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## ***THE BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY***

### **Purpose**

The Bachelor of Theology program has the same purpose as the Master of Divinity program. Like the Master of Divinity program, it is designed to provide a basic three-year program for those planning to invest their lives in church or mission vocations which require ordination. The program offers a broad biblical, theological, and practical foundation for such ministries. The program, however, is offered only to a select number of applicants (limited to five percent of total enrollment) who are beyond the average age of college students (usually at least 30 years of age), who have not completed a baccalaureate degree program but have earned a minimum of 60 semester units of undergraduate general education credits, and who have a consistent record of commendable Christian ministry experience. The nomenclature, Bachelor of Theology, is designed to emphasize the fact that in no case does the seminary offer graduate degrees (master's degrees) for those who have not completed a baccalaureate program.

### **Admission Requirements**

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous paragraph, and to the general admission requirements listed later in this catalog, applicants for the Bachelor of Theology program must present a letter of reference from a church board documenting effective ministry experience and recommending the applicant for intensive study and for continuing ministry.

### **Program Requirements**

The admissions, curriculum, residence, and candidacy requirements for the Bachelor of Theology degree are the same as those for the Master of Divinity degree with the following exceptions:

- A grade point average of only 2.0 is required for graduation
- Writing a thesis is not permitted in the Bachelor of Theology program

## ***THE DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY***

### **Purpose**

The Diploma of Theology program is designed with the same purpose as the Bachelor of Theology program. It is limited to a select number of applicants (limited to five percent of total enrollment) who are beyond the average age of college students and who have a consistent record of commendable Christian ministry experience. However, it differs from the Bachelor of Theology program in that it does not require the minimum of 60 units of undergraduate general education credits. In general, such applicants are older than the average seminary student and have circumstances of life that make the acquisition of an undergraduate education impractical.

### **Admission Requirements**

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous paragraph, and to the general admission requirements listed later in this catalog, applicants for the Diploma of Theology program must present a letter of reference from a church board documenting effective ministry experience and recommending the applicant for intensive study and for continuing ministry.

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## Program Requirements

The curriculum, residence, and candidacy requirements for the Diploma of Theology are the same as those for the Master of Divinity degree with the following exceptions:

- A grade point average of only 2.0 is required for graduation
- Writing a thesis is not permitted

## *THE MASTER OF THEOLOGY*

### Purpose

The Master of Theology curriculum provides a flexible program extending one to four years at the post-Master of Divinity graduate level. It allows for a degree of specialized preparation in Bible Exposition, Old Testament, New Testament, or Systematic Theology beyond what is possible in the basic three-year M.Div. program. While it also may provide a basis for further graduate study leading to more advanced degrees such as Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Theology (Th.D.), it is, in each case, designed for those preparing for church or mission vocations requiring ordination.

In addition, the purposes envisioned for the program include the following:

- Preparation of equippers of pastors for foreign assignments in institutional settings where doctoral—level credentials are not prerequisite. Such situations currently arising in third-world churches illustrate the need for teachers to train pastors at an advanced level, but without the need of formal accreditation recognition afforded by terminal educational degrees.
- Advanced preparation for pastoral ministries in local church settings. The program provides for a further sharpening of exegetical and theological skills for those sensing a further educational need beyond their M.Div. training. This would be particularly true for the ones who have no previous formal training in Bible and theology before their M.Div. programs.
- Preparation of pastors who are also inclined toward a calling in theological writing that requires a honing of exegetical and theological skills beyond what the standard M.Div. program offers.

Because the Th.M. program is limited in its enrollment, faculty can devote personal attention to individual students in regard to continuing spiritual and practical development, research techniques, teaching techniques, formal writing style, and supporting areas of pedagogical methodology. These supplementary features will ensure the effective use of advanced exegetical and theological skills gained in the program.

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants must present an acceptable undergraduate baccalaureate degree and a Master of Divinity degree, with a 3.25 grade point average in his divinity program. Senior Master of Divinity students who have completed at least 80 semester credit hours by end of current semester are eligible to apply. Acceptance is based upon the applicant's previous education, academic capability, character qualities, ministry involvement, and the recommendation of others. Prerequisite coursework, if any, is provided at no additional cost beyond the per-semester Th.M. tuition fee.

In addition, applicants must also give evidence of the personal, character, and spiritual qualifications necessary for a minister of Christ as outlined in the admissions standards for The Master's Seminary. Graduates of other seminaries must file a full application with the Office of Admissions.