

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Ministry and Leadership Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Western Seminary offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Ministry and Leadership degree for students seeking to develop the core ministry and leadership skills necessary to be effective in a variety of ministry contexts. For example, they may be seeking to serve as associate pastors on a church staff, in parachurch agencies, or in specialized areas of ministry (e.g. chaplaincy, coaching, mission and culture, youth ministry, women's ministry, etc.). The program is not recommended for those preparing for a ministry where ordination is expected or required (e.g., the pastorate) or for those who anticipate subsequent doctor of ministry studies.

Students will take a common sequence of courses to build the core outcomes in spiritual formation, biblical and theological studies, and ministry studies. As students proceed with their classroom studies, they will be challenged to put what they learn into action through mentored field ministry. The interaction between student, faculty advisor and ministry mentor will facilitate the refining of ministry effectiveness by identifying areas of strength to be honed and areas of critical weakness to be improved. Building on these core areas, students will develop more specialized ministry and leadership skills through their electives. Students will follow one of the defined specialization tracks, or they may choose the open track specialization which includes a variety of ministry and leadership courses in consultation with their faculty advisor.

CORE OUTCOMES

In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the M.A. in Ministry and Leadership Ministry program attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Applies biblical truth to life and ministry based on sound hermeneutics and a thorough understanding of the biblical canon.
2. Employs mature theological thinking to evaluate competing ideas, communicates theological truths clearly, and applies theological truths to life and ministry.
3. Demonstrates cultural awareness and discernment in theological thinking and ministerial practice.
4. Exhibits a Christ-like character worthy of being emulated, and integrity that imparts credibility to his/her ministry.
5. Demonstrates self-awareness and a commitment to ongoing personal and spiritual formation.
6. Implements a gospel-centered philosophy of ministry that is biblical, missional, and transformational.
7. Leads others in effective ministry by casting a vision for transformational ministry, equipping others for ministry, and faithfully modeling servant leadership.
8. Demonstrates mastery of the key principles of their chosen area of ministry through effective service in that area.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 20-21, 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. in Ministry and Leadership 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. in Ministry and Leadership 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 one of Western Seminary's physical campus locations. All work leading to the Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership 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 in Ministry and Leadership degree is conferred upon the attainment of certain personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 34-36, 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 field ministry, with a minimum of 60 credit hours required as



Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership Core

46 CREDITS

Spiritual Formation [6] Ministerial Studies [12]

Biblical Studies [16]

Theological Studies [10]

OPEN TRACK

Ministry and leadership studies [6]

Restricted electives [8] Open electives [2]

CHAPLAINCY SPECIALIZATION

Chaplaincy studies [8]

Restricted electives [6] Open electives [2]

COACHING SPECIALIZATION

Coaching studies [8]

Restricted electives [6] Open electives [2]

JEWISH MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Jewish Ministry studies [8]

Restricted electives [6] Open electives [2]

MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION

Mission and Culture studies [8]

Restricted electives [6]

PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN SPECIALIZATION

Pastoral Care to Women studies [8]

Restricted electives [6] Open electives [2]

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Youth and Family Ministry studies [10]

Restricted electives [4] Open electives [2]

**DEGREE TOTAL
= 60 CREDITS**

a minimum for graduation. The program is designed around a common core of 46 hours and an elective track of 14 hours which contains six hours of mentored ministry. The elective track involves either the completion of a ministry specialization (14 hours of prescribed and elective credits) or an open track (14 hours of prescribed and elective credits approved by a faculty mentor).

Ministry Specialization Options

The intent of a ministry specialization is to further equip an individual with the skills, insights, and training experiences necessary for a distinctly defined ministry role. Like the core, the ministry specializations are outcome-driven. Fourteen credits of course work reflect a thoughtful blend of required courses and restricted electives designed to impart the character, knowledge, and skill outcomes deemed essential for each particular role. Current specializations include Open Track, Chaplaincy, Coaching, Mission and Culture, Pastoral Care to Women, and Youth and Family Ministry.

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: 16 credits

DBS 506	Learning to Interpret Scripture	(4)
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)

Ministry and leadership studies: 12 credits

DIS 501	Communicating Christ in Culture.....	(2)
DMS 501	Thinking Theologically about Ministry Leadership	(2)
DMS 506	Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century.....	(2)
	or PCW 513 Women in Leadership	(2)
EMS 505	Growing Disciples Intentionally	(2)
PTS 504	Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence.....	(2)
PTS 505	Providing Leadership in Ministry	(2)

SPECIALIZATION OR TRACK

14 credits – Select one

OPEN TRACK

Ministry and leadership studies: 6 credits

MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
MFM501-4	Mentored Field Ministry	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 8 credits

Select 8 credits from DMS, CCL, EMS, FMS, ICS, MCS, PCW, PTS, or YMS. Recommended electives:

DMS 502	Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship	(2)
MCS 510	Introduction to Coaching	(1)

MCS 511	Coaching for Change	(1)
MCS 513	Coaching Approach to Leading and Managing	(1)
MCS 514	Coaching in Congregations for Spiritual Development	(1)
PCW 511	Pastoral Understanding of Women.....	(2)
PTS 503	Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics	(2)
PTS 507	Pastoral Counseling.....	(2)
PTS 508	Developing Strong Families	(2)
PTS 510	Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons	(2)
or PCW 515	Develop and Deliver Life-Changing Messages	(2)

Open electives: 2 credits**CHAPLAINCY SPECIALIZATION****Chaplaincy studies: 8 credits**

MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
ICS 501	The Chaplaincy	(2)
ICS 530	Chaplaincy Practicum.....	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 6 credits*Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:*

CNS 503	Family Systems.....	(3)
CNS 512	Group Counseling	(3)
ICS 505	Hospital Chaplaincy.....	(2)
ICS 506	Military Chaplaincy.....	(2)
ICS 533	Clinical Pastoral Education	(2)
PTS 503	Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics	(2)
PTS 506	Pastoral Duties	(2)
PTS 507	Pastoral Counseling.....	(2)
PTS 510	Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons	(2)

Open electives: 2 credits**COACHING SPECIALIZATION****Coaching studies: 8 credits**

MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
MCS 510	Introduction to Coaching	(1)
MCS 511	Coaching for Change	(1)
MCS531-4	Coaching Practicum	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 6 credits*Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:*

MCS 512	Life and Personal Coaching	(1)
MCS 513	Coaching Approach to Leading and Managing	(1)
MCS 514	Coaching in Congregations for Spiritual Development	(1)
MCS 515	Coaching and a Brain-Based Approach to Learning	(1)
MCS 516	Using Assessments, Inventories and Tools in Coaching	(1)
MCS 517	The Language of Coaching	(1)
MCS 518	Growing Your Coaching Practice	(1)
MCS 561	Coaching Seminar	(1)
SFS 515	Becoming a Spiritual Director	(2)
SFS 543	Readings in Spiritual Classics	(2)
SFS 545	Readings in Contemporary Spirituality	(2)

THS 536	Evaluating Approaches to Sanctification	(2)
THS 561	Equipping for Spiritual Warfare	(2)

(Note: At least two of these credits must be MCS-prefixed courses.)

Open electives: 2 credits**JEWISH MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION****Jewish ministry studies: 8 credits**

MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
JMS 501	Theological Themes in Jewish Ministry	(2)
JMS531-4	Jewish Ministry Practicum	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 6 credits*Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:*

JMS 502	Jewish History	(2)
JMS 503	History of Jewish Missions	(2)
JMS 504	Jewish Religious Thought	(2)
JMS 509	Practical Issues in Jewish Evangelism	(1)

Open electives: 2 credits**MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION****Mission and Culture studies: 12 credits**

DIS 540	Emerging Paradigms in Cross-Cultural Ministry.....	(2)
DIS 541	Practicing Cultural Analysis in Context.....	(2)
DIS 542	Leading in a Dynamic Cross-Cultural Environment	(2)
MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
MFM501-4	Mentored Field Ministry	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 4 credits*Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:*

DIS 502	Perspectives on World Ministry	(3)
DIS 520	History of Missions	(2)
DIS 524	Foundations: Children and Youth at Risk	(2)
DIS 526	Religions of the World	(2)

PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN SPECIALIZATION**Pastoral Care to Women studies: 8 credits**

MFM 500	Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential	(2)
PCW 511	Pastoral Understanding of Women	(2)
PCW531-4	Pastoral Care to Women Practicum	(1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 6 credits*Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:*

PCW 512X	Women in Pain, Part I	(2)
PCW 512Y	Women in Pain, Part 2	(2)
PCW 513	Women in Leadership	(2)
PCW 514	Building Relational Ministries for Women	(2)
PCW 515	Develop and Deliver Life-Changing Messages	(2)
PCW 521	Develop Life Changing Bible Study Curriculum	(2)
MCS 510	Introduction to Coaching	(1)
MCS 511	Coaching for Change	(1)

“Western’s M.A. in Ministry and Leadership (Pastoral Care to Women specialization) is designed to provide in-depth training that is biblical, relevant, and accessible. This program equips students with an awareness and understanding of issues that cause pain and hinder spiritual maturity, creating sensitive leaders and biblical shepherds who integrate understanding with biblical pastoral care principles.”

Dr. Bev Hislop, Professor of Pastoral Care to Women



(Note: Students specializing in Pastoral Care to Women are required to complete at least five PCW specialized courses in addition to PCW 531-4. These may include the PCW courses listed in the ministry core described above.)

Open electives: 2 credits

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY
SPECIALIZATION**

Youth and Family Ministry studies: 10 credits

- MFM 500 Discovering/Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)
- YMS 502 Develop. a Theo. Model for 21st Century Youth Min. (2)
- YMS 503 Leading a Youth Ministry (2)
- MFM501-4 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Restricted electives: 4 credits

Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:

- FMS 501 Family Ministry in the Church (2)
- FMS 503 Building the Pastoral Team (2)
- YMS 501 Understanding Adolescent Development (1)
- YMS 504 Communicating to Youth (1)
- YMS 505 Issues for 21st Century Youth Ministry (1)
- YMS 506 Spiritual Formation of Youth (1)
- CNS 546 Counseling Adolescents (1)

Open electives: 2 credits

**MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING/
MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY
AND LEADERSHIP DUAL DEGREE
PROGRAM**

Please see page 62 for the dual degree program curriculum plan.

“Local churches and para-church organizations need youth ministry workers who are skilled in teaching God’s Word, experts in adolescent culture, and professional in their management of the ministry. The complexities of the culture and the nature of adolescence require youth workers who can do serious biblical and theological reflection as they flesh out practical theology. They have to be lovers of God and lovers of people.”

Ron Marrs,
Assistant Professor of Pastoral/Youth Ministry