

PASTOR AS THEOLOGIAN

Master of Theology Program



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

THE PRIORITY OF SCRIPTURE IN THE PURSUIT OF SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM DISTINCTIVES

The Th.M. program enables students to:

❖ ENROLL without relocating to Los Angeles.

- The modular format allows students to do the majority of their coursework from a distance, coming to campus a couple times each year.
- Students can take up to 3 modular courses each semester.

Each modular course consists of 10 weeks of pre-modular instruction and interaction facilitated through an online interface. Students then come to campus for a one-week module (per course).^{*} After the on-campus portion of the course is complete, students receive up to 5 additional weeks of interactive instruction facilitated through an online interface.

^{*} Note that certain language courses (e.g. Akkadian, Latin, or German) involve 3-week modules, rather than just one week.

❖ ENGAGE in high-level biblical scholarship.

- Th.M. candidates study under faculty who are characterized by both academic excellence and an unwavering commitment to biblical truth.
- Students choose from one of three disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, or Systematic Theology.

❖ EXPEDITE future doctoral studies.

- Our focused curriculum is specifically designed to prepare students for the Doctor of Philosophy program.
- Both programs (Th.M. and Ph.D.) can be completed in a total of 5 years.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program-level Learning Outcomes

The four objectives listed below summarize the academic goals for each student who completes the Th.M. program.

1. *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of biblical or theological studies, gaining facility in its literature, and scholarship.
2. *As an advancing exegete*, employ a more refined skill set in Hebrew and Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
3. *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
4. *As an advancing contributor to the literature*, demonstrate critical thinking, in-depth interaction, thorough research and excellence in writing.

MODULAR FORMAT

How will the modular setup work for these courses?

- Each Fall and Spring term consists of 18 weeks.
- Each term consists of the following three segments:
 - **Pre-Module Period**

Before students come to campus, they engage in 10 weeks of interactive learning facilitated through Canvas.
 - **Modular Period**

The modular period lasts for 3 weeks each semester. Individual courses meet for one week (on campus) during that time.
 - **Post-Module Period**

After their time on campus ends, students engage in up to 5 additional weeks of supplemental learning facilitated through Canvas.

The following chart overviews the modular format for each term.

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 (on campus)	<i>Modular Period</i>		5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)
OT 02 NT 02 TH 02	10 weeks of pre-module work (via Canvas)	<i>Modular Period</i>	1-week module (on campus)	<i>Modular Period</i>	5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)
OT 03 NT 03 TH 03	10 weeks of pre-module work (via Canvas)	<i>Extended Module for Akkadian, Latin, & German</i>		1-week module (on campus)	5 weeks of post-module work (via Canvas)

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

The modular Th.M. program features three academic disciplines:

Old Testament

New Testament

Systematic Theology

Details:

- Each discipline includes three major exams, which are embedded in corresponding courses. These exams serve as Ph.D. qualifying exams.
- The curriculum also includes at least six major research papers (depending on the discipline). Each of these papers must be at least 25–30 pages in length.
- The Advanced Research Methods class is the capstone course for the Th.M.
 - The capstone project is a research portfolio that consists of the major research papers composed throughout the Th.M. program.
 - This research portfolio (of about 150–200 pp.) serves as a thesis equivalent.
 - Per faculty approval, select students may write a thesis in lieu of doing a research portfolio.

Summary:

Total Credit Hours:	28
Total Qualifying Exams:	3 (for Ph.D. Track)
Total Major Research Papers:	6–7

CURRICULUM MAP

2-Year Plan - Old Testament Discipline

Year 1

Fall 2018				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
Hebrew Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	Barrick	Week 1
Eschatology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
Old Testament Issues	Qualifying Exam	2	Murphy*	Week 3
Total		7		

* This course will normally be taught by Dr. Grisanti.

Spring 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Greek Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
Biblical Aramaic	Research Paper	2	I. Zhakevich	Week 2
Advanced Hebrew Readings	Qualifying Exam	2	Twiss	Week 3
Total		7		

Year 2

Fall 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Soteriology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
Hebrew Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Akkadian	Qualifying Exam	2	I. Zhakevich	Weeks 1-3
Non-Ph.D.: Winterim Elective	--		--	--
Total		7		

Spring 2020				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Advanced Research Methods	Research Project*	3	Burnett	Week 1
Advanced Hebrew Grammar	Research Paper	2	Murphy	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Theo. German Non-Ph.D.: OT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam --	2	Nerdhal --	Weeks 1-3 --
Total		7		

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

New Testament Discipline 2-Year Plan

Year 1

Fall 2018				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
Hebrew Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	Barrick	Week 1
Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	Research Paper	2	Osborne	Week 2
NT Textual Criticism	Qualifying Exam	2	Farnell	Week 3
Total		7		

Spring 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Greek Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
Synoptic Problem	Research Paper	2	Farnell	Week 2
Advanced Greek Grammar	Qualifying Exam	2	Osborne	Week 3
Total		7		

Year 2

Fall 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Soteriology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
Eschatology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Theological Latin	Qualifying Exam	2	Nerdhal	Weeks 1-3
Non-Ph.D.: Winterim Elective	--		--	--
Total		7		

Spring 2020				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Advanced Research Methods	Research Project*	3	Burnett	Week 1
Greek Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	Chou or Felix	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Theo. German Non-Ph.D.: NT Directed Study	Qualifying Exam	2	Nerdhal	Weeks 1-3
Total		7		

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

Systematic Theology Discipline 2-Year Plan

Year 1

Fall 2018				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Intro. to Academic Research	--	1	Burnett	--
Soteriology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 1
Eschatology Seminar	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
Readings in Historical Theo.	Qualifying Exam	2	N. Busenitz	Week 3
Total		7		

Spring 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Greek Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	M. Zhakevich	Week 1
Theology Seminar Elective	Research Paper	2	Vlach	Week 2
Readings in Systematic Theo.	Qualifying Exam	2	N. Busenitz	Week 3
Total		7		

Year 2

Fall 2019				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Practice of Pedagogy	--	1	Burnett	--
Hebrew Exegesis Elective	Research Paper	2	I. Busenitz	Week 1
Theology Seminar Elective	Research Paper	2	Klassen	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Theological Latin	Qualifying Exam	2	Nerdhal	Weeks 1-3
Non-Ph.D.: Winterim Elective	--		--	--
Total		7		

Spring 2020				
Course	Program Req.	Credits	Professor	Module
Advanced Research Methods	Research Project*	3	Burnett	Week 1
Theology Seminar Elective	Research Paper	2	Mook	Week 2
Ph.D. Track: Theo. German	Qualifying Exam	2	Nerdhal	Weeks 1-3
Non-Ph.D.: Theo. Dir. Study				
Total		7		

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

CURRICULUM MAP

3-Year Plan

For students who wish to move at a slower pace, the Th.M. can also be completed in 6 semesters. Students who take at least 4 credit hours per semester are considered full time.

Old Testament Discipline

Year 1

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Introduction to Academic Research	--	1
	Hebrew Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Eschatology Seminar (Paper)	Week 2	2
Spring			
	Greek Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Biblical Aramaic	Week 2	2

Year 2

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Hebrew Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 2	2
	Old Testament Issues (Exam)	Week 3	2
Spring	Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1
	Advanced Hebrew Grammar (Paper)	Week 2	2
	Advanced Hebrew Readings (Exam)	Week 3	2

Year 3

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Practice of Pedagogy	--	1
	Soteriology Seminar	Week 1	2
	PhD Track: Akkadian	Weeks 1–3	2
	Non-PhD Track: Winterim (Optional Livestream)	Winterim	2
Spring			
	Advanced Research Methods (Research Portfolio)	Week 1	3
	PhD Track: Theological German (Exam)	Week 3	2
	Non-PhD Track: Directed Study in Old Testament		

New Testament Discipline

Year 1

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Introduction to Academic Research	--	1
	Hebrew Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles (Paper)	Week 2	2
Spring			
	Greek Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Synoptic Problem (Paper)	Week 2	2

Year 2

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Eschatology Seminar (Paper)	Week 2	2
	NT Textual Criticism (Exam)	Week 3	2
Spring	Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1
	Greek Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 2	2
	Advanced Greek Grammar (Exam)	Week 3	2

Year 3

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Practice of Pedagogy	--	1
	Soteriology Seminar	Week 1	2
	PhD Track: Theological Latin Non-PhD Track: Winterim (Optional Livestream)	Weeks 1–3 Winterim	2
Spring			
	Advanced Research Methods (Research Portfolio)	Week 1	3
	PhD Track: Theological German (Exam) Non-PhD Track: Directed Study in New Testament	Weeks 1–3	2

Systematic Theology Discipline

Year 1

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Introduction to Academic Research	--	1
	Soteriology Seminar (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Eschatology Seminar (Paper)	Week 2	2
Spring			
	Greek Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	Theology Seminar Elective (Paper)	Week 2	2

Year 2

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Theology Seminar Elective (Paper)	Week 2	2
	Readings in Historical Theology (Exam)	Week 3	2
Spring	Philosophy of Pedagogy	--	1
	Theology Seminar Elective (Paper)	Week 2	2
	Readings in Systematic Theology (Exam)	Week 3	2

Year 3

Term	Course	Module	Credits
Fall	Practice of Pedagogy	--	1
	Hebrew Exegesis Elective (Paper)	Week 1	2
	PhD Track: Theological Latin Non-PhD Track: Winterim (Optional Livestream)	Weeks 1–3 Winterim	2
Spring			
	Advanced Research Methods (Research Portfolio)	Week 1	3
	PhD Track: Theological German (Exam) Non-PhD Track: Directed Study in Theology	Weeks 1–3	2

CREDIT HOURS

Modular Course Details

Per the seminary's credit hour policy, each 2-unit course in the Th.M. requires at least **120 hours** of work (including class time and course work).

While each course is different, courses will generally follow the pattern outlined below:

<p>70 hours (7 hours per week)</p>	<p>During the <u>10-week pre-module session</u>, , the student will need to complete various assignments related to the course. These may include reading, research and writing projects, translation exercises, and other assignments. The student will regularly report his progress through Canvas. <i>This session will also include regular points of interaction between the professor and the student.</i></p>
<p>20 hours (4–5 hours per day)</p>	<p>For those courses that involve a <u>1-week module</u>, the student will attend 20 hours of class. This class time will consist of 4 hours per day for 5 days. In certain instances, it will consist of 5 hours per day for 4 days.</p> <p>Note: For certain language courses (e.g., Akkadian, Latin, and German), the student will attend approximately 45 hours of class over a period of <u>3 weeks</u>. These courses involve 3 hours of class time per day for 15 days.</p> <p>For those courses that include an exam, the exam can be administered either on the final day of the module session, or after the module session ends. In either case, the exam must be proctored.</p>
<p>30 hours (6 hours per week)</p>	<p>During the <u>5-week post-module session</u>, the student must complete any remaining assignments (such as finalizing research papers) before the end of the term.</p>

NOTE: Due to the change in the Th.M. program's term dates, M.Div. students will no longer be permitted to take modular Th.M. courses for M.Div. credit.

COURSE LOAD

Faculty Teaching Requirements

In order for the Th.M. program to work, the following classes (with suggested faculty members) would need to be taught each year:

FALL		SPRING	
Old Testament Issues	Grisanti, Mike	Advanced Hebrew Readings	Twiss, Paul
Hebrew Ex. Elective (01)	Murphy, Bryan	Adv. Hebrew Grammar	Murphy, Bryan
Akkadian	Zhakevich, Joe	Biblical Aramaic	Zhakevich, Joe
Hebrew Ex. Elective (02)	Barrick, Bill (or) Busenitz, Irv	Greek Exegesis Elective (01)	Zhakevich, Mark
NT Textual Criticism	Farnell, Dave	Synoptic Problem	Farnell, Dave
Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	Osborne, Kelly	Advanced Greek Grammar	Osborne, Kelly
Theology Elective (01) <i>Bibliology</i>	Klassen, Brad	Greek Exegesis Elective (02)	Chou, Abner (or) Felix, Paul
Eschatology Seminar	Vlach, Mike	Theology Elective (02)	Vlach, Mike
Soteriology Seminar	Mook, Jim	Theology Elective (03)	Mook, Jim
Readings in Historical Theology	Busenitz, Nathan	Readings in Systematic Theology	Busenitz, Nathan
Theological Latin	Nerdhal, Matt (under Kelly Osborne)	Theological German	Nerdhal, Matt (under Joe Zhakevich)
		Advanced Research Methods	Burnett, Chris

Note: Chris Burnett will also oversee the Introduction to Academic Research, Philosophy of Pedagogy, and Practice of Pedagogy courses.

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

Th.M. Capstone Project

- The research portfolio is the capstone project of the Th.M. program. It is 150–200 pages in length and consists of 6 to 7 research papers that were written by the student throughout the Th.M. program. This project serves as a thesis equivalent.
- A number of theological schools do not require a thesis for their Th.M. program. See the chart below for examples.

Institution	Units for Th.M.	Thesis Required?
Calvin Theo. Sem.	21	No – Students can choose to do a thesis, or they can write a research paper and take one additional elective.
Dallas Seminary	120	No – Students can choose to do a thesis, or they can write a research paper related to their Th.M. emphasis.
Gateway Seminary	24	No – Gateway offers both a thesis and a non-thesis track.
Gordon Conwell	N/A	No – Thesis track option is only by invitation from the faculty.
Midwestern	24 to 28	No – No thesis mentioned in catalog regarding curriculum overview.
TEDS	20 to 22	No – Either a thesis or 2 major papers.
Westminster PA	29	No – Either a thesis (for Theo/Hist. Theo. tracks) or 2 course major papers (for Biblical Studies track).

- Southern Seminary (SBTS) requires students to put together a “research portfolio” (in lieu of a thesis) for those students who are taking the Th.M. in preparation for the Ph.D. Hence, for TMS to use a research portfolio as a thesis equivalent is not without precedent.
- At 150–200 pages, this portfolio is far more robust than what most other Th.M. programs require. Students will be encouraged, but not required, to coordinate their papers so that the research portfolio demonstrates some level of thematic continuity.
- This model allows TMS faculty to focus their time on advising and grading Ph.D. dissertations, rather than being encumbered with Th.M. theses.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

BIBLICAL FIDELITY.

Th.M. Program Requirements

- M.Div. from an accredited institution or at least 72 credit hours of M.Div. equivalency. (This is in keeping with ATS requirements.)
- Approval by the Th.M. Committee based on submission of a completed Th.M. application.

Tuition Cost

- Price per credit hour: \$495
- Total tuition (28 credit hours): \$13,860

NOTE: This does not include applicable fees (for things like registration and graduation)

APPROVED WORKMEN ARE NOT
ASHAMED
BECAUSE THEY HANDLE THE WORD OF
TRUTH
WITH ACCURACY AND PRECISION.

THE MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM
AT THE MASTER'S SEMINARY
TRAINS MEN TO BE SCHOLARS AND
THEOLOGIAN
WHO ARE NOT ASHAMED.