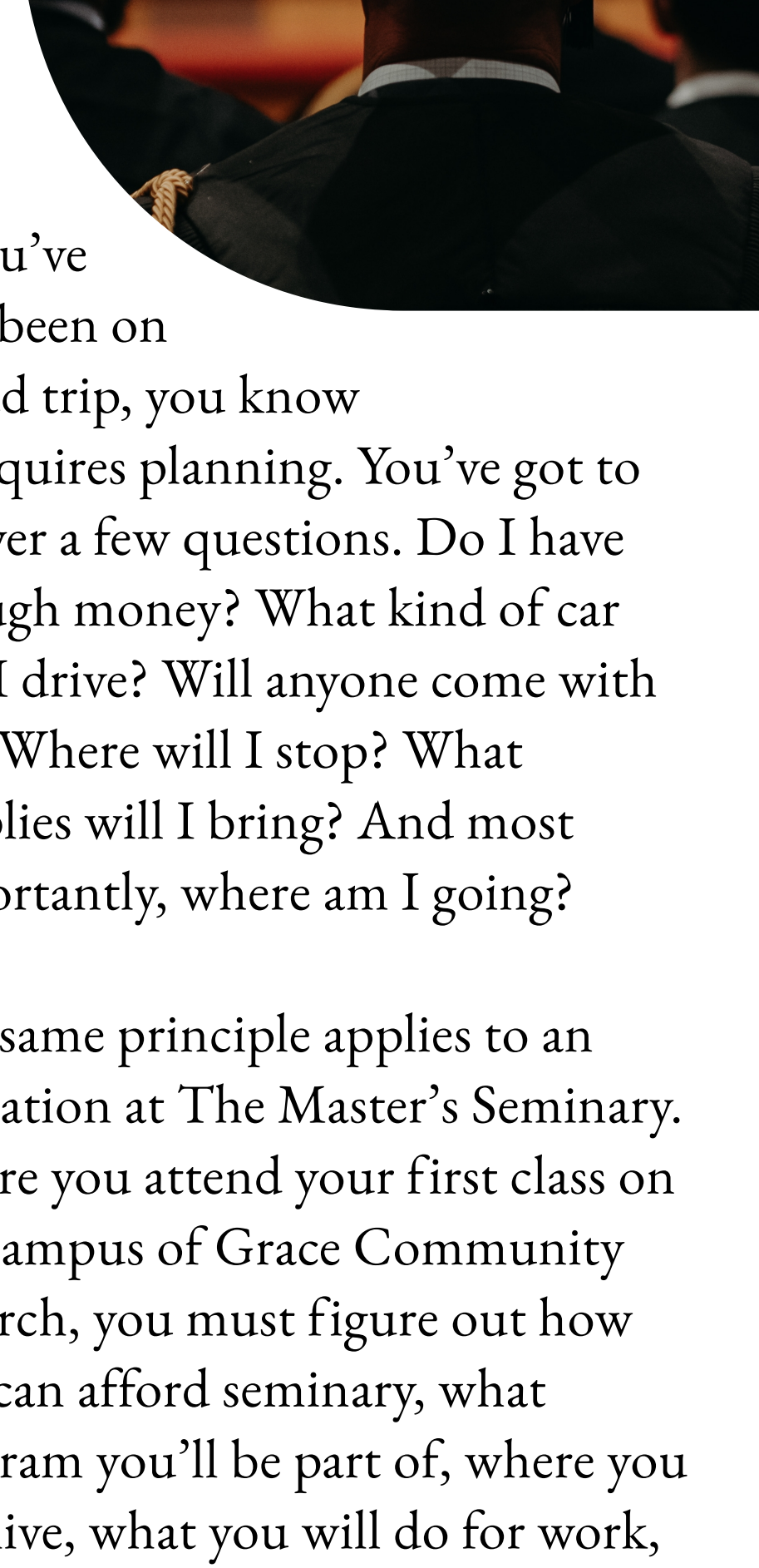


THE ROAD TO TMS



If you've ever been on a road trip, you know it requires planning. You've got to answer a few questions. Do I have enough money? What kind of car will I drive? Will anyone come with me? Where will I stop? What supplies will I bring? And most importantly, where am I going?

The same principle applies to an education at The Master's Seminary. Before you attend your first class on the campus of Grace Community Church, you must figure out how you can afford seminary, what program you'll be part of, where you will live, what you will do for work, and how you (or you and your family) will make friends and find community.

The following pages have answers to those questions. This document is a road map that thousands of men have followed over the years. It's helped them become Master's Men—fully equipped for a lifetime of ministry. It will show you that the same education is within your reach.

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Which Degree Is Right for You?

The Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (or M.Div. for short) is the flagship degree at The Master's Seminary. Every aspect of its curriculum is designed to produce a well-rounded pastor and preacher. If God is calling you to shepherd a local church, the Master of Divinity degree is the best possible preparation for a lifetime of ministry.

To fully equip students for pastoral ministry, the M.Div. requires more than double the units of other programs and emphasizes the original languages. There are 98 total units in the M.Div. Below is the breakdown of classes required.

- 9 language courses
- 7 Bible courses
- 6 theology courses
- 6 ministry courses
- 5 preaching courses
- 5 elective courses

Master of Theology

The Master of Theology builds on the knowledge and skills cultivated in the Master of Divinity degree. As it takes students deeper and further in their studies, it prepares them for the world of scholarship. The four emphases of this program are listed below.

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- Bible Exposition.

Each student's work culminates in a thesis for 29-unit Ph.D. track students and a research portfolio for the 28-unit non-Ph.D. track students. For more information about this program, go to <https://tms.edu/academics/master-of-theology/>.

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy is designed for those God has called to teach in the academy or study theology for the benefit of the church.

For more information about this program, go to <https://tms.edu/academics/doctor-of-philosophy/>.

Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry is a modular program designed for men currently in the pastorate. It allows pastors to further their training—particularly in the craft of expository preaching—without leaving their ministry context.

Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Theology

The Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Theology offer the same training as the Master of Divinity, but they are available to students who have not completed an undergraduate degree.

To learn more about these programs, what they have in common, and how they are unique, go to <https://tms.edu/academics/bachelor-of-theology/> and <https://tms.edu/academics/diploma-of-theology/>.

Which Full-Tuition Scholarship Should You Apply For?

Recognizing the value of a TMS education, thousands of donors have committed to removing the financial burden of pastoral training. Their desire is to partner with men of character and calling so that they can receive the best possible preparation for a lifetime of ministry. If you want to enroll at TMS, here on the campus of Grace Community Church, the following donor-funded scholarships can make that possible.

The MacArthur Trust Scholarship

This full-tuition scholarship is available for candidates who have an undergraduate degree, submit a pastoral recommendation, and have exhibited the following qualities:

- character qualification in agreement with 1 Timothy 3:1–13
- ministry involvement in a local church
- affirmation of the TMS doctrinal statement
- full-time enrollment with a minimum of 11 units on-campus at the main LA campus of TMS.

The deadline to apply for the MacArthur Trust Scholarship is June 1st for the Fall semester and November 1st for the Spring semester.

Richard Mayhue Honors Scholarship

This scholarship provides full tuition, fees, and a cost-of-living stipend of \$3,000 per semester for single men and \$6,000 per semester for married men. Any incoming student to the Los Angeles campus can apply as long as they exhibit the following qualities:

- evidence of the gifts and character of the pastor, as laid out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- affirmation of the TMS doctrinal statement
- full-time enrollment in a majority of on-campus classes

Full-Time Residential Scholarship

This cost-of-living subsidy is for all full-time, residential Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Theology students at the Los Angeles campus. It awards \$155 per unit, bringing the cost of tuition down from \$450 to \$325 per unit. To qualify, students must take 11+ units on campus each semester. Students must complete the financial aid application found on the main TMS financial aid page. And if they want to apply for the Fall semester, they must submit their application by the second week of June. If they want to apply for the Spring semester, they must submit their application by the second week of November.

These are three of eleven scholarships available for incoming students at The Master's Seminary. You can find the complete list of scholarships and who is eligible at tms.edu/admissions/tuition-financial-aid/.

Where Will You Work While You Study at The Master's Seminary?

While you study at The Master's Seminary, you need to pay rent, buy groceries, fuel your car, give to the church, and go to at least one Dodger baseball game while you're living in the Los Angeles area. Unless you come to seminary after a successful career in business, law, or medicine, you'll need a job.

Thankfully, there are tens of thousands of jobs in all kinds of industries within a 30-minute drive of the seminary. Many of them work with a seminary student's class schedule.

There are also hundreds of internships and jobs available through Grace Community Church, The Master's Seminary, The Master's Academy International, and The Master's University. There are also several business leaders at Grace Church who partner with the seminary to employ students during their years at the seminary. Below is a list of internships available through the church.

Paid Internships and Jobs at Grace Church

- Student Ministries
- Outreach Department
- Administration
- Grace Ministries International
- Facilities

- Children's Ministries

Jobs at The Master's Seminary

- Student Services
- Development
- Admissions
- Spanish Department

Jobs at The Master's University

- Security
- Facilities
- Student Life

Where Should You Live During Seminary?

The press—particularly conservative news media outlets—often present California cities like Los Angeles as crime-ridden dystopias. Decades of liberal, godless leadership have certainly kept the state from flourishing, but there are plenty of neighborhoods around Grace Community Church that are safe, clean, and filled with wonderful amenities for seminary families. Many prospective students who visit from out of state comment on the quality of neighborhoods such as Burbank, Montrose, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, and Santa Clarita.

Santa Clarita, in particular, is popular among TMS students. More than half of families who move from out of state to Los Angeles for seminary settle in the Santa Clarita Valley. In 2023, several sources ranked Santa Clarita as one of the safest cities in the country. It is a 20–25 minute drive from the Santa Clarita Valley to Grace Church and The Master's Seminary. Also, rent costs are typically lower in Santa Clarita than in other neighborhoods around the church.

To make housing as affordable as possible, a donor rents several of his properties to seminary students. Because of this, single men in particular have multiple options for housing that are far below the average rent in the greater Los Angeles area. A businessman affiliated with Grace Community Church also provides housing scholarships through his real estate company. The PAC scholarship offers as much as \$8,400 a year in rent relief. This scholarship is available for both families and singles.

Also, many property owners are willing to rent guest homes, rooms, and apartments to seminary students at a reduced rate.

Bottom line, do not be intimidated by the high cost of rent in Los Angeles. There are options. Our admissions team can help you access affordable housing options that are safe, clean, and a short drive from The Master's Seminary.

How Can You Serve the Church During Seminary?

The Master's Seminary has the distinct advantage of being on the campus of Grace Community Church, where John MacArthur has been the pastor since 1969. As students learn the biblical languages, theology, hermeneutics, and Bible exposition in the classroom, they can immediately apply their training in the context of the local church. There are endless opportunities for service at Grace Community Church. The key is to find a ministry where you can be useful—a place where you can use your spiritual gifts to serve the church—and prioritize that ministry during seminary. Below are some of the ministries at the church where students often serve, teach, lead, and prepare for ministry.

- Student Ministries
- Outreach
- Children's Ministries
- Conferences
- Facilities
- Adult Fellowship Groups
- Regional Bible Studies
- Prison Outreach
- Evangelism
- Short-Term Missions
- Grace Ministries International

For wives and mothers, there are multiple options for service. Below are the ministries where many seminary wives serve while their husbands prepare for ministry.

- Seminary Wives
- Every Woman's Grace
- Master's Kids
- Fellowship Groups

In God's providence, there are a variety of faithful churches in the Los Angeles area, many of them led by graduates of The Master's Seminary. Wherever a student and his family decide to attend church, the goal is service and ministry involvement. That will always be a priority for students at TMS.

Where Will You Go After Seminary?

Demand for Master's Men far outpaces supply. More than 400 job openings are currently posted on the seminary job board. In 2023, an average of 10 churches a week called The Master's Seminary, asking us to recommend a Master's Man as their next shepherd. These calls are coming primarily from the United States and Canada. They do not account for the massive need for well-trained men overseas.

Through The Master's Academy International, dozens of seminary students are training pastors overseas. There are schools in South America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. All have Master's Men on faculty. In the coming years, TMAI anticipates adding many more schools. These all will need well-trained men to teach and lead.

The opportunity for impact both domestically and internationally is massive. At TMS, the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. If you have the character and conviction of a pastor—if you are called by God to teach His Word and train men—you will have no shortage of options when you complete your coursework at TMS.