

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity offers graduate level preparation for Christian ministry and post-graduate work. M.Div. students learn and practice careful biblical interpretation, think critically about biblical and contemporary theology and ethics, interact in healthy ways within the diversity of cultures and religions around them, receive instruction in counseling methodology, are trained in preaching and public speaking, and participate in the life of a community of believers.

The M.Div. serves as preparation for a variety of callings such as the pastorate, the chaplaincy, and doctoral studies that could lead to post secondary teaching. M.Div. students can have a concentration in a particular field by taking twelve credit hours of their electives in that field: Biblical Studies, Children/Family Ministries, Counseling, Intercultural Studies, Practical Theology, or Theological Studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Divinity, the student will be able to:

1. Interpret the Scriptures in their historical and cultural contexts, implementing sound hermeneutical principles and careful application.
2. Minister within and respect the culturally diverse world in which we live, being aware of the variety of religions in the contemporary world and the unique place of Christianity among them.
3. Apply effective intervention and referral procedures based on sound pastoral counseling knowledge and practice.
4. Preach biblical sermons that are both true to the text and sensitive to audience need.
5. Understand and discuss significant contemporary theological developments within global Christianity in general and the Pentecostal Charismatic movement in particular.
6. Understand, discuss, and apply the theologies of the Old and New Testaments.
7. Demonstrate competent and skillful application of principles learned in a specialized area of study (BIB/COU/ICS/PTH/THE).

Prerequisites

1. All students must have THE 2333 Pentecostal Doctrine and History or its equivalent at an undergraduate level.
2. Those students who have not taken THE 2113 Introduction to Theology and Apologetics or its equivalent at an undergraduate level must take THE 5413 Systematic Theology I as part of their graduate program.
3. Students who are graduates of SAGU with a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) will be conditionally admitted to the Harrison Graduate School. After completing twelve hours of graduate work with GPA of 3.0 or higher, the student would then be accepted unconditionally into the graduate school.
4. Those who have not taken REL 1153 New Testament Literature and REL 1163 Old Testament Literature or their equivalent at an undergraduate level must take BIB 5133 Biblical Backgrounds as a part of their graduate program.
5. Those who have not taken BIB 3483 Hermeneutics at the undergraduate level must take BIB 5123 Biblical Hermeneutics as part of their graduate program.
6. Those who have not taken CMN 3333 Introduction to Biblical Preaching must take PTH 5823 Preaching with Purpose.

Thesis Option

Thesis option is especially designed for and usually limited to students who plan to continue their graduate work in a Ph.D. doctoral program after completing their MA. In this option, the student takes two 3-hour courses of Thesis in the Elective Component of the degree plan. These two courses must be taken in two consecutive regular semesters (Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall, not available in Summer). This option must be approved by the Department of Bible and Theology during the semester prior to the student's first semester of thesis.

Graduation Requirement

Students must apply for graduation and successfully complete the Graduate Comprehensive Examination or the Thesis option prior to being approved for graduation by the Registrar's Office. Applications for graduation must be made by the end of late registration in the semester in which the student anticipates to graduate. In order to qualify for a specific graduation date, graduating students must have all program and course requirements completed. Contact the Graduate School Office and Registrar's Office for more information.

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REQUIRED COURSES for MAJOR 57 HOURS

Bible: 15 hours

Fifteen hours of Bible Electives

Counseling: 6 hours

COU 5413 Marriage and Family Counseling

COU 5423 Crisis Intervention

Intercultural Studies: 6 hours

ICS 5223 Religion in Contemporary World Society

ICS 5473 Ministering Within Cultural Diversity

Practical Theology: 9 hours

PTH 5323 Leadership in Ministry

PTH 5513 Pastoral Care

PTH 5823 Preaching with Purpose

Theology: 18 hours

THE 5113 Research Literature and Technology

THE 5123 Issues in Contemporary Theology

THE 5313 Biblical Theology: New Testament

THE 5323 Biblical Theology: Old Testament

Six hours of Theology Electives

Practicum: 3 hours

BIB/CFM/COU/ICS/PTH/THE 6443 Practicum

ELECTIVE COMPONENT: 15 HOURS

Non-Thesis Option:

15 hours from BIB/CFM/COU/EDU/ICS/PTH/THE

Concentrations are available when students select 12 hours in one area.

COU and EDU hours must be approved by the respective Department Chair.

Thesis Option: Thesis is reserved for students planning to pursue a Ph.D. *(Students completing both sections of the 3 hour thesis would not be required to take the Graduate Comprehensive Exam)*

BIB/CFM/ICS/PTH/THE 5913 Thesis (two sections required)

9 hours from BIB/CFM/COU/ICS/PTH/THE

COU and EDU hours must be approved by the respective Department Chair.

The Thesis option is not available to Master of Divinity students who did a thesis in a M.A. program.

TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS 72 Hours