

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program is designed for those engaged in or preparing for vocational ministry, including the pastorate, intercultural service, Christian education, pastoral counseling, chaplaincy, evangelism, music and worship ministries, and related areas of service. Historically, the M.Div. degree has been the recommended program for those preparing for ordination.

The M.Div. program requires a core of biblical, theological, and applied ministry studies. In addition, students select an elective track consisting either of a ministry specialization or a self-designed sequence of electives approved by a faculty mentor. This flexibility of design recognizes that many students come with differing God-given gifts, passions, talents, experiences, and goals.

The M.Div. course of study, designed to assist the local church in the training and nurturing of godly leaders, is guided by five overarching educational values which the Seminary believes are essential to that objective. Those values are:

1. Outcome-based instruction
2. Spiritual and character formation
3. Mentor relationships
4. Church relatedness
5. Global and cultural awareness

CORE OUTCOMES

The explicit outcomes which the M.Div. seeks to produce encompass multiple dimensions of the graduate's life and work. This means that the M.Div. student's educational experiences are intended to produce growth in knowledge, character, and skills for ministry. Many of these outcomes are best achieved and measured in the field, rather than the classroom. Consequently, many of the educational experiences bring the classroom and the church together in partnership to prepare the student for a life of fruitful ministry.

In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the M.Div. program attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Applies biblical truth to life and ministry based on a thorough understanding of the biblical canon and solid exegesis
2. Employs mature theological thinking to evaluate competing ideas, develop a personally integrated and gospel-centered expression of biblical teachings, communicate theological truths clearly, and apply 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 an ongoing process of personal and spiritual formation that is clearly grounded in the gospel
6. Implements a gospel-centered philosophy of ministry that is biblical, missional and transformational

7. Communicates God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly
8. Nurtures and equips people so that God's purposes are effectively accomplished in and through them

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 20-21, applicants for the M.Div. program are expected to present an accredited baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 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 45 hours credit is allowed toward the M.Div. 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 22 credit hours of the 45 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 90 credit hours required for the Master of Divinity program, a minimum of 45 credit hours must be completed through coursework completed at Western Seminary, with a minimum of 30 credit hours taken in resident study at one of Western Seminary's physical campus locations. All work leading to the Master of Divinity must be completed within six years from the time of matriculation. Extension of this limit requires approval of the Administrative Committee. However, only one such extension may be considered due to special circumstances, such as ill health. 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 Divinity 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.Div. curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 2.5. All credits applied toward degree requirements must be earned within ten years of the awarding of the M.Div. degree.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students may complete their studies in as few as six semesters, including mentored field ministry, with a minimum of 90 credit hours required as a minimum for graduation. The program is designed around a common core of 72 hours and an elective track of 18 hours. Each elective track contains six hours of mentored ministry. The elective track also involves either the completion of a ministry specialization (12 hours of prescribed and elective credits) or an open track (12 hours of elective credits and mentored ministry approved by a faculty mentor). Students in either track may choose a concentration (open track students may select as many as two concentrations).

Track or Ministry Specialization

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 divinity core, the ministry specializations are outcome-driven. Eight to twelve 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.

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION. The Expository Ministry specialization seeks to develop advanced skills in those whose ministry will focus especially on the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Hence advanced studies in the biblical languages and exegetical skills are provided, along with additional training in communicating the fruit of one's study.

In addition to the M.Div. core outcomes, the Expository Ministry specialization attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Know the full process of exegesis pertinent to biblical Greek and Hebrew
2. Be able to apply this full exegetical method to the texts of various Old and New Testament genres
3. Be able to develop and deliver expository messages and lessons

MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION. Recognizing the importance and challenges of global ministry, the Mission and Culture specialization is especially suited for students anticipating intercultural ministry, whether in the United States or abroad. Special sensitivity to cultural dynamics is therefore stressed, along with the ability to minister and communicate God's truth to those of a different culture. In addition to the M.Div. core outcomes, the Mission and Culture specialization attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Be able to develop effective interpersonal relationships in a second culture

2. Be aware of significant world affairs/needs and of contemporary world Christian movements
3. Be able to analyze culture and society at a specialist level
4. Be able to recognize, enhance, and disciple leaders in a second culture
5. Be able to plant and develop sending churches that penetrate beyond existing church frontiers

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION. The Pastoral Ministry specialization is designed as the foundational preparation for those who are called to serve the local church in a pastoral capacity. The specialized courses seek to develop pastors competent to lead a church with integrity, understanding, and skill. Learning is guided by faculty and pastor/mentors in both classroom and church contexts.

In addition to the M.Div. core outcomes, the Pastoral Ministry specialization attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Know the biblical, theological, and ministerial foundations for pastoral ministry including pastoral identity, the nature of pastoral ministry, preaching, soul care, and ministry programs
2. Be able to do basic, tool-assisted exegesis of texts from various Old and New Testament genre with a view to preparing expository messages and lessons
3. Be able to develop and deliver with advanced proficiency expository sermons and lessons from various biblical genres
4. Be able to perform relevant pastoral duties such as administering the ordinances, performing weddings and funerals, doing visitation, dealing with crisis situations, counseling, equipping, and practicing church discipline
5. Be able to deal with issues of leadership and management in the church, such as decision making, team building, board dynamics, conflict management, finances, buildings, legal matters, and the like

OPEN TRACK. Students may elect to choose up to 12 credits of course work apart from any specialization or concentration. Electives are chosen with faculty advisor guidance based on student goals, prior experiences, talents, and God-given gifts.

REFORMED MINISTRY TRACK. The Seminary offers Master of Divinity students the option to complete a Reformed Track that is intentionally designed to meet the needs of students pursuing ordination in a Reformed or Presbyterian denomination. This will involve a combination of Western Seminary courses, transfer credits from an approved seminary of the Reformed tradition, or individualized studies under the supervision of an approved ministry supervisor. Interested students are encouraged to contact the Academic Dean's Office for further information.

"Western Seminary's Master of Divinity program offers a unique balance between the academic and the practical. The faculty at Western are scholar-practitioners. We offer training in the practical skills of ministry, based on our years of doing ministry -- and these practical skills are based on a solid academic foundation. Most importantly, the faculty at Western keep our office doors open and welcome student visits and informal interaction. If you are looking for a personal relationship with faculty members who are also seasoned ministry leaders, consider Western."

Dr. J. Carl Laney, Professor of Biblical Literature

Program Concentrations

The purpose of program concentrations is to provide a focused, intensive preparation in one narrow area of emphasis. They may be ministry-specific, academically-oriented, or a combination of both. Program concentrations consist of at least six credits of course work in one area of emphasis, chosen in consultation with one's faculty advisor. Courses selected for a program concentration may not come from the core of the M.Div. program.

Program concentrations:

Bible	Evangelism	Pastoral Care
Chaplaincy	Family Ministry	Preaching
Church Planting	Hebrew	Theology
Intercultural Studies	Youth Ministry	Worship
Church History	Leadership	Coaching
Educational Ministry	Greek	Pastoral Counseling
Pastoral Care to Women	Church & Culture	Spiritual Formation

Students may choose from among the concentrations listed above, or may propose a new concentration drawn from courses offered by Western Seminary (subject to approval). Appropriate course work from other graduate institutions might also be used in designing a concentration (subject to transfer credit provisions). These must be acceptable graduate-level work, with at least 50% of the credits being taken at Western. Students may complete both a ministry specialization and a program concentration, but no more than two hours of credit may overlap and be applied to both. The successful completion of a program concentration is noted on the student's academic transcript. No course may be applied to more than one concentration. Please consult with the Registrar's Office for additional information.

BIBLICAL LANGUAGE OPTIONS

The Seminary offers Master of Divinity students two options to complete their requirements in the biblical languages: the foundational language track and the functional language track.

The foundational language track equips students with both the foundations of the Greek and Hebrew languages, including the elements of grammar, syntax, and reading, and with the skills of exegesis—the interpretation of the text. Then students will be able to read the Bible as it was written and encounter the depths of meaning that can get lost in translation. Students are introduced to a wide range of language tools, including computer programs. Following this track will lay a foundation for in-depth study in advanced classes. It will give students the strongest foundation as life-long learners to teach and preach the biblical text in an informed manner and/or to pursue advanced studies in which this level of original language competence would be expected. In addition, students in this track will be able to read advanced commentaries with greater understanding, be able to take additional elective courses in the interpretation of various biblical books, and be better equipped to evaluate commentaries, articles and theological books on their own. If the study and the preaching of God's Word is your main focus of ministry, this is the recommended track to take. Students in the exegetical language track enroll in NTS 508-509, OTS 508-509 and NTS 515 or OTS 515.

For students who choose not to develop the skill to read and translate the Bible in the original languages, the seminary offers the functional language track. It is designed to give students the practical ability to access the original languages through the Bible Works computer program and

other contemporary reference tools. Using these tools, the student will learn the essential grammar and syntax of the biblical languages. Students will use the computer to find word meanings, parsing, etc. By the end of the two-semester sequence, students will be able to use original language commentaries with discernment and do many steps of the exegetical process as they prepare sermons and lessons in ministry. Students in the functional language track enroll in NTS 501-502, OTS 501-502 and NTS 515 or OTS 515.

"The expository track of the M.Div. program provides the student with the interpretative skills that are foundational to the reading and understanding of Scripture—whether that takes place in the pastorate, the chaplaincy, women's or men's ministries, Bible translation, counseling, or one's personal pursuit of God. Biblical languages are essential to a biblical understanding, and thus provide the foundation for discernment between competing, contemporary worldviews. Using the biblical languages opens a whole new world of creative ideas to aid in the understanding of one's self and others, and to the doing of God's will."

Dr. James DeYoung,
Professor of New Testament Language
and Literature

Master of Divinity Core

72 CREDITS

Spiritual Formation [6] **Theological Studies [16]**
Biblical Studies [16] **Ministerial Studies [20]**
Biblical Languages [14]

OPEN TRACK

Concentration [6] + Open Electives [6]
OR...
Open Electives [12]
Mentored Ministry [6]

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Required NTS, OTS [4]
Restricted Electives [2]
Open Electives [6]
Mentored Ministry [6]

MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION

Required DIS [8]
Open Electives [4]
Mentored Ministry [6]

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION – OPTION 1

Required PTS [6]
Restricted Electives [2]
Open Electives [4]
Mentored Ministry [6]

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION – OPTION 2

Required PTS, NTS, OTS [10]
Open Electives [2]
Mentored Ministry [6]

**DEGREE TOTAL
= 90 CREDITS**

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: 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 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)

Biblical language studies: 14 credits

(see note below on biblical language options)

NTS 501 Functional Foundations of Greek (3)
 NTS 502 Functional Application of Greek (3)
 or NTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis (3)
 NTS 509 Greek Reading and Syntax (3)

(Students complete either NTS 501/502 or NTS 508/509)

OTS 501 Functional Foundations of Hebrew (3)
 OTS 502 Functional Application of Hebrew (3)
 or OTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis (3)
 OTS 509 Hebrew Reading and Syntax (3)

(Students complete either OTS 501/502 or OTS 508/509)

NTS 515 Principles of Exegesis (2)
 or OTS 515 Principles of Exegesis (2)

Theological studies: 16 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)
 THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology (2)
 CHS 505 Wisdom from Church History (4)
 or CHS 506 Insight and Inspiration from Church History (2)
 CHS 5xx Church history elective (2)

(Students complete either CHS 505 or CHS 506 and a CHS elective)

Ministerial studies: 20 credits

DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture (2)
 DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry Leadership (2)
 DMS 502 Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship (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 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics (2)
 PTS 504 Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence (2)
 PTS 507 Providing Pastoral Counseling (2)
 PTS 508 Developing Strong Families (2)
 PTS 510 Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons (2)

SPECIALIZATION OR TRACK

18 credits — Select one

The 18 credits of course work in the elective tracks may be taken in one of three ways: (1) a ministry specialization (minimum of 8 credits in pastoral, expository, or mission and culture courses); (2) selecting one or more program concentrations (consisting of a minimum of 6 credits of coursework in a specific discipline); or (3) an integrated sequence of electives chosen with faculty guidance. The choice among these three options is based on student goals, talents, God-given gifts, and prior experiences.

OPEN TRACK

Mentored Ministry: 6 credits

MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)

MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Note: Check with your program advisor for MFM 501-504 details.

Open electives: 12 credits

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Mentored Ministry: 6 credits

MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)

MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Note: Check with your program advisor for MFM 501-504 details.

Expositional Ministry required courses: 4 credits

NTS 5xx Exegesis Elective (2)

OTS 5xx Exegesis Elective (2)

Restricted electives: 2 credits

(Choose two credits from courses with a NTS, OTS, BLS, or THS prefix, or from those with a communications emphasis such as teaching, preaching, etc.)

Open electives: 6 credits

MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION

Mission and Culture required courses: 14 credits

MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)

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)

OPTION 1 — WORLD INTERNSHIP TRACK

DIS 570 Developing Internship Proposal (2)

DIS 531 Intercultural Ministry Internship (4)

OPTION 2 — LOCAL FIELD MINISTRY TRACK

DIS 5XX Intercultural Elective (2)

MFM 501-4 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Open electives: 4 credits

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

OPTION 1 — FOUNDATIONAL LANGUAGE TRACK (18 CREDITS)

Recommended for students electing the exegetical language sequence (NTS 508/509; OTS 508/509) in the core curriculum:

Mentored Ministry: 6 credits

MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)

MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Note: Check with your program advisor for MFM 501-504 details.

Required courses: 10 credits

PTS 505 Providing Leadership in Ministry (2)

PTS 506 Providing Pastoral Care (2)

PTS 515X Advanced Expository Preaching I (2)

NTS 5XX Exegesis elective (2)

OTS 5XX Exegesis elective (2)

Open electives: 2 credits

OPTION 2 — FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE TRACK (18 CREDITS)

Recommended for students electing the functional language sequence (NTS 501/502; OTS 501/502):

Mentored Ministry: 6 credits

MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential (2)

MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Note: Check with your program advisor for MFM 501-504 details.

Required courses: 6 credits

PTS 505 Providing Leadership in Ministry (2)

PTS 506 Providing Pastoral Care (2)

PTS 515X Advanced Expository Preaching I (2)

Restricted electives: 2 credits

Select one of the following courses:

PTS 515Y Advanced Expository Preaching II (2)

EMS 546 Advanced Bible Teaching (2)

Open electives: 4 credits

"The M.Div. (Mission and Culture specialization) is designed to help students exegete Scripture as well as understand culture. As students study with experienced practitioners they learn how to serve in a cross-cultural context here in the U.S. or overseas."

Dr. John Branner,
Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING/ MASTER OF DIVINITY IN PASTORAL COUNSELING DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Please see page 60 for the dual degree program curriculum plan.