

Master of Arts (M.A.) (Intercultural Studies) Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Western Seminary offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) (Intercultural Studies) program for students seeking specialized, graduate, theological education. The M.A. (Intercultural Studies) program endeavors to achieve the following objectives:

1. Cultivate skills in the efficient study and interpretation of Scripture.
2. Provide theoretical and practical skills in one area of focused intercultural specialization.
3. Promote growth in Christian maturity demonstrated through effective interpersonal relationships, some of which will be cross cultural.
4. Impart skills for those who desire further intercultural knowledge and skills.

The M.A. (Intercultural Studies) is designed to prepare students for effective intercultural ministry in the U.S. and abroad. It provides adequate preparation for service as a bi-vocational or professional worker within an intercultural context. It also serves as an excellent degree program for those who want to expand their knowledge and skills of intercultural issues.

CORE OUTCOMES

In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the Intercultural Studies program attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Applies biblical truth to life and ministry based on a thorough understanding of the biblical canon.
2. Employs mature theological thinking to evaluate competing ideas, develop a personally integrated expression of biblical teachings, communicate theological truths clearly, and apply theological truths to life and ministry.
3. Exhibits a Christ-like character worthy of being emulated, and integrity that imparts credibility to his/her ministry.
4. Demonstrates appropriate self-awareness and an ongoing commitment to becoming a person whose Christ-like character and dependence on the Holy Spirit are worthy of being emulated.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 18-19, applicants for the M.A. program are expected to present an accredited baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), including a breadth of liberal arts. Applicants who do not meet these general academic requirements may petition the Admissions Committee for consideration. A recommendation from the applicant's pastor and three personal recommendations regarding the applicant's Christian character and leadership potential also are required.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Upon approval by the Registrar, transfer of up to 30 credit hours is allowed toward the M.A. (Intercultural Studies) program from graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or regional accrediting associations. Students must have earned a grade of B or better for a course

to be considered for transfer and coursework must have completed no more than five years prior to matriculation to Western Seminary. Alternatively, students may receive advanced standing of up to 15 credit hours of the 30 credit hours of transfer credit allowed toward their program if they are able to demonstrate current competency in required coursework based on prior study (based on parallel undergraduate work or transfer credit that is ineligible for consideration based on age). Transferability of credits earned at Western and transferred to another institution is at the discretion of the receiving institution. Consult the Registrar's Office for information on eligibility of transfer credit and advanced standing.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Of the 60 credit hours required for the M.A. (Intercultural Studies) program, a minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed through coursework at Western Seminary, with a minimum of 20 credit hours taken in resident study at Western Seminary's Portland Campus. Depending upon course availability, up to half of the degree program may be completed through extension studies while remaining in one's place of ministry. All work leading to the Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) must be completed within five years from the time of matriculation. Extension of this limit requires approval of the Administrative Committee. Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires Admissions Committee action and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree. All credits applied toward the degree requirements must be earned within ten years of the awarding of the degree.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) degree is conferred upon the attainment of certain personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 32-34, degree candidates must (1) give evidence of a genuine Christian character, orthodox belief, and conduct consistent with a God-given call to a position of leadership; (2) complete all courses in the prescribed M.A. curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students may complete their studies in as few as four semesters, including mentored ministry experience, with a minimum of 60 credit hours required as a minimum for graduation. The program is designed around a common core of 30 hours and intercultural studies coursework of 30 hours which contains 12 hours of mentored ministry and internship. Electives within the program allow students to specialize in a particular area of intercultural ministry (8 hours of elective credits approved by a faculty mentor).

A significant part of the M.A. program is a full-time, mentored internship lasting at least six months. While not necessarily located overseas, the internship always involves intercultural living, communication, and other activities typical of intercultural workers. Normally, the intern is responsible for raising his or her own financial support for this phase of the training.

Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) Core

30 CREDITS

Spiritual Formation [6]

Biblical Studies [14]

Theological Studies [10]

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Intercultural Foundation Studies [10]

Intercultural Specialization Studies [8]

Mentored Ministry Experience [4]

Internship [8]

**DEGREE TOTAL
= 60 CREDITS**

"The M.A. (Intercultural Studies) program is designed to help students engage in cross-cultural ministry in North America as well as overseas. Through a mentored academic process, students prepare for a variety of ministries such as local church mission mobilization, evangelism, church planting, leadership development, and Bible translation."

Dr. Terry Burns, Professor of Intercultural Studies
Director of Mentoring

CURRICULUM PLAN

Please note: Biblical studies, theological studies, hermeneutics and church history courses may be offered in 4-credit or 2-credit (i.e., BLS 501X, BLS 501Y) formats, depending on the campus location.

Spiritual formation studies: 6 credits

SFS 501	Learning to Love God and Others	(2)
SFS 502	Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines	(2)
SFS 504	Growing into Ethical Maturity	(2)

Biblical interpretation studies: 14 credits

DBS 516	Survey of Learning to Interpret Scripture	(2)
BLS 501	Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon	(4)
BLS 502	Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels	(4)
BLS 503	Interpreting Acts to Revelation	(4)

Theological studies: 10 credits

THS 501	Knowing the Triune God: Theology I	(4)
THS 502	Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II	(4)
THS 503	Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III	(2)

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Intercultural foundation studies: 10 credits

DIS 501	Communicating Christ in Culture	(2)
DIS 505	Biblical Theology of Mission	(2)
DIS 506	Applied Cultural Analysis	(2)
DIS 508	Applied Anthropology	(2)
DIS 516	Applied Linguistics	(2)

Restricted electives: 8 credits

Select 8 credits from the courses below or related

DIS electives with advisor approval:

DIS 502	Perspectives on World Ministry	(3)
DIS 520	History of Missions	(2)
DIS 522	Starting and Reproducing Churches	(2)
DIS 524	Foundations: At Risk Children/Youth	(2)
DIS 526	Religions of the World	(2)
DIS 553	History of Women in Missions	(2)
DIS 562H	Introduction to Islam	(2)

Mentored Ministry Experience: 4 credits

DIS 500	Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential	(2)
DIS 539	Mentored Ministry Experience	(1, 1)

Internship: 8 credits

DIS 534	Adapting Cross-Culturally	(2)
DIS 531	Intercultural Ministry Internship	(4)
DIS 570	Developing Internship Proposal	(2)