



**THE MASTER'S SEMINARY**

2019–2020 | Master of Theology Handbook

## Program Overview

The Master of Theology (ThM) degree is designed to provide a focused study in a specific facet of biblical or theological studies, equipping the student to hone the exegetical and theological skills necessary for teaching in local pastoral ministry, conducting a training ministry, and researching and writing for the church and academia. Upon completion, the student will be equipped to fulfill a teaching position and/or will be prepared to enter into a doctoral level program such as the PhD.

The 28-unit ThM program offers semester-length modular courses that provide specialized preparation in the disciplines of New Testament (NT), Old Testament (OT), and Theological Studies (TH). The majority of coursework pertains to the student's chosen discipline. The course of study is designed to provide the basis for further specialized study in advanced degrees such as the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). In addition to coursework in the chosen discipline, students will take research, writing, and teaching courses in the subject area of Educational Pedagogy (EP).

## Learning Outcomes

The purpose of the ThM program is detailed in a series of learning objectives, which reflect the educational results intended for students in both broad and particular ways.

### *Program-level Outcomes*

The following *Program-level Learning Outcomes* (PLOs) guide the structure of the ThM curriculum:

- PLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of biblical or theological studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- PLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Hebrew and Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- PLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- PLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

### *Discipline-level Outcomes*

In adherence to the objectives of the ThM program, the NT, OT, and TH disciplines follow specific *Discipline-level Learning Outcomes* (DLOs).

#### New Testament (NT) Studies:

The discipline of New Testament Studies provides advanced mastery in the skills and research of New Testament language as well as the grammatico-historical interpretation and exegesis of its literature, culminating in a specialized research portfolio.

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of New Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.

- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

#### Old Testament (OT) Studies:

The discipline of Old Testament studies provides advanced mastery in the skills and research of the Hebrew Bible as well as in critical thinking skills related to exegetical and apologetical aspects of Old Testament studies, culminating in a specialized research portfolio.

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of Old Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Hebrew translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

#### Theological Studies (TH):

The Division of Theological Studies offers students advanced specialized training in the major categories of theology and promotes expertise in a specific area of theology through the writing of a specialized research portfolio.

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of systematic or historical theology, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegetical theologian*, refine skills in biblical languages in order to develop a sound methodology for critically engaging theological issues.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

#### *Educational Pedagogy (EP)*

Training in Educational Pedagogy (EP) supports all discipline-level outcomes. EP courses provide the student with the skills necessary to fulfill a variety of ministries related to biblical and theological teaching and writing in the church and also in academia. The courses aim to refine the student's skills as a scholarly researcher, instructor, and writer, and to qualify him for potential doctoral studies.

The combination of coursework in the chosen discipline and in Educational Pedagogy is designed to develop practical teaching and writing skills in a specialized area of research that will culminate in a scholarly thesis-equivalent research portfolio suitable for development in teaching and in future doctoral work.

The four EP courses at the ThM-level are described as follows:

1. EP 810 Introduction to Academic Research (1 unit):  
The course lays a foundation of research and writing skills necessary for critically engaging scholarship, and for establishing a potential area of specialization from which the student is encouraged to design a scholarly research portfolio and draw out a potential doctoral dissertation.
2. EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy (1 unit):  
The course intends to help students understand instructional methodologies and learning theories that undergird the theologically-informed teaching of Pastor-Scholars to adult Christian students. The course addresses the role and function of the Pastor-Scholar in persuading for a conservative evangelical worldview largely through the development of scholarly argumentation in his chosen area of specialization. Reading selections aim to cultivate practical principles of instruction, and writing assignments aim to advance presentation skills for use inside and outside of the classroom.  
Prerequisite course: EP 810.
3. EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy (1 unit):  
The course applies teaching principles to two learning environments. First, students will design lesson plans and present classroom lectures to their peers on content from their research specializations. Second, using an online learning platform and instructional technology, students will design and assess curriculum in their areas of specialization for potential use in select cross-cultural academic contexts. Prerequisite course: EP 820.
4. NT/OT/TH 840 Advanced Research Methods (3 units):  
Students will construct and refine a scholarly corpus consisting of research papers written throughout the program totaling 35,000–50,000 words (approximately 150–200 pages). The instructor will advise as to additional pertinent writing, revisions, and formatting so that the portfolio provides a coherent literature review and contextual basis from which to draw a potential doctoral dissertation. Students will also work together in the revision process and in the pedagogical preparation of symposium-style research presentations. Prerequisite course: EP 830; to be taken in the final semester.

### *Core Skills Development*

The ThM curriculum is structured so that students will develop the following core skills:

1. Acquire critical reading skills in relation to historical, contemporary, and emerging scholarship from a variety of perspectives (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4).
2. Hone the academic writing skills of topic development, scholarly engagement, and persuasive argumentation (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4).
3. Utilize specific language skills for the purpose of translation, exegesis, and interpretation (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 4).
4. Develop research habits with application to scholarly writing and teaching (corresponds to PLOs 3, 4).
5. Gain effective teaching skills: clarity, engagement, persuasion, assessment, and management (corresponds to PLOs 3, 4).
6. Instruct in an area of specialization (corresponds to PLO 3).
7. Engage in designing advanced, specialized curriculum (corresponds to PLO 3).

## Program Details

The duration of the 28-unit ThM program is two to three years of full-time study (four or more credit hours per term), though part-time study is permissible. In the interest of preparing men for ministry and successive doctoral study, the program is not to exceed four years except by permission of the ThM committee. The program follows fall and spring semesters of 18 weeks.

Dedicated students can complete both the ThM and PhD programs at The Master’s Seminary in a total of 5 years. To expedite future doctoral studies, each ThM discipline includes four major exams, which serve as PhD qualifying exams.

### Modular Format and Schedule

Students can take up to 3 modular courses each semester. The semester-length modular courses allow for significant scheduling flexibility, as the majority of coursework is done from a distance. The student must come to the Los Angeles campus twice a year (Nov/Dec, May, per the below academic calendar).

The 18-week fall and spring terms are divided into 3 segments: 1. The pre-module period involves 10 weeks of interactive learning facilitated through the online platform Canvas; 2. The modular period lasts between 1–3 weeks at the Los Angeles campus each semester, as individual courses meet for one week each (or up to three weeks for certain language courses); 3. The post-module period allows for an additional 5 weeks of supplemental learning facilitated through Canvas after the on-campus modular period ends.

The following chart overviews the modular format for each term, particularly highlighting how one course per discipline is run for one week from the Los Angeles campus during the modular period. The student can take up to 3 courses without scheduling overlap during the modular period (see “Curriculum Layout”).

Course	Pre-Module	3-Week Modular Period			Post-Module
OT 01 NT 01 TH 01	10 weeks of pre-module work (via Canvas)	1-week module (LA campus)	Modular Period		5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)
OT 02 NT 02 TH 02	10 weeks of pre-module work (via Canvas)	Modular Period	1-week module (LA campus)	Modular Period	5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)
OT 03 NT 03 TH 03	10 weeks of pre-module work (via Canvas)	Extended Module for Akkadian, Latin, & German		1-week module (LA campus)	5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)

The academic calendar through 2023 is provided below.

2018–2019							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2018	Sept. 17	Sept. 17–Nov. 23	Nov. 26–30	Dec. 3–7	Dec. 10–14	Dec. 17–Jan. 18	Jan. 18
Spring 2019	Mar. 4	Mar. 4–May 10	May 13–17	May 20–24	May 27–31*	June 3–July 5	July 5

2019–2020							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2019	Sept. 23	Sept. 23–Nov. 29	Dec. 2–6	Dec. 9–13	Dec. 16–20	Dec. 23–Jan. 24	Jan. 24
Spring 2020	Mar. 2	Mar. 2–May 8	May 11 – 15	May 18–22	May 25–29*	June 1–July 3	July 3

2020–2021							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2020	Sept. 21	Sept. 21–Nov. 27	Nov. 30–Dec. 4	Dec. 7–11	Dec. 14–18	Dec. 21–Jan. 22	Jan. 22
Spring 2021	Mar. 1	Mar. 1–May 7	May 10–14	May 17–21	May 24–28	May 31–July 2	July 2

2021–2022							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2021	Sept. 20	Sept. 20–Nov. 26	Nov. 29–Dec. 3	Dec. 6–10	Dec. 13–17	Dec. 20–Jan. 21	Jan. 21
Spring 2022	Feb. 28	Feb. 28–May 6	May 9–13	May 16–20	May 23–27	May 30–July 1	July 1

2022–2023							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2022	Sept. 19	Sept. 19–Nov. 25	Nov. 28–Dec. 2	Dec. 5–9	Dec. 12–16	Dec. 19–Jan. 20	Jan. 20
Spring 2023	Mar. 6	Mar. 6–May 12	May 15–19	May 22–26	May 29–Jun. 2*	June 5–July 7	July 7

\* This module may need to be shortened by one day due to the observance of Memorial Day.

### Credit Hour Policy

A credit hour (or unit of study) is a time approximation of the amount of work required by the student to achieve the stated learning outcomes. Per the seminary’s credit hour policy, each 2-unit course in the ThM requires at least 120 hours of class time and course work. Courses will generally follow the pattern outlined below.

Pre-module session (10 weeks)	70 hours (7 hrs/week)	During the 10-week pre-module session the student will interact with the professor and students through Canvas’ online interface, and will complete assignments.
Module session (1 week)	20 hours (4–5 hrs/day)	During the 1-week module on the LA campus, the student will attend 20 hours of class (generally 4 hours per day for 5 days). Note: For Akkadian, Latin, and German the student will attend all 3 modular weeks, involving 3 hours of class time per day for 15 days to reach 45 hours of instruction.
Post-module session (5 weeks)	30 hours (6 hrs/week)	During the 5-week post-module session, the student must complete any remaining assignments.

## Curriculum Layout

The following pages present Curriculum Charts for each of the three disciplines, followed by Course Sequence Maps for completion of the program in either 2 or 3 years.

### Curriculum Charts

The Curriculum Charts present course numbers, titles, and units in checklist form according to the suggested two-year program duration.

#### *New Testament*

##### Year One–1st Semester

- EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research 1
- OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11 2
- NT 877 Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles 2
- NT 855 NT Textual Criticism\* 2
- Z**

##### Year One–2nd Semester

- EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy 1
- NT 870 Exegesis of John 2
- NT 856 Criticism of Syn. Gospels 2
- NT 853 Advanced Greek Grammar\* 2
- Z**

##### Year Two–1st Semester

- EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy 1
- TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology 2
- TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology 2
- LT 800 Theo. Latin\* (PhD track) 2
- Or
- Winterim Course (Non-PhD track) 2
- Z**

##### Year Two–2nd Semester

- NT 840 Advanced Research Methods 3
- NT 861 Exegesis of Luke-Acts 2
- GR 800 Theo. German\* (PhD Track) 2
- Or
- NT 899 Directed Study (Non-PhD) 2
- Z**

\* Incorporates PhD qualifying exam

#### *Old Testament*

##### Year One–1st Semester

- EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research 1
- OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11 2
- TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology 2
- OT 841 Old Testament Issues\* 2
- Z**

##### Year One–2nd Semester

- EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy 1
- NT 745 Exegesis of John 1–12 2
- OT 872 Biblical Aramaic 2
- OT 871 Advanced Hebrew Readings\* 2
- Z**

##### Year Two–1st Semester

- EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy 1
- TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology 2
- OT 863 Exegesis of Zechariah 2
- OT 873 Akkadian\* (PhD track) 2
- Or
- Winterim Course (Non-PhD track) 2
- Z**

##### Year Two–2nd Semester

- OT 839 Advanced Research Methods 3
- OT 853 Advanced Hebrew Grammar 2
- GR 800 Theo. German\* (PhD Track) 2
- Or
- OT 899 Directed Study (Non-PhD) 2
- Z**

\* Incorporates PhD qualifying exam

*Theological Studies*

Year One–1st Semester

- EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research 1
  - TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology 2
  - TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology 2
  - TH 805 Readings in Historical Theology\* 2
- 7**

Year One–2nd Semester

- EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy 1
  - NT 745 Exegesis of John 2
  - TH 828 Seminar in Dispensational Theo. 2
  - TH 807 Readings in Systematic Theology\* 2
- 7**

Year Two–1st Semester

- EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy 1
  - OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11 2
  - TH 813 Seminar in Bibliology 2
  - LT 800 Theological Latin\* (PhD track) 2
  - Or
  - Winterim Course (Non-PhD track) 2
- 7**

Year Two–2nd Semester

- TH 840 Advanced Research Methods 3
  - TH 816 Seminar in Theology Proper 2
  - GR 800 Theological German\* (PhD Track) 2
  - Or
  - TH 899 Directed Study (Non-PhD Track) 2
- 7**

\* Incorporates PhD qualifying exam



## Course Sequence Maps

The Course Sequence Maps propose how to proceed in the program without scheduling complications across a two- or three-year timeframe, starting Fall 2018. While the 2-year plan is ideal for advancing to doctoral studies, students can remain at the full-time status of at least 4 credit hours (units) and complete the program in 6 semesters.

Courses are listed with their paper and exam requirements, professor's name, and the modular week that the student must be present in the class on the Los Angeles campus (see academic calendar for dates). Note: The Winterim course for Non-PhD track students may be taken either on the LA campus or by livestreaming; contact the Administration for Winterim dates and course information.

### *New Testament 2-Year Plan*

#### Year 1

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 1
NT 877 Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 2
NT 855 NT Textual Criticism	Qualifying Exam	2	Farnell	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
NT 856 Criticism of Synoptic Gospels	Research Paper	2	Farnell	Week 2
NT 853 Advanced Greek Grammar	Qualifying Exam	2	Farnell	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

#### Year 2

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
TH 824 Seminar on Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
TH 888 Seminar on Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
PhD Track: LT 800 Theological Latin Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Nerdahl --	Weeks 1–3 Winterim
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
NT 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Burnett	Week 1
NT 861 Exegesis of Luke-Acts	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 2
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: NT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Nerdahl --	Weeks 1–3 --
<i>Total</i>		7		

\* Per faculty approval, students may write a thesis in lieu of the research portfolio.

*New Testament 3-Year Plan*

Year 1

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	--
	OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	NT 877 Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	Research Paper	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	NT 856 Criticism of Synoptic Gospels	Research Paper	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	4	

Year 2

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	NT 855 NT Textual Criticism	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	4	
Spring	EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	NT 861 Exegesis of Luke-Acts	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	NT 853 Advanced Greek Grammar	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	5	

Year 3

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	PhD Track: LT 800 Theo. Latin Non-PhD: Winterim (Livestream or LA)	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Weeks 1–3 Winterim
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	NT 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Week 1
	PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD Track: NT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Week 1–3 --
		<i>Total</i>	5	

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## Old Testament 2-Year Plan

### Year 1

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 1
TH 888 Seminar on Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
OT 841 Old Testament Issues	Qualifying Exam	2	Grisanti	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
OT 872 Biblical Aramaic	Translation Project	2	I. Zhakevich	Week 2
OT 871 Advanced Hebrew Readings	Qualifying Exam	2	Twiss	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

### Year 2

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
TH 824 Seminar on Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
OT 863 Exegesis of Zechariah	Research Paper	2	I. Busenitz	Week 2
PhD Track: OT 873 Akkadian Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	I. Zhakevich --	Weeks 1–3 Winterim
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
OT 839 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Burnett	Week 1
OT 853 Advanced Hebrew Grammar	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 2
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: OT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Nerdahl --	Weeks 1–3 --
<i>Total</i>		7		

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## Old Testament 3-Year Plan

### Year 1

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	--
	OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	TH 888 Seminar on Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	OT 872 Biblical Aramaic	Translation Project	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	4	

### Year 2

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	OT 863 Exegesis of Zechariah	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	OT 841 Old Testament Issues	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	4	
Spring	EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	OT 853 Advanced Hebrew Grammar	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	OT 871 Advanced Hebrew Readings	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	5	

### Year 3

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	PhD Track: OT 873 Akkadian Non-PhD: Winterim (Livestream or LA)	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Weeks 1–3 Winterim
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	OT 839 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Week 1
	PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD Track: OT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Week 1–3 --
		<i>Total</i>	5	

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*Theological Studies 2-Year Plan*

Year 1

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
TH 805 Readings in Historical Theo.	Qualifying Exam	2	N. Busenitz	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
TH 828 Seminar in Disp. Theo.	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
TH 807 Readings in Systematic Theo.	Qualifying Exam	2	Zuber	Week 3
<i>Total</i>		7		

Year 2

Fall				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	---	1	Burnett	---
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 1
TH 813 Seminar in Bibliology	Research Paper	2	Zuber	Week 2
PhD Track: LT 800 Theological Latin Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Nerdahl --	Weeks 1–3 Winterim
<i>Total</i>		7		

Spring				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
TH 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Burnett	Week 1
TH 816 Seminar in Theology Proper	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 2
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: Directed Study in Theology	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Nerdahl --	Weeks 1–3
<i>Total</i>		7		

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*Theological Studies 3-Year Plan*

Year 1

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	--
	TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology	Research Paper	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	NT 870 Exegesis of John	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	TH 828 Seminar in Disp. Theo.	Research Paper	2	Week 2
		<i>Total</i>	4	

Year 2

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	TH 813 Seminar in Bibliology	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	TH 805 Readings in Historical Theology	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	4	
Spring	EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	TH 816 Seminar in Theology Proper	Research Paper	2	Week 2
	TH 807 Readings in Systematic Theo.	Qualifying Exam	2	Week 3
		<i>Total</i>	5	

Year 3

Term	Course	Program Req.	Credits	Module
Fall	EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	--
	OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1-11	Research Paper	2	Week 1
	PhD Track: LT 800 Theo. Latin Non-PhD: Winterim (Livestream or LA)	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Weeks 1-3 Winterim
		<i>Total</i>	5	
Spring	TH 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio*	3	Week 1
	PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD Track: Theo. Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper	2	Week 1-3 --
		<i>Total</i>	5	

\* Per faculty approval, students may write a thesis in lieu of the research portfolio.

## Curriculum Maps

Curriculum mapping visually communicates how the instructional activities of specific discipline courses align with the ThM program learning outcomes. The below curriculum maps identify courses that introduce (I), reinforce (R), and master (M) core skills according to their discipline-level learning outcomes (DLOs). Overall assessment of each DLO is represented by the signature assignments of the courses where marked “A.”

### New Testament

DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of New Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.

DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.

DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.

DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

Required Courses		DLOs			
Course	Requirement	1	2	3	4
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	I			I
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper				R
NT 877 Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	Research Paper		I		R
NT 855 NT Textual Criticism	Qualifying Exam	R A			
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	R		I	R
NT 745 Exegesis of John 1–12	Research Paper		R		R
NT 856 Criticism of Synoptic Gospels	Research Paper	R			R
NT 853 Advanced Greek Grammar	Qualifying Exam		M A	R	
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	--			R A	R
TH 824 Seminar on Soteriology	Research Paper			R	R
TH 888 Seminar on Eschatology	Research Paper			R	R
PhD Track: LT 800 Theological Latin Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				
NT 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio* Symposium Pres.**	M A*		M A**	M A
NT 861 Exegesis of Luke-Acts	Research Paper		R A		R A
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: NT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				

## Old Testament

DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of Old Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.

DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Hebrew translation, exegesis, and interpretation.

DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.

DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

Required Courses		DLOs			
Course	Requirement	1	2	3	4
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	I			I
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper	I	I		R
TH 888 Seminar on Eschatology	Research Paper			I	R
OT 841 Old Testament Issues	Qualifying Exam	R			
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	R		I	R
NT 745 Exegesis of John 1–12	Research Paper		R		R
OT 871 Advanced Hebrew Readings	Qualifying Exam	R	A		
OT 872 Biblical Aramaic	Translation Project	R			
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	Teaching Project			A	R
TH 824 Seminar on Soteriology	Research Paper			R	R
OT 863 Exegesis of Zechariah	Research Paper	R	R		R
PhD Track: OT 873 Akkadian Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				
OT 839 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio* Symposium Pres.**	M A*		M A**	M A*
OT 853 Advanced Hebrew Grammar	Research Project		M A	A	M A
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: OT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				



## Theological Studies

DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of systematic or historical theology, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.

DLO #2: *As an advancing exegetical theologian*, refine skills in biblical languages in order to develop a sound methodology for critically engaging theological issues.

DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.

DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

Required Courses		DLOs			
Course	Requirement	1	2	3	4
EP 810 Intro. to Academic Research	--	I			I
TH 824 Seminar in Soteriology	Research Paper		I	I	R
TH 888 Seminar in Eschatology	Research Paper		R	I	R
TH 805 Readings in Historical Theo.	Qualifying Exam	R			
EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	R		I	R
NT 745 Exegesis of John 1–12	Research Paper		R		R
TH 828 Seminar in Disp. Theo.	Research Paper	R	R	R	R
TH 807 Readings in Systematic Theo.	Qualifying Exam	A	R		
EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy	Teaching Project	R		A	R
OT 861 Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	Research Paper		R		R
TH 813 Seminar in Bibliology	Research Paper	R	A	R	A
PhD Track: LT 800 Theological Latin Non-PhD: Winterim Course	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				
TH 840 Advanced Research Methods	Research Portfolio* Symposium Pres.**	M A*	M A*	M A**	M A*
TH 816 Seminar in Theology Proper	Research Paper		R	A	R
PhD Track: GR 800 Theo. German Non-PhD: Directed Study in Theology	Qualifying Exam; Research Paper				

## **Program Policies**

### **Admission Requirements**

The applicant must present an acceptable undergraduate baccalaureate degree and a graduate-level Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree (or the equivalent of the MDiv at TMS, as explained under “Prerequisites”), with a 3.25 grade point average in the graduate degree. Application may be made through the Office of Admissions, via [www.tms.edu/admissions](http://www.tms.edu/admissions). International applicants will find information on TOEFL and transcript requirements at [www.tms.edu/admissions/international-students](http://www.tms.edu/admissions/international-students).

### **Early Enrollment**

TMS MDiv students who are in their final year are eligible to apply for early acceptance into the program in order to begin ThM coursework in their final MDiv semester. Concurrent ThM coursework will be recorded only on the ThM transcript and will be charged at the ThM rate.

### **Prerequisites**

Applicants must have successfully completed a Master of Divinity (MDiv) program from an accredited institution or at least 72 credit hours of MDiv equivalency from an institution meeting ATS requirements. Below are the foundational courses that parallel the following core classes of the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree at The Master’s Seminary.

**Bible Exposition:** OT Survey, NT Survey, Hermeneutics

**New Testament:** Introduction to Greek Exegesis I and II, NT Introduction, Greek Exegesis Elective

**Old Testament:** Hebrew Grammar I and II, Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis, OT Introduction, Hebrew Exegesis Elective

**Theological Studies:** Theology courses covering all ten areas of systematic theology, courses covering historical theology

The applicant’s prior graduate-level courses will be compared to the following list of MDiv courses at TMS, detailed with unit totals per discipline and course numbers, as described in the Academic Catalog ([tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf](http://tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf)).

**Bible Exposition—14 units:** BI 501, 502, 505, 601

**Old Testament—14 units:** OT 503, 504, 603, 796 + exegesis elective

**New Testament—13 units:** NT 603, 604, 796 + exegesis elective

**Theological Studies—20 units:** TH 507, 508, 605, 606, 705, 706

Exact correspondence is not expected for applicants from other institutions, but applicants with curriculum deficiencies might be asked to fulfill a determined number of courses prior to completion of the application. More typically, however, deficiencies can be fulfilled during the first year of study in the program on academic probation.

## Program Fees

For current fee information see [www.tms.edu/admissions/financial-information/](http://www.tms.edu/admissions/financial-information/).

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

Scholarship funds are available on a limited basis for ThM students. Financial helps and stipulations are available at [www.tms.edu/admissions/financial-information/financial-aid](http://www.tms.edu/admissions/financial-information/financial-aid).

## Registration Information

Registering for courses involves two steps: preregistration and course registration. To access instructions for both steps, as well as course schedules and downloadable curriculum charts, log into Canvas and click on the Help icon on the left sidebar, then select Academic Documents and click on the link for ThM Students. Registration dates are listed on the Academic Documents page.

## Program Delays, Completion, Probation, and Removal

To qualify for graduation, candidates must have completed 28 credit hours of required coursework and present an acceptable research portfolio or optional thesis.

Students who extend their study in the ThM beyond four years must request permission in writing to the ThM Committee. Students requiring an extended pause from studies will be required to pay a continuing registration fee for each semester during which he is not registered in courses. Failure to do pay the continuing registration fee, or extending continuing registration for more than two semesters without registering for a course, will be viewed as withdrawal from the program.

The faculty retains the right to move a student to academic probation for and will provide a statement of stipulations and time frames for removal from the program if the student does not demonstrate improvement. No grade less than B- will be credited toward the ThM degree. Any ThM course research papers not submitted on time or submitted not conformed to course standards will result in a grade of "F" for the course and dismissal from the ThM program.

Candidates must also manifest affinity to the TMS doctrinal statement, commitment to Christian ministry, exhibit exemplary and consistent Christian character, and compliance with the policies of the institution as recorded in the Academic Catalog ([tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf](http://tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf)).

## Advising

Students are encouraged to interact with their professors, as time allows, on matters of academics, ministry, and life. However, the ThM Coordinator will serve as the student's primary contact throughout the program as to advising on registration, course plan, and the development of a research topic within an area of specialization. The ThM Coordinator will facilitate regular individual meetings for encouragement, academic feedback, and interaction regarding future plans and placement. The ThM Coordinator, Chris Burnett, can be contacted at [cburnett@tms.edu](mailto:cburnett@tms.edu) or 818-909-5668.

## Communication

TMS requires all email communication be sent from the student's @my.tms.edu email address or through the email function in Canvas. Faculty and staff will not reply to emails that come from personal email addresses. All communication from TMS staff and faculty will be sent to the student's email address or through Canvas. Following this strict procedure ensures user identification, server security, a reliable historical record of communication, and effective personal communication.

## Technology Requirements

To facilitate modular education, TMS utilizes the Canvas learning management system and BigBlueButton technologies for video conferencing. Students will need to have access to a computer capable of running these technologies. A computer of 5 years or newer will typically not have any problems. The minimum requirements for Canvas and BigBlueButton are a computer with at least 1GB of RAM a 2 GHz processor and running either Windows 7 or newer, Mac OSX 10.6 or newer, or Linux - chromeOS. Students also need a webcam, microphone, and have the free Adobe Flash (<https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>) player installed.

To accommodate video chat students must also have adequate internet speeds. Students must have at least 0.5mbps upstream bandwidth, and at least 1mbps download bandwidth. Students can test their internet speed for free using <http://www.speedtest.net/>. It is also recommended that students use headphones during group conference calls to reduce audio feedback and mute their microphones when not speaking. We recommend using either the FireFox or Chrome web browser.

## Dress Code

As men training for professional occupations as ministers of the gospel, conformity to certain standards of appearance is required while interacting with faculty, staff, and students whether through the video interface or during any visit to campus, including study time in the library. The Academic Catalog further addresses the topic ([tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf](https://tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf)), but a few notes will suffice here: for video-interface—conservative, dignified appearance, collared dress shirt, no tie required; for on-campus visits—conservative, dignified appearance, collared dress shirt, no tie required, slacks, dress socks, and dress shoes.

## Code of Conduct

As detailed in the Academic Catalog ([tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf](https://tms.edu/m/TMS-Academic-Catalog.pdf)), “students at The Master’s Seminary will maintain the highest of standards in personal conduct and biblical conviction,” including:

- Faithful involvement in the ministry of a local church.
- Personal and academic honesty, avoiding all forms of lying, plagiarism, cheating on exams or assignments.
- Compliance with personal and institutional financial obligations.
- Commitment to excellence with educational, employment, and ministry responsibilities.
- Prioritization of family relationships and responsibilities so as to maintain a biblical household, including abstaining from unbiblical sexual activities or relationship.