As a liberal arts college in the Lutheran tradition, Thiel is dedicated to the idea that all people are called to lives of depth and purpose and are endowed with individual interests and abilities that empower them to respond to this call. Our department welcomes majors of any faith as well as those who do not identify with an organized religion. A religion major helps students to expand their knowledge of the human condition while developing their abilities to read carefully, think critically, and express themselves effectively. Students who major in religion are prepared to seek and find meaning in life, share their passions, succeed on an array of professional paths and contribute to the common good as citizens.

The department now offers three majors: religion, parish education and a newly-created theology and youth ministry track for those who would like to explore robust learning and practice in that field. The department also offers minors in religion, parish education and pre-ministry. Religion classes at Thiel develop students’ abilities to understand complex issues and assess alternative explanations by engaging profound ideas and great minds from the past and present. Whether it is visiting a Hindu temple in “World Religions,” discovering the fresh relevance of contemplative spirituality in “Foundations of Youth Ministry,” studying the Gospel of Mark in the original language in “Greek,” standing with Luther at the Diet of Worms in “Luther and His Legacy” or analyzing a speech by Martin Luther King Jr. in “Religion in the United States,” students will be invited and challenged to grow personally and intellectually.

By studying religion at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:

• Learn with dedicated, experienced professors—our professors are active scholars who will help guide your vocation and study.
• Receive personal attention—our small class sizes, typically fewer than 10 students for upper-level courses, allow for personalized attention to each student.
• Learn to be a responsible citizen—responsibility to our community includes one's professional calling, and also a commitment to shaping local, state and national policies through participation in religious, political and community organizations. You’ll learn how to be an active, informed participant in these groups by engaging with the profound questions that shape communal as well as individual awareness.
• Be part of a community of scholars—each year, the Religion Department recognizes academic excellence by inducting students into Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society in religious studies and theology.

A religion major at Thiel is excellent preparation for graduate studies in religion or seminary, but that is not all. Thiel religion majors who seek admission to graduate study in religion or seminary are typically accepted at their first choice school such as Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and Yale Divinity School. Recent religion majors have also found employment in a variety of careers in areas such as business, law, medicine, education and publishing.

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75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125
Jamaal Anthony Dorsey ’13, Reston, Va. 
Majors: Religion and Philosophy 
Clubs & Activities: Football, Wrestling 
and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity

“T”he are many reasons why I am proud to be a Thiel alumna. Thiel certainly prepared me for seminary. I not only knew Greek but also was much better prepared for my Biblical studies and theology classes than most of my classmates. The number one reason I am glad to have attended and graduated from Thiel is that the faculty and staff knew me personally! The faculty know their students. The staff—from kitchen personnel who offered morning hugs to administrators who knew us by name and a little about us—knows and loves the students. There are many great colleges and universities that can offer students fine educations, but why simply look for a good education when you can find great education at Thiel and a place where you will be known.”

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull ’95, pastor 
First Lutheran Church, Greensburg, Pa. 
Major: Parish Education and Religion 
Clubs & Activities: Lutheran Student 
Movement, Campus Ministry student 
worker and Honors Program

“B”y studying religion you employ many different methods and approaches to analyzing human experience and these bring you into what humans deem to be most important in life. In the process of examining what people around the world hold to be most important, you also clarify your own personal views on these matters. The religion professors in general have been key for me. That is because I have taken many of my classes from them, but also because a deep passion is found in that department, which translates into those courses being lively: they keep you interested and engaged in the subject matter.”

Go to www.thiel.edu/visit and schedule your individual academic visit today!