DEGREE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Divinity degree must complete 30 courses (90 credit hours) and 6 units of Mentored Ministry (6 credit hours), maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Divinity program may not take more than 15 Semlink/online courses (45 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Divinity program must be completed within a ten-year period.

Degree Requirements

Core Requirements:
Candidates are required to complete 10 courses in the area of Biblical Studies, 7 courses in Christian Thought and 7 courses in Practical Theology.

General Electives:
Each student must complete six elective courses.

Mentored Ministry:
Students must complete six units of Mentored Ministry (see Mentored Ministry).

Denominational Standards:
Some denominations require a course in denominational standards. This is not a seminary requirement, but the student should carefully observe the relevant requirements of his or her denomination.

Bible Competency:
All M.Div. students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Checksheet:
Please consult the following checksheet for a breakdown of course requirements. Some variation may occur for those considering one of our approved concentrations. (Concentration descriptions will follow.)
**Christian Thought Core Requirements (7 courses/21 credits)**
- CH 501 The Church to the Reformation
- CH 502 The Church Since the Reformation
- Ethics *Select one from the following:*
  - ET 501 Christian Ethics
  - SE 571 Christian Ethics & Social Issues
  - SE 632 Ethnic Identities and Reconciliation
  - ET 642 Workplace Ethics
  - MC/SE/TH 651 The Project of Reconciliation: Intersectionality, the Church & Culture
  - ET 681 Issues in Sexual Ethics and Bioethics
  - SE 735 Biblical Global Justice
- TH 501 Theology Survey I
- TH 502 Theology Survey II
- TH Elective
- World Missions *Select one from the following:*
  - WM 601 The World Mission of the Church
  - TH/WM 602 Theology of Mission

**Biblical Studies Core Requirements (10 courses/30 credits)**
- GL 501 Basic Greek I
- GL 502 Basic Greek II
- NT 502 Interpreting the New Testament
- NT Narrative Book Exegesis (NT 611-619)
- NT Epistle Exegesis (NT 620-649)
- OL 501 Hebrew I
- OL 502 Hebrew II
- OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament
- OT 600-Level Hebrew Exegesis (OT 625-670)
- OT 700-Level Hebrew Exegesis (OT 750, 765, or 770)

**Practical Theology Core Requirements (7 courses/21 credits)**
- MC/SF 501 Spiritual Formation for Ministry
- PC 511 Introduction to Pastoral Counseling,
- Ministry Communication *Select one from the following:*
  - MC 520 Communication for Ministry and Career
  - PR 602 Preaching for Modern Listeners
  - PR 717 Cultural Exegesis for Preaching
☐ Pastoral Skills, Select one from the following:
   EV 701 Evangelism & Discipleship Through the Local Church
   MC 701 Pastoral Ministry
   CL/MC 707 Transforming Leadership in the Local Church
☐ Practical Theology Elective, Select any CO, EM, EV, MC, PC, PR, PT, or YM Course
☐ Practical Theology Elective, Select any CO, EM, EV, MC, PC, PR, PT, or YM Course

**General Electives (6 courses/18 credits)**
*Note Bible competency requirement above.*

**Mentored Ministry (6 units/6 credits)**
☐ MM501 Orientation Unit  ☐ MM601 Field Unit  ☐ MM701 Field Unit
☐ MM502 Field Unit  ☐ MM602 Field Unit  ☐ MM702 Capstone Unit

**Approved M.Div. Concentrations**
The Master of Divinity program is designed to provide the student with a general yet comprehensive basis for pastoral ministry. However, those who wish to concentrate their theological studies can select from one of three approved tracks. Those who pursue a concentration will reduce their general electives by a minimum of four courses. Depending on the track, certain M.Div. core requirements may be altered.

**Anglican Studies Track**
The Anglican Studies Track has been designed in consultation with members of the Anglican community to allow students to follow a plan of formation for ministry in the Anglican tradition.

Students in the Anglican Studies Track must reserve four of their open general elective and/or practical theology elective course options for the four Anglican Studies courses required for the track. These four courses are offered through a special partnership between Trinity School of Ministry (TSM) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Students should be able to complete these four courses through short-term intensives offered on site at TSM or, in some cases, through TSM online offerings. Please note that students may be billed an external partnership fee when registering for TSM courses. See the Registration Office and Student Accounts Office for details on cross registering at Trinity School of Ministry.

The following four courses must be taken in order to graduate with an approved concentration in Anglican Studies:
☐ TSM/ME699 Global Anglicanism
☐ TSM/ST770 The Anglican Way of Theology
☐ TSM/PT641 Conducting Worship in the Prayer Book Tradition
☐ Choice of one from the following:
   TSM/PT740 Advanced Church Ministry and Sacraments
World Missions Track
For the M.Div. track in world missions, two required courses plus three electives in this area must be completed. In addition, the Overseas Missions Practicum (WM721) or Living Systems in Urban Context (MC 621) may be taken as well. WM 721 may be taken to fulfill one course credit and up to two units of Mentored Ministry when those MM units are registered concurrently. Students who choose to replace OMP with Living Systems in Urban Context must be living in an urban context for that year.

☐ WM 601 World Mission of the Church or TH/WM 602, Theology of Mission
☐ WM 722 Applied Anthropology for Missions
☐ WM Elective
☐ WM Elective or CH/WM 610, Advance of the Church in the Non-Western World (in place of CH 502)
☐ WM Elective

Please note that unless a concentration course has been designated as replacing a core requirement, it will fill what would normally be an open elective slot.

Urban Ministries Track
Gordon-Conwell provides its students with an opportunity for an "urban year" of living, ministering and studying at the Gordon-Conwell–Boston campus, which specializes in urban ministerial education. With the cooperation and support of ministers, churches, and agencies in inner-city and working-class sections of Boston, the program creates a close relationship between Mentored Ministry in the city and academic training. Urban Ministry students are encouraged to meet with Gordon-Conwell–Boston staff for curricular advisement during registration periods.

Seminary courses on urban ministry are offered directly in the city and will require students to travel if they are not living in Boston. Students are encouraged to spend their second year in the city while completing their Urban Ministry Track courses, especially if they have never lived in an urban context prior to seminary.

☐ MC 621 Living Systems in the Urban Context (in place of MC701)
☐ PC 521 Pastoral Counseling for Urban Ministry (in place of PC 511)
☐ Choice of one from the following:
   EM 687 Educational Ministry in Urban Settings
   EM/WM/YM 689 Theological Issues and Models of Urban Youth Ministry: U.S. and Global
☐ SE 571 Christian Ethics and Social Issues (counts for ET or SE core) or any course taken at Gordon-Conwell, Boston campus
☐ EV/WM 627 The Gospel, the World and Cities (in place of WM 601) or any course
taken at Gordon-Conwell, Boston campus
☐ Any course taken at Gordon-Conwell, Boston campus course

Please note that unless a concentration course has been designated as replacing a core
requirement, it will fill what would normally be an open elective slot.

Master of Divinity Degree Goals
1. To gain competency with the biblical languages in order to develop exegetical and
hermeneutical skills using the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Greek text of the
New Testament
2. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their
historical and cultural settings, as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the
Christian faith
3. To expound and proclaim effectively the biblical message of redemption
4. To develop skills appropriate for church leadership as a pastor, teacher, counselor,
evangelist, chaplain, church planter, missionary or other role as a leader
5. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual
maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility
in church and society
6. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and
to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church
7. To develop a global vision for the Christian faith so as to foster an appreciation and
commitment to the worldwide proclamation of the gospel
8. To cultivate an appreciation for and a commitment to the personal and community
sharing of the gospel
MASTER OF ARTS (OLD TESTAMENT)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (Old Testament) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (Old Testament) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (Old Testament) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete eight courses in Old Testament.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two terms of Hebrew or an approved research language. Students who have previous knowledge of Hebrew and who pass the language competency exam can earn 6 credits of advanced standing for Hebrew (reducing the total number of required credits) or may substitute Hebrew I and II with two courses in the Division of Biblical Studies.

General Core Requirements:
Complete six courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete four elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MA students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Summative Evaluation:
A summative evaluation is required of MAOT students, and may take the form of an oral examination or a thesis, or, for students who have learned English as a second language, a major integrative paper (see Summative Evaluation for MA Students and Thesis).

Area of Concentration (8 Courses/24 credits)
- OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament
- 2 OT Courses - No more than two courses (including OT 511 above) may be taken at the 500-level.
- OT 600-Level Hebrew Exegesis (OT 600-670)
Those who take OT electives in place of the thesis must sit for an oral summative evaluation during their last semester.

Core Requirements (6 courses/18 credits)
- CH 500 Survey of Church History
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- New Testament course selected from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- TH 501 Theology Survey I
- TH 502 Theology Survey II
- World Missions or Evangelism Course (Any WM or EV course)

Biblical or Research Language (2 Courses/6 credits)
- OL 501 or approved research language
- OL 502 or approved research language

General Electives (4 Courses/12 credits)
Note Bible competency requirement above.

Master of Arts (Old Testament) Goals
1. To develop an intermediate understanding of the content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings
2. To understand the basic historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
3. To gain an intermediate competency with biblical Hebrew in order to develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills using the original languages
4. In keeping with the highest tradition of Christian scholarship, to develop advanced skills for biblical research and writing, using original languages, and awareness of important bibliographic resources
5. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society.
6. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church
7. To understand the historical and theological development of the Christian faith in order to integrate this faith with global ethical and missiological issues.
MASTER OF ARTS (NEW TESTAMENT)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (New Testament) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (New Testament) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (New Testament) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete eight courses in New Testament.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two terms of Greek or an approved research language. Students who have previous knowledge of Greek and who pass the language competency exam can earn 6 credits of advanced standing for Greek (reducing the total number of required credits) or may substitute Greek I and II with two courses in the Division of Biblical Studies.

General Core Requirements:
Complete six courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete four elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MA students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Summative Evaluation:
A summative evaluation is required of MANT students, and may take the form of an oral examination or a thesis, or, for students who have learned English as a second language, a major integrative paper (see Summative Evaluation for MA Students and Thesis).

Area of Concentration (8 Courses/24 credits)

☐ NT502 Interpreting the New Testament
☐ 2 NT Courses - No more than two courses (including NT 502 above) may be taken at the 500-level.
☐ NT Narrative Book Exegesis (NT 611-619)
Those who take NT electives in place of the thesis must sit for a summative evaluation during their last semester.

Core Requirements (6 courses/18 credits)
- CH 500 Survey of Church History
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- TH 501 Theology Survey I
- TH 502 Theology Survey II
- World Missions or Evangelism course (Any WM or EV course)

Biblical or Research Language (2 Courses/6 credits)
- GL 501 or approved research language
- GL 502 or approved research language

General Electives (4 Courses/12 credits)
Note Bible competency requirement above.

Master of Arts (New Testament) Goals
1. To develop an intermediate understanding of the content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings
2. To understand the basic historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
3. To gain an intermediate competency with biblical Greek in order to develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills using the original languages
4. In keeping with the highest tradition of Christian scholarship, to develop advanced skills for biblical research and writing, using original languages, and awareness of important bibliographic resources
5. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society
6. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church
7. To understand the historical and theological development of the Christian faith in order to integrate this faith with global ethical and missiological issues.

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MASTER OF ARTS (BIBLICAL LANGUAGES)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (Biblical Languages) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credits) with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (Biblical Languages) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (Biblical Languages) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements
Area of Concentration:
Complete 10 courses in the area of Biblical Studies as specified below.

General Core Requirements:
Complete five courses in the area of Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete five elective courses, which may include, if necessary, basic Greek and Hebrew (GL 501/502, OL 501/502).

Bible Competency:
All MA students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Summative Evaluation:
No thesis is required in the program, but an oral summative evaluation must be sustained. Students who have learned English as a second language may substitute a major integrative paper (see Summative Evaluation for MA Students).

Prerequisite Language Requirements:
Students are required to take at least a year of a biblical language prior to matriculation and are encouraged to take at least a year of a modern research language (e.g. German, French, Dutch, Spanish) either prior to matriculation or as an elective in the program.

Course Offerings:
Most of the courses are drawn from the offerings of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, but the student also has the option of drawing upon the resources of the Boston Theological Institute, particularly in those areas where the seminary does not provide courses. Courses in ancient languages related to Bible study may be taken at the seminary as independent reading/research courses (710, 711, 760 and 860 courses) or at one of the Boston Theological Institute schools.
Area of Concentration (10 Courses/30 credits)

☐ GL 601 Intermediate Greek
☐ OL 910 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar
☐ OL 912 Aramaic
☐ NT 502 Interpreting the New Testament
☐ NT Narrative Book Exegesis (NT 611-619)
☐ NT Epistle Exegesis (NT 620-649)
☐ OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament
☐ OT 600-Level Hebrew Exegesis (OT 600-670)
☐ OT 700-Level Hebrew Exegesis (OT 750, 765, or 770)
☐ A related ancient language elective (e.g. Akkadian, Coptic, Eblaite, Egyptian, Hittite, Latin, Syriac, Sumerian, Ugaritic or additional advanced Hebrew or Greek course)

Core Requirements (5 courses/15 credits)

☐ CH 500, Survey of Church History
☐ Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
☐ TH 501 Theology Survey I
☐ TH 502 Theology Survey II
☐ World Missions or Evangelism Course (Any WM or EV course)

General Electives (5 Courses/15 credits)

Note Bible competency requirement above.

Master of Arts (Biblical Languages) Goals

1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To gain an intermediate competency with biblical Hebrew and Greek in order to develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills using the original languages, and also to acquire competency in ancient languages other than Hebrew and Greek
3. In keeping with the highest tradition of Christian scholarship, to develop advanced skills for biblical research and writing, using original languages, and to develop an awareness of important bibliographic resources
4. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society
5. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church
6. To understand the historical and theological development of the Christian faith in order to integrate this faith with global ethical and missiological issues.
MASTER OF ARTS (CHURCH HISTORY)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (Church History) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (Church History) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (Church History) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete eight courses in Church History.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two terms of a biblical language or, upon approval, a research foreign language suitable for an anticipated doctoral program. Students who have previous knowledge of Greek or Hebrew and who pass the language competency exam may earn 6 credits of advanced standing towards their language requirement (reducing the total number of required credits) or may substitute two courses in the Division of Biblical Studies.

General Core Requirements:
Complete six courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete four elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MA students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Summative Evaluation:
A summative evaluation is required of MACH students and may take the form of a thesis or an integrative paper with an oral examination. For students who have learned English as a second language, an increased integrative paper may replace the oral exam (see Summative Evaluation for MA Students and Thesis).
**Area of Concentration (8 Courses/24 credits)**
- CH 812 Historiography
- 5 CH Courses [CH 501 & 502 recommended]
- CH 891 Thesis part I or CH Elective
- CH 892 Thesis part II or CH Elective (600-level or above)

*Those who take CH electives in place of the thesis must sit for a summative evaluation during their last semester.*

**Core Requirements (6 courses/18 credits)**
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- New Testament course selected from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- TH 501 Theology Survey I
- TH 502 Theology Survey II
- World Missions or Evangelism course (Any WM or EV course)

**Biblical or Research Language (2 Courses/6 credits)**
- OL or GL 501 or approved research language
- OL or GL 502 or approved research language

**General Electives (4 Courses/12 credits)**
*Note Bible competency requirement above.*

**Master of Arts (Church History) Goals**
1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To understand important persons, events, movements, institutions and ideas in the early, medieval, reformation and modern periods of church history
3. To develop skills for historical research and writing, as well as an awareness of important bibliographic resources in the discipline, including competence in a biblical or research language
4. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society
5. To understand and appreciate the rich heritage of the Church's global history in order to be able to interact more biblically and effectively with our contemporary world.
MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (Theology) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (Theology) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (Theology) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete seven courses in Theology and one course in Ethics or Social Ethics. Students may also apply offerings within the areas of Apologetics (AP) and Ethics (ET) toward their theology concentration.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two terms of a biblical language or, upon approval, a research foreign language suitable for the anticipated doctoral program. Students who have previous knowledge of Greek or Hebrew and who pass the language competency exam can earn 6 credits of advanced standing towards their language requirement (reducing the total number of required credits) or may must substitute two courses in the Division of Biblical Studies.

General Core Requirements:
Complete four courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete six elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MA students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives (see Bible Competency Exams).

Summative Evaluation:
A summative evaluation is required of MATH students and may take the form of a thesis or an integrative paper with an oral examination. For students who have learned English as a second language, an increased integrative paper may replace the oral exam (see Summative Evaluation for MA Students and Thesis)
Area of Concentration (8 Courses/24 credits)
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- 5 TH Courses (may also choose AP or ET courses; TH 501 and 502 recommended)
- TH 891 Thesis part I or TH, AP or ET Elective
- TH 892 Thesis part II or TH, AP or ET Elective

Those who take TH, AP or ET electives in place of the thesis must sit for a summative evaluation during their last semester.

Core Requirements (4 courses/12 credits)
- CH 500 Survey of Church History
- New Testament course selected from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- World Missions or Evangelism course (Any WM or EV course)

Biblical or Research Language (2 Courses/6 credits)
- OL or GL 501 or approved research language
- OL or GL 502 or approved research language

General Electives (6 Courses/18 credits)
Note Bible competency requirement above.

Master of Arts (Theology) Goals
1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To develop competence in a biblical or research language in order to develop exegetical skills
3. To develop skills of theological analysis and argument appropriate to the breadth of theological claims of Christianity
4. To understand important periods of theological reflection and confession in church history, including the contemporary setting
5. To develop aptitudes for living and speaking the gospel in the context of the Christian community so that individually and corporately the depth of Christian conviction can be applied in the ordinary practices of life
6. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society
7. To understand the ethical and missiological dimensions of the Christian faith in its global context.
MASTER OF ARTS (RELIGION)

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Arts (Religion) degree program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 2.0 or more and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts (Religion) program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts (Religion) program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Program Director
The director of the MAR program serves as the primary contact for MAR students and is available to provide counsel and assist students in developing their programs and integrative paper/project proposals.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete six courses in one area to constitute a concentration. These courses will be determined in consultation with the director of the MAR program. No more than two concentration courses may be taken at the 500-level except by permission of the MAR director. The concentration chosen may alter the general core requirements listed below. For example, if a student concentrates in theology, then the core requirements are reduced by two courses (TH 501 & TH 502). This, in effect, would increase the student's available electives from three to five.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two semesters of a second language (or demonstrate equivalent proficiency therein). Fulfillment of this requirement will be determined by the MAR director, taking into account the area of concentration, the student's background and vocational goals.

General Core Requirements:
Complete up to eight courses in the areas of Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and Practical Theology. Depending on one's declared concentration, the number of required courses may vary.

General Electives:
Complete at least three elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MAR students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams during their new student orientation. Those who do not pass the competency exams, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives. (See Bible Competency Exams)
**Learning Covenant:**
Before the completion of six courses, MAR students must draft a learning covenant for discussion with and approval by the MAR Director. The form for such contracts and related documents must contain the following: Statement of purpose specifying a vocational goal or other organizing principle for the program; specification of the 20 courses required, organized as to area of concentration, general courses, language (if required), and electives, with rationale describing how these courses contribute to the student's stated vocational goals; tentative integrative paper or project title. Any changes made to the learning covenant after initial approval must be accomplished via the formal waiver process (see *Waivers*).

**MAR Integrative Paper or Project:**
Complete an integrative paper or project equivalent to one course credit (three credit hours). Before completion of the tenth course, the student is to submit a paper or project proposal for approval by the MAR program director. Successful completion of ten courses plus approval of the proposal admits the student to candidacy for the degree. *(See Integrative Paper or Project for the MAR and Style Guidelines)*

**Area of Concentration (6 courses/18 credits)**
- □ 6 courses in the area of concentration, as approved by the program director

**General Core Requirements (8 courses/24 credits maximum)**
- □ CH 500 Survey of Church History
- □ Ethics course (Any ET or SE course)
- □ New Testament: select *one* from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- □ Old Testament: select *one* from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- □ TH 501 Theology Survey I
- □ TH 502 Theology Survey II
- □ World Missions or Evangelism course (Any WM or EV course)
- □ One course selected from the Division of Practical Theology
  - (CL, EM, EV, MC, PC, PR, PT, SF, YM)

**Integrative Paper or Project (1 course/3 credits)**

**Language Requirement (2 courses/6 credits)**
- □ GL or OL 501 or alternative language
- □ GL or OL 502 or alternative language
Electives (at least 3 courses/9 credits)
Note Bible competency requirement above.

Master of Arts (Religion) Degree Goals
1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To be exposed to a rigorous study and practice of theology in its various disciplines through diverse faculty voices
3. To demonstrate integration through a cumulative educational experience that embraces both academic preparation and life experiences
4. To foster passionate commitment to ministry through individualized and flexible course of study and faculty involvement
5. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian's ethical responsibility in church and society
6. To acquire a biblical perspective and Christian worldview on the forces in our culture and to learn to engage those as they are at work both outside and inside the life of the church
7. To develop a global vision for the Christian church.
MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Graduation Requirements
The students participating in this degree program must complete the required courses, maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts in Counseling program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts in Counseling program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Number of Courses:
The number of courses required in the program will vary, depending on which track is selected. More than 20 courses are required for the Marriage and Family Therapist and the Mental Health Counselor tracks in order to meet Gordon-Conwell’s expectation of a biblical and theological core as well as expectations of agencies which certify counselors.

General Core Requirements:
Complete at least six courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

Marriage and Family Track:
Students who are seeking counseling licenses in the state of Massachusetts must complete the 15 courses noted below for fulfilling marriage and family licensure requirements.

Mental Health Track:
Students who are seeking counseling licenses in the state of Massachusetts must complete the 15 courses noted below for fulfilling mental health licensure requirements.

Annual and Summative Student Review
The MACO Program is charged with the task of preparing students to become professional counselors and marriage and family counselors in a variety of settings and to assume leadership in the mental health field and in the church. In order to fulfill these responsibilities, the MACO program has the following Policy and Procedures for student retention, remediation, and dismissal from the Program. Faculty members and the program administrator review MACO students at least annually and before graduation based on (1) academic integrity and performance, (2) ethical practice and clinical skill development needed for delivery of competent clinical services, and (3) professional dispositions, which are defined as students’ commitments, characteristics, values, beliefs, and interpersonal behaviors that influence their professional growth and interactions with clients and others.

The annual review serves two main purposes:
1. To provide students with information related to their progress that will enable them to take advantage of their strengths and to remediate weakness in academic and professional development

2. To provide counseling program faculty with information about the progress of students that will facilitate decisions being made that are in the best interest of students, the profession they are preparing to enter, and the public.

**Bible Competency:**
All MACO students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams during their new student orientation. Those who do not pass the competency exams, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as additional courses (see Bible Competency Exams).

**Students in either MACO track must complete the following courses:**

**General Core Requirements (6-9* courses/18-27* credits)**
- CH 500 Survey of Church History
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- New Testament course selected from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- TH 501 Theology Survey I
- TH 502 Theology Survey II
- World Missions or Evangelism course (Any WM or EV course)
  *Students who complete CO/WM712 as part of their concentration may waive the World Missions core requirement*
- OT 500 Old Testament Survey
  *For those who do not pass the OT competency exam*
- NT 501 New Testament Survey
  *For those who do not pass the NT competency exam*

**Practicum/Internship (3 courses/9 credits)**
- CO 863 Clinical Practicum
- Choose from the following:
  - CO 864A & 864B Clinical Internship 1 & 2 for Marriage and Family Track
  - CO 865A & 865B Clinical Internship 1 & 2 for Mental Health Track

**Professional Seminars (3 courses/6 credits)**
☐ CO 871 Professional Practicum Seminar

☐ Choose from the following:
  CO 872A & 872B Prof. Internship Sem. 1 & 2 for Marriage and Family Track
  CO 873A & 873B Prof. Internship Sem. 1 & 2 for Mental Health Track

**Colloquium (1 course/3 credits)**

☐ CO 801A & 801B Integrative Seminar (each is a "half course" of 1.5 credit hours)

*Note Bible competency requirement above.*

**MACO Concentration Requirements**

All MACO students must select one of the following areas of concentration:

**Mental Health Track** (15 Courses/45 credits)

☐ CO 500 Introduction to Counseling
☐ CO 507 Clinical Counseling Skills
☐ CO/SF 610 Lifespan Development: Implications for Counseling
☐ CO 611 Theories of Personality
☐ CO 699 Research Methods & Design
☐ CO 710 Psychopathology
☐ CO/PC/SF 711 Group Process
☐ CO/WM 712 Multicultural Diversity in Counseling

☐ Choice of one from the following:
  CO 732 Psych. Testing: Personality Development
  CO735 Assessment in Counseling

☐ CO 740 Career Counseling and Lifestyle Development
☐ CO 790 Professional Standards and Ethics

☐ Choice of four from the following Counseling Electives:
  CO/ 602 Human Sexuality
  CO 614 Family Systems Theory
  CO 615 Sociology of the Family
  -or- CO/MC/SF 642 Ministering to Women in Pain
  CO 616 Cognitive Psychology
  CO/PC 671, Suicide Prevention for Professional Caregivers
  CO 709 Counseling in Addictive Behaviors
  CO 714 Family Counseling/Therapy
  CO 716 Couples Counseling
  CO/PC 717 Counseling in Abuse and Domestic Violence
  CO 720 Counseling Children
CO/PC/YM 725 Counseling the Adolescent
CO/EM/PC 741 Counseling the Aged: Intro to Gerontology

**Marriage and Family Track** (15 Courses/45 credits)

- ☒ CO 500 Introduction to Counseling
- ☒ CO 507 Clinical Counseling Skills
- ☒ CO/SF 610 Lifespan Development: Implications for Counseling
- ☒ CO 611 Theories of Personality
- ☒ CO 614 Family Systems Theory
- ☒ CO 699 Research Methods & Design
- ☒ CO 710 Psychopathology
- ☒ CO 714 Family Counseling/Therapy
- ☒ CO 716 Couples Counseling
- ☒ CO 790 Professional Standards
- ☐ *Choice of five from the following:*
  - CO 602 Human Sexuality
  - CO 615 Sociology of the Family
  - -or- CO/MC/SF 642 Ministering to Women in Pain
  - CO 709 Counseling in Addictive Behaviors
  - CO/WM 712 Multicultural Diversity in Counseling
  - CO/PC 717 Counseling in Abuse and Domestic Violence
  - CO 720 Counseling Children
  - CO/PC/YM 725 Counseling the Adolescent
  - CO/EM/PC 741 Counseling the Aged: Intro to Gerontology

**Master of Arts in Counseling Goals**

1. Adopt the roles, functions and identity of a competent member of the counseling profession (Professional Counselor Orientation) or the marriage and family therapy profession (Professional Marriage and Family Therapy Orientation).
2. Practice ethical decision-making in matters related to client welfare and interagency collaboration and consultation (Ethical Practice).
3. Provide competent, culturally relevant counseling and advocate to eliminate social injustices (Social and Cultural Diversity).
4. Implement developmentally relevant and strengths-based approaches in counseling (Human Growth and Development).
5. Equip clients for career decision-making and life planning across the lifespan (Career).
7. Provide evidence-based group counseling and group process, informed by theories and best-practice models (Group Counseling and Group Work).
8. Conduct assessment of clients’ cognitive, affective, behavioral and social functioning by means of reliable and valid measures and approaches (Assessment and Testing).

9. Reflect critically on research to evaluate counseling practices and programs (Research and Program Evaluation).

10. Integrate counseling theory and practice with the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith as consistent with the Gordon-Conwell Statement of Faith.
MASTER OF ARTS IN WORLD MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Graduation Requirements
Students in this program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 2.0 or more and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts in World Missions and Evangelism program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts in World Missions and Evangelism program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
Complete eight courses in World Missions and Evangelism.

Language Requirement:
Complete at least two semesters of a second language (or demonstrate equivalent proficiency therein). Fulfillment of the language requirement will be determined by the program director, taking into account the student's background and vocational goals.

General Core Requirements:
Complete six courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

Practicum:
Complete field education course.

Personal and Professional Development:
Complete one course in spiritual formation as well as two courses in additional areas.

Bible Competency:
All MAME students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses, or by passing the Bible competency exams during their new student orientation. Those who do not pass the competency exams, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as electives. (See Bible Competency Exams)

Summative Evaluation:
A summative evaluation is required of all MAME students and will take the form of an integrative paper and oral exam. For students who have learned English as a second language, an increased integrative paper may replace the oral exam (see *Summative Evaluation for MA Students*).

**General Core Requirements (6 courses/18 credits)**
- ☐ CH 500 Survey of Church History
- ☐ Ethics course (Any ET or SE course)
- ☐ New Testament course selected from the following:
  - NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
- ☐ Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
- ☐ TH 501 Theology Survey I
- ☐ TH 502 Theology Survey II

**Practicum (1-2 courses/3-6 credits)**

Choose from one of the following sequences:
- ☐ WM 721 Overseas Missions Practicum
  
  or

- ☐ MC 621 Living Systems in the Urban Context

**Language Requirement (2 courses/6 credits)**
- ☐ GL or OL 501 or alternative language
- ☐ GL or OL 502 or alternative language

**Personal & Professional Development (3 courses/9 credits)**
- ☐ MC/SF 501 Spiritual Formation for Ministry
- ☐ General Elective
- ☐ General Elective

*Note Bible competency requirements above.*

**Concentration Requirements (8 courses/24 credits)**

- ☐ *Choice of one from the following:*
  - WM 601 The World Mission of the Church
  - WM/TH 602 Theology of Mission

- ☐ *Choice of one from the following:*
  - CH/WM 603 History of Missions
  - CH/WM 610 Advance of the Church in the Non-Western World

- ☐ *Choice of one from the following:*
  - WM 648 Cross-Cultural Church Planting
EV 665 Church Planting & Growth

☐ Choice of one from the following:
   - EV 683 Small Group Evangelism
   - EV 701 Evangelism and Discipleship Through the Local Church

☐ Choice of one from the following:
   - WM 722 Applied Anthropology for Missions
   - AP 602 Cultural Apologetics

☐ Choice of two from the following:
   - AP/WM 645 Introduction to Hinduism
   - AP/WM 646 Introduction to Buddhism
   - AP/WM 647 Introduction to Islam
   - TH/WM 626 Evangelical Perspectives on Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy
   - TH/WM 659 Evangelical Theology & World Religions

☐ WM or EV Elective

**Master of Arts in World Missions and Evangelism Goals**

1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings, as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To become familiar with the basic contours of the history of Christian missions
3. To experience a field-specific, cross-cultural mission internship so as to develop the skills and a deep commitment to the worldwide communication of the gospel in strategic partnership with the global church
4. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian’s ethical responsibility in church and society
5. To appreciate and be sensitive to the cultural, religious and social contexts of the peoples of the world and develop appropriate strategies for communicating the gospel into those contexts, with a special emphasis on those who currently have no access to the gospel or where the church is not yet viable
6. To engage in biblical and theological reflections which are particularly essential for effective cross-cultural ministries.
MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Graduation Requirements
Students in this program must complete 20 courses (60 credit hours) with a grade point average of 2.0 or more and be present for graduation exercises. Students in the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation program may not take more than ten Semlink/online courses (30 credit hours). All coursework applied to the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation program must be completed within a seven-year period.

Program Director
The director of the MASF program serves as the primary contact for MASF students and is available to provide counsel and assist students in developing their programs and understanding the special requirements of the spiritual direction track. All MASF students must meet with the program director prior to beginning their studies.

Degree Requirements

Spiritual Formation Core Courses:
Complete eight courses in Spiritual Formation as specified below.

General Core Requirements:
Complete nine courses in the areas of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought.

General Electives:
Complete three elective courses.

Bible Competency:
All MASF students must demonstrate Bible competency either by successfully completing the Old and/or New Testament survey courses or by passing the Bible competency exams. Those who do not pass the competency exams during their new student orientation, or elect not to sit for the exams, will be required to complete OT 500 Old Testament Survey and/or NT 501 New Testament Survey as part of their core requirements. Students who pass the exams may choose either to take OT and NT electives in place of OT 500 and NT 501 respectively or request advanced standing credit for OT 500 and NT 501, thereby reducing the number of required courses in the program.

Experiential Learning Component
All students in the MASF degree will be required to complete experiential learning components outside of the classroom. These include at least four personal retreats (included in spiritual formation course requirements) as well as experience in one of the following areas: Mentored Ministry, Pierce Fellow, LifeStory Exegesis, or Spiritual Direction certificate (see requirements below for details).
**Summative Evaluation:**
A summative evaluation is required of all MASF students and will take the form of an integrative paper and oral exam. For students who have learned English as a second language, an increased integrative paper may replace the oral exam (see *Summative Evaluation for MA Students*).

**Spiritual Direction Track:**
MASF students may choose to pursue an optional track in spiritual direction by special application and acceptance into the track. Students in the track will be required to complete the entire standard MASF plus a series of additional co-curricular requirements offered through Selah (Leadership Transformations, Inc.) at additional cost (paid directly to Selah). The additional co-curricular requirements include four Selah spiritual direction retreats, four semesters of receiving spiritual direction, three semesters of offering spiritual direction to two directees, and four semesters of supervision by Selah faculty. Students may optionally choose to receive one course of credit (three credit hours) for their spiritual direction training in their final semester by registering for the directed study course SF 611 Spiritual Direction: Theory and Practice. Please be aware that some additional requirements will be necessary. SF 611 could fulfill an SF elective requirement or count as a general elective.

**Spiritual Formation Core (8 courses/24 credits)**
- CH/SF 591 Dynamics of Spiritual Life
- MC/SF 501, Spiritual Formation for Ministry
- CO/SF 727, Spiritual Development and Psychopathology
- Choice of one from the following:
  - CH/SF 618, Medieval Spirituality*
  - CH/SF 765, Advanced Reading in Christian Spirituality (Advance Reading topics/eras include Patristics, Reformation, Puritan, 20th Century, Pentecostalism, Global)
- CH/SF 765, Advanced Reading in Christian Spirituality (must be different topic/era than above)
- 3 Spiritual Formation Electives (any SF courses other than CH/SF 765)

*Selah (LTi) requires that students participating in their spiritual direction training program take CH/SF 618, Medieval Spirituality.

**General Core Requirements (9 courses/27 credits)**
- CH 500 Survey of Church History
- Ethics Course (Any ET or SE course)
- OT 500 Old Testament Survey or OT Elective (if OT competency exam passed)*
- Old Testament course selected from the following:
  - OT 501, OT 502, OT 505, OT 511, OT 577, OT 590 or OT 595
☐ NT 501 New Testament Survey or NT Elective (if NT competency exam passed)*
☐ New Testament course selected from the following:
   NT 502, NT 503, NT 504, NT 575, NT 577, NT 582 or NT 586
☐ TH 501 Theology Survey I
☐ TH 502 Theology Survey II
☐ CO/WM 712 Multicultural Diversity in Counseling

* Note Bible competency requirement above

General Electives (3 courses/9 credits)

Experiential Learning Requirement
☐ Choice of one from the following:
   ☐ Mentored Ministry Orientation plus two Mentored Ministry field units
      (MM501, 502, and 602)
   ☐ Two semesters as a Pierce Fellow. Involves being a member of a supervised
      Pierce Soul Care group that meets every two weeks, receiving individual spiritual
      direction twice a semester, and leading a Pierce Soul Care group once every two
      weeks.
   ☐ Two semesters of LifeStory Exegesis training. Involves being a member of a
      supervised LifeStory exegesis group that meets five or more times per semester,
      receiving individual supervision twice a semester, and leading a LifeStory
      Exegesis group five or more times in a semester and/or leading five or more
      individuals through LifeStory exegesis material.
   ☐ Completion of certificate in Spiritual Direction through Selah

Spiritual Direction Track

Additional Co-Curricular Requirements
Due to the complexity and special nature of these requirements, all MASF students must meet
with the director of the MASF program at the beginning of their studies for instructions on how
these requirements are to be completed. Most elements require participation in the spiritual
direction training program offered through Selah (Leadership Transformations, Inc.) at additional
cost (paid directly to Selah). Students must find their own spiritual director for the requirement
of receiving spiritual direction and pay any costs associated with this directly to their spiritual
directors. The arrangements and the payment to/from any third parties are financially separate
from the seminary and entirely the student’s responsibility, although a list of approved spiritual
directors and supervisors will be provided by Selah.
Spiritual Direction Track:
- 4 Selah Spiritual Direction Retreats + retreat assignments
- 4 semesters of receiving spiritual direction (3 times each semester)
- 3 semesters of offering spiritual direction to 2 directees (3 times per directee each semester)
- 4 semesters of supervision by Selah faculty

Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation Degree Goals
1. To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testament in their historical and cultural settings, as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith
2. To foster love for God and his Word and therefore to cultivate the practices of prayer and worship, deeper intimacy with Christ, spiritual maturity, Christ-like character, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, as well as to understand the Christian’s ethical responsibility in church and society
3. To understand the various historical and contemporary models of Christian spirituality and how to evaluate them from biblical, theological, pastoral, and counseling perspectives
4. To gain skills in the spiritual formation of individuals, groups, and churches, and to faithfully and effectively integrate biblical truth into spiritual formation
5. To gain experience in understanding cultural backgrounds toward effective expression and application of biblical truth in spiritual formation, with the goal of ministering to both Christians and those who are not Christian believers
MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Graduation Requirements
Students participating in the Master of Theology program must complete between eight and twelve courses (24-36 credit hours), depending on the student’s track and level of preparedness, with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be present for graduation ceremonies. The tracks in Christian Thought and Practical Theology require eight courses (24 credit hours). The tracks in Biblical Studies require twelve courses (36 credit hours), four of which may be waived by demonstrated competency in the use of biblical languages or may be applied to additional cross-disciplinary study or pre-doctoral course work. Students in the Master of Theology program are not permitted to take any Semlink/online courses. No more than two courses may be taken at schools in the Boston Theological Institute, and these only by approval of the Th.M. director. All coursework applied to the Master of Theology program must be completed within a four-year period.

Th.M. Program Directors
Each student designs his or her coursework in consultation with a Th.M. program director. There are three program directors, one over the Th.M. tracks in Biblical Studies, one supervising the Th.M. tracks in Christian Thought and one directing the Th.M. in Preaching.

Degree Requirements

Area of Concentration:
At least five courses will be taken in an area of concentration. These courses will be determined in consultation with a Th.M. director, and their number may be reduced if the student writes a thesis (see Th.M. Writing Project or Thesis below).

Th.M. Research Seminar:
Student with concentrations in Practical Theology or Christian Thought must complete a Master of Theology Research Methods Seminar appropriate to the concentration, which counts as one course. Student with concentrations in Biblical Studies may waive this course with the approval of their Th.M. director.

Language Requirement:
A student electing to enroll in one of the Biblical Studies tracks (Old Testament, New Testament, or Biblical Theology) must have successfully completed one year of biblical Greek and one year of biblical Hebrew prior to beginning the program. The student’s level of proficiency with the biblical languages will be assessed through Greek and Hebrew competency exams administered during orientation. Students who are deficient either in the languages or in the skills of exegesis, as determined by the Th.M. director, may be required to take refresher language courses, basic exegesis courses, or both as part of their required course load.
A student electing to enroll in one of the Christian Thought tracks (Church History, Historical Theology, Theology, Theology and Culture, Missiology) or the Practical Theology track (Preaching) may be required to pass an examination in Latin or a modern research language where appropriate to the student's research interest. This will be determined by the relevant Th.M. director.

**Electives:**
Student concentrating in Preaching will have flexibility in choosing preaching electives (with the approval of their Th.M. director), but they may not take any courses outside of their area of concentration. For all others, no more than two courses may be taken in an area outside but related to the student's area of concentration. In the case of students in the Biblical Studies tracks who have passed the appropriate language competency exams, supplemental courses pursued beyond the core eight may be allowed to exceed this limit. The relevant Th.M. director must approve all elective courses.

**Th.M. Writing Course or Thesis:**
Every Th.M. student must choose, in consultation with their Th.M. director, whether to write a thesis (80-100 pages) or complete a Th.M Writing Course (including a major paper of 30-50 pages). In both cases, the student will need the approval of the professor with whom they want to work on the project and from their Th.M. director. If a student will not pursue a thesis, then they must select one course from their concentration in which they plan to complete the Th.M. Writing Course (making use of the "Writing Course Petition" available in the Registration Office). In this course, they will write one major research paper, giving evidence of competencies similar to those demonstrated in the thesis.

Students who decide, with the approval of their Th.M. director, to write a thesis are exempt from the Th.M. Writing Course. Instead, they will complete a thesis registered as two of the student's required courses (see *Thesis*). Because of the nature of preaching, students in this track are excused from the thesis/writing course requirement. They will complete their eight courses under the supervision of the director of the Th.M. Preaching track.

**Th.M. Comprehensive Examination:**
Students in Biblical Studies tracks must sit for an examination testing mastery of a theological discipline (i.e., Old Testament studies, New Testament studies, or Biblical Theology). For those who write a thesis, the comprehensive examination will be linked with their oral thesis defense. For students writing a major paper in a Th.M. Writing Course, the examination will be done at the end of the semester with the professor of the writing course serving as the first examiner. The second examiner will be either the Th.M. director or the division chair; in the case of a focus on Biblical Theology, another professor will volunteer.

**Th.M.-Level Coursework:**
At least four of the courses in the Christian Thought tracks must be taken at the Th.M. level, either through courses designed exclusively for advanced-level studies (i.e., 900-level courses),
or by taking M.A. or M.Div. courses which are also being offered by the course instructor on an advanced level for Th.M. students.

At least eight of the twelve courses in the Biblical Studies tracks must be taken at the Th.M. level. Four of the eight must be taken through courses designed exclusively for advanced-level studies (i.e., 900-level courses) and the remaining four may be completed by taking additional 900-level courses or by taking M.A. or M.Div. courses which are also being offered by the course instructor on an advanced level for Th.M. students. The final four supplementary courses in the Biblical Studies tracks may be taken at any level subject to the discretion of the Th.M. director.

At least four of the courses in the Practical Theology (preaching) track must be taken at the Th.M. level in courses designed exclusively for advanced-level studies (i.e., 900-level courses).

Independent study courses are possible in all tracks, since the Th.M. is a research degree. No courses offered in the seminary's D.Min. program are available for enrollment by Th.M. students.

**Th.M. Approved Program Plan:**
Students are required to meet with their Th.M. director during the first two weeks of their first semester to establish a program plan. (Students who do not submit an approved program plan to the Registration Office will be deregistered from all current courses and prevented from registering for future courses.) This plan will list all courses the student intends to complete in order to fulfill his or her program requirements. A copy, signed by student and director, will then be submitted to the Registration Office for degree tracking purposes.

**Biblical Studies Division Tracks**

**Master of Theology**

**Old Testament Concentration (12 Courses/36 credits)**
- □ 4 Approved OT courses - No more than two Ancient Near Eastern language courses (OL 910 or above)
- □ OT 991 Thesis part I or Approved OT Elective
- □ OT 992 Thesis part II or Th.M. OT Writing Course
- □ 2 Approved elective courses in Biblical Studies
- □ 4 Supplemental Courses (optional waivers available)

*Note Th.M-level coursework requirements above.*
Master of Theology

New Testament Concentration (12 Courses/36 credits)

☐ 4 Approved NT courses - No more than two language courses (OL 912, GL 901 or above)
☐ NT 991 Thesis part I or Approved NT Elective
☐ NT 992 Thesis part II or Th.M. NT Writing Course
☐ 2 Approved elective courses in Biblical Studies
☐ 4 Supplemental Courses (optional waivers available)

Note Th.M-level coursework requirements above.

Master of Theology

Biblical Theology Concentration (12 Courses/36 credits)

☐ 4 Approved NT or OT courses - No more than two language courses (OL 910/GL 901 or above)
☐ NT/OT 991 Thesis part I or Approved NT or OT Elective
☐ NT/OT 992 Thesis part II or Th.M. NT or OT Writing Course
☐ 2 Approved elective courses in Biblical Studies
☐ 4 Supplemental Courses (optional waivers available)

Note Th.M-level coursework requirements above.

Christian Thought Division Tracks

Master of Theology

Church History, Historical Theology, Theology, Theology and Culture and Missiology Concentrations (8 Courses/24 credits)

☐ 3 courses appropriate to the concentration (CH or TH or WM)
☐ Thesis part I or additional concentration course
☐ Thesis part II or Th.M. Writing Course
☐ CH/TH/WM 901 Th.M. Research Seminar in Christian Thought
☐ Approved Elective
☐ Approved Elective

Note Th.M-level coursework requirements above.

Practical Theology Division Track

Preaching (8 Courses/24 credits)

☐ PR 926A/B The Preacher and the Message
☐ PR 901 Th.M. Research Seminar in Preaching
☐ PR 912 Sams Visiting Professor Course (or approved 900-level PR course)
☐ 5 Approved Preaching Elective

Note Th.M-level coursework requirements above.
Master of Theology Degree Goals

1. To gain greater competency and skill in an area of specialization by employing the most valuable research methods and resources for the specialized area of study with rigor and excellence, in keeping with the highest tradition of Christian scholarship and to gain the capacity to formulate productive questions for further investigation.

2. To build upon the strengths of the M.Div. program by sharpening skills in biblical exegesis and knowledge and understanding of God's inerrant Word, as it applies to the area of specialization.

3. To carry out the specialized studies within the highest tradition of Christian scholarship with rigor and excellence.

4. To engage with contemporary issues in the area of specialization from the framework of a biblical worldview.