

The Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership Degree Program

OFFERED ON THE ONLINE, PORTLAND, SACRAMENTO, AND SAN JOSE CAMPUSES

Program Objectives & Requirements

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, pastoral care to women, youth 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.

M.A. Program Outcomes

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

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

For the Portland, San Jose and Sacramento Campuses:

Of the 52 credit hours required for the M.A. (Ministry and Leadership) program, a minimum of 26 credit hours must be completed through coursework at Western Seminary, with a minimum of 18 credit hours taken in resident study at one of Western Seminary's physical campus locations. All work leading to the Master of Arts (Ministry and Leadership) must be completed within five years from the time of matriculation. Permission to extend the five year statute of limitation must be granted through submission of an academic petition. Reinstate 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.

For the Online Campus Only:

Of the 52 credit hours required for the M.A. (Ministry and Leadership) program, a minimum of 26 credit hours must be completed through coursework at Western Seminary, with a minimum of 6 credit hours taken in resident study through the following three, specific courses and program orientation:

- During October or June of a student's first year, the student must travel to Portland for one week to attend program orientation and two threshold courses, CS501 Learning to Love God and Others (2 credit hours) and MF501 Introduction to Theological Study and Ministry Formation (2 credit hours).
- During February of a student's final year, the student must return to Portland to attend the capstone course, TH504 Integrating Ministry and Theology (2 credit hours).

All work leading to the Master of Arts (Ministry and Leadership) must be completed within five years from the time of matriculation. Permission to extend the five year statute of limitation must be granted through submission of an academic petition. Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires Academic 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, 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 52 credit hours required as a minimum for graduation. The program is designed around a common core of 44 hours and an elective track of 8 hours. The elective track involves either the completion of a ministry track (8 hours of prescribed and elective credits) or an open track (8 hours of prescribed and elective credits approved by a faculty mentor).

Ministry Track Options

The intent of a ministry track 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, Evangelism and Cultural Engagement, Jewish Ministry Studies, Women's Pastoral Leadership, and Youth Ministry.

Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership Curriculum Plan

Foundational Studies: 10 credits

BT501	Hermeneutics	2
BT502	Understanding Biblical Theology	2
CS501	Learning to Love God and Others	2
CS502	Growing in Prayer and Other Key Spiritual Disciplines	2
MF501	Introduction to Theological Study and Ministry Formation	2

Biblical Studies: 12 credits

Please note: Biblical studies, theological studies, hermeneutics and church history courses may be offered in 4-credit or 2-credit formats, depending on the campus location.

BL501 -or-	Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon	4
BL501X and	Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis to 2 Samuel	2
BL501Y	Interpreting the Old Testament II: 1 Kings to Song of Solomon	2

BL502 -or-	Interpreting the Prophets and Gospel	4
BL502X and	Interpreting Old Testament III: The Prophets	2
BL502Y	Interpreting the New Testament I: Gospels	2
BL503 -or-	Interpreting Acts to Revelation	4
BL503X and	Interpreting the New Testament II: Epistles 1	2
BL503Y	Interpreting the New Testament III: Epistles 2	2

Theological Studies: 14 credits

TH501 -or-	Knowing the Living God: Theology I	4
TH501X and	Knowing the Living God: Theology I, Part 1	2
TH501Y	Knowing the Living God: Theology I, Part 2	2
TH502 -or-	Glorifying the Word of Life: Theology II	4
TH502X and	Glorifying the Word of Life: Theology II, Part 1	2
TH502Y	Glorifying the Word of Life: Theology II, Part 2	2
TH503 -or-	Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III	4
TH503X and	Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology II, Part 1	2
TH503Y	Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology II, Part 2	2
TH504	Integrating Ministry and Theology	2

Ministerial Studies: 6 credits

ML501	Theology and Practice of Gospel-Centered Ministry	2
ML502	Transformational Leadership	2
ML506	Ministerial Ethics	2

Ministry Formation: 2+ courses (0 credits)

MF531	Minstry Formation I	0
MF532	Minstry Formation II	0

Note: MF531-532 are the minimum required for candidacy. MF533-539 will be required for students who must continue ministry formation beyond the initial two semesters.

MF533	Minstry Formation III	0
MF534	Minstry Formation IV	0
MF539	Minstry Formation Continuation	0

Track: 8 credits (select one)

The 8 credits of coursework in the elective tracks may be taken in one of two ways:

1. A ministry track (minimum of 8 credits in chaplaincy, coaching, evangelism and cultural engagement, Jewish ministry studies, women's pastoral leadership, or youth ministry courses)
2. An integrated sequence of electives selected with faculty guidance

The choice among these options is based on student goals, talents, God-given gifts and prior experiences.

Open Track (Online, Portland, Sacramento, & San Jose campuses)

Restricted electives: 8 credits

Select from the courses below with advisor approval:

ML503	Nurturing Faithful Disciples	2
ML504	Taking the Gospel to Diverse Cultures	2
ML505	Applied Pastoral Counseling: Caring for People in a Broken World	2
ML507	Gospel Responses to Contemporary Challenges	2
ML508	Preaching Gospel-Centered Messages	2

Chaplaincy Track (Portland, Sacramento, & San Jose campuses)

Chaplaincy required course: 2 credits

CA501	The Chaplaincy	2
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Restricted electives: 6 credits

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

CA505	Hospital Chaplaincy	2
CA506	Military Chaplaincy	2
CA530	Chaplaincy Practicum	2
CA531	Clinical Pastoral Education	1-4
CNS501	Clinical Foundations: Basic Counseling Skills and Interventions	2
CNS557	Emergency Preparedness: Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention	1
CNS558	Emergency Preparedness: Crisis Intervention, Trauma and Loss	1
ML504	Taking the Gospel to Diverse Cultures	2
ML505	Applied Pastoral Counseling: Caring for People in a Broken World	2
ML507	Gospel Responses to Contemporary Challenges	2
ML508	Preaching Gospel-Centered Messages	2

Coaching Track (Portland, Sacramento, & San Jose campuses)

Coaching required courses: 2 credits

CO500	Introduction to Coaching	2
CO501	Coaching Change, Transition, and Transformation	2

Restricted electives: 6 credits

Select from the courses below with advisor approval:

CO502	Life and Personal Coaching	1
CO503	Coaching Approach to Leading and Managing	1
CO504	Coaching Spiritual Transformation	1
CO505	Coaching as a Brain-Based Approach to Learning	1
CO506	Using Assessments, Inventories, and Tools in Coaching	1
CO507	The Language of Coaching	1
CO508	Growing Your Coaching Practice	1
CO530	Coaching Supervision	1

Evangelism and Cultural Engagement Track (Portland campus only)

Evangelism and Cultural Engagement required courses: 8 credits

ML504	Taking the Gospel to Diverse Cultures	2
ML507	Gospel Responses to Contemporary Challenges	2

Restricted electives: 4 credits

Select from the courses below with advisor approval:

GL501	Spiritual Formation and Discipleship in the Global Context	2
GL502	Theology in the Global Context	2
GL503	Leadership in the Global Context	2
GL504	Self-Directed Learning for Global Leadership	2

Open electives: 4 credits

Women's Pastoral Leadership Track (Portland, Sacramento, & San Jose campuses)

Women's Pastoral Leadership required course: 2 credits

WL501	Pastoral Understanding of Women	2
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Restricted electives: 6 credits

Select from the courses below with advisor approval:

WL502	Women in Pain, Part 1	1
WL503	Women in Pain, Part 2	1
WL504	Women in Leadership	2
WL505	Building Relational Ministries for Women	1
WL506	Develop and Deliver Life-Changing Bible Messages	2
WL507	Develop Life-Changing Bible Study Curriculum	1
WL508	Develop Your Discipling and Evangelism Potential	1

Youth Ministry Track (Portland campus only)

Youth Ministry required courses: 4 credits

YM501	Developing a Theological Model for 21st Century Youth Ministry	2
YM502	Managing Youth Ministry	2

Restricted electives: 6 credits

Select from the courses below with advisor approval:

ML503	Nurturing Faithful Disciples	2
ML504	Taking the Gospel to Diverse Cultures	2
ML505	Applied Pastoral Counseling: Caring for People in a Broken World	2
ML507	Gospel Responses to Contemporary Challenges	2
ML508	Preaching Gospel-Centered Messages	2