I. Introduction to the Integrative Project

The integrative project is an alternative final project available in the MA in Theological Studies program at the discretion of faculty. While the comprehensive exam or the thesis is the usual way of completing the MA in Theological Studies program, in some cases students may benefit from doing an integrative project. This option provides you an opportunity to complete your studies at Regent College with a project that blends theological reflection with creative expression. It embodies the idea that Christian mission involves not only the witness of one’s life and the proclamation of faith but also the generation of cultural goods that in their truth, beauty, and goodness function as signs and foretastes of the kingdom of God.

The integrative project allows those with competence and experience in a given field to create and communicate something recognizably part of that field (e.g., a business presentation, a policy paper, a curriculum, a preaching series, a healthcare protocol, a mission project, an organizational strategy, a public speech, a newspaper article, a non-fiction book, a training program, etc.) and to reflect on it theologically.

You must be able to communicate, in a manner appropriate to the subject matter, at a level that is excellent within the relevant field. This means the project must be at least potentially publishable, ready for presentation—to clients, investors, the public, or an audience of professional peers. In addition to communicating the project in a final form, you must submit any additional explanatory material plus a critical essay of 20 to 30 pages engaging in theological and cultural reflection on the genre and the cultural and theological context in which the project is done.

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1 If you have not yet acquired significant competence or experience in your chosen field, you may elect to complete your degree at Regent with a different final project (e.g., a comprehensive exam or a thesis), or you may choose to improve your competence by taking courses in the subject elsewhere (e.g., through UBC), outside of your Regent program.
II. Initial Stages of the Integrative Project

A. APPLICATION TO THE MA THEO STUDIES PROGRAM

In order to do an integrative project, you must first be admitted to the MA Theological Studies program, and you must have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3. Admission and program requirements are described on the College’s website.

B. COURSE WORK

As a final project, the integrative project should be done towards the end of your program. Be sure you have completed the core courses for the MA Theological Studies program and the required courses for your concentration (except perhaps your seminar) before engaging in an integrative project.

C. DECIDING ON A TOPIC AND APPROACHING A SUPERVISOR

The option of doing an integrative project is subject to faculty availability. If you would like to do an integrative project and you have an idea in mind, meet with one of the faculty in your concentration to discuss the possibility of his or her supervision. As part of the discussion, you should share a recent copy of your transcript or grade report to show (i) what courses you have taken, (ii) that you have been admitted to the MA Theo Studies program, and (iii) that you have at least a 3.3 GPA.

D. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE INTEGRATIVE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Once a faculty member has agreed to supervise your integrative project, you will prepare a formal written proposal which must be approved by your supervisor. Be prepared to revise your proposal several times. Once your proposal has been approved by your supervisor, you may register for the integrative project (see below). In some cases, an expert external to the College may be approached to assist you in the design of your project. You should be prepared to bear some or all of the costs for such a person’s services.

E. REGISTRATION FOR AN INTEGRATIVE PROJECT

1. When you may register

Register for your integrative project once your supervisor has approved your proposal. You should register in the same term as when your proposal is approved, and this should be prior to the Integrative Project Registration Deadline which is the last day of classes in the Fall or Winter term (see Important Dates on the College website). If your proposal is approved towards the end of a term, you may register for your integrative project at the beginning of the following term (Fall, Winter, or Summer)—that is, by the Friday before the beginning of classes.
2. The process for registration

Observe the following process for registering for and paying for your integrative project:

- Submit a Final Project Registration Form (available on the website under "Important Documents"), signed by your supervisor, together with a regular Course Registration Form or a Course Change Form, to Reception.

- You will register for all 6 credits of your integrative project in one term.

- The tuition will be payable either by the Payment Deadline for the term (i.e., the Friday before the beginning of classes), or at the time of registration, whichever is later.

3. Continuation Fees

You will be assessed a $100 continuation fee (in addition to the registration fee) beginning in the first September after you register for your integrative project, and again in the subsequent Septembers, until you have submitted your project for grading.

While you have three years to complete your integrative project, in practice it should take less than a year. If you have not completed within three years (dating from the first September after your registration), you will be given a failing grade. You may, if you wish, appeal to the Academic Standards Committee for an extension. Such an appeal must be received at least four months prior to the end of the three-year completion period and must include (i) a description of the progress you have made; (ii) an explanation of why you could not complete within the time limit; (iii) a schedule for how you plan to complete together with a proposed date of completion; and (iv) a supporting letter from your supervisor. Note that extensions are by no means guaranteed. If the Committee grants you an extension, you will be assessed a $500 per year extended continuation fee (in addition to the registration fee). If the Committee does not grant your request, the failing grade will stand.

Also, recall that you have a 6-year time limit to complete the MA Theological Studies program. If you want to go beyond that limit, you will need to appeal to the Academic Standards Committee for a program extension, even if you are still within your 3-year time limit for completing the integrative project. If granted, you will be assessed, in addition to any other fees, a $100 per year program extension fee.
III. Doing Your Integrative Project

It is your responsibility to arrange a work schedule with your supervisor. Map out a plan for the entire project, including meetings with your supervisor, and set goals for completing and submitting the various parts.

IV. Completing Your Integrative Project

Your integrative project is considered to be complete once you have submitted a final draft to the satisfaction of your supervisor.

If you are completing in the Winter term and intending to graduate, be aware of the following deadlines:

- Apply for graduation by January 31. This can be done online.
- Submit your integrative project to your supervisor by April 1 for grading.

Your project will be graded by your supervisor and one other examiner. Note that the minimum passing grade is a B.