concepts, insights, and proposals

- 4. To develop and exemplify specific <u>qualities</u>, including the following:
 - a. Theological literacy
 - b. Theological knowledgeableness and awareness
 - c. Theological preciseness
 - d. Theological perspicacity
 - e. Theological self-reliance
 - f. Theological integrity
 - g. Theological humility

B. Definitions of Theology

1. The word "theology" comes from two Greek words $\theta \epsilon \delta \varsigma$ and $\lambda \delta \gamma \circ \varsigma$. The compound means "word, speech, language, or expression concerning God".

2. Various definitions of theology have been offered:

Augustine defined theology as "rational discussion respecting the deity."

David Hollaz observed different meanings in the term:

The word <u>Theology</u> is employed in a fourfold sense: (a) most comprehensively, for every doctrine concerning God, whether true or mixed with error; (b) comprehensively, for true Theology, either in itself considered, or as communicated; either of men on earth or of saints in heaven; either natural or revealed; (c) specifically, of revealed Theology, that guides mortal man to eternallife; (d) most specifically, of the doctrine concerning the one and triune God.

Johann Quenstedt stated, "Theology, if you consider the force and usage of the word, is nothing else than ... what is said about God and divine things, as $\pi\nu\epsilon\nu\mu\alpha\tauo\lambda$ oyí α is what is said about spirits, and $\dot{\alpha}\sigma\tau\rhoo\lambda$ oyí α , what is said about the stars."

Friedrich Schleiermacher defined theology as "the science which systematizes the doctrine prevalent in a Christian Church at a given time."

Charles Hodge defined theology as "the science of the facts of divine revelation."

Augustus Hopkins Strong defined theology as "the science of God and of the relations between God and the universe."

Abraham Kuyper defined theology as "the science of God."