - 3 years; M.T.S. - 2 years; Master of Sacred Music - 2 years; Master of Sacred Theology - 1 year; Ph.D. - 5 to 7 years; Th.D. - 5 to 7 years; D.Min. - 4 to 6 years; dual-degree programs take an additional 1 to 1.5 years.

## Faculty Demographics

**Number of full-time faculty:** 30

**Number of part-time faculty:** 4

**Number of adjunct faculty:** 13

**Number of faculty who are women:** 15

**Number of faculty who are persons of color:** 9

**Number of United Methodist faculty:** 13

**Average faculty age:** 53

**Median faculty age:** 52

## Student Demographics

**Number of full-time students:** 258

**Number of part-time students:** 25

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**Ratio of commuter students to residential students:** About 15% of students live in campus housing with another 50% in immediate neighborhoods. About 1/3 of the student body commutes from a distance.

**Ethnic/Cultural diversity of the student population:** 45 percent

**Percentage of male students:** 55 percent

**Percentage of female students:** 45 percent

**Average student age:** 35

**Median student age:** 31

**Students' denominational affiliation:** United Methodist – 29 percent; Other Methodist – 9 percent; Episcopalian – 8 percent; Presbyterian & Reformed – 7 percent; Roman Catholic – 5 percent; Other Mainline Protestant – 11 percent; all others – 29 percent

## Student Employment

**Are there paid positions for students available on campus?** Yes

**Does your institution provide assistance in helping students find local paid ministerial positions?** Yes

## Additional Information

BUSTH Mission Statement: The purpose of the Boston University School of Theology is to pursue knowledge of God, to cultivate leaders for communities of faith, to enrich the academy, and to seek peace with justice in a diverse and interconnected world.