Judson University’s Department of Biblical and Theological Studies equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary for robust engagement with the Christian tradition. By engaging critically with Scripture and exploring the Christian tradition, the Biblical Studies and Theological Studies programs offer a personal intellectual encounter with the Christian revelation. Because both majors are broad, encompassing fields of study, they dialogue with other academic disciplines such as history, literature, art, and philosophy.

Our goal is to help shape students who can interpret biblical texts and who can engage vital theological, philosophical, and ethical arguments with both discernment and clarity.

**Program Distinctives**

- **Diverse and Experienced Faculty.** Our faculty members have backgrounds in various Christian theological traditions and degrees from a wide spectrum of universities and seminaries, but they are united in their commitment to the core tenets of evangelical Christianity like the centrality of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture. Judson students also reflect this diversity, and we strive to explore the theological riches of all major branches of the faith as we study and learn together.

- **Emphasis on Engaging Culture.** Learning to interpret biblical texts, read Hebrew and Greek, and understand how and why theologians come to differing conclusions are all foundational elements of our programs, but it is vital that students also learn to be wise “readers” of culture. Judson students learn to relate biblical and theological truths to contemporary life as they engage, discern, and even create music, film, art, and literature in coursework and other campus opportunities like Reel Conversations and the Imago Film Festival.

- **Commitment to Academic Rigor.** We expect students to work hard and strive for excellence, engaging their peers in study and scholarship both on campus and in broader venues.
  - Each year our students present papers at the Student Religious Studies Conference, hosted by the Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature.
  - Outstanding Judson students are invited for membership in the Theta Alpha Kappa honor society, and we award the Erickson Prize for Excellence in Biblical Studies and the Award for Excellence in Theological Studies to graduating students each April.
  - Faculty members model this kind of engagement through their own research, publications, and participation in professional societies.

**Class Options**

**BIBLICAL STUDIES MAJOR:**
- Greek and Hebrew language courses
- Life and Meaning of Jesus
- Focused courses on specific biblical texts such as Psalms, Luke, Hebrews and many others
- History, Cultures, and Literature of the New Testament World

**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES MAJOR:**
- Christology
- Environmental Theology
- History and Theology of Worship
- Theology of Work
- Courses on specific persons and ideas in historical and contemporary theology

SHAPE YOUR LIFE TO SHAPE THE WORLD
CAREER PATHWAYS

Often Biblical and Theological Studies graduates pursue further education in seminary, university graduate programs, and other professional programs. With the academic, personal, and professional skills gained through these majors, graduates can pursue rewarding careers in:

- Higher education
- Ministry and missions
- Nonprofit or non-governmental organizations
- Publishing, writing, and editing
- Any vocation for which skills like critical thinking and discernment are vital

RECENT ALUMNI HAVE ATTENDED THESE GRADUATE SCHOOLS AND SEMINARIES:

- Duke Divinity School
- University of Edinburgh
- Loyola University Chicago
- Wheaton College Graduate School
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Northern Seminary
- McCormick Theological Seminary
- Claremont School of Theology
- Denver Seminary
- Nazarene Theological Seminary

ABOUT JUDSON

Judson University ranks consistently among the Top Tier of Regional Colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report. A fully accredited, private Christian university of the liberal arts, sciences and professions, Judson offers Bachelor of Arts degrees for more than 50 majors/minors as well as adult degree programs and graduate programs. All majors offer opportunities for students to engage in internships, practicums, service-learning, or field experiences. Students also gain cross-cultural understanding through service-learning, mission trips, or studying abroad. Located just 40 minutes northwest of downtown Chicago, Judson offers a close-knit, Christian community with the benefits of a large urban setting, ideal for cultural activities, internships, and life after graduation.

FINANCIAL AID

Judson offers financial aid options for 90 percent of its students. Find out just how much value our students receive by visiting campus and meeting with our financial aid officers, who work to help students afford a Judson education. Scholarships for academics, honors, and co-curricular activities, such as athletics, music, and theatre are available to all majors.

For more information, visit www.JudsonU.edu

ALUMNI & FACULTY

MEGAN WILLIS, 2008; Director of Education, Music, and Campus Outreach, St. Francis of Assisi Newman Center, Macomb, Ill. "I really can’t say enough about how my time at Judson prepared me for my graduate experience, as well as my current ministry work. Because of its rigorous academic approach and intimate classroom setting, I was able to gain the tools I would need directly from my professors, who really became more like mentors. To this day, my department faculty members are greatly supportive of my life. The combination of high academic standards and having professors that actually care about your life is unbelievably helpful. Judson is a place to invest your time, because it will equally invest in your life and your future."

MICHAEL STARK, 2009 "As a Biblical Studies student at Judson I received an education that encouraged me to cultivate the mind. I received an education that helped me better understand the Bible and allowed freedom for ideas and questions. It opened the door for me to continue my academic studies in philosophy. I owe much of my success to my Judson professors.”

ERIC F. MASON, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies "At Judson University we want students in Biblical and Theological Studies who are serious about their faith and have a strong desire to examine and understand what they believe and why. Our faculty members have diverse backgrounds and experiences, and it is common for our classes to include students from numerous Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox theological traditions. This enriches everything we do, and it gives us the wonderful opportunity to explore important issues together and learn from one another.”