

SCORING RUBRIC FOR MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY) CAPSTONE ESSAYS

Performance Elements	Excellent 4	Good 3	Problematic 2 1	Unacceptable 0	Raw Score	Adjusted Score	Comments
Theological Content (50%)	The content of the essay is of substantive value and research based. There is strong evidence of "deep learning." No needed improvement.	The content of the essay is mostly of substance, but includes some unsubstantiated opinions. Shows more "deep learning" than "surface learning."	There is some material of substance in the essay, but lots of personal commentary. Shows more "surface learning" than "deep learning."	Intentional plagiarism. The essay provides mostly general commentary and personal opinions. Strong evidence of "surface learning."		0.00	
Purpose and Method (20%)	The essay's central purpose or argument is readily apparent to the reader. There is a clear and appropriate strategy for achieving the purpose.	The essay has a clear purpose, but the writer sometimes digresses from it. The strategy for achieving the purpose is generally clear and appropriate.	The central purpose or argument is not consistently clear throughout the essay. The strategy for achieving the purpose is neither always clear nor appropriate.	The essay's overall purpose or argument is generally unclear. There is no clear and appropriate methodology for the paper.		0.00	
Organization (10%)	The essay is arranged logically. Ideas flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.	The essay is arranged logically. Ideas are usually clearly linked to each other. For the most part, the reader can follow the line of reasoning.	In general, the essay is arranged logically, although occasionally ideas are not clearly linked to each other. The reader is uncertain about what the writer intends.	The essay is not logically organized. Frequently, ideas are not clearly linked together. The reader cannot identify a line of reasoning and loses interest.		0.00	
References (10%)	Use of references from professionally legitimate sources indicates substantial research. Attribution is clear and fairly represented.	Use of references indicates adequate research. Attribution is, for the most part, clear and fairly represented.	Some references. Many statements or conclusions seem unsubstantiated. The reader exhibits some confusion about the source of information and ideas.	References are seldom cited to support statements, conclusions or claims.		0.00	
Grammar, Spelling, and Writing Mechanics (10%)	The writing is free or almost free of errors. The writer faithfully follows the guidelines of a recognized writing style (MLA, APA, Chicago).	There are occasional errors, but they don't represent a major distraction or obscure meaning. The writer, with few minor exceptions, follows the guidelines of a recognized writing style (MLA, APA, Chicago).	The writing has many errors, and the reader is distracted by them. The writer generally follows the guidelines of a recognized writing style (MLA, APA, Chicago).	There are so many errors the meaning is obscured. The reader is confused and stops reading. The writer does not follow the guidelines of a recognized writing style (MLA, APA, Chicago).		0.00	
Student Name:		Faculty Name:		TOTAL		0.00	
MA (Theology) Degree Outcomes Assessment:				FINAL GRADE		?	
Please indicate on a scale from 0 (worst) to 4 (best) how well this essay demonstrates competence in each of the following degree outcomes. N/A indicates essay question does not pertain to a particular outcome.							
#1 Understand the central elements of Catholic teaching and practice.				<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic <input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
#2 Understand the broad development and diversity of the Church's tradition.				<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic <input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
#3 Read and interpret texts of the Catholic tradition faithfully and critically.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic <input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
#4 Relate issues of contemporary thought and life to a larger Catholic theological context.				<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic <input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			

Scale: 4.0-3.85=A; 3.51-3.84=A-; 3.17-3.5=B+; 2.78-3.16=B; 2.5-2.77=B-; 2.49 and under=Fail.