

Program Description

Columbia's **Diploma in Practical Theology** blends Columbia's first and second-year core curriculum with maximal elective space for students to pursue areas of interest. This diploma allows students to fully experience the heartbeat of Columbia's practice-oriented academic community as they pursue God in their lives, relationships, and studies. This program is ideal for students who are interested in transferability – whether in or out – as well as students who want greater flexibility in their courses or don't yet know what they want to focus on in their studies at Columbia or beyond.

Program Objectives

1. Students will gain foundational knowledge of the Bible, its context, and content, as well as learn and practice Christ-centered and culturally-engaged biblical interpretation.
2. Students will be invited to see themselves within the context of and in service to the church community – local, global, and historical.
3. Students will have opportunity to integrate their biblical, theological, and ministerial training with the questions, concerns, needs, and challenges of their surrounding cultural context, encouraging them to engage and think critically as well as compassionately.
4. Students will experience practices and attitudes that nurture their own spiritual life in relationship with Jesus and others to grow not only in their understanding theologically, but in purposeful and transformative discipleship.
5. Students will develop an ability in their academic skills of critical thinking, written and oral communication, research, and time management, as well as gain an appreciation for a variety of academic disciplines and their unique approaches and methodologies.