

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, 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 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 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, 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 501X	Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel	(2)
BLS 501Y	Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon	(2)
BLS 502X	Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi	(2)
BLS 502Y	Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels	(2)
BLS 503X	Interpreting New Testament II: Epistles 1	(2)
BLS 503Y	Interpreting New Testament III: Epistles 2	(2)

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)

Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership Core

46 CREDITS

Spiritual Formation [6]	Ministry and Leadership Studies [12]
Biblical Studies [16]	Open electives [2]
Theological Studies [10]	

OPEN TRACK

Ministry and leadership studies [6]
Restricted electives [8]

CHAPLAINCY SPECIALIZATION

Chaplaincy studies [8]
Restricted electives [6]

COACHING SPECIALIZATION

Coaching studies [8]
Open electives [6]

PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN SPECIALIZATION

Pastoral Care to Women studies [8]
Restricted electives [6]

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Youth and Family Ministry studies [10]
Restricted electives [4]

DEGREE TOTAL = 60 CREDITS

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****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)

*(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