
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.

Students currently enrolled at The Master's Seminary may file for admission by submitting the abridged form available in the Admissions Office.

Transfer Credit—Up to four advanced graduate semester credit hours from an accredited theological institution may be applied toward fulfillment of Th.M. course requirements at The Master's Seminary.

Program Requirements

Prerequisites—Applicants must have successfully completed basic courses which parallel the following core classes of the Master of Divinity degree at The Master's Seminary:

- Twelve semester credit hours of Bible courses, in addition to Old and New Testament Introductions (OT 796 and NT 796).
- Twelve semester credit hours of Old Testament language courses (OT 503, OT 504, OT 603, and a Hebrew Exegesis elective).
- Ten semester credit hours of New Testament language beyond Beginning Greek (NT 603, NT 604 and a Greek Exegesis elective).

Twenty semester credit hours of Theology (TH 507, TH 508, TH 605, TH 606, TH 705, TH 706).

Applicants deficient in any of these requirements may take the pre-requisite units while taking other Th.M. courses, but such deficiencies must be completed prior to or during the first year of Th.M. residency. Until these prerequisites are met, applicants will be admitted on a probationary status. Course work taken to fulfill deficiencies is not applicable toward the Th.M. residency requirements.

While not a pre-requisite, it is recommended that students anticipating a Th.M. degree program write a thesis as a part of their M.Div. degree program. Students not writing a thesis must demonstrate the ability to do significant theological research.

Residency—A minimum of two semesters in residence at The Master's Seminary is required for the Master of Theology degree. Residency is understood to be a campus presence of at least one day per week for classes and an additional day per week for library research and consultation with your adviser. Most students would be able to complete most of their course work in one year which would allow them to take a minimal number of courses while working on their thesis project during their second year. For those students with deficiencies, a third year may be necessary.

Program Length—All course work, examinations, and thesis requirements (totaling 30 credit hours) must be completed within four years, beginning on the date of the student's first registration for Th.M. courses at The Master's Seminary. Students may go beyond this four year period only by requesting permission in writing to the seminary faculty. Permission for extension is granted only in cases of extreme emergency. In any case, the student will be required to pay a continuing registration fee for each semester during which he is not enrolled; failure to do so will be viewed as withdrawal from the program.

Concurrent Enrollment—Senior Master of Divinity students who have completed eighty or more semester credit hours and who have been admitted on a probationary status into the Th.M. degree program are permitted to take a maximum of four credit hours per semester of Th.M. courses (with faculty permission) for application to Th.M. program requirements. Such course work must meet all normal Th.M. standards and cannot be credited toward the requirements of other degree programs.

Master of Theology Thesis—An acceptable thesis evidencing a high degree of scholarly competence in the student’s major field must be submitted by all Th.M. candidates. The thesis accounts for 4 hours of academic credit in the 26 hour curriculum and must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Three copies are to be presented to the library for binding. Students who have completed their course work must register as a thesis-non-resident student for each semester the thesis remains outstanding.

In fulfilling the thesis requirements, the following deadlines must be observed:

- The student must register for “Th.M. Thesis” in the approved area of study for the final semester prior to scheduled graduation
- Topic approval must be secured no later than the last Friday in March of the year prior to graduation
- A prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and synopsis of argument) is due the last Friday of May
- A first draft must be submitted no later than the second Friday of January
- An approved presentation copy, and two photocopies, must be submitted by the first Friday in April. The adviser may, at his discretion, interject additional deadlines within the broad dates listed above. However, failure to meet the deadline for either the first draft or the final draft will result in the postponement of your anticipated graduation date until the following year.

The Master of Theology thesis must be prepared in conformity with the most recent editions of the seminary’s “Guidelines for Theses and Dissertations” and Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Where these sources differ, the seminary’s “Guidelines” takes precedence.

Th.M./Th.D. Track

Students intending to pursue the Th.D. degree after completing their Th.M. studies may enroll in a Th.M.-Th.D. Track. Maintaining a good standing in this track will allow a student to accelerate his progress by initiating his Th.D. program (primarily involving the taking of qualifying exams and, in some cases, enrolling in the Dissertation Prospectus course) during the final year of his Th.M. studies.

Graduation Requirements

Degrees are awarded to qualified candidates at the seminary’s spring Commencement. To qualify for graduation, candidates must present an acceptable thesis (4 credit hours) and have completed 22 credit hours of required course work, with no grade less than B- credited toward the Th.M. degree. Candidates must also manifest promise of competency in Christian ministry, exhibit exemplary and consistent Christian character, and must be in accord with the ideals of the institution as recorded in its current catalog.

Cost

Course work taken concurrently with Master of Divinity classes will be charged at the M.Div. rate. Otherwise, all courses taken for Master of Theology credit will be charged at the Th.M. course rate (See Financial Information section).

Curriculum Description for Master of Theology

Major: Bible Exposition

<u>First Semester</u>			<u>Second Semester</u>		
Course #	Course Title	Units	Course #	Course Title	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> BI 847	Pentateuch	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> BI 852	Isaiah	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> BI 849	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> BI 864	Romans	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> BI 851	Matthew	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> BI 874	Revelation	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> BI 853	Hebrews	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT Exegesis Elective	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	OT Exegesis Elective*	<u>2.0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective*	2.0
		10.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective	2.0
			<input type="checkbox"/> BI 838	Thesis	<u>4.0</u>
					16.0

* Students expecting to complete the program in one year should plan to complete these courses during the summer prior to residency.

Major: New Testament

<u>First Semester</u>			<u>Second Semester</u>		
Course #	Course Title	Units	Course #	Course Title	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> NT 851	Advanced Hermeneutics	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> NT 854	Advanced Greek Grammar II	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> NT 853	Advanced Greek Grammar I	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> NT 856	Criticism of Synoptic Gospels	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> NT 855	NT Textual Criticism	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT Exegesis Elective	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	NT Exegesis Elective	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theology Elective*	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective*	<u>2.0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OT Exegesis Elective	2.0
		10.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective	2.0
			<input type="checkbox"/> NT 838	Thesis	<u>4.0</u>
					16.0

* Students expecting to complete the program in one year should plan to complete these courses during the summer prior to residency.

Major: Old Testament

<u>First Semester</u>			<u>Second Semester</u>		
Course #	Course Title	Units	Course #	Course Title	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> OT 832	OT Research Seminar I	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> OT 834	OT Research Seminar II	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> OT 843	OT Theological Methods*	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> OT 840	OT Textual Criticism	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings*	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> OT 772	Biblical Aramaic**	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT Exegesis Elective	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	OT Exegesis Elective	<u>2.0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theology Elective	2.0
		10.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective	2.0
			<input type="checkbox"/> OT 838	Thesis	<u>4.0</u>
					16.0

* Students expecting to complete the program in one year should plan to complete these courses during the summer prior to residency.

** Students are encouraged to take this course for ThM credit during the final year of their M.Div program.

Major: Theology

<u>First Semester</u>			<u>Second Semester</u>		
Course #	Course Title	Units	Course #	Course Title	Units
<input type="checkbox"/> TH 816	Theology Proper Seminar	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> TH 824	Soteriology Seminar	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/> TH 819	Pneumatology Seminar	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> TH 888	Eschatology Seminar	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective*	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	TH Elective*	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	TH Elective	2.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	OT Exegesis Elective	<u>2.0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT Exegesis Elective	2.0
		10.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective	2.0
			<input type="checkbox"/> TH 838	Thesis	<u>4.0</u>
					16.0

* Students expecting to complete the program in one year should plan to complete these courses during the summer prior to residency.