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 Program, continued

**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]

**CHAPLAINCY SPECIALIZATION**

- Chaplaincy studies [8]

**COACHING SPECIALIZATION**

- Coaching studies [8]

**JEWISH MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION**

- Jewish Ministry studies [8]

**MISSION AND CULTURE SPECIALIZATION**

- Mission and Culture studies [8]
- Restricted electives [6]

**PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN SPECIALIZATION**

- Pastoral Care to Women studies [8]

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION**

- Youth and Family Ministry studies [10]

**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)
- MFM 501-4 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)

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)
CNS 505 Hospital Chaplaincy .............................................(2)
CNS 506 Military Chaplaincy .............................................(2)
CNS 533 Clinical Pastoral Education ....................................(2)
PTS 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics ......................(2)
PTS 506 Pastoral Duties .....................................................(2)
PTS 507 Pastoral Counseling .............................................(2)
PTS 511 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)
MCS31-4 Coaching Practicum .............................................(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-prefix 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)

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)

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)

Restricted electives: 6 credits
Select from the courses below or related electives with advisor approval:
PCW 512X Women in Pain, Part 1 .........................................(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)
- MFM 501-4  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