

INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES • SUMMER SESSION 2025
MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM
JUNE 29- JULY 18, 2025

Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the one graduate theology program in the U.S. taught from Black Catholic perspectives. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary. Courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, family and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academics, prayer, worship, and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious, or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community, church, and community at-large. The Degree program also welcomes scholars seeking on-going religious study, visiting graduate students and ministers who desire to expand, enhance, and enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. New, transient, and returning applicants can access the 2025 Degree program application at <https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply/>.

2025 Course Offerings

IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology. Stresses the nature, methods, and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. *Modeste Nyimi Malu, Ph.D.* **Requirement for all new students** (3 units).

IBTH 5020 History of Black Catholicism. Explores the role played by Blacks in Catholicism from the beginning of the Church, with special emphasis on the presence and contributions of Blacks to Roman Catholicism in the United States. *Cecilia A. Moore, Ph.D.* **Core Course** (3 units).

IBTH 5060 Black Psychology. Constructs effective pastoral communication with Black congregations by review of major interpersonal, social, and systematic issues from a perspective based upon sound analysis stemming from recognition of cultural differences. *Brian Turner, Ph.D.* **Core Course** (3 units).

IBTH 5081 Christology Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood in the African American community from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. *Byron Wratee, Ph.D.* **Area Requirement** (3 units).

IBTH 5425 Slave Narratives. The course begins with the earliest documents, tracing most especially the themes of transcendence, self-determination, and cultural transmissions outside the ordinary avenues of traditional culture. From the classic slave narratives to the more recent manifestations of African American imaginative work, there is an unbroken thread of cultural awareness and human dignity that serves as the guide to understanding African American culture and religious sensibilities. *Ernest Gibson, Ph.D.*, **Area Requirement** (3 units).

IBTH 5625 Catholic Education in the Black Community. This course looks at learning styles among Black children and provides methodologies for a culturally inclusive curriculum. *Rachel Davis, Ph.D.*, **Elective** (3 units).