



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

2025-2026 | Academic Catalog

We Train Pastors
and Trainers of Pastors

Dear Minister of the Gospel,

You will certainly agree with me that there is nothing more thrilling and, at the same time, humbling than to be called by the God of the universe to be one of His special representatives to His church and to a needy and lost generation.

If our wonderful Lord has laid His hand upon you for such an exciting ministry, it is critical that you receive the very best training that is available. In fact, choosing a seminary is one of the most crucial ministry decisions you will ever make. This is true because your life, and later the lives of those to whom you minister, will reflect the character and quality of your study and experience in seminary.

At The Master's Seminary we offer theological education that is centered in the inerrant Word of God, sustained by scholarly study and research, nurtured in discipling relationships and ministry experiences, characterized by personal growth, and directed toward effectiveness in evangelism and edification. Here you will find seminary training that majors on personal holiness, exegetical study, and biblical theology and does so right in the context of a vital local church.

If God is calling you to a special ministry, if you aspire to effectiveness in a ministry of the Word, if you are willing to submit yourself to the discipline of diligent study and to discipleship by godly men, then we invite you to prayerfully consider the exciting potential for study with us at The Master's Seminary.

For the Master,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Alford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chancellor Emeritus

CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus & mailing address:

13248 Roscoe Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 91352

(818) 909-5622

www.tms.edu

Office of the President

Abner Chou

(661) 362-2221

Office of the Dean of Faculty
and Academic Dean

Nathan Busenitz

(818) 909-5627

Office of the Dean of Students
And Graduate Placement

Brian Biedebach

(818) 909-5517

Office of Admissions

(818) 909-5624

Office of Admissions (Spanish)

(818) 909-5656

(818) 909-5600

Registrar's Office

(818) 909-5630

Staff Services Coordinator

Ben Trowbridge

(818) 909-5629

Alumni Relations

Taylor Berghuis

(818) 909-5510

Office of Distance Education

Aaron Darlington

adarlington@tms.edu

Office of Spanish Education

Hugo Alvarez

818-909-5571

Office of Development

Jade Greenfield

(818) 909-5628

The Master's Seminary Library

(818) 909-5545

The Master's Seminary is accredited as a graduate seminary division of The Master's University and Seminary by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. WSCUC can be reached at 985 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501 or (510) 748-9001. The Master's Seminary is also accredited by The Association of Theological Schools.

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EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Master's Seminary offers biblical, theological, and professional education designed to equip men for effectiveness in Christian ministry to the universal body of Christ, primarily through the local church. This educational task is accomplished through emphasis on the following:

- Careful instruction in the Scriptures, including the original languages.
- The study of various systems of theological thought including exposure to both past and present movements in history and Christian missions with a view to embracing a comprehensive, coherent theology built from Scripture.
- A consistent focus upon involvement and accountability within a local church.
- Ongoing efforts to challenge each student in developing a biblical philosophy/style of ministry.
- The development and improvement of communication, relationship, leadership, and administrative skills for ministry. The objective is to produce graduates who are recognized as men of God and who are equipped to serve effectively as pastors, missionaries, teachers, evangelists, counselors, and leaders in evangelical ministries around the world (1 Tim 3:1–7; Tit 1:5–9; 1 Pet 5:1–4).

TRAINING DISTINCTIVES

The seminary community and curriculum are designed with the following goals and ideals in view:

- Excellence in academics is to be cultivated in an attitude of spiritual devotion.
- The essential focus of all study at the seminary is to be biblical, exegetical, theological, expositional, and practical.
- Though other viewpoints are given careful consideration, the emphasis is to be positive in building upon the certainties of God's inerrant Word.
- Careful attention is to be devoted to the cultivation of Christian character qualities and living skills which are essential for godly living, for leadership in ministry, and for effective involvement in serving others.
- Each program of study is to include a significant focus on the development of the appropriate ministry skills which are necessary for effectiveness in the chosen areas of Christian service.
- The entire seminary community is to be characterized by the desire for the worship of God, mutual edification, and by an evangelistic and missionary zeal.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

The following characteristics portray an alumnus of The Master's Seminary in terms of the kind of person he should be, what he should know, and what he should be able to do.

Character

- He should be a godly man, notable for holiness of conduct in all his relationships (Psalms 1; 15; 1 Tim 3:1–7; Tit 1:5–9).
- He should be caring, generous, wise, discerning, mature, secure, disciplined, accountable, humble, purposeful, empathetic, and teachable (1 Tim 4:11–16).
- He should be a loving and responsible husband and father (if married and if blessed by God with children—1 Tim 3:4–5; Tit 1:6), and his heart should be moved by the compassion of Christ for others.
- He should readily acknowledge his own failures and deal honestly and humbly with sin in his own heart (Prov

28:13; Matt 7:1–5).

- His service for God should reflect the awesomeness and glory of ministry (2 Cor 2:14–6:10) with an awareness that God is concerned with attitudes as well as with actions (1 Sam 15:22–23; 1 Cor 9:24–27; 1 Pet 5:1–7).
- His Christian life should reflect stability and maturity (1 Tim 3:2, 6–7) as demonstrated by the exercise of good judgment in facing the trials of life and ministry in a contemporary context (1 Tim 6:11–12; 2 Tim 2:1–13; 4:1–8).
- He should be one who establishes genuine, God-centered relationships with a wide range of people, encouraging and exhorting them according to their need in the mutual pursuit of God (Gal 6:1–5).

Knowledge

- He should have a general comprehension of the entirety of God’s written revelation and should have developed a well-formulated theological framework which adequately synthesizes the biblical and historical data.
- He should have a functional linguistic facility in biblical Hebrew and Greek, and a basic knowledge of the contributions of major Christian leaders, thinkers, and authors throughout church history (Ezra 7:10; 1 Tim 4:13–16; 2 Tim 2:2, 14–15; 3:14–17; 4:1–4).
- He should have an understanding of the world, of culture, and of human problems, interests, and concerns.
- He should be able to address contemporary culture with a biblical worldview and confront unbiblical religious and philosophical thought in defending the Christian faith (Col 2:8; Tit 1:9; 2 Cor 10:5; 1 John 2:15–17).
- He should know himself, including his strengths, weaknesses, responsibilities, and people skills (Matt 20:20–28; Acts 6:1–7; Eph 4:11–13; 1 Pet 5:1–3).

Abilities

- He should be able to articulate a biblical philosophy of ministry that balances principles of worship, prayer, exposition, edification, evangelism, and discipleship.
- He should be able to lead with conviction, teach with authority, and preach with passion.
- He should be able to use appropriate tools for research, for record-keeping, and for writing.
- He should be sharpening those skills through the efficient use of research facilities, critical reading of current literature, and other forms of continuing education.
- He should be able to make decisions, to motivate, to listen, to empathize, to set priorities, and to defend the faith.
- He should be able to assess the needs of individuals and apply the Word of God to those needs in various ministry situations such as preaching, teaching, counseling, and witnessing (1 Cor 2:1–5; 1 Tim 2:2; 2 Tim 2:14–15; 4:1–5; Tit 1:9).
- He should be able to equip and stimulate people to do the work of ministry (Eph 4:11–13; 2 Tim 2:2).
- He should know how to lead in church activities, administer church ordinances, and conduct the services and ceremonies of the church in a God-focused manner.
- He should be deeply involved in the ministries of evangelism, discipleship, restoration, and edification with conviction and passion.
- He should have a deep concern for the lost and he should be challenged by the biblical command to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. These concerns should be evidenced in his prayer life, in his evangelistic endeavors, and in his lifestyle. In all his roles, he should model the message he proclaims (1 Tim 4:12; 2 Tim 3:10–14; Tit 2:6–8; 1 Pet 5:1–3).

EDUCATIONAL PARAMETERS

To *adhere* unswervingly to the founding purpose of training pastors to shepherd and equip Christ's church.

To *keep* The Master's Seminary faithful to its biblical foundations. All biblical content is to be based on God's inerrant Word and developed through the exegetical process. The curriculum must constantly reflect scriptural absolutes to avoid deviation from God's truth.

To *enrich* faculty leadership. Every member of The Master's Seminary faculty fits a fivefold profile in that they are all men of God, men of the Word, men of scholarship, men of Christ's church, and men of compassion.

To *insist* on an educational philosophy that is consistent with Scripture by:

- Majoring on biblical certainty, not doubt or theory
- Striving for spirituality in The Master's Seminary students, not intellectualism alone
- Preparing men to serve the Lord, not merely to know about the Lord
- Emphasizing a methodical, disciplined approach to studying Scripture rather than using a haphazard approach
- Encouraging excellence and never accepting mediocrity
- Expecting the faculty to be examples, not merely experts
- Stressing the imperative to function in the body of Christ, not merely function as an individual

To *emphasize* the well-articulated goals of The Master's Seminary—both personal and pastoral.

Personal

- To cultivate a holy, intimate relationship between every student and God
- To produce compassionate men who have gracious relationships with others

Pastoral

- To study God's Word with precision
- To speak God's message with power
- To serve God's purpose with zeal
- To shepherd God's flock with care
- To fight God's battle with courage

LOCATION

The Master's Seminary is located on the campus of Grace Community Church in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, a part of the metropolitan Los Angeles complex. The main campus is fifteen miles north of downtown Los Angeles, twenty-five miles north of Los Angeles International Airport, five miles from the Burbank/Glendale/Pasadena Airport, and is easily accessible by major freeways, being one-half mile west of the intersection of the Hollywood and Golden State Freeways (Highway 170 and Interstate 5) and three miles east of the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405).

DISTANCE LOCATIONS

In addition to The Master's Seminary campus in Los Angeles, several distance locations have been established in conjunction with TMS alumni-led churches. These distance locations allow men to train for ministry under the auspices of experienced pastors and teachers, all while maintaining their shepherding ministries in their local churches. These men are taught by the TMS faculty through online and Two-Way Live courses, and they are

mentored by experienced TMS alumni with onsite courses that give the students hands-on ministry experience. Information and locations for the distance locations can be found on the TMS website.

CAMPUS

The Master's Seminary is located on the spacious campus facilities of Grace Community Church, a church with approximately seven thousand in attendance each Sunday. A 30,000-square-foot education building, providing additional classrooms, was completed in 1990. Most classes are held in this building along with additional rooms located throughout the campus which include the Master's Seminary building. Classrooms are equipped to provide quality training along with remote training for students that are at a distance. In 1998, TMS occupied a 34,000-square-foot library and faculty office complex. This building is also home to several departments such as: Student Services, Registrar, Development, Alumni, Finances, Distance Education, Spanish Education, and other helpful resources available for students, staff, faculty, and visitors. Outside seating in beautiful courtyard areas, Steeple House Coffee shop, and a guest lounge are available for all visitors.

LIBRARY

The Master's Seminary Library presently contains over 130,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, with access to over 265,000 additional eBooks shared with The Master's University Library. OCLC's WMS Discovery platform offers students powerful access to TMS institutional holdings as well as holdings from libraries worldwide. The library also enjoys reciprocal borrowing privileges with other theological schools throughout the United States. Through the seminary web site students have access to a growing collection of online full text publications. To serve the library's Spanish speaking patrons better, the WMS search page can be switched from English to Spanish language display. A growing collection of Spanish books, both print and eBooks are actively being curated for the Spanish MDiv program. A program designed to continually add important retrospective materials and special collections, continues to be maintained. Ten major collections were purchased and merged to provide a rich depth and breadth of holdings in a wide spectrum of theological thought. Other important collections representing various disciplines have been acquired for the purpose of obtaining one-time scholarship in the critical areas of biblical and theological studies with a view toward building a comprehensive collection in these areas.

The seminary's administration is committed to building a strong library, one that balances traditional holdings with forward thinking and technical excellence. An efficient and knowledgeable staff is equally committed to providing assistance in accessing its rich holdings and services, and an environment conducive to using these resources in an effective and productive manner.

Library policy and service statements are available online at [Mission Statement - TMS About the Library - LibGuides at The Master's University](#). This information provides guidelines and assistance for on-campus, online, and distance location site students. The library encourages its patrons to visit this site for information outlining how to access both physical and electronic resources.

HISTORY OF THE SEMINARY

The Master's Seminary is a young seminary, having opened its doors in 1986 under the leadership and vision of Dr. John MacArthur. For a number of years, the elders of Grace Community Church, pastored by Dr. MacArthur, had envisioned a seminary program that would train men for ministry in the context of a local church. In 1977, Talbot Theological Seminary helped bring partial fruition to that vision by initiating an extension center offering seminary courses on the church campus.

Several years later, Dr. MacArthur was chosen as President of The Master's College (1985), which is now The Master's University. Dr. MacArthur transitioned to the role of Chancellor Emeritus at the end of June, 2019. The Master's University had a history of involvement with seminary education, having originally opened its doors in 1927 as the Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. Building upon these foundations—the heritage at the college and the extension courses at the church—the time seemed right in 1986 for the birth of a new seminary. The Master's Seminary came into existence for the purpose of building men of God, thoroughly equipped for Bible exposition and local church ministry, through emphasis on careful biblical scholarship, pastoral training, and personal spiritual growth.

Initially, this was accomplished through a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program. Then, in 1992, a Master of Theology (ThM) degree program was inaugurated, focusing on the effective use of advanced exegetical and theological skills. A Doctor of Theology (ThD), launched in 2000, is based on the ThM degree (the name changed to PhD in 2015). Its unique design combines the European model with the salient features of traditional American models and allows for a residency primarily consumed with researching, writing, and defending the dissertation. A Doctor of Ministry (DMin) was launched in 2004 with an emphasis on expository preaching. A Spanish Master's degree was launched in 2017, *Maestría en Ministerio Bíblico* (MMB).

Beginning with ninety-five students and four full-time faculty members in its inaugural year, the seminary has grown to its current level of approximately 700 students and a faculty of nineteen full-time members. During this period of steady growth, the seminary has maintained its singular commitment to training men for the ministry of the Word. Over 2,000 alumni now minister on six continents of the world, with about eighty-five percent ministering in a full-time capacity and approximately fifteen percent serving overseas.

The Master's Seminary's regional accreditation was officially recognized in 1988. As a result of the second full accreditation visit, the regional accrediting association (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) stated in their February 1992 report: "The seminary has been very intentional in its development of an MDiv program with few analogies in the U.S., distinguished above all by its almost single-minded commitment to the preparation of ordained pastors for leadership in the local church.... Given the fundamental focus of the seminary, the structure of the MDiv program seems well-oriented to its goals. The model itself—combining church-based involvement, personal discipleship, and academic study—is worth applauding, and it is not insignificant that at the level of degree structure, the seminary is on the cutting-edge of reform in seminary education in this regard. In all three areas of the formal aspects of the academic curriculum—Bible, Theology, and Pastoral Ministries—a logical progression is detected, and discussions with the Faculty indicated a high degree of familiarity with how one aspect of the program integrates with other aspects. All of the interviewed alumni expressed high levels of satisfaction with the program, believing that the seminary prepared them well for the ministries in which they are currently involved" (pp. 23–24). The Master's Seminary completed a third and fourth full accreditation visit in Spring 2000 and Spring 2009 respectfully, with full affirmation. In November 2020 the Master's Seminary's accreditation was affirmed again for a six year term. The Master's Seminary also received full accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools in July of 2024. Full accreditation was granted for a seven-year term.

THE MASTER'S SEMINARY JOURNAL

The Master's Seminary Journal is a semiannual publication of The Master's Seminary. It contains scholarly articles pertaining to Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, New Testament, Old Testament, Pastoral Ministry, and Biblical Theology. *TMSJ* also contains reviews of current academic books for the pastor-theologian. It is distributed electronically free of charge to students, alumni, and interested friends. Hard copies are available by subscription. For subscription inquiry, please contact the Reception Desk at 818-909-5622 or visit our website.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Students and prospective students should read this catalog carefully. The appropriate catalog, along with other bulletins or distributed materials, determines student rights and responsibilities with respect to the seminary. Matriculation constitutes an agreement by the student to abide by the regulations and policies of The Master's Seminary.

Information regarding the accessibility of facilities to handicapped students is available from the Administration office.

The Master's Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, nationality, non-disqualifying disability, or ethnic origin in its admissions policies, educational policies, employment policies, services, or scholarship and loan programs. Admission policies and hiring practices are governed by the institution's statement of faith, as indicated in this Catalog.

The provisions of this catalog, including academic offerings, academic policies, and all financial charges are subject to unilateral change by The Master's Seminary. While the seminary attempts to keep costs at reasonable levels, it is anticipated that costs will increase in future years.

Any student who ceases to attend TMS for a period of seven years or longer without completing their program of study will need to abide by the catalog and requirements of the year they are re-admitted. Courses completed from previous years may be considered for credit but are not guaranteed. TMS reserves the right to require remedial work or the retaking of a class.

The Washington Student Achievement Council has determined that The Master's University and Seminary qualifies for religious exempt status from the Degree-Granting Institutions Act for the following programs: Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) and Master of Divinity (M.Div.). The Council makes no evaluation of the administration, faculty, business practices, financial condition or quality of the offerings by this institution. Any person desiring information about the requirements of the act or the applicability of those requirements to the institution may contact the Council at P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430 or by email at degreeauthorization@wsac.wa.gov.

DEVELOPMENT & INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

TMS cannot train men for gospel-ministry apart from the generous financial investment of ministry partners all around the world. Consequently, every student's tuition is subsidized by nearly 60%. Many of our supporters become aware of TMS through our graduates who are faithfully preaching and shepherding God's people. As alumni are faithful to the task, God's people will be faithful to invest in the training of men. As the mission of raising up a generation of men to be faithful pastors and shepherds progresses, prospective supporters should also consider becoming part of an ever-widening circle of ministry partners who support the work here. Financial support can be done in the following ways:

- Regular gifts, one time or monthly—including gifts that are matched by your employer
- Gifts of appreciated securities or real property
- Scholarships (including opportunities you might wish to create)
- Life Insurance or IRA beneficiary designations
- Estate planning and Donor Advised Fund charitable distributions
- Charitable Trusts and Charitable
- Gift Annuities
- Memorial gifts

For more information on how to partner with TMS financially, please call 818-909-5697 or email us at development@tms.edu.

For ministry updates and gifts within any given year:

Jade Greenfield

Chief Development Officer

818-909-5628 | jgreenfield@tms.edu

STATEMENT OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

Members of the board of directors, administrators, and faculty members of The Master's Seminary recognize that any doctrinal statement is but a fallible human attempt to summarize and systematize the riches of an infallible divine revelation. But this in no way detracts from the importance of such a statement. In fact, members of the board of directors, administration, and faculty members are annually required to sign a statement affirming agreement with this Statement of Faith.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We teach that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, and thus the 66 books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God (1 Cor 2:7–14; 2 Pet 1:20–21).

We teach that the Word of God is an objective, propositional revelation (1 Thess 2:13; 1 Cor 2:13), verbally inspired in every word (2 Tim 3:16), absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed. We teach the literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture which affirms the belief that the opening chapters of Genesis present creation in six literal days (Gen 1:31; Exod 31:17), describe the special creation of man and woman (Gen 1:26–28; 2:5–25), and define marriage as between one man and one woman (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5). Scripture elsewhere dictates that any sexual activity outside of marriage is an abomination before the Lord (Exod 20:14; Lev 18:1–30; Matt 5:27–32; 19:1–9; 1 Cor 5:1–5; 6:9–10; 1 Thess 4:1–7).

We teach that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matt 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12–13; 17:17; 1 Cor 2:13; 2 Tim 3:15–17; Heb 4:12; 2 Pet 1:20–21).

We teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man (2

Pet 1:20–21) without error in whole or in part (Matt 5:18; 2 Tim 3:16).

We teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (John 7:17; 16:12–15; 1 Cor 2:7–15; 1 John 2:20). It is the responsibility of believers to ascertain carefully the true intent and meaning of Scripture, recognizing that proper application is binding on all generations. Yet the truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

GOD

We teach that there is but one living and true God (Deut 6:4; Isa 45:5–7; 1 Cor 8:4), an infinite, all-knowing Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14)—each equally deserving worship and obedience.

God the Father—We teach that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Ps 145:8–9; 1 Cor 8:6). He is the creator of all things (Gen 1:1–31; Eph 3:9). As the only absolute and omnipotent ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Ps 103:19; Rom 11:36). His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator He is Father to all men (Eph 4:6), but He is spiritual Father only to believers (Rom 8:14; 2 Cor 6:18). He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass (Eph 1:11). He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (1 Chron 29:11). In His sovereignty He is neither author nor approver of sin (Hab 1:13; John 8:38–47), nor does He abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures (1 Pet 1:17). He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own (Eph 1:4–6); He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; He

adopts as His own all those who come to Him; and He becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own (John 1:12; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:5; Heb 12:5–9).

God the Son—We teach that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine excellences, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father (John 10:30; 14:9).

We teach that God the Father created "the heavens and the earth and all that is in them" according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation (John 1:3; Col 1:15–17; Heb 1:2).

We teach that in the incarnation (God becoming man) Christ surrendered only the prerogatives of deity but nothing of the divine essence, either in degree or kind. In His incarnation, the eternally existing second person of the Trinity accepted all the essential characteristics of humanity and so became the God-man (Phil 2:5–8; Col 2:9).

We teach that Jesus Christ represents humanity and deity in indivisible oneness (Mic 5:2; John 5:23; 14:9–10; Col 2:9).

We teach that our Lord Jesus Christ was born of a virgin (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23, 25; Luke 1:26–35); that He was God incarnate (John 1:1, 14); and that the purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God and to redeem men (Ps 2:7–9; Isa 9:6; John 1:29; Phil 2:9–11; Heb 7:25–26; 1 Pet 1:18–19).

We teach that, in the incarnation, the second person of the Trinity laid aside His right to the full prerogatives of coexistence with God and took on an existence appropriate to a servant while never divesting Himself of His divine attributes (Phil 2:5–8).

We teach that our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross and that His death was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, propitiatory, and redemptive (John 10:15; Rom 3:24–25; 5:8; 1 Pet 2:24).

We teach that on the basis of the efficacy of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the believing sinner is freed from the punishment, the penalty, the power, and one day the very presence of sin; and that he is declared righteous, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God (Rom 3:25; 5:8–9; 2 Cor 5:14–15; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18).

We teach that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead and that He is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He mediates as our Advocate and High Priest (Matt 28:6; Luke 24:38–39; Acts 2:30–31; Rom 4:25; 8:34; Heb 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1).

We teach that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers (John 5:26–29; 14:19; Rom 1:4; 4:25; 6:5–10; 1 Cor 15:20, 23).

We teach that Jesus Christ will return to receive the church, which is His body, unto Himself at the rapture and, returning with His church in glory, will establish His millennial kingdom on earth (Acts 1:9–11; 1 Thess 4:13–18; Rev 20).

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one through whom God will judge all mankind (John 5:22–23):

- a. Believers (1 Cor 3:10–15; 2 Cor 5:10)
- b. Living inhabitants of the earth at His glorious return (Matt 25:31–46)
- c. Unbelieving dead at the Great White Throne (Rev 20:11–15).

As the mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5), the head of His body the church (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18), and the coming universal King who will reign on the throne of David (Isa 9:6; Luke 1:31–33), He is the final judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior (Matt 25:14–46; Acts 17:30–31).

God the Holy Spirit—We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity including

intellect (1 Cor 2:10–13), emotions (Eph 4:30), will (1 Cor 12:11), eternity (Heb 9:14), omnipresence (Ps 139:7–10), omniscience (Isa 40:13–14), omnipotence (Rom 15:13), and truthfulness (John 16:13). In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son (Matt 28:19; Acts 5:3–4; 28:25–26; 1 Cor 12:4–6; 2 Cor 13:14; and Jer 31:31–34 with Heb 10:15–17).

We teach that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in creation (Gen 1:2), the incarnation (Matt 1:18), the written revelation (2 Pet 1:20–21), and the work of salvation (John 3:5–7).

We teach that a unique work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ (John 14:16–17; 15:26) to initiate and complete the building of the body of Christ, which is His church (1 Cor 12:13). The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ (John 16:7–9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; Eph 2:22).

We teach that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13). The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption (Rom 8:9; 2 Cor 3:6; Eph 1:13).

We teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher Who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible. Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit (John 16:13; Rom 8:9; Eph 5:18; 2 Pet 1:19–21; 1 John 2:20, 27).

We teach that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the

most holy faith (John 16:13–14; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; 2 Cor 3:18).

We teach, in this respect, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers (1 Cor 12:4–11; 13:8–10; 2 Cor 12:12; Eph 4:7–12; Heb 2:1–4).

MAN

We teach that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Gen 2:7, 15–25; Jas 3:9). Man was also created by God as either male or female, biologically defined and distinct sexes (Gen 1:27; 2:5–23; 1 Cor 11:11–15; Rom 1:26–27) set by God for each individual (Ps 119:13–14). Confusion between the two is an abomination to Him (Lev 8:22; Deut 22:5; Rom 1:26–27; 1 Cor 6:9).

We teach that God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship, live his life in the will of God, and by this accomplish God's purpose for man in the world (Isa 43:7; Col 1:16; Rev 4:11).

We teach that in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God, man lost his innocence; incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death; became subject to the wrath of God; and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace. With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover himself, man is hopelessly lost. Man's salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gen 2:16–17; 3:1–19; John 3:36; Rom 3:23; 6:23; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1–3; 1 Tim 2:13–14; 1 John 1:8).

We teach that because all men were in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the only exception.

All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration (Ps 14:1–3; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:9–18, 23; 5:10–12).

SALVATION

We teach that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12; Eph 1:7; 2:8–10; 1 Pet 1:18–19).

Regeneration—We teach that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given (John 3:3–7; Tit 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24), when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works will be its proper evidence and fruit (1 Cor 6:19–20; Eph 2:10), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God (Eph 5:17–21; Phil 2:12b; Col 3:16; 2 Pet 1:4–10). This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 3:18). Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming (Rom 8:17; 2 Pet 1:4; 1 John 3:2–3).

Election—We teach that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies (Rom 8:28–30; Eph 1:4–11; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:10; 1 Pet 1:1–2).

We teach that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord (Ezek 18:23, 32; 33:11; John 3:18–19, 36; 5:40; Rom 9:22–23; 2 Thess 2:10–12; Rev 22:17). Nevertheless, since sovereign grace includes the means of receiving the gift of salvation as well as the gift itself, sovereign election will result in what God determines. All whom the Father calls to Himself will come in faith and all who

come in faith the Father will receive (John 6:37–40, 44; Acts 13:48; Jas 4:8).

We teach that the unmerited favor that God grants to totally depraved sinners is not related to any initiative of their own part nor to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will, but is solely of His sovereign grace and mercy (Eph 1:4–7; Tit 3:4–7; 1 Pet 1:2).

We teach that election should not be looked upon as based merely on abstract sovereignty. God is truly sovereign but He exercises this sovereignty in harmony with His other attributes, especially His omniscience, justice, holiness, wisdom, grace, and love (Rom 9:11–16). This sovereignty will always exalt the will of God in a manner totally consistent with His character as revealed in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 11:25–28; 2 Tim 1:9).

Justification—We teach that justification before God is an act of God (Rom 8:33) by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:10; Isa 55:6–7) and confess Him as sovereign Lord (Rom 10:9–10; 1 Cor 12:3; 2 Cor 4:5; Phil 2:11). This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man (Rom 3:20; 4:6) and involves the placing of our sins on Christ (Col 2:14; 1 Pet 2:24) and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us (1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21). By this means God is enabled to "be just, and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom 3:26).

Sanctification—We teach that every believer is sanctified (set apart) unto God by justification and is therefore declared to be holy and is identified as a saint. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous and should not be confused with progressive sanctification. This sanctification has to do with the believer's standing, not his present walk or condition (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor 1:2, 30; 6:11; 2 Thess 2:13; Heb 2:11; 3:1; 10:10, 14; 13:12; 1 Pet 1:2).

We teach that there is also by the work of the Holy Spirit a progressive sanctification by which the state of the believer is brought closer to the standing the believer positionally enjoys through justification. Through obedience to the Word of God and the

empowering of the Holy Spirit, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:17, 19; Rom 6:1–22; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Thess 4:3–4; 5:23).

In this respect, we teach that every saved person is involved in a daily conflict—the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh—but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle nevertheless stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended. All claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural. Eradication of sin is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin (Gal 5:16–25; Eph 4:22–24; Phil 3:12; Col 3:9–10; 1 Pet 1:14–16; 1 John 3:5–9).

Security—We teach that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 5:24; 6:37–40; 10:27–30; Rom 5:9–10; 8:1, 31–39; 1 Cor 1:4–8; Eph 4:30; Heb 7:25; 13:5; 1 Pet 1:5; Jude 24).

We teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality (Rom 6:15–22; 13:13–14; Gal 5:13, 25–26; Tit 2:11–14).

Separation—We teach that separation from sin is clearly called for throughout the Old and New Testaments, and that the Scriptures clearly indicate that in the last days apostasy and worldliness shall increase (2 Cor 6:14–7:1; 2 Tim 3:1–5).

We teach that out of deep gratitude for the undeserved grace of God granted to us and because our glorious God is so worthy of our total consecration, all the saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our adoring love to God and so as not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior. We also teach that separation from any association with religious apostasy, and worldly and sinful practices is commanded of us by God (Rom 12:1–2; 1 Cor 5:9–13; 2 Cor 6:14–7:1; 1 John 2:15–17; 2 John 9–11).

We teach that believers should be separated unto our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess 1:11–12; Heb 12:1–2) and affirm that the Christian life is a life of obedient righteousness demonstrated by a beatitude attitude (Matt 5:2–12) and a continual pursuit of holiness (Rom 12:1–2; 2 Cor 7:1; Heb 12:14; Tit 2:11–14; 1 John 3:1–10).

THE CHURCH

We teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the church (1 Cor 12:12–13), the bride of Christ (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:23–32; Rev 19:7–8), of which Christ is the head (Eph 1:22; 4:15; Col 1:18).

We teach that the formation of the church, the body of Christ, began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21, 38–47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture (1 Cor 15:51–52; 1 Thess 4:13–18).

We teach that the church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born-again believers in this present age (Ephesians 2:11–3:6). The church is distinct from Israel (1 Cor 10:32), a mystery not revealed until this age (Eph 3:1–6; 5:32).

We teach that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; Gal 1:2; Phil 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1) and that the members of the one scriptural body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (1 Cor 11:18–20; Heb 10:25).

We teach that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 1:22; Col 1:18) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (males, who are also called bishops, pastors, and pastor-teachers; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications (1 Tim 3:1–13; Tit 1:5–9; 1 Pet 5:1–5).

We teach that these leaders rule as servants of Christ (1 Tim 5:17–22) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership (Heb 13:7, 17).

We teach the importance of discipleship (Matt 28:19–20; 2 Tim 2:2), mutual accountability of all believers to each other (Matt 18:5–14), as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture (Matt 18:15–22; Acts 5:1–11; 1 Cor 5:1–13; 2 Thess 3:6–15; 1 Tim 1:19–20; Tit 1:10–16).

We teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations (Tit 1:5). We teach that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Local churches, however, through their pastors and their interpretation and application of Scripture, should be the sole judges of the measure and method of their cooperation (Acts 15:19–31; 20:28; 1 Cor 5:4–7, 13; 1 Pet 5:1–4).

We teach that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Eph 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Eph 4:13–16), by instruction of the Word (2 Tim 2:2, 15; 3:16–17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38–42) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matt 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

We teach the calling of all saints to the work of service (1 Cor 15:58; Eph 4:12; Rev 22:12).

We teach the need of the church to cooperate with God as He accomplishes His purpose in the world. To that end, He gives the church spiritual gifts. First, He gives men chosen for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4:7–12) and He also gives unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the body of Christ (Rom 12:5–8; 1 Cor 12:4–31; 1 Pet 4:10–11).

We teach that there were two kinds of gifts given the early church: miraculous gifts of divine revelation and healing, given temporarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles'

message (Heb 2:3–4; 2 Cor 12:12); and ministering gifts, given to equip believers for edifying one another. With the New Testament revelation now complete, Scripture becomes the sole test of the authenticity of a man's message, and confirming gifts of a miraculous nature are no longer necessary to validate a man or his message (1 Cor 13:8–12). Miraculous gifts can even be counterfeited by Satan so as to deceive even believers (1 Cor 13:13–14:12; Rev 13:13–14). The only gifts in operation today are those non-revelatory equipping gifts given for edification (Rom 12:6–8).

We teach that no one possesses the gift of healing today but that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith and will answer in accordance with His own perfect will for the sick, suffering, and afflicted (Luke 18:1–6; John 5:7–9; 2 Cor 12:6–10; Jas 5:13–16; 1 John 5:14–15).

We teach that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:38–42). Christian baptism by immersion (Acts 8:36–39) is the solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Rom 6: 1–11). It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible body of Christ (Acts 2:41–42).

We teach that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination (1 Cor 11:28–32). We also teach that whereas the elements of communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way, fellowshiping with His people (1 Cor 10:16).

ANGELS

Holy Angels—We teach that angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they are created to serve God and to worship Him (Luke 2:9–14; Heb 1:6–7, 14; 2:6–7; Rev 5:11–14; 19:10; 22:9).

Fallen Angels—We teach that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator (Isa 14:12–17; Ezek 28:11–19), by taking numerous angels with him in his fall (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:1–14), and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Gen 3:1–15).

We teach that Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Isa 14:13–14; Matt 4:1–11; Rev 12:9–10), the prince of this world who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 16:20) and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Isa 14:12–17; Ezek 28:11–19; Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10).

LAST THINGS

Death—We teach that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness (Rev 6:9–11), that the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ (Luke 23:43; Phil 1:23; 2 Cor 5:8), that there is a separation of soul and body (Phil 1:21–24), and that, for the redeemed, such separation will continue until the rapture (1 Thess 4:13–17) which initiates the first resurrection (Rev 20:4–6), when our soul and body will be reunited to be glorified forever with our Lord (Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:35–44, 50–54). Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:8).

We teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life (John 6:39; Rom 8:10–11, 19–23; 2 Cor 4:14), and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Dan 12:2; John 5:29; Rev 20:13–15).

We teach that the souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second resurrection (Luke 16:19–26; Rev 20:13–15), when the soul and the resurrection body will be united (John 5:28–29). They shall then appear at the Great White Throne judgment (Rev 20:11–15) and shall be cast into hell, the lake of fire (Matt 25:41–46), cut off from the life of God forever (Dan 12:2; Matt 25:41–46; 2 Thess 1:7–9).

The Rapture of the Church—We teach the personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ before the seven-year tribulation (1 Thess 4:16; Tit 2:13) to translate His church from this earth (John 14:1–3; 1 Cor 15:51–53; 1 Thess 4:15–5:11) and, between this event and His glorious return with His saints, to reward believers according to their works (1 Cor 3:11–15; 2 Cor 5:10).

The Tribulation Period—We teach that immediately following the removal of the church from the earth (John 14:1–3; 1 Thess 4:13–18) the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thess 2:7–12; Rev 16), and that these judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth (Matt 24:27–31; 25:31–46; 2 Thess 2:7–12). At that time the Old Testament and tribulation saints will be raised and the living will be judged (Dan 12:2–3; Rev 20:4–6). This period includes the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan 9:24–27; Matt 24:15–31; 25:31–46).

The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign—We teach that after the tribulation period, Christ will come to earth to occupy the throne of David (Matt 25:31; Luke 1:31–33; Acts 1:10–11; 2:29–30) and establish His Messianic kingdom for a thousand years on the earth (Rev 20:1–7). During this time the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth (Ezek 37:21–28; Dan 7:17–22; Rev 19:11–16). This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and by the removal of Satan from the world (Dan 7:17–27; Rev 20:1–7).

We teach that the kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel (Isa 65:17–25; Ezek 37:21–28; Zech 8:1–17) to restore them to the land which they forfeited through their disobedience (Deut 28:15–68). The result of their disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside (Matt 21:43; Rom 11:1–26) but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing (Jer 31:31–34; Ezek 36:22–32; Rom 11:25–29).

We teach that this time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life (Isa 11; 65:17–25; Ezek

36:33–38), and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan (Rev 20:7).

The Judgment of the Lost—We teach that following the release of Satan after the thousand year reign of Christ (Rev 20:7), Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city, at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven (Rev 20:9). Following this, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10) whereupon Christ, who is the judge of all men (John 5:22), will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne judgment.

We teach that this resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment, they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:11–15).

Eternity—We teach that after the closing of the millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers (2 Thess 1:9; Rev 20:7–15), the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, after which the elements of this earth are to be dissolved (2 Pet 3:10) and replaced with a new earth wherein only righteousness dwells (Eph 5:5; Rev 20:15, 21–22). Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven (Rev 21:2) and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another (John 17:3; Rev 21, 22). Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor 15:24–28) that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever (1 Cor 15:28)

STATEMENT ON LIFE, MARRIAGE, AND SEXUALITY

We teach that God as Creator established life (Gen 1:1, 26–28), marriage (Gen 2:22–23; Matt 19:4–6), and the moral implications therein (Gen 2:24; Lev 18:1–30; Matt 5:28; 1 Thess 4:1–8). We teach this is exclusively, authoritatively, and sufficiently expressed in Scripture and that such definitions are universal truths which define reality and do not

change (Prov 8:22–36; Ps 19:8–15; John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16–17).

We teach that humans bear the image of God (Gen 1:26–27; 9:6; Jas 3:9) and are such persons at conception (Ps 139:13, 15; cf. Job 3:3) as directly recognized by God (Ps 22:10; Isa 49:1; Jer 1:5; Luke 1:41–44; Rom 9:10–11; Gal 1:15). God does not differentiate between murder in or outside of the womb (Exod 21:12; 22–24). Therefore, any form of abortion is murder, a defiant act against the God of life (John 5:26) and against children whom He cares about (Matt 18:10) and gives as blessings (Ps 127:3). We teach that those created in the image of God must be treated with dignity (Gen 9:6; Luke 13:15–16; Jas 3:9) and that this must extend to these persons in the womb.

We teach that marriage was given by God as part of His common grace, and that it has no meaning other than as He has provided (Gen 2:18–24). We teach that marriage is subject to the curse of the Fall, but this curse does not change the definition of marriage established at creation (Matt 19:1–9). We teach that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture (Gen 2:23–24). Believers, living in obedience to the Scripture and under the control of the Holy Spirit, can begin to experience peaceful, productive, and fulfilled marriage as intended by God (Gen 3:16; 1 Pet 3:7).

We teach that the marriages of believers are to illustrate the loving relationship of Christ and His church, with the husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church and the wife responding to her husband’s loving leadership as the church responds to Christ (Eph 5:18–33).

We teach that as believers’ marriages are to illustrate Christ’s relationship with His church, believers should choose to marry those who share their faith and regenerate life (2 Cor 6:14).

We teach that marriage is always a public, formal, and officially recognized covenant between a man and a woman. We teach that without such a covenant, which may include a “common law marriage,” where

valid in specific cases under pertinent law, prolonged conjugal cohabitation does not establish, and is not equivalent to, marriage (John 4:18). Biblically, such a relationship is fornication (1 Cor 6:9) requiring repentance of such behavior. We teach that where no such covenant exists, or can be discerned, between a cohabiting couple prior to coming to faith in Christ, family units should be preserved to the extent possible and, if otherwise appropriate, solemnization encouraged. We teach that where a valid marriage has been established prior to coming to faith in Christ, the couple should remain married (1 Cor 7:24).

We teach that God hates divorce, permitting it only where there has been unrepentant sexual sin (Mal 2:14–16; Matt 5:32, 19:9) or desertion by an unbeliever (1 Cor 7:12–15). We teach that remarriage is permitted to a faithful partner, but only when the divorce was on biblical grounds.

We teach that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We teach that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Heb 13:4).

We teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, in desire or behavior (Matt 5:28) is sinful and offensive to God. In addition, any attempt to change one's sex or disagreement with one's biological sex is sinful and offensive to God who ordained the sexes of male and female at creation (Gen 1:26–28) and one's particular sex at conception (Lev 18:1–30; Deut 22:5; Matt 5:8; Rom 1:26–29; 1 Cor 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess 4:1–8).

We teach that homosexuality, in particular, is subject to God's wrath of abandonment, is a matter of choice and not inherited status, and epitomizes man's ungrateful rebellion against God (Rom 1:18–28).

We teach that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church. We teach that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not

constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church's loving mission to the world (Matt 28:16–20; 2 Cor 5:11–20; 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 4:1–2).

We teach that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We teach that His forgiveness is total and complete (Pss 103:11–12, 130:3–4; Isa 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Col 2:13–14) and that God imputes the full righteousness of Christ (2 Cor 5:21) to the believing sinner. We teach that the forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, or made holy, and justified before Him (1 Cor 6:9–11). We teach that any man or woman who has received that forgiveness is “in Christ” and is a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17), able to persevere in and pursue a way of life that pleases the Lord by the power of the Spirit (Rom 8:10–15; 2 Cor 3:16; Phil 2:13).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Master's Seminary exists to equip godly men to be pastors and/or trainers of pastors for service to Christ in strategic fields of Christian ministry through an educational program and an environment of spiritual fellowship and relationships which emphasize unreserved commitment to the worship of God, submission to the authority of the Scriptures, a life of personal holiness, the priority of the local church, and the mission of penetrating the world with the Truth.

Since there is no higher calling in life than to be a proclaimer of God's Word, there is no more worthy enterprise than training faithful men to carry out that charge. The Master's Seminary seeks to fulfill this charge by offering the following programs:

Diploma of Theology (DipTh), Bachelor of Theology (BTh), Master of Biblical Ministry (MMB, in Spanish), Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Theology (ThM), Doctor of Ministry (DMin), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the seminary and satisfactory completion of academic requirements are not a guarantee of graduation. Since the seminary's programs are designed to qualify its graduates for positions of pastoral leadership, each semester the faculty and administration will also evaluate a student's personal, spiritual, doctrinal, and professional qualifications. These are qualifications without which any attempt to serve or fill a role in a ministry of the gospel can result in nothing but personal tragedy. The seminary reserves the right to withdraw the privileges of enrollment from those who, after admission, may prove to be lacking in these necessary qualifications.

The character qualities, knowledge, and skills described earlier in this catalog as personalized objectives will also serve as a standard for evaluation of progress and for admission to candidacy. Absolute fulfillment of these objectives is an ideal which will never be accomplished but should always be in process. What is expected is evidence of progress toward these objectives, continuing evidence of potential for such progress, increasing desire for such progress, and a genuine repentance when there is failure in evidencing such progress.

Each semester of seminary, the faculty will assess the appropriateness of the student's vocational and educational goals in light of demonstrated abilities and attitudes. Academic records, Ministry Aptitude Program results, discipleship involvement, and evidence of continuing personal growth as demonstrated in chapel attendance, church ministries, etc., may all be examined in these candidacy evaluations. Following evaluation, the Dean of Students, or another assigned faculty member, will counsel with any students whose progress toward candidacy is questioned and will advise any students for whom candidacy and/or continued enrollment is denied.

DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY (DIPLOMA PROGRAM)

Purpose

The Diploma of Theology program is designed with the same purpose as the Bachelor of Theology program. It is limited to a select number of applicants who are usually beyond the average age of college students and who have a consistent record of commendable Christian ministry experience. However, it differs from the

Bachelor of Theology program in that it does not require the minimum of 30 units of undergraduate general education credits, and it is not accredited through the accreditation body. As a result of not being accredited, students in the DipTh are not eligible for financial aid.

Program & Graduation Requirements

The admissions, curriculum, residence, and candidacy and graduation requirements for the Diploma of Theology degree are the same as those for the Master of Divinity degree with the following exceptions: A grade point average of 2.0 is required for graduation.

For the curriculum, see MDiv curriculum chart for required courses.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM)

Purpose

The Bachelor of Theology program has the same purpose as the Master of Divinity program. Like the MDiv program, it is designed to provide a program for those planning to invest their lives in church or mission vocations which require ordination. The program offers a broad biblical, theological, and practical foundation for such ministries. The program, however, is offered only to a select number of applicants who are beyond the average age of college students (usually at least 25 years of age), who have not completed a baccalaureate degree program but have earned a minimum of 30 semester units of undergraduate general education credits (including at least 3 credit hours of quantitative reasoning/mathematics), and who have a consistent record of commendable Christian ministry experience. The nomenclature, Bachelor of Theology, is designed to emphasize the fact that in no case does the seminary offer graduate degrees (master's degrees) for those who have not completed a baccalaureate program.

Program & Graduation Requirements

The admissions, curriculum, residence, candidacy and graduation requirements for the Bachelor of Theology degree are the same as those for the Master of Divinity degree with the following exceptions: A grade point average of 2.0 is required for graduation.

For the curriculum, see MDiv curriculum chart for required courses.

LICENCIATURA EN TEOLOGÍA | BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM) - Spanish Language

The Bachelor of Theology degree is also fully available in the Spanish language. Details regarding the program in the Spanish language may be found in the Spanish Academic Catalog available on the TMS website.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Purpose

The Master of Divinity curriculum provides a basic three to four year program in graduate theological education for those preparing for church or mission vocations requiring ordination. The program is designed to provide a broad biblical, theological, and practical foundation for those entering pastoral, missionary, or other Christian education ministries. The program may also provide a basis for further graduate study leading to such degrees as Master of Theology (ThM), Doctor of Ministry (DMin), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). In fulfilling the mission of the seminary, as stated and elaborated earlier in this catalog, the Master of Divinity program focuses on three areas of special emphasis: Biblical-theological understanding, personal growth, and professional preparation. The emphasis on a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Bible is demonstrated throughout the curriculum, especially in direct Bible study courses, and in the biblical languages, hermeneutics, and theology courses. The emphasis on personal growth is demonstrated in the required discipleship groups, chapels, and in significant portions of pastoral ministry courses. The emphasis on professional development is demonstrated primarily through the pastoral ministry, expository preaching, ordination, and counseling courses.

Included in the three broad areas of emphasis outlined above, the Master of Divinity program also intends to:

- Emphasize the primacy of the local church in commissioning for ministry and as the institutional focus for spiritual accountability
- Cultivate an attitude of devotion and worship
- Instill and nurture a missionary and evangelistic zeal
- Encourage growth in godliness, especially as demonstrated in an attitude of love and ministry as a servant, while developing the appropriate skills for leadership
- Advance ability in independent and constructive thought in areas relating to ministry and contemporary concerns
- Promote growth in self-discipline, reading habits, and methodologies so that independent study may be continued as a pattern of life and ministry

Specifically, the Master of Divinity program is designed to provide a broad biblical-theological understanding, personal growth, and professional preparation for church or mission vocations requiring ordination, as detailed in the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

- PLO 1: *As a future elder, pastor, missionary, or educator*, comprehend the significant areas of biblical interpretation, biblical languages, Christian theology and pastoral ministry.
- PLO 2: *As a future elder/pastor*, construct a personal, biblical philosophy of ministry with application to the desired vocational goals.
- PLO 3: *As a future preacher/teacher of the Scripture*, synthesize the input of biblical languages, Bible backgrounds and theological constructs to preach and teach the Bible to varied age levels and abilities within any ministry context.
- PLO 4: *As a future spiritual leader*, exhibit the disciplines of holiness, prayer, leadership, and compassion required for ministry.

Program Requirements

Master of Divinity students must complete the prescribed curriculum, comprising a minimum of 98 semester hours of credit, with a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.5. Students transferring from other seminaries may be granted a maximum of 48 semester hours of credit, providing the work conforms to the academic and theological standards of the seminary.

Curriculum

Students enrolling in The Master's Seminary have only one opportunity to take the Greek PASS exam, prior to taking Beginning Greek I (NT 501). Anyone not taking the exam when offered at the start of their first semester will be required to enroll in and pass NT 501 and 502 as part of his seminary curriculum before enrolling in NT 603. Those who gain credit through the Greek PASS exam are expected to enroll in Greek Exegesis I and II for the first year and in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the second year. In the same manner, students enrolling in The Master's Seminary have only one opportunity to take the Hebrew PASS exam, prior to taking Hebrew Grammar I (OT503). Anyone not taking the exam when offered at the start of their first semester will be required to enroll in OT503 and OT504 as part of his seminary curriculum before enrolling in OT603. Those who gain credit through the Hebrew PASS exam are expected to enroll in Hebrew Exegesis OT603 within their first year.

Students are encouraged to apply for a waiver of any course considered to be repetitious of previous education. If approved, a waiver grants no credit but allows the student to take elective credits instead of the required course(s). For more information see the section Academic Policies and the subheading Transfer Policies.

Students who are fluent in the Spanish language are permitted to take up to 48 credit hours of the MDiv in the Spanish language. For more information contact the Office of Spanish Education.

Curriculum Chart

JUNIOR (YEAR ONE)		
<i>1st Semester</i>		
BI 501	Old Testament Studies I	3
BI 505	Hermeneutics	3
NT 501	Beginning Greek I	2
PM 502	Foundations of Expository Preaching	2
PM 505	Grammar, Research & Writing	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>

<i>2nd Semester</i>		
BI 502	Old Testament Studies II	3
PM 511A	Foundations of Pastoral Ministry	2
NT 502	Beginning Greek II	2
PM 514	Prayer and the Pastor	2
	General Elective I	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>11</i>

MIDDLER (YEAR TWO)		
<i>1st Semester</i>		
NT 601	New Testament Issues I	3
TH 507	Historical Theology I	3
NT 603	Greek Exegesis I	3
OT 503	Hebrew Grammar I	3
	General Elective II	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>14</i>

<i>2nd Semester</i>		
NT 602	New Testament Issues II	3
NT 604	Greek Exegesis II	3
TH 508	Historical Theology II	3
OT 504	Hebrew Grammar II	3
<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>

MIDDLER (YEAR THREE)		
<i>1st Semester</i>		
OT 603	Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	3
TH 605	Theology I	3
TH 602	Apologetics and Evangelism	3
PM 765	Pastoral Counseling	3
NT	Elective (Greek Exegesis)	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>14</i>

<i>2nd Semester</i>		
TH 606	Theology II	3
PM 602	Mechanics of Preaching	2
PM 604	Expository Preaching Workshop	3
OT	Elective (Hebrew Exegesis)	2
	General Elective III	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>

SENIOR (YEAR FOUR)		
<i>1st Semester</i>		
OT 796	Old Testament Introduction	3
TH 705	Theology III	3
PM 703	Expository Preaching Lab	3
	General Elective IV	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>11</i>

<i>2nd Semester</i>		
BI 701	Ordination Preparation	2
BI 705	Advanced Hermeneutics	2
PM 712	Practice of Pastoral Ministries	3
TH 706	Theology IV	3
	General Elective V	2
<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>

Total Degree Units 98

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the requirements specified in the preceding paragraphs, which include completion of 98 semester hours of credit with a grade point average of 2.5 or above (2.0 for BTh or DipTh), each candidate must submit an official Application for Graduation when registering for their final semester prior to graduation. Transfer students must complete at least 50 semester hours of credit at The Master's Seminary.

MENTOR MODEL PROGRAM

The Mentor Model program is a part of distance education at The Master's Seminary (TMS) for students who wish to complete their seminary education from their home church. TMS has always emphasized the connection between seminary education and practical ministry experience at a local church. Students enrolled in the MM program can complete their seminary education entirely at their home church under the supervision of their pastor-mentor.

Mentor Application

In addition to the student application for admittance to the program, the mentor will be required to make an application as well. In order to maintain consistency in the program, the mentors must demonstrate adherence to the doctrinal statement of TMS annually. In addition, the mentor must demonstrate current and long-standing experience in local church ministry. For this reason, the mentor will be required to submit the following application materials for evaluation:

1. Personal Testimony
2. Declaration of adherence to the TMS Doctrinal Statement
3. Doctrinal Statement and summary history of the mentor's church
4. Declaration of commitment to complete the 8 mentored classes

Course Format

TMS believes that anyone who desires to become a pastor must be properly led and taught by men who are committed to the local church. For this reason, the curriculum design of the academic program is important. Courses will make use of lectures, workshops, and tailored assignments to facilitate content delivery and learning. Those courses requiring pastoral oversight/mentorship will remain under the supervision of men trained to lead and shepherd God's flock.

Students can take courses within four terms during the academic year. There are two 16-week semester terms (fall and spring) and two 8-week terms (winter and summer). Students are required to take one, mentored course each 16-week semester, adhering to the following schedule:

First semester	PM511A	Foundations of Pastoral Ministry
Second semester	PM514	Prayer and the Pastor
Third semester	PM602	Mechanics of Preaching
Fourth semester	PM604	Preaching Workshop
Fifth semester	PM703	Preaching Lab
Sixth semester	PM765	Pastoral Counseling
Seventh semester	PM768	Marriage and Family Counseling
Eight semester	PM712	Practice of Pastoral Ministry

These mentored courses are completed through Canvas, the same as all courses in the Mentor Model. All assignments and requirements can be found on the course's Canvas page. However, these Mentored Classes will also be conducted in conjunction with the student's ministry mentor. These courses function more like an internship in which the student can learn directly from their mentor within the context of the local church.

5-YEAR B.A./M.DIV. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The 5-year B.A./M.Div. program is an accelerated program that allows students to receive a B.A. in biblical studies (emphasis in biblical languages) from the Master's University and an MDiv from The Master's Seminary. For more information, please see The Master's University website or academic catalog.

MAESTRÍA EN DIVINIDAD | MASTER OF DIVINITY (Spanish Language)

The Master of Divinity degree is also fully available in the Spanish language. Details regarding the program in the Spanish language may be found in the Spanish Academic Catalog available on the TMS website.

MASTER OF BIBLICAL MINISTRY | MAESTRÍA EN MINISTERIO BIBLICO (Spanish language only)

Purpose

The Master of Biblical Ministry (MMB) curriculum provides a basic three-year program in graduate theological education designed to provide students an in-depth survey of biblical content and Christian theology along with coursework designed to equip them to adequately serve as lay ministers and elders in the local church. The program may also provide a basis for further graduate study leading to such degrees as Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Theology (ThM), Doctor of Ministry (DMin), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). This program, delivered exclusively in Spanish, is available entirely online and also residually.

In fulfilling the mission of the seminary, as stated and elaborated earlier in this catalog, the Master of Biblical Ministry program focuses on three areas of special emphasis: Biblical-theological knowledge, personal growth, and ministry preparation. The emphasis on a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Bible is demonstrated throughout the curriculum, especially in hermeneutics, Bible survey courses, and theology courses. The emphasis on personal growth is demonstrated in the required discipleship interactions for each

course. The emphasis on ministry preparation is demonstrated primarily through the Pastoral Ministry courses within the curriculum.

Specifically, the Master of Biblical Ministry program's purpose is detailed in the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

PLO #1: Demonstrate an in-depth working knowledge of the background and context of each Bible book.

PLO #2: Demonstrate the correct application of hermeneutical principles to develop an interpretation of a biblical text.

PLO #3: Express with precision the major biblical themes in doctrinal formulations and apply them to current theological and cultural issues.

PLO #4: Demonstrate a consistent pattern of self-reflection leading to growth in the character qualities necessary for effective biblical ministry.

PLO #5: Apply the fundamentals of message preparation and demonstrate aptitude to teach in a variety of local church contexts.

Program Requirements

Master of Biblical Ministry students must complete the prescribed curriculum, comprised of a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit, with a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.5. Students transferring from other training programs may be granted a maximum of 18 semester hours of credit, providing the work matches the theology and rigor of the MMB. The last 21 hours of credit applied toward the degree must be earned in the MMB program. Fluency in reading, writing and understanding Spanish is required for students in the program.

Curriculum Chart

FIRST YEAR	
<i>1st semester</i>	
BI 505 - Hermeneutics	3
BI 501 - OT Studies I	3
<i>2nd semester</i>	
PM 765 – Pastoral Counseling	3
BI 502 - OT Studies II	3

SECOND YEAR	
<i>1st semester</i>	
TH 605 - Theology I	3
BI 601 - NT Studies	3
<i>2nd semester</i>	
TH 606 - Theology II	3
BI 551 - Intro. to Exegesis	3

THIRD YEAR	
<i>1st semester</i>	
TH 705 - Theology III	3
PM 603 - Message Prep.: Mechanics	3
<i>2nd semester</i>	
TH 706 - Theology IV	3
PM 604 - Message Prep.: Workshop	3
PM 712 - Biblical Ministry	3

Total program units 39

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the requirements specified in the preceding paragraphs, which include completion of 39 semester hours of credit with a grade point average of 2.5 or above, each candidate must submit an official Application for Graduation when registering for their final semester prior to graduation. Transfer students must complete at least 21 semester hours of credit at The Master's Seminary.

MMB TO MDIV

Graduates of the MMB program are encouraged to apply for and continue their studies in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. Students who successfully complete the MMB program may receive up to 29 units of credit towards the M.Div. per the following stipulations:

Credit by Advanced Standing

Upon acceptance into the MDiv program, graduates of the MMB are granted 23 credit hours of advanced standing. That advanced standing applies to the following 8 courses:

BI 505	Hermeneutics	3
PM 765	Pastoral Counseling	3
PM 603*	Mechanics of Preaching	2
TH 605	Theology I	3
TH 606	Theology II	3
TH 705	Theology III	3
TH 706	Theology IV	3
PM 712	Practice of Pastoral Ministries	3
	Total Advanced Standing	23

*PM603 Mechanics of Preaching is equivalent to PM602 Mechanics of Preaching (2 units) in the MDiv Program.

Credit by Examination

Additionally, MMB students may earn up to 6 credit hours by taking the following PASS exams. (These PASS

exams are available to any incoming MDiv student).

BI 501	Old Testament Studies I	3
BI 502	Old Testament Studies II	3
	Total Advanced Standing	6

Requirements for Transferring from MMB to M. Div

Students currently enrolled in the MMB program who wish to transfer to the M. Div program may do so without having completed the MMB, if they have not accumulated more than 21 credits in the MMB program (the course BI601 – NT Studies will not be considered for transfer). However, once a student has accumulated more than 21 credits in the MMB, it will be considered that they have progressed far enough in the program to continue until its completion. In these cases, the student must complete the MMB program before being eligible for the M. Div. program.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Purpose

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) 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 Ph.D.

The Th.M. program offers semester-length modular courses that provide specialized preparation in four emphases:

Old Testament (OT): The Th.M. emphasis in Old Testament 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.

New Testament (NT): The Th.M. emphasis in New Testament provides advanced mastery in the skills and research of New Testament language as well as the grammatico-historical interpretation and exegesis of its literature.

Theological Studies (TH): The Th.M. emphasis in Theological Studies provides advanced training in the major categories of historical and systematic theology. It prepares students to research and write with expertise in a specific area of theology.

Bible Exposition (BI): The Th.M. emphasis in Bible Exposition provides specialized instruction in the areas of hermeneutics and homiletics. It provides a detailed apologetic for both the grammatico-historical method of interpretation and a text-driven approach to exposition.

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 (Ph.D.).

In addition to coursework in the chosen discipline, students will take research, writing, and teaching courses in the subject area of Educational Pedagogy (EP).

In each of the four emphases, students choose between a 28-credit unit non-Ph.D. track (wherein the Th.M. serves as a terminal degree) and a 29-credit unit Ph.D. track (wherein the student is prepared for future doctoral studies). To demonstrate academic ability in the non-Ph.D. track, students are required to compile a research portfolio for the completion of their studies. In the Ph.D. track, the successful submission of a research thesis is required.

The purpose of the Th.M. program is detailed in a series of learning objectives, which reflect the educational results intended for students in both broad and particular ways. The following *Program-level Learning Outcomes* (PLOs) guide the structure of the Th.M. 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.

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 Th.M. 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 Overview

The Th.M. program can be completed in two or three years of full-time study (four or more credit units per semester), though part-time study (three credit units or less per semester) is permissible. The program provides instruction in fall and spring semesters consisting of eighteen weeks each. In the interest of preparing men for ministry or doctoral studies efficiently, the program is not to exceed four years except by written permission of the Ph.D./ Th.M. studies committee.

Dedicated students can complete both the Th.M. and Ph.D. programs at TMS in as little as five years. To expedite future doctoral studies, students enrolled in the Ph.D. track must complete four Ph.D. qualifying exams as part of the Th.M. program—two of which cover research languages pertinent to the area of emphasis.

Modular Format

Students can take up to 4 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, June, per the academic calendar). The 18-week fall and spring terms are divided into 3 segments: 1. The pre-module period involves 12 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 research languages); 3. The post-module period provides an additional 3 weeks of supplemental learning facilitated through Canvas after the on-campus modular period ends.

Curriculum Charts

The following charts provide a curriculum layout for each of the four emphases, assuming a two-year course of study. The chart in the left column represents the 28-unit non-Ph.D. track which culminates in a research portfolio. The chart in the right column represents the 29-unit Ph.D. track culminating in a thesis. For a three-year course of study layout, please see the Th.M. handbook.

NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASIS (Non-Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
	Elective	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
NT 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
	Elective	2
Credit Hour Total		28

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES EMPHASIS (Non-Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology	2
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1-11	2
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
	Elective	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
TH 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
	Elective	2
Credit Hour Total		28

NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASIS (Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
NT837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
NT 838	Th.M. Thesis**	2
NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
GR 800	Theological German	2
Credit Hour Total		29

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES EMPHASIS (Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology*	2
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1-11	2
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
TH837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
TH 838	ThM Thesis**	2
TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
GR 800	Theological German*	2
Credit Hour Total		29

OLD TESTAMENT EMPHASIS (Non-Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings	2
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
OT 868	Exegesis of Wisdom Literature	2
	Elective	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
OT 839	Advanced Research Methods	3
OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
	Elective	2
Credit Hour Total		28

BIBLE EXPOSITION EMPHASIS (Non-Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics	2
BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics	2
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt. 1	2
BI 832A	History of Biblical Preaching Pt 1	1
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt. 2	2
BI 832B	History of Biblical Preaching Pt 2	1
	Elective	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
BI 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
BI 870	From Text to Exposition	2
	Elective	2
Credit Hour Total		28

OLD TESTAMENT EMPHASIS (Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
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
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings*	2
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
OT 868	Exegesis of Wisdom Literature	2
OT 873	Akkadian*	2
OT837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
OT 838	Th.M. Thesis**	2
OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
GR 800	Theological German	2
Credit Hour Total		29

BIBLE EXPOSITION EMPHASIS (Ph.D. Track)		
<i>Year 1 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics*	2
BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics	2
<i>Year 1 – Spring Semester</i>		
EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt. 1	2
BI 832A	History of Biblical Preaching Pt 1	1
<i>Year 2 – Fall Semester</i>		
EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt. 2	2
BI 832B	History of Biblical Preaching Pt 2*	1
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
BI 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	2
<i>Year 2 – Spring Semester</i>		
BI 838	Th.M. Thesis**	2
BI 870	From Text to Exposition	2
GR 800	Theological German*	2
Credit Hour Total		29

*Incorporates Ph.D. qualifying exam

**Incorporates Thesis Fee

Elective Study Tours

The Master's Seminary provides opportunities for students to study directly in the lands of the Bible either through a 3-week Israel study tour or a 2-week Turkey and Greece study tour. These trips are highly effective in expanding a student's awareness of geographical, cultural, and historical issues pertaining to the interpretation of the Old and New Testaments. Master of Theology students are encouraged to consider such trips, and scholarship funds may be available to help alleviate the costs.

Students in all four academic emphases can receive two units of academic credit for either the Israel study tour or the Turkey and Greece study tour, but not for both. For students in the non-Ph.D. track, the two units will take the place of the open elective built into the curriculum of each of the four emphases. For students in the Ph.D. track, the two units will take the place of one of the seminars in the student's curriculum that is not part of his emphasis. For example, a student in the Old Testament emphasis could count the two units in the place of a New Testament exegesis seminar or a Theological Studies seminar. A student in the Theological Studies emphasis could count the two units in place of an Old Testament exegesis seminar or a New Testament exegesis seminar. Etc. This is to ensure that a student maintains the full number of units related to his area of academic focus.

Students in the Ph.D. track taking the Israel or Turkey and Greece study trip for credit must consult with the Director of Th.M. Studies to determine which seminar to substitute. Such a decision will be made by taking into account the student's previous academic record.

Ph.D. Qualifying Exams

Scores for the Ph.D. qualifying exams are considered good for up to four years from the date of the student's graduation from the Th.M. program. In other words, a student has up to four years from the date of his Th.M. graduation to apply for the Ph.D. program, be accepted, and register for his first Ph.D. units without having to re-take these exams.

Graduation Requirements

Degrees are awarded to qualified candidates at the seminary's spring commencement. To qualify for graduation, candidates must present an acceptable thesis or research portfolio and have completed all 28 or 29 credit hours of required course work depending on the chosen track, with no grade less than B- credited toward the Th.M. degree. Candidates must also manifest promise of competency in Christian ministry, exhibit exemplary and consistent Christian character, and must be in accord with the ideals of the institution as recorded in its current catalog.

Additional information specific to the Th.M. degree can be found in the Th.M. Student Handbook.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Purpose

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Expository Preaching is designed to equip pastors and church leaders in

enhancing their skills in sermon preparation and public exposition of Scripture. The program engages in the classic disciplines of Exegesis (principles and practices of interpretation), Exposition (principles and practices of content synthesis), and Eloquence (principles and practice of rhetoric) in enriching sermon preparation and delivery.

- PLO #1: *As an experienced biblical expositor*, to add further understanding, quality, and depth to the exegetical skill needed in sermon preparation.
- PLO #2: *As an experienced biblical expositor*, to add further understanding, quality, and depth to the sermon content synthesis.
- PLO #3: *As an experienced biblical expositor*, to add further understanding, quality, and depth to the rhetorical eloquence.
- PLO #4: *As an experienced biblical expositor*, to demonstrate enhanced expository preaching skills in a culminating program project.

Curriculum

The overall program and individual seminars are intended to develop the student/preacher in the three classical disciplines of sermon preparation: Exegesis, exposition, and eloquence.

Seminars Organized by Sequence

FIRST YEAR		
<i>Fall</i>		
DM 916	Doctrinal Foundations for Expository Preaching	4
DM 914	Expository Preaching and the Old Testament	4
DM 913	Research Seminar I	1
DM 900	Preaching Evaluation I	0.5
<i>Spring</i>		
DM 925	Theology and Expository Preaching	4
DM 917	Preaching Evaluation II	0.5

SECOND YEAR		
<i>Fall</i>		
DM 924	Homiletics and Sermon Delivery	4
DM 923	Expository Preaching and the New Testament	4
DM 918	Preaching Evaluation III	0.5
<i>Spring</i>		
DM 915	Historical and Contemporary Preaching Models	4
DM 920	Preaching Evaluation IV	0.5
DM 921	Research Seminar II	1
(The program cycle is repeated every two years)		

THIRD YEAR		
<i>1st semester</i>		
DM 937	Preaching Research Project I	4
<i>2nd semester</i>		
DM 938	Preaching Research Project II	4

The Master's Seminary Doctor of Ministry program runs cyclically, with core seminars repeating every two years. This means a student may begin during any July or January module and still complete the core seminars in two years with no detriment to their progression in the program. The student's third year in the program will focus on the preaching project. This project will be built upon the seminars and coursework completed during the first two years of the program.

Philosophy

The TMS Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching is for the experienced pastor or church leader engaged in ministry who desires to further refine his skills in all aspects of teaching and preaching the Word of God.

The program is designed to permit the student to remain in his present ministry while completing the degree program. However, the student should allot enough time to complete the work with excellence. The program will demand between 600 to 800 hours a year for three years to complete. Although some of these hours should already be scheduled in expository preaching preparation, many hours will have to be devoted to the program above and beyond one's present ministry. As much as possible, the seminar projects and the Preaching Research Project will relate directly to the ongoing expository ministry in one's local church.

The TMS degree will follow the standard academic nomenclature of Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree. This is a recognized vocational degree within the pastoral ministry community. The requirements for the DMin degree from The Master's Seminary are equal to and even surpass the requirements of other accredited Doctor of Ministry programs.

Focus

The primary focus of this program is refining the art of preaching. Courses are designed to improve the preacher's study, preparation, and delivery of expository sermons. Professional enhancement is furthered by the application of seminar material in post-seminar reading, writing, and preaching assignments. Preaching refinement is fostered by personal preaching mentorship and feedback by seasoned, gifted expositors throughout the program.

Distinctives

- Designed for the seasoned MDiv/MA pastor who has the capabilities and desires to improve both the content delivery of his expository preaching.
- Uniquely focused curriculum on the exegesis and exposition of Scripture.
- Taught by both seminary professors and experienced practitioners from across the country.
- Large class size (60+) and diversity allows for increased fellowship and camaraderie with other pastors and church leaders.
- Personal preaching mentorship and feedback throughout the program.
- Required elder qualifications, as taught in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, as a basis for entrance.

Program Description

Administration of the Program

Under the direction of the Dean of Faculty, the Director of the DMin serves as the program director. Working with each doctoral student's assigned mentor and the DMin committee, the director oversees the orderly and timely completion of each student's program. The Assistant to the Director works closely with the Director to ensure proper implementation and administration of the program.

Design of the Program

Following the historical design of DMin programs, the TMS DMin program is designed to permit the student to remain in his present ministry location. During his first two years, the seminars will be offered in a two-week period in July and a one-week period in January. Consequently, the student will be absent from his pulpit three Sundays during the year. The seminar projects will necessitate that the student be preaching on a weekly basis in his home church.

The student's third year will be spent researching and writing his preaching research project. The student will not be required to be on campus during his third year except for the oral defense of his project near the end of his final semester.

Assessments

To assess progress in preaching skills, students will be engaged in regular sermon evaluation during their first four semesters. Students will be assigned a preaching mentor their first and third semesters in order to receive diverse and balanced observations and suggestions. These seasoned expositors will provide one-on-one mentorship to the student. The student will submit an original sermon and self-evaluation to their preaching mentor and schedule a time for the preaching mentor to provide feedback and encouragement. After receiving feedback on their sermon, the student will re-preach the sermon, implementing the advice and feedback received. During the second and fourth semesters, students will partake in peer evaluations with an assigned group of classmates. Students will submit sermons and self-evaluations with each other and likewise schedule a time to provide insights and recommended areas of improvement.

Each seminar syllabus includes learning objectives, outlining what the student is expected to accomplish. Students are assessed by the quality of their completed assignments both before and after each seminar. Seminar coursework will include substantial reading, academic and reflective writing, and preaching in the student's active ministry.

Preaching Research Project Requirements

The final phase of the DMin process involves the development and implementation of the Preaching Research Project. This component of the program is intended to demonstrate the student's knowledge, preaching skills, research methods, theological understanding, and practical ministry abilities. The Preaching Research Project should exhibit the student's ability to relate exegetical, theological, and preaching knowledge (demonstrated in research) with his preaching skills.

Because valuable research and data will be accumulated during the seminar coursework, each student is encouraged to think about his project from his first semester. Final approval for the Preaching Project must be attained by the student's fourth on-site seminar visit to TMS. The DMin Director and project advisor must

approve all projects. The length of the Preaching Project will be no less than 125 pages and no more than 175 pages. It must include doctoral level research as well as the demonstration of reflective professional experience. Each thesis will be individually designed around the student's preaching context.

Based on the student's selected topic, the Director will assist in selecting a faculty advisor from the TMS faculty and Second Reader whose roles will be to ensure a meaningful and significant project.

Length of the Program

Two years (twice a year) of on-campus seminars plus one year for completing the doctoral project. Exceptions are made only in cases of emergency.

Continuing Registration

All students are expected to register for each successive semester until graduation from the program. To maintain active student status, a student who does not register for credits, either in-class credits or the Preaching Project, during any regular semester must register for Continuing Registration. This may be viewed as a non-credit course which is required whenever there would otherwise be an interruption in the student's program. DMin students may register for Continuing Registration for no more than two successive semesters. A student who fails to register for either course credits, Preaching Project credits, or Continuing Registration during any semester regularly scheduled for his program will be dropped from the program and must re-apply for admission prior to any subsequent registration.

During the Preaching Project phase, if a student were to need more time to complete the project, he must register for Continuing Registration before registering for his final course of the program. Once enrolled in the final semester (DM 938), the student will no longer be able to register for Continuing Registration unless the advisor deems it necessary for the student to graduate at a later date.

Graduation Requirements

Candidates for the DMin degree must complete all seminar work and the Preaching Research Project with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. The completion of the minimal requirements does not automatically qualify the student for the degree. The candidate must have also continued to evidence pastoral character and expository proficiency to the faculty.

Housing

The seminary does not provide room and board for students. The student must make his own arrangements. It is the student's responsibility to arrange his travel to arrive on the TMS campus in time to attend all required seminars. He should plan to be on campus through the end of the on-campus term. No early departures will be allowed, except for emergencies.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Purpose

As with the Master of Divinity and the Master of Theology degree programs, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is specifically designed for individuals preparing for those vocations requiring ordination, with special emphasis given to training the next generation of professors to staff seminary and college/university biblical and

theological studies faculties.

The purposes of the program include:

- Preparing pastors and equippers of pastors for assignments in institutional settings where doctoral-level credentials are a prerequisite
- Providing pastors and equippers of pastors opportunity to further sharpen their exegetical and theological skills beyond their Master of Theology studies
- Equipping pastors who are also inclined toward a calling in theological writing that requires the highest level of exegetical and theological training

To achieve the above purposes, the program is designed to enable the student to:

- Develop an expertise in a specialized area of biblical and theological study through original research
- Expand his breadth of knowledge beyond the scope of his specific discipline and dissertation topic
- Defend ideas and refute error among peers
- Demonstrate proficiency in effective writing skills

The Program Learning Objectives for the PhD Program are:

- PLO 1: As a critical thinker, collect and analyze primary and secondary sources of information, critique interpretations of the evidence, synthesize the evidence for future scholarly contributions to the field of study, and draw and integrate implications for professional practice.
- PLO 2: As a theological exegete, apply exegetical skills to the biblical text, develop a theological critique of views related to the text, and connect the issue with its historical precedents.
- PLO 3: As a scholarly communicator, engage in quality written papers and oral presentations in colloquia for the purpose of disseminating personal scholarship to peer audiences as well as future readers and hearers of the writer's work.

Program Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy is a three- to five-year program designed to give a select number of highly qualified Master of Theology (or equivalent) graduates who have demonstrated the necessary academic abilities, ministry skills, and character qualities, the opportunity to pursue a terminal degree specializing in Old Testament, New Testament, Bible Exposition, Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, or Historical Theology.

The program is based on the study of the original languages of Scripture and requires an awareness of the entire sweep of Historical Theology and Biblical Theology systematically expressed.

The program requires a minimum of twenty-four credit hours of study, the first of which is the Dissertation Prospectus course (four credit hours). The remaining study load is designed to assist in the research/writing and defense of the dissertation, the full-time load of which is four credit hours per semester. In cases of minor academic deficiency, additional coursework may be assigned (see "Residency Requirements: Coursework" below).

Coursework is elevated past the MDiv level, and doctoral students are not placed in a traditional classroom environment. Rather, the delivery mode follows the one-on-one mentoring model, with coursework comprised of directed studies and research seminars focused on producing a PhD dissertation.

Design

The program is designed to permit the student to complete his research and writing through a traditional residential or a modular format. The traditional residency option assures that the student has regular and frequent conferences with his mentor/advisor, has full access to the research capabilities of the seminary library, may attend all doctoral colloquia during the residency, is available for any required teaching assignments or assignments as a graduate assistant, and may attend all academic events, such as special lectures and conferences. The alternative extended modular residency option is available to students accepted in the TMS PhD program. All application requirements and processes are the same as the residential option, however the student may retain his residency in his place of service and may have up to five years to complete his dissertation. More detailed information regarding these options is available in the PhD handbook.

Administration

The Director of PhD Studies gives oversight to the program. Working closely with each doctoral student's mentor and the ThM/PhD Studies Committee (comprising the Dean of Faculty, Director of PhD Studies, the Director of ThM studies, and the chairman of each discipline), the Director of PhD Studies oversees the orderly and timely completion of each student's program.

Prerequisites

The nature of the program specifies that four (4) qualifying exams be successfully completed prior to matriculation: Two in the major discipline (OT, NT, Bible Exposition, or Theology), the TMS German exam, and the TMS Latin exam (for NT, Bible Exposition, and Theology) or the TMS Akkadian exam (for OT). No exams from other institutions are accepted. Although some class work might be required in cases where a deficiency in a student's previous education is noted (see "Residency Requirements: Course Work" section in the PhD Handbook), the completion of the qualifying exams prior to matriculation allows the student to focus primarily on writing the dissertation while in residency. Except for the Oral Interview, each of these exams may be taken off-site. The exams, including guidelines and study questions to assist preparation, are available to TMS-approved proctors from the Director of PhD Studies.

Time Limit for Qualifying Exams. Applicants studying for the TMS ThM degree in the "PhD track" must pass the PhD qualifying exams for his anticipated PhD major during the normal two (2) years in the ThM program. Applicants who graduated with a TMS ThM degree before 2018 and applicants who received a ThM degree from a school other than TMS may apply for "provisional acceptance" (see below) prior to their taking the TMS ThM courses and passing the PhD qualifying exams that conclude those courses. However, those with "provisional acceptance" in the PhD program are allowed no more than two (2) years to complete the TMS ThM courses and passing (with at least a score of 86%) the PhD qualifying exams respectively culminating these courses. No additional time for taking these courses and passing their exams will be granted by the PhD/ThM Studies Committee except only for emergency circumstances and only in response to a formal written letter of appeal from the student. Any such extension will be granted for no more than one semester and will incur a semester fee. This fee cannot be covered by any scholarship.

No applicant granted "provisional acceptance" may be exempted from taking the TMS ThM courses and passing (with at least a score of 86%) the PhD qualifying exams respectively culminating these courses.

Proctoring Exams Off-Site. All examinations (both language and qualifying) may be proctored in situations where the student is living a long distance from TMS. The Director of PhD Studies must approve the proctor in such cases. Proctors normally must be faculty of graduate-level institutions near the student. Any exception must be approved by the Director of PhD Studies.

Qualifying Exams in Major. Covering the applicant's chosen major, these two exams are designed to determine his general awareness of the selected field of doctoral study, his current position on certain salient issues relevant to that discipline, and his ability to express himself cogently in writing. The exams will be graded by a professor in the department/discipline of the applicant's chosen major. Weaknesses noted in these exams could be remedied by a Directed Reading exam (see below).

German and Other Language Qualifying Exams. The ability to read significant theological sources in German is deemed vital to research at the doctoral level. Consequently, an exam testing German reading comprehension is administered under the purview of the PhD Studies Committee. TMS offers a course in Theological German designed to prepare students for this required qualifying exam. No grades for German reading exams from other institutions will be accepted in place of taking the TMS German exam. For a major in New Testament, Bible Exposition, or Theology, an exam testing Latin reading comprehension is also administered. Based on an individual's anticipated dissertation topic, instead of the Latin exam, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee may allow for a qualifying exam in another non-biblical foreign language (e.g., French, Modern Hebrew, Dutch). For a major in Old Testament, an exam testing for Akkadian rather than Latin reading comprehension is administered.

Grading of Qualifying Exams. All examinations (both language and content) will be graded *Pass* or *Fail*. The applicant must earn a *Pass* (equivalent to a numeric grade of at least 86%) or above to demonstrate that he has achieved the level of proficiency required to be fully accepted into the PhD program. If an exam is failed, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee may decide to allow the applicant to take the exam again. In that case, the applicant must re-take the exam no earlier than four weeks after the failure and no later than twelve weeks after the failure. Failure on the third attempt to pass any exam will result in final disqualification from full formal entrance into the PhD program.

Directed Readings. A departmental reading list with study guidelines might be sent to the applicant, based on any weaknesses discovered in the department/discipline qualifying exams. The PhD/ThM Studies Committee may require an exam based on the assigned reading list. Once the prescribed readings have been completed, and any required exam based on these readings passed to the satisfaction of the Committee, the applicant may proceed to the Oral Interview.

Pre-Residency Oral Interview. Upon successful completion of the qualifying exams, any directed readings, and any additional required exam passed to the satisfaction of the Committee, a personal interview may be arranged, if deemed necessary, with the PhD/ThM Studies Committee. The interview, along with the application, transcripts, and examinations, will be the basis for the Committee formally admitting the applicant to residency, officially designating the student's dissertation advisor, and assigning additional course work (if any) due to academic deficiency.

Provisional Acceptance

Applicants who graduated with a TMS ThM degree before 2018 and applicants who received a ThM degree from a school other than TMS and are otherwise qualified for acceptance into the PhD program, may apply for "provisional acceptance" prior to their taking the TMS ThM courses and passing the PhD qualifying exams that conclude those courses respectively. However, those with "provisional acceptance" in the PhD program are allowed no more than two (2) years to complete the TMS ThM courses and pass (with at least a score of 86%) the PhD qualifying exams respectively culminating these courses. Upon successful completion of all prerequisite TMS ThM courses that culminate in the PhD qualifying exams, and upon successfully passing (with at least a score of 86%) the PhD qualifying exams, in response to a formal request by the applicant, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee will grant the applicant full formal acceptance into the PhD program. Failure of any prerequisite

exam will result in termination of a student's "provisional acceptance," unless the PhD/ThM Studies Committee grants permission for that student to make a second or third attempt to pass that exam. Failure to pass the exam on the third attempt to pass any exam will result in final disqualification from full formal entrance into the PhD program.

No applicant granted "provisional acceptance" may be exempted from taking the TMS ThM courses and passing (with at least a score of 86%) the PhD qualifying exams respectively culminating these courses.

Academic Advisor

At the time of admission into residency in the program, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee, based on consultation with the department chairman, will formally assign a mentor/advisor to oversee the student's studies. It is suggested that each applicant obtain an informal commitment from a faculty member in the department in which the applicant desires to research/write, to serve as the mentor/advisor of the applicant if he is granted formal admission to the PhD program by the PhD/ThM Studies Committee. The mentor/advisor will assess the student's previous education and review his qualifying exams, assigning additional course work as deemed necessary.

Traditional Residency

Upon being fully formally approved by the PhD/ThM Studies Committee to enter the PhD program and begin the Dissertation Prospectus course under his mentor/advisor, the student begins formal residency. Students are generally required to live near TMS to pursue the traditional residency requirements.

Continuous Enrollment. Because the nature of the PhD traditional residency does not allow for non-residency or ABD ("All But Dissertation") status, the student is expected to relocate to the Los Angeles area and to personally interact with his advisor regularly according to a schedule set by the mentor/advisor. The student must locate close enough to the campus that his mentor/advisor can arrange meetings. The program specifically requires that the student enroll for each semester successively (summers excluded) until the first draft has been accepted by his dissertation committee; early departure will result in termination of the program.

Course Work. A student must enroll in a minimum of twenty-four credit hours of study during his academic residency, the first of which would be the Dissertation Prospectus course (four credit hours). These courses, formed in consultation with the mentor/advisor, are designed to assist in the dissertation research and would be in addition to any course work required due to deficiency (see "Qualifying Exams" above). A grade of B- or higher is required in each course. Old Testament majors will be required to take a course in Ugaritic as part of their twenty-four credit hours.

Advanced Standing/Transfer Credit. Students with previous training in the program to be pursued will be required to submit official transcripts upon enrollment. The transcript will be evaluated, and appropriate credit given. Credits allowed will be recorded on the enrollment record and the length of the program shortened proportionately. The student and any relevant governmental agencies (e.g., Department of Veteran Affairs [DVA]) will be notified.

Length of Program. Although the actual length of the program might vary, depending on one's capability and commitment, a two to three-year residency can be expected. The program is expected to be completed within four years from the date of initial matriculation. Only in rare circumstances will this requirement be relaxed, and then the PhD/ThM Studies Committee must be fully satisfied that there is sufficient justification for an extension of time. Request for an extension must be made in writing to the Director of PhD Studies.

Student Teaching or Graduate Assistant Responsibilities. Each student is expected to demonstrate a solid grasp of his specialized major and an ability to communicate it well. As needed, students might be asked to assume an adjunct faculty role within their major area. All such arrangements will be made through the Office of the Academic Dean.

Membership in Professional and Scholarly Societies. All PhD students are encouraged to be active members of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). TMS encourages students to present at least one paper in either the regional or national meetings of ETS or another scholarly society during their residency at TMS. Students are also encouraged to maintain active membership in any other professional and scholarly society that would be beneficial to their development as academic and ministerial leaders. Peer review of doctoral research outside TMS is an important element in the student's progress.

Modular Residency Option

An alternative extended residency option is available to students accepted in the TMS PhD program. All application requirements and processes are the same as detailed above, but the student may retain his residency in his place of service and may have up to five years to complete his dissertation. The following are the main features of this residency alternative option.

Prerequisites for Application. As in the case of all other applicants, a recognized ThM degree or its equivalent (consisting of approximately twenty-nine semester credit hours of course work, including an acceptable research thesis [or its equivalent]), provides the academic basis for the program. In addition, a scholastic record that demonstrates superior ability and offers promise of success in studies at the PhD level is required. Also required is a grade point average of 3.5 or above in all previous seminary studies. The applicant must submit a copy of his ThM thesis (or its equivalent) (electronic format is acceptable). The PhD/ThM Studies Committee will review these materials when they consider the application.

English Language Requirements. Well-written and correct English grammar and idiom are a non-negotiable standard for all work in TMS's program. An applicant whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in speaking and writing English before he can matriculate. No international applications for the program will be considered without documented TOEFL scores meeting TMS's established standard. When possible, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee will arrange for at least two members of the Committee to conduct a personal interview with an applicant and submit a written report of the interview. The full Committee will refer to the written report on the interview in order to determine whether the applicant's application process should be continued or terminated.

Qualifying Exams and Proctoring. The same qualifying courses and exams are required of modular residency applicants. TMS will **proctor qualifying exams** (two in the area of the applicant's chosen major, Theological German, and either Latin (for New Testament, Bible Exposition, or Theology majors) or Akkadian (for Old Testament major)) through professors, upper-level administrators, or other academically qualified persons in the applicant's school or location. The applicant must successfully complete his qualifying exams before being fully formally accepted into residency. If an exam grade falls below the 86% breakpoint for the Pass/Fail grade, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee may terminate the application, or require taking another exam for a given course. No more than three total attempts to pass a qualifying exam for the same course will be permitted. After failing two attempts to pass a qualifying exam, the PhD/ThM Studies Committee may assign remedial reading and/or courses to help the student prepare for the third exam.

Optional Theological German Instruction. TMS can offer its Theological German course (see above) online through Teams or Zoom or some other two-way livestream online arrangement whereby the instructor can interact with

students living in a location distant from the TMS campus who are taking the course in order to prepare for their qualifying exam in Theological German.

Possible Requirement of Supplemental Exegetical Courses. Before they can receive full formal acceptance into the PhD program, graduates of a ThM program from a school (including a TMAI school) other than TMS might be required to take extra TMS NT and OT exegetical courses to show they can use the original languages in PhD research.

Required Visits to Campus. Each PhD student is required to visit the campus each year to use the library, consult with his PhD mentor/advisor, and make required presentations to the faculty. In the first year of PhD study, two visits are required, one during the Shepherds' Conference and through the two subsequent weeks, and the other two weeks during the summer at a time agreed on with the PhD mentor/advisor. In subsequent years only the visit in the week of the Shepherds' Conference and the two subsequent weeks is required.

Extended Residency. Applicants who are admitted to the program may complete their **residency** according to the structure below that corresponds to their chosen emphasis. All students must meet with their advisors on campus for the second and third weeks of March (following Shepherds' Conference).

Theology

Year 1

Semester 1

TH941 – Dissertation Prospectus (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Topic Defense

Semester 2

TH942 – Dissertation Research I (4 Units)

No Presentation

Year 2

Semester 1

TH943 – Dissertation Research II (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #1

Semester 2

TH930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 3

Semester 1

TH944 – Dissertation Research III (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #2

Semester 2

TH930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 4

Semester 1

TH945 – Dissertation Research IV (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #3

Semester 2

TH930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 5

Semester 1

TH947 – Dissertation Research (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Defense

Total Units: 24 Units

New Testament

Year 1

Semester 1

NT941 – Dissertation Prospectus (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Topic Defense

Semester 2

NT942 – Dissertation Research I (4 Units)

No Presentation

Year 2

Semester 1

NT943 – Dissertation Research II (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #1

Semester 2

NT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 3

Semester 1

NT944 – Dissertation Research III (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #2

Semester 2

NT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 4

Semester 1

NT945 – Dissertation Research IV (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #3

Semester 2

NT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 5

Semester 1

NT947 – Dissertation Research (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Defense

Total Units: 24 Units

Bible Exposition

Year 1

Semester 1

BI941 – Dissertation Prospectus (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Topic Defense

Semester 2

BI942 – Dissertation Research I (4 Units)

No Presentation

Year 2

Semester 1

BI943 – Dissertation Research II (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #1

Semester 2

BI930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 3

Semester 1

BI944 – Dissertation Research III (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #2

Semester 2

BI930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 4

Semester 1

BI945 – Dissertation Research IV (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #3

Semester 2

BI930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 5

Semester 1

BI947 – Dissertation Research (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Defense

Total Units: 24 Units

Old Testament

Year 1

Semester 1

OT941 – Dissertation Prospectus (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Topic Defense

Semester 2

OT941A – Dissertation Research I (2 Units)

OT975 – Ugaritic (2 Units)

No Presentation

Year 2

Semester 1

OT942 – Dissertation Research II (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #1

Semester 2

OT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 3

Semester 1

OT943 – Dissertation Research III (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #2

Semester 2

OT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 4

Semester 1

OT944 – Dissertation Research IV (4 Units)

Presentation: Colloquium #3

Semester 2

OT930 – Writing and Research (0 Units)

No Presentation

Year 5

Semester 1

OT947 – Dissertation Research (4 Units)

Presentation: Dissertation Defense

Total Units: 24 Units

Writing and Research Courses – Since a modular residency student has more flexibility on the timeframe of completing his program yet must remain registered every semester of the duration of his program, the student must register for this course in order to maintain active student status. The student is expected to continue progress on the dissertation, even though not completing a presentation during the semester. The fee for this course can be found on the TMS website.

Post-Shepherds' Conference Sessions. The student must spend an intensive amount of time in the TMS Library conducting dissertation research. Each student will be expected to meet at least 2 hours each week with his advisor (since modular residency students have only the two weeks after the Shepherds' Conference for "in person" conferences). TMS will conduct colloquia and dissertation defenses during those two weeks, primarily on Wednesday afternoons. (Normally, TMS faculty will conduct classes such as Ugaritic for Old Testament majors at a time different than the 2-week post-Shepherds' Conference sessions and over a longer period of time.)

Advisor-Student Communications. Throughout the year advisors will keep in touch and communicate with their students (through email, Teams, Zoom, etc.)

Optional Extended Stay Residency. If deemed to be a viable and beneficial option, the advisor may work together with the PhD/ThM Studies Committee to suggest that a student come for a full semester of residency (fall, spring, or summer). The purposes for such an extended stay might include: 1) providing the student a closer supervision of research and writing; 2) providing the student an opportunity to teach or to be a teacher's assistant in the MDiv or ThM program; 3) providing the student an opportunity to complete two colloquia within a year, if feasible for both student and faculty.

Admission To Candidacy Status

Admission to Candidacy

Upon successful completion of the Dissertation Prospectus course and successful defense of his dissertation topic before the TMS faculty, the student is admitted to candidacy.

Dissertation Committee

Once admission to candidacy has been approved by the PhD Studies Committee, the Director of PhD Studies will, in consultation with the mentor/advisor, select the faculty members who will serve on the student's Dissertation Committee. This committee will generally consist of the student's mentor/advisor (serving as chair), a second faculty member from the TMS faculty, and (after completion of the first draft of the dissertation) a faculty member from another institution. Any unforeseen changes in committee membership will be made by the Director of PhD Studies in consultation with the mentor/advisor.

Doctoral Colloquium Requirements

In addition to presenting and successfully defending his dissertation topic to the TMS faculty, the student is required to present in three doctoral colloquia during his residency. A colloquium must be on a topic related to the student's dissertation research and writing (usually a chapter from the dissertation). Attendance and participation by all doctoral students is encouraged.

Dissertation Requirements

Dissertation Research

The dissertation is expected to embody the results of original research and make a significant unique contribution to knowledge in the field of concentration. In light of the structure and philosophy of the program, the dissertation should evidence a high level of scholarly competence and theological awareness.

Dissertation Length

An acceptable dissertation, consisting of not less than 250 pages or more than 400 pages of text material, must be submitted to the dissertation committee by the student prior to breaking residence. While the dissertation must adhere strictly to the length stipulations, approval is based on doctrinal integrity, literary quality, and academic competency.

Dissertation Format

All dissertation drafts must be prepared in conformity with the latest edition of the *TMS Style Guide*, supplemented by the latest edition of Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Where this source lacks specificity for a theological dissertation, the latest edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style* takes precedence.

Dissertation Deadlines & Acceptance

The first draft of the student's Dissertation Committee is due no later than March 15 of the year of his anticipated graduation and should be submitted as an electronic copy to the student's advisor and to the Director of PhD Studies. The Director of PhD Studies will send the electronic copy to the full-time faculty so they can prepare for the oral defense. If major revisions are required by the Dissertation Committee, the student should be prepared to delay his graduation by a full year. Final acceptance is predicated upon acceptance of the first draft by the Dissertation Committee (including the third reader from another institution), successful oral defense of the dissertation before the TMS faculty, and acceptance of the final draft by the Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President/Dean of TMS and the TMS Librarian.

Dissertation Defense

Once the Dissertation Committee deems the dissertation draft ready, a defense, chaired by the student's mentor/advisor, will be conducted by the student's Dissertation Committee. Ideally scheduled no later than March 31 of the year of anticipated graduation, the date and place of the defense are announced to all faculty, who are invited to attend. The first draft of the dissertation plus two copies of a ten-to-fifteen page separate paper comprising the table of contents, abstract, annotated outline, and bibliography of the dissertation must be presented to the Dissertation Chairman (mentor-advisor) and the Director of PhD Studies no later than one week prior to the oral defense.

Immediately following the student's defense presentation, the faculty will vote whether to approve the dissertation and recommend the student for graduation, making suggestions to the student's Dissertation Committee for any final minor revisions of the dissertation. Subsequently, if deemed necessary, the Dissertation Committee and the Director of PhD Studies will meet to decide upon one of the following actions:

- 1) Confirm the faculty approval of the dissertation and its defense, subject to any minor revisions required by the Dissertation Committee;

- 2) Confirm delaying graduation if the faculty has voted not to approve the dissertation and recommended delaying graduation until major revisions are completed under the direction of the mentor/advisor, necessitating another defense for the following year;
- 3) Confirm rejecting the dissertation and its defense and terminating the student's program, if the faculty has voted that these measures be taken.

The chairman of the Dissertation Committee (the mentor/advisor) will immediately notify the student of the committee's decision.

Graduation Requirements

Once approval of the dissertation and its defense has been granted, the student must submit by the first Friday in April the following items:

- 1) An "Application for Graduation" (due in January for spring graduates and August for fall graduates).
- 2) An approved original printed copy, three photocopies, and one electronic copy of the dissertation to the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President/Dean of TMS and the TMS Librarian, with the form and payment for binding. Each copy must include a one-page single-spaced abstract. Additional copies for personal use may be submitted for binding. This final printed copy, three photocopies, and one electronic copy may be submitted later in April.
- 3) A vitae sheet, written in narrative style and including the date and place of birth, a summary of the candidate's professional and academic career and degrees earned, publications, memberships, and special honors. This vitae sheet may be submitted later in April, when the final printed copy, the three photocopies, and the one electronic copy are submitted.
- 4) A completed form for sending the dissertation to TREN (Theological Research Exchange Network). This TREN form may be submitted later in April, when the final printed copy, the three photocopies, and the one electronic copy are submitted.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Enrollment in The Master's Seminary is limited to those who give testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who demonstrate submission to the will of God and obedience to the Word of God, who evidence possession of the personal and spiritual gifts necessary for ministry, and who are in essential agreement with the seminary's statement of faith.

As outlined in a previous section of this catalog, it is the conviction of the seminary faculty that there are personal, spiritual, doctrinal, and professional qualifications which an educational process alone cannot produce, and without which any preparation for an entrance into the ministry of the gospel can result in nothing but personal tragedy. The seminary administration and faculty reserve the right to withdraw the privilege of enrollment from any student who, after admission, may prove to be lacking in these essential qualifications. In evaluating all applications, the Admissions Committee will look for evidence of increasing Christian maturity, normally with at least two years of growth as a Christian.

Persons with any history of divorce for either spouse should be aware that their applications will be given special scrutiny.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Diploma of Theology

In addition to the personal qualifications described above, applicants must be over the age of 25. The Diploma of Theology is an unaccredited program that affords the greatest degree of flexibility in academic requirements. Reserved for those who face special circumstances that would make the requirements of the Bachelor of Theology problematic, the program requires no undergraduate coursework. International applicants who require an F1 student visa are not eligible for admission to this program.

Bachelor of Theology

In addition to the personal qualifications described above, applicants must be over the age of 25. Enrollment in the Bachelor of Theology program requires possession of an associate degree or 30+ units of liberal arts undergraduate work from an approved institution, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for all undergraduate work. At least three (3) of these credit hours must be in the area of quantitative reasoning or mathematics. Applicants who attended unaccredited institutions or who present grade point averages lower than 2.5 may be considered for probationary admission status if their references include unusually high recommendations for potential ministry. International students should note the special requirements found later in the catalog.

Licenciatura en Teología — Requerimientos de Admisión | Bachelor of Theology (Spanish language)

Admission requirements for the Bachelor of Theology program in the Spanish language may be found in the Spanish Academic Catalog available on the TMS website.

Master of Divinity

In addition to the personal qualifications described above, enrollment in the Master of Divinity program requires

possession of a baccalaureate degree from an approved institution, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for all undergraduate work. Applicants who are graduates of unaccredited institutions or who present grade point averages lower than 2.5 may be considered for probationary admission status if their references include unusually high recommendations for potential ministry.

Graduates of Bible colleges, Christian liberal arts colleges, and secular colleges and universities are encouraged to apply. The seminary recommends that pre-seminary studies include a broad exposure to general education subjects. Normally this should include a minimum of 60 semester hours of liberal arts subjects. In particular, it is recommended that adequate attention should be devoted to English composition, literature, speech, logic, and history—especially ancient and world history. Bible courses are also recommended, providing the student is attending an institution where such courses are competently taught in a context of faith and obedience.

Maestría en Divinidad – Requerimientos de Admisión | Master of Divinity (Spanish language)

Admission requirements for the Master of Divinity program in the Spanish language may be found in the Spanish Academic Catalog available on the TMS website.

Master of Biblical Ministry (Spanish language only)

In addition to the personal qualifications described above, enrollment in the Master of Biblical Ministry (MMB) program requires possession of a baccalaureate degree from an approved institution, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for all undergraduate work. Applicants who are graduates of unaccredited institutions or who present grade point averages lower than 2.5 may be considered for probationary admission status if their references include unusually high recommendations for potential ministry.

Master of Theology

In addition to the personal qualifications described above, applicants must possess an acceptable undergraduate baccalaureate degree and a Master of Divinity degree, with a 3.25 grade point average in his master's program. Senior Master of Divinity students who have completed at least 80 semester credit hours by the end of the current semester are eligible to apply. Acceptance is based upon the applicant's previous education, academic capability, character, qualities, ministry involvement, and the recommendation of others.

In addition, applicants must also give evidence of the personal, character, and spiritual qualifications necessary for a minister of Christ as outlined in the personal qualifications section above. International students should note the special requirements found later in the catalog.

Doctor of Ministry

Applicants to the DMin Program must meet the personal qualifications described above. A Master of Divinity, or a Master of Arts of a theological nature consisting of at least 72 semester units (96 quarter units) from an approved school is required. The program is designed for pastors currently serving in a pastoral leadership position. It is recommended that applicants have a minimum of three years consecutive preaching experience after receiving the MDiv, or five years following the MA degree. It is also recommended that their educational background includes biblical language studies in Greek and/or Hebrew. Applicants need to show evidence of academic writing proficiency and must possess a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (3.0 on 4.0 scale) in their master's program. International students should note the special requirements found later in the catalog.

Doctor of Philosophy

Applicants to the PhD Program must meet the personal qualifications described above and be in full agreement with the TMS doctrinal statement. A Master of Theology from an approved school is required. The applicant also must evidence prior teaching effectiveness and pastoral capabilities. The program is designed to prepare pastors and equippers of pastors to further sharpen their exegetical and theological skills in order to fill professorships in seminary and college/university Biblical Studies faculties, as well as to fulfill a calling in theological writing. It is based on a post-MDiv ThM degree requiring 29 credit hours of course work plus an acceptable research thesis and proficiency in the biblical languages. Pre-matriculation qualifying exams must be taken with the ThM “PhD track” modular courses that respectively culminate with each of these exams. There are two qualifying exams in the candidate’s chosen major, as well as exams that test proficiency in theological German (OT, NT, and Theology) and Latin (NT and Theology) or Akkadian (OT). A GPA of 3.5 or above in all previous seminary studies is required. A GRE may be required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All who are contemplating admission to the seminary should submit an application. Applications are available on the seminary website: www.tms.edu/admissions/apply/

PROCEDIMIENTOS DE APLICACIÓN | APPLICATION PROCEDURES (Spanish Language)

Application for all programs available in the Spanish language along with application procedures are available on the seminary website: www.tms.edu/admissions/apply/

Diploma of Theology

- The seminary’s application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver’s license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant’s fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Academic
 - Employer
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.

Bachelor of Theology

- The seminary’s application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver’s license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant’s fitness and giftedness for

- Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Academic
 - Employer
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.
- Official transcripts showing that the admission requirements above have been met. GPA must be included.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of your transcripts should be sent directly from your former institution to TMS.
- We require that all foreign transcripts be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites. World Education Services www.wes.org (ICAP Course-by-course)
- International students for whom English is a second language must submit a TOEFL score of at least 90 (IBT). The TOEFL's website is www.toefl.com. Test results must be sent directly to The Master's Seminary (institution code: 5997).
- International students should note the special requirements found later in the catalog.
- Prospective students with transcripts from institutions in Spanish speaking countries do not need to have their transcripts translated and, at the discretion of the Office of Admissions, may not need the transcript evaluation.

Master of Divinity

- The seminary's application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver's license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant's fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Academic
 - Employer
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of the applicant's transcripts sent directly from your former institution should be sent by mail to TMS.
- All foreign transcripts must be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites. World Education Services www.wes.org (ICAP Course-by-course)

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- International students for whom English is a second language must submit a TOEFL score of at least 90 (IBT). The TOEFL's website is www.toefl.com. Test results must be sent directly to The Master's Seminary (institution code: 5997).

Master of Biblical Ministry (Spanish-language only)

- The seminary's application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver's license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant's fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Academic
 - Employer
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions. If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.
- Official transcripts showing that the admission requirements above have been met. GPA must be included.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of your transcripts should be sent directly from your former institution to TMS.
- We require that all foreign transcripts be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites. World Education Services www.wes.org (ICAP Course-by-course)
- Prospective students with transcripts from institutions in Spanish speaking countries do not need to have their transcripts translated and, at the discretion of the Office of Admissions, may not need the transcript evaluation.
- International students should note the special requirements found later in the catalog.

Master of Theology

Application requirements may vary for students who are currently enrolled in TMS's MDiv program. Contact the Office of Admissions for more details.

- The seminary's application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver's license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant's fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)

- Church leader
- Academic
- Employer
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.
- Official transcripts showing that the admission requirements above have been met. GPA must be included.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of your transcripts sent directly from your former institution should be sent by mail to TMS.
- We require that all foreign transcripts be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites. World Education Services www.wes.org (ICAP Course-by-course)
- International students for whom English is a second language must submit a TOEFL score of at least 90 (IBT). The TOEFL's website is www.toefl.com. Test results must be sent directly to The Master's Seminary (institution code: 5997).

Doctor of Ministry

- The seminary's application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver's license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant's fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Church Member
 - Academic
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.
- Official transcripts showing that the admission requirements above have been met. GPA must be included.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of your transcripts sent directly from your former institution should be sent by mail to TMS.
- We require that all foreign transcripts be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites. World Education Services www.wes.org (ICAP Course-by-course)
- Prospective students with transcripts from institutions in Spanish speaking countries do not need to have their transcripts translated and, at the discretion of the Office of Admissions, may not need the transcript evaluation.
- International students for whom English is a second language must submit a TOEFL score of at least 100 (IBT). The TOEFL's website is www.toefl.com. Test results must be sent directly to The Master's Seminary

(institution code: 5997).

Doctor of Philosophy

- The seminary's application form with all applicable questions answered in full
- A non-refundable application fee
- A recent photograph of the applicant
- A picture of a driver's license or passport
- Recommendation forms completed by, among others:
 - Your wife (if married)
 - Pastor (the pastoral reference must include an affirmation of the applicant's fitness and giftedness for Christian ministry)
 - Church leader
 - Employer
 - Academic
- A personal interview may be arranged by the Office of Admissions.
If married, the committee may request an interview with the applicant's wife as well.
- Official transcripts showing that the admission requirements above have been met. GPA must be included.

Additional International Student Application Requirements

- Official copies of your transcripts sent directly from your former institution should be sent by mail to TMS.
- We require that all foreign transcripts be translated and evaluated for equivalency. We suggest the following evaluator, though others are available. Look for a credential evaluation service that holds an NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) membership, to ensure the highest possible accuracy in your transcript evaluation. Please follow the instructions on the evaluators' websites.
- Prospective students with transcripts from institutions in Spanish speaking countries do not need to have their transcripts translated and, at the discretion of the Office of Admissions, may not need the transcript evaluation.
- International students for whom English is a second language must submit a TOEFL score of at least 100 (IBT). The TOEFL's website is www.toefl.com. Test results must be sent directly to The Master's Seminary (institution code: 5997).

Enrollment in all programs is selective and limited. The Admissions Review Board (ThM/PhD Committee) may grant admission on the basis of the above credentials alone, or may request the submission of additional materials, and/or may require an interview with the Academic Dean or another representative of the seminary.

MDIV EQUIVALENCE POLICY

For advanced degree programs that require an MDiv for admission, the equivalent of an MDiv degree may be deemed acceptable by the Office of Admissions. For the purposes of admission into any of these programs (ThM, DMin, PhD), the following will be regarded as the minimum criteria for MDiv equivalence:

- At least 72 graduate semester hours or comparable graduate credits in other systems that represent broad-based work in theology, biblical studies, and the arts of ministry and that include a master's degree and significant ministerial leadership.
- Multiple degrees, such as two Master of Arts degrees, may be combined to achieve the 72-credit total, but only graduate-level credits in the fields of theology, biblical studies, and the arts of ministry will be considered.

- Original language (Greek and Hebrew) work in both grammar and exegesis is required as part of the 72 credits, but the exact nature and total of the credits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Admissions.
- The ideal is that the course content of the 72+ credits be as close as possible to that of the MDiv program at TMS.
- Ministerial experience alone is not considered the equivalent of or a substitute for the master's degree.

NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

Students who are not intending to complete a program or who have not been officially admitted to a degree program are classified as non-degree students. For purposes of class organization these students are counted as members of the Junior class. Enrollment as a non-degree student is permitted for no more than 12 credit hours for two semesters (a total of 24 credit hours). Permission to enroll for an additional 12 credit hours must be requested by the student and approved by the Office of Admissions and Academic Dean.

PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE

Remedial Coursework

The Master's Seminary reserves the right to require supplemental coursework before a student is fully admitted into one of its programs. This is to ensure that students entering a program meet the necessary entry requirements to succeed in the program. If additional work is required, applicants to TMS will be notified by the Admissions department of a provisional acceptance status. This provisional status will be removed once the pre-requisites have been completed.

Non - Baccalaureate Exception

The seminary will allow a limited number of students (not to exceed 15% of the total program enrollment) into the Master of Biblical Ministry (MMB) program without requiring a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. All such cases must be approved by the Director of Spanish Education in coordination with the Registrar's Office. If questions arise about the eligibility of a prospective student for entrance into the MMB without a baccalaureate degree, those questions should be directed to either the Academic Dean or the Executive Vice President.

For students applying for the Master of Divinity program, the seminary requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution. Exceptions can be made (on a limited basis, not to exceed 15% of the total program enrollment) for students without a baccalaureate degree who have successfully completed the MMB. Applicants for the MDiv who lack a baccalaureate degree will be directed to the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) program, the curriculum for which is identical to the MDiv. Within five years of graduating from the BTh program, BTh students can upgrade their degree to an MDiv if they subsequently complete a standard baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Life at The Master's Seminary is enriched and missionary vision is enlarged by the presence of international students. The seminary's purpose for existence is expanded by the opportunities to equip international students for ministry.

International Student Applications

In addition to the usual application materials and procedures, international applicants must meet the following requirements.

1. Each international applicant whose native language is other than English will need to provide a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score taken within the last two years (see academic catalog for degree specific score requirements). Applicants may make arrangements to take the examination by contacting Educational Testing Service at www.ets.org. Test results should be sent directly to The Master's Seminary (institution code 5997).
2. Each applicant must submit official transcripts sent to TMS directly from their former institution(s). Translated and evaluated transcripts are required for all prerequisite degrees. The evaluation must be done by a service that holds a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services membership. We recommend World Education Services www.wes.org. The evaluation should include a degree conferral date and a GPA.

International Student Requirements

1. International students at The Master's Seminary must obtain an F-1 student visa in order to join us for classes on our campus. Following receipt of a letter of acceptance from the admissions department, and subsequent payment of the advance tuition deposit, the incoming international student will be contacted by the seminary's Designated School Official who will gather the information needed to produce the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, also known as the Form I-20. As a part of this process, the student will be required to provide evidence of adequate funding to cover tuition and living expenses for the first academic year for himself as well as the support and care of any F-2 dependents who will be coming with him. The seminary is unable to issue an I-20 until an affidavit of support guaranteeing these funds has been received and all application forms, transcripts, and other necessary materials have been officially approved. Without a form I-20, a student visa cannot be obtained.
2. International students who are admitted to the United States on a student visa are required by law to maintain full-time status.
3. No off-campus employment is permitted without prior authorization from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice. F-1 student's dependents in F-2 status are not authorized for employment under any circumstances.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Please see *Transfer Policies* under *Academic Policies* for information regarding transfer students.

TUITION DEPOSIT

An advance tuition payment of \$250 is required of all approved applicants (excluding MMB degree). This payment is due upon acceptance to ensure his matriculation.

ORIENTATION

DipTh, BTh, MDiv

At the beginning of each semester orientation is held for incoming on campus students. Attendance is required. An unexcused absence usually requires postponement of matriculation until the following semester. Orientation sessions are critical for adequate matriculation into the seminary and include devotional messages, introductions, tours, various student instructions, an opportunity to get to know your fellow incoming students, and an evening for new students and wives to meet the faculty in a social setting.

MMB

Accepted MMB students receive an orientation to the online modality and to the course two weeks before his first semester. This is administered through the Learning Management Software platform and is designed to ensure the success of the student working in the online environment.

ThM

Incoming ThM students receive their orientation materials by contacting the ThM Program Coordinator.

DMin

Incoming DMin students receive their orientation materials by contacting the DMin Program Director.

PhD

Incoming PhD students receive their orientation materials by contacting the PhD Program Director.

ACADEMIC LOAD

The minimum full-time MDiv load for residential students is 11 hours of credit, which is the same for the residential DipTh and BTh programs. The minimum full-time load for a ThM student is 4 credit hours of credit. The credit hour load for DMin students varies per semester according to the curriculum chart. The most common credit hour load for MMB students is 6 hours per semester.

Any student enrolled in the residential MDiv program (including DipTh and BTh) with fewer than 11 hours of credit, and any ThM student enrolled for less than 4 credit hours during a regular semester will be classified as a part-time student. Students enrolled part-time may be ineligible to have student loans deferred. There is no part-time status for students in the MMB, DMin, or PhD programs.

The normal unit of credit consists of one in-class session (50 minutes) a week for the semester. In some cases, such as with Beginning Greek and some expository preaching classes, a unit of credit may require more than one hour of class time per week.

Students on academic probation may be required to limit the number of hours of enrollment. Those on final academic probation are not permitted to take more than 11 hours of course work in any semester.

REGULAR STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Depending on the number of semester hours of course work completed, MDiv students are generally classified as follows.

- Junior: Fewer than 32 hours
- Middler: 32 to 62 hours
- Senior: Above 62 hours

The primary exception to the above is that classification as a senior requires an expected May graduation within one year. Students completing graduation requirements at the end of a summer session and those completing graduation requirements during the fall or winter sessions are counted as members of the senior class graduating the following May. All students participating in the May commencement ceremony must have all requirements of the program completed or have registered all remaining requirements in their last spring semester. Any student completing their remaining two-unit elective by participating in the Israel Studies trip or Turkey studies trip is exempt and allowed to participate in the May commencement ceremony.

AUDITORS

A formal audit is sought when a class participant who is not a matriculated student is seeking an institutional record of participation in a class. Those interested in auditing a course will need to contact the Office of Admissions to complete an application and contact the Office of the Registrar to formally register the audited class. Audits are limited by course availability.

Matriculated students auditing a course receive no credit but only wish to attend lectures in the course without any responsibility to take examinations, complete homework or papers or be evaluated. Audit registration will appear on the student's record but will not be included in computing a full-time academic load. Students interested in auditing a course will need to contact the Office of the Registrar to formally register the audited class.

Full time matriculated students are permitted to audit one course at no cost per term. Any additional courses for audit must be approved by the Academic Dean's office and will be charged the auditing fee for every additional course. The fee to audit a course for both matriculated and non-matriculated students is located under the "Financial Information" section of the catalog. The audit fee is non-refundable. TMS alumni interested in auditing courses for further training are exempt from paying the audit fee. Online courses are not available for audit.

CLASS SCHEDULING

Most of the English-language seminary classes are scheduled between 7:30 a.m. and 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday. Check the course schedule per semester for current information.

A block system of class scheduling is used, so that two-hour classes meet only once per week and three-hour classes meet either once or twice per week. This block system offers an advantage for commuters since it makes it possible to carry a significant class load even when it is difficult to be on campus for more than one or two days per week.

In addition to the classes held on campus, certain online courses are also offered through Canvas, the seminary's online learning management system.

REGISTRATION

The seminary designates a period during each fall and spring semester for registration for the following semester. These periods provide opportunities for students to meet with a faculty advisor in order to update the student's academic plans. All students will be notified by e-mail or through Canvas regarding the registration information (i.e., class schedules, instructions, and any other reminders). The dates for the registration periods are included in the academic calendar at the back of this catalog.

Registration cannot be completed until financial obligations have been completed with the student finance office. Students must have their tuition bill paid in full in order to register for the following semester.

ADVISING

Each registration period students have the opportunity to meet with a faculty member or the office of Student Services. Students can make appointments through the Office of Student Services or by contacting the Faculty Secretary in the Office of the Dean of Faculty and Academic Dean. Although the seminary attempts to provide adequate academic advising, final responsibility for meeting all program, residence, and graduation requirements, including conformity with all assigned deadlines, rests with the student.

CONTINUING REGISTRATION

DipTh, BTh, MDiv, MMB, ThM and DMin

All students are expected to register for each successive semester until graduation from their program. To maintain active student status a student who does not register for credits, either class or thesis credits, during any regular semester must register for Continuing Registration. This may be viewed as a non-credit course which is required whenever there would otherwise be an interruption in the student's program. Undergraduate and graduate students may register for Continuing Registration for no more than two successive semesters. DMin students may register for Continuing Registration for no more than two successive semesters.

A student who fails to register for either course credits, thesis credits, or Continuing Registration during any

semester regularly scheduled for his program will be dropped from the program and must re-apply for admission prior to any subsequent registration.

PhD

A student enrolled in the PhD program is expected to finish both his qualifying and residency phases without interruption. Under emergency circumstances a student can request approval, from the PhD Studies Committee, to sit out a semester. If the Committee approves, the student must enroll in a non-credit course named “Approved Absence.” See Tuition and Fees section for associated charges.

ADDING, DROPPING, AND WITHDRAWING COURSES

DipTh, BTh, MDiv and MMB

Fall and spring 16-Week Classes

Classes can be added and dropped until the end of the “drop” period, on the Monday following the second week of the semester. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks for fall and spring semester. No withdrawals are permitted after the twelfth week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found later in this catalog.

Eight-Week Classes

Classes can be added through the first day of the eight-week class. They can be dropped until the Monday following the first week of class. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the second and third week of the course. No withdrawals are permitted after the third week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found later in this catalog.

Summer and Winter Post-Sessions Classes

Summer and winter post-session courses (excluding eight-week courses) must be added by the first day of class and can be dropped until the second day of class. A 100% refund is given if dropped prior to or during the first two days of class. There is no withdrawal period for post-sessions.

ThM

Classes can be added and dropped until the end of the “drop” period, the Monday following the second week of the semester. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks for fall and spring semester. No withdrawals are permitted after the twelfth week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found later in this catalog.

DMin

Classes can be added through the first day of class. Classes can be added and dropped until the end of the “drop” period, on the Monday following the second week of the semester. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks for fall and spring semester. No withdrawals are permitted after the twelfth week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found later in this catalog.

PhD

Classes can be added and dropped until the end of the “drop” period, the Monday following the second week of school. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks for fall and spring semester. No withdrawals are permitted after the twelfth week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found later in this catalog.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

Students anticipating graduation in May must complete an Application for Graduation form available from the Administration office. This must be turned in January of the respective spring semester. Students anticipating graduation in December must complete an Application for Graduation at the end of the fall semester. Information will be sent to all students from the Registrar’s Office.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

*MDiv, BTh, DipTh, MMB, PhD***Fall 2025**

Semester Begins	08/12/2025
Labor Day - No Classes	09/01/2025
Conferencia Expositores (Spanish) – No Classes	09/12/2025-09/13/2025
Final Exam Week	11/17/2025-11/21/2025
Thanksgiving Break	11/24/2025-11/28/2025
Semester Ends	12/01/2025

Spring 2026

Semester Begins	01/13/2026
MLK Holiday – No Classes	01/19/2026
Shepherds' Conference – No Classes	03/04/2026-03/06/2026
Spring Break—No Classes	04/06/2026-04/10/2026
Finals Exam Week	05/04/2026-05/08/2026
Semester Ends	05/11/2026

*ThM***Fall 2025**

Semester Begins	09/08/2025
Module I	12/01/2025-12/05/2025
Module II	12/08/2025-12/12/2025
Module III	12/15/2025-12/19/2025
Semester Ends	01/11/2026

Spring 2026

Semester Begins	03/09/2026
Module I	06/01/2026-06/05/2026
Module II	06/08/2026-06/12/2026
Module III	06/15/2026-06/19/2026
Semester Ends	07/12/2026

*DMin***Fall 2025**

Semester Begins	07/07/2025
On Campus Session	07/09/2025-07/19/2025
Semester Ends	11/30/2025

Spring 2026

Semester Begins	01/05/2026
On Campus Session	01/07/2026-01/13/2026
Semester Ends	05/31/2026

CREDIT HOUR POLICIES

DipTh, BTh, MMB and MDiv

The “credit hour” represents the fundamental unit of measurement of student workload for a given course. In a 15-week semester, a one credit hour course will have approximately 15 in-class hours (each class period being 50 minutes in length).

A workload ratio of 2:1 is expected. Thus, a one-credit hour class would require at least 2 hours of out-of-class work each week. Spread over a 15-week semester, that would approximate 30 hours of out-of-class work per credit. In summary, a credit hour corresponds to approximately 45 hours of total work over the course of a semester. Course workload calculations appear in each course syllabus.

ThM

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement. In a 15-week semester, a one credit hour course will have approximately 15 in-class hours (each class period being 50 minutes in length).

Given the advanced academic nature of ThM studies, a workload ratio of 3:1 is expected. Thus, a one credit hour class would require at least 45 hours of out-of-class work. Spread over a 15-week semester, that would approximate 3 hours of out-of-class work each week. In summary, a credit hour corresponds to 60 hours of total work over the course of a semester.

DMin

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement. In a fifteen-week semester, a one credit hour course will have approximately 15 in-class hours (each class period being 50 minutes in length).

Given the nature of D. Min. studies, as a professional postgraduate program, a workload ratio of 3:1 is expected. Thus, a one-hour class would require at least 45 hours of out-of-class work. In the DMin’s modular system, that would approximate 3 hours of out-of-class work each week. In summary, a credit hour corresponds to 60 hours of total work over the course of a semester.

PhD

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement. In a doctoral (PhD) course of study, each credit hour involved in the individually designed program of study will equate to approximately 15 in-class hours (each class period being 50 minutes in length).

Given the advanced academic nature of research PhD studies, a workload ratio of 4:1 is expected. Thus, a one credit hour class would require at least 60 hours of student work in a semester. Spread over a 15-week semester, that would approximate 16 hours of student work each week.

TRANSFER POLICIES

DipTh, BTh and MDiv

Transfer Credits/Advanced Academic Standing

Applicants transferring into the Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Theology or Diploma of Theology programs from other seminaries with recognized theological and academic standards will ordinarily be given full credit for course work satisfactorily completed (C or above) up to a maximum of 48 semester hours of applicable credits. The last 12 hours must be completed at The Master's Seminary. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions involved to the Office of the Academic Dean. In no case is credit granted for course work taken at the undergraduate level or for life experiences. In addition, transfer of credits is always at the discretion of the receiving institution, so The Master's Seminary does not guarantee that its credits are transferable.

Credit by Examination

TMS offers an incoming student to earn course credit through PASS Exams (*Provision for Advanced Scholastic Standing*). Students that earn a passing score on these exams are eligible to receive a maximum of 16 credit hours. PASS exams are offered during Orientation. Students taking advantage of this opportunity could potentially complete their work a semester early.

The following courses are eligible for PASS exams:

Beginning Greek I & II	(2 + 2)
Hebrew Grammar I & II	(3 + 3)
OT Studies I & II	(3 + 3)

Greek and Hebrew PASS Exams: Students have only one opportunity to take the Greek PASS exam, prior to taking Beginning Greek I (NT 501). Anyone not taking the exam when offered at the start of their first semester on campus will be required to enroll in and pass NT 501 and 502 as part of his seminary curriculum before enrolling in NT 603. Those who gain credit through the Greek PASS exam are expected to enroll in Greek Exegesis I and II for the first year and in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the second year.

Course Waivers

TMS does not wish to require any student to enroll in a class that is repetitious of previous education. The seminary invites any student to appeal to the Academic Dean for a waiver for previously completed courses. The decision will be based on a review of the student's official transcript and the course syllabus. A waiver grants no credit; rather, in such cases, an elective course from the same discipline must be taken in the place of the waived course.

The Master's University Advanced Standing

A graduate from The Master's University with a major in Bible may receive up to 10 credit hours (roughly one semester) of advanced standing. The courses for which advanced standing may be given are the following:

- BI501 - OT Studies I (3 units)
- BI502 - OT Studies II (3 units)
- NT501 - Beginning Greek I (2 units)

NT502 - Beginning Greek II (2 units)

This credit would be given on the basis that the student has taken these courses (or similar) at the university.

Institute for the Christian Life Advanced Standing

In partnership with The Institute for the Christian Life, The Masters Seminary offers four credits of advanced standing to any incoming MDiv / BTh / DipTh student who has completed at least one semester of The Cohort. These four credits are applied to the general elective requirements for the MDiv / BTh / DipTh only. To receive these advanced standing credits, newly accepted students must submit their certificate of completion from The Cohort to the registrar's office before the start of their first semester. Students cannot earn additional credits by enrolling in additional semesters of The Cohort.

Th.M. Seminars as M.Div. Electives

Master of Divinity students enrolled at The Master's Seminary and with 80 or more units completed may request to enroll in a Th.M. seminar to fulfill one of their 2-unit M.Div. program electives. No special application for enrollment in the Th.M. program is needed so long as the student registers for only one Th.M. seminar. To qualify, students must have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their M.Div. studies. The student must receive written permission to register for the seminar from the respective professor and from the Director of Th.M. Studies, must take the seminar for credit (auditing is not permitted), and must pay the Th.M. tuition rate for the two units of credit.

MMB

Applicants transferring into this program from other seminaries with recognized theological and academic standards will ordinarily be given full credit for course work satisfactorily completed ("C" or above) up to a maximum of 18 semester hours of applicable credits. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions involved to the director of the program. In no case is credit granted for course work taken at the undergraduate level or for life experiences.

Credit by Examination

TMS offers an incoming MMB student the option to earn course credit through PASS Exams (*Provision for Advanced Scholastic Standing*). Students that earn a passing score on these exams are eligible to receive a maximum of 15 credit hours. Normally, PASS Exams are taken by arrangement within the first semester. PASS exams may include both an exam component and a written project component. Students taking advantage of this opportunity could potentially complete their work early. MMB PASS exams are available for all courses except Hermeneutics or Biblical Ministry.

ThM

Applicants transferring into the Master of Theology (ThM) program may apply up to four advanced graduate semester credit hours from an accredited theological institution toward fulfillment of ThM course requirements at The Master's Seminary.

DMin

Students with previous training in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree program will be required to submit

official transcripts prior to enrollment. The transcript(s) will be evaluated by the Academic Dean and the Director of the DMin degree program and appropriate transfer credit given. Credits awarded will be recorded in the student's official record and the length of the course shortened proportionately. The student and any relevant governmental agency (e.g., Department of Veteran Affairs [DVA]) will be notified.

PhD

Students with previous training in this degree program will be required to submit official transcripts prior to enrollment. The transcript(s) will be evaluated by the Academic Dean and the Director of PhD Studies and appropriate transfer credit given. Credits awarded will be recorded in the student's official record and the length of the course shortened proportionately. The student and any relevant governmental agency (e.g., Department of Veteran Affairs [DVA]) will be notified.

GRADING SYSTEM

To distinguish various levels of achievement in the mastery of subject material, in effectiveness of research, in fulfillment of assignments and responsibilities, or in improvement in personal and ministry skills, as appropriate for each course, the seminary employs the following grading symbols.

A	96–100	A and A-	= Exceptional achievement
A-	94–95	B+, B and B-	= Above average achievement
B+	92–93	C+, C and C-	= Fair or average achievement
B	88–91	D+, D and D-	= Below average, minimally acceptable achievement
B-	86–87		
C+	84–85	F	= Unacceptable achievement, failure
C	80–83		
C-	78–79	I	= Incomplete work
D+	76–77	W	= Withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks of regular semesters
D	72–75		
D-	70–71		
F	69 and below		

Grade points are awarded according to the following scale.

A	4 points for each semester hour
A-	3.7 points per credit hour
B+	3.3 points per credit hour
B	3 points per credit hour
B-	2.7 points per credit hour
C+	2.3 points per credit hour
C	2 points per credit hour
C-	1.7 points per credit hour
D+	1.3 points per credit hour
D	1 points per credit hour
D-	0.7 points per credit hour
F	0 points per credit hour
I	Not counted until changed

The grading symbol W does not affect grade point averages and the courses for which they are assigned do not count in computing credit hours attempted.

A failing grade ("F") is never removed from the student's transcript. Any student who receives a grade of "C" or below may retake the course. However, when the course is repeated, the second grade is recorded in such a manner as to delete any negative effect of the previous grade when computing grade points.

GRADE CHANGE POLICY

Grade Changes

Grade changes are normally made at the discretion of the instructor who completes a grade change form and returns it to the Office of the Registrar. If a student believes that a grade has been improperly recorded or unfairly awarded, the student should express the concern to the instructor involved. If the professor decides that a grade change is warranted, he must send a grade change form to the Office of the Registrar before the end of the following semester. If an agreement cannot be reached between student and professor, the student may appeal the grade through the process outlined in the next section.

Grade Appeals

Any student who believes that a grade received for a course, assignment, or examination has been awarded improperly or unfairly should address his concerns directly to the faculty instructor involved, and then, as necessary, with the department chair. If satisfactory resolution is not reached through this informal process, a student may submit a written appeal to the Academic Dean. Appeals must be submitted within one month of the occurrence of the incident and should provide a clear description of the incident along with an explanation of why the student believes the action was unfair. The faculty member will be invited to submit a written response to the student's appeal. Resolution will be pursued, under the supervision of the Academic Dean, following the steps outlined in the seminary's Grievance Policy. Once the Grievance Policy process has concluded, the resolution reached will be considered final.

INCOMPLETE

A grade of “I” may be granted only in instances of unusual circumstances such as an extended serious illness. An Incomplete (“I”) indicates that the work done for the course has been acceptable but that some portion of the required work is incomplete for an excusable reason. Requests for an Incomplete must be addressed, in writing (a form is available in the Office of the Registrar), to the Academic Dean, and must be approved, or rejected, by the Academic Dean. An Incomplete (“I”) automatically becomes a Failure (“F”) unless the requirements are satisfactorily completed within 60 days after the end of the semester. The deadline for completing requirements will be determined by the professor. No exceptions or additional extensions will be granted except upon written petition by the student (a form is available in the Office of the Registrar) and special approval by the Academic Dean. If a student requests an Incomplete (“I”) during the fall or winter session for a course that is a pre-requisite to an upcoming spring course, the student may register for the advanced course but must submit all necessary requirements and have a passing grade by the add/drop date of the upcoming spring term. If the student does not complete required work and have a passing grade by the add/drop date the student will receive an “F” for the course and must retake the course when it is next offered. For more information regarding the add/drop period, please see information under “Adding, Dropping, and Withdrawing Courses” in this catalog.

PROBATION

A student may be admitted on academic probation for a variety of reasons, including an inadequate academic record or graduation from an unaccredited institution.

The term “probation” refers to a status, assigned by institutional regulations or administrative decision, which indicates that the student has failed to meet the stated expectations of the seminary. In the majority of cases it is the result of unsatisfactory academic performance. Unless the probationary status is removed at the end of the semester of probation the student will be placed on final probation. A student may be on probation for one semester only, and on final probation for one semester only. A student on probation may, at the discretion of the Dean of Faculty, be limited in hours of enrollment and thus required to lengthen the time required for completing the remainder of his program.

A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.5 (or 2.0 for Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Theology students, and 3.0 for Master of Theology students) will be placed on probation for the following semester. If the minimum grade point average is not achieved at the end of the semester of probation the student will be placed on final probation. A student on final probation for any regular semester must terminate his program at the end of that semester if the final probationary status is not removed by achieving the cumulative grade point average required for graduation from his program.

A student whose program has been terminated for academic reasons may appeal this action. Such an appeal must be addressed to the faculty, through the Administration office, in writing, and must include an explanation of why the minimum academic requirements were not met and why consideration of an exception is warranted. The appeal must be received within two weeks of notification of termination. The faculty decision with regard to the appeal is final.

An application for admission after termination for academic reasons may be considered only after a full academic year of non-enrollment.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Any student who completes his respective academic program (DipTh, BTh, MMB, MDiv, ThM) with a high grade point average is eligible, upon graduation, for academic honors as follows.

3.700–3.799	Cum Laude
3.800–3.899	Magna Cum Laude
3.900–4.000	Summa Cum Laude

All grade point averages are based exclusively on course work completed at The Master’s Seminary.

ADVANCING DEGREES

Students who are currently enrolled in the DipTh program and desire to advance to the BTh program or MDiv program, or students who are enrolled in the BTh program and desire to advance to the MDiv program must contact the Office of the Registrar and submit an official transcript meeting all necessary requirements from an accredited institution to make the official change on their academic record.

Those who have completed the DipTh program and desire to upgrade to a BTh degree or MDiv degree, or students who have completed the BTh program and desire to upgrade to a MDiv degree must contact the Office of the Registrar and submit an official transcript meeting all necessary requirements from an accredited institution within five years of completing their program at TMS to make the official change on their academic record.

PLAGIARISM

In order to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and personal ethics, The Master’s Seminary has adopted the following policy regarding plagiarism.

General Policy

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking and using the thoughts, writings, inventions, etc., of another person as one’s own. This would include the use of Artificial Intelligence. The intention of the student is taken into consideration. The most serious forms of plagiarism will manifest some level of knowledge of the act and generally display an effort to conceal the plagiarism. Knowledge of sources used is required at this academic level. Even after graduation, the consequences of plagiarism do not simply evaporate. Should serious plagiarism be discovered in a thesis or dissertation—even years after graduation—the seminary may move to revoke the offender’s degree.

Common Types of Plagiarism

Secondary Source Plagiarism

Plagiarism often involves the problem of claiming the results of others—taking a quotation from one’s reading and placing it into a paper without using a “cited in” notation. When using a quotation in another work, the student is under an ethical obligation to go to the original source, verify the citation and context, and only then may the student list it in a footnote or bibliography. If unable to view the original source, a “cited in” reference must be used for this quotation. This ethical consideration may well save the student from the embarrassment of perpetuating a misquotation or taking a quotation out of context.

Paraphrase Plagiarism

Simply paraphrasing a quotation (without attribution) from a source is still plagiarism. This type of plagiarism is avoided by doing the hard work of taking research, distilling it, and then writing one's own thoughts, interpretations, and conclusions, giving attribution as often as necessary. Facts widely available in reference books, newspapers, magazines, etc., are common knowledge and need no citation.

Self-Plagiarism

Self-plagiarism occurs when an author republishes portions of work he previously published, passing it off as a newly written piece and providing no acknowledgement of the existence of that earlier work. Writers can easily assume that because they were the sources of the original pieces they have the right to reuse them however they wish, or they assume that publishers and audiences will not recognize that the new writing pieces they produce are actually not new at all. All told, self-plagiarism becomes a convenient practice to cut corners on the time it takes to research and write new material, to multiply one's influence more quickly in the academic world by rereleasing old work under the guise of new work, and even to receive twice the compensation for the same essential work or part thereof.

In the publishing world, this practice has significant ethical and legal implications. Most obviously, self-plagiarism can infringe upon a publisher's copyright. Just because an author composed a work does not mean he automatically has full rights to its publicized form. More than that, self-plagiarism always calls into question the author's integrity. When readers find out an author has duped them into thinking the work is original, his reputation suffers and the credibility of all previous work is undermined.

But the problem of self-plagiarism is not limited to formal publishing; it can also exist in academic settings. At TMS, self-plagiarism occurs when students present portions of writing submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of one course to fulfill the requirements of another course, all the while not notifying the professor of the percentage of the work that was used to receive credit in that other course. It is the practice of "killing two birds—and sometimes more!—with one stone," without making known the intent.

To avoid self-plagiarism at TMS, students must abide by the following guidelines:

- Generally speaking, students should not be in the practice of recycling previous research and writing in their coursework—even when it is properly attributed. Capstone projects like academic portfolios and research theses are obvious exceptions to this rule, but even then, the proper guidelines for acknowledging reincorporation of old material must be followed strictly.
- Students who submit assignments (research papers, book reviews, exegetical work, portfolio projects, and research theses) must indicate in appropriate footnotes the material that has been reproduced from other submitted assignments. These footnotes should contain the title of the original assignment, the title of the course for which that assignment was submitted, the date when that assignment was submitted, and the name of the professor to whom that earlier work was submitted.
- The requirement of attribution pertains not only to word-for-word reproduction of sentences and paragraphs, but also to paraphrased material—old material that has been updated with new or corrected information or altered in form of expression.
- Students should always consult their professors before submitting assignments containing the reproduction of older materials—even when accompanied by the appropriate footnote citations. Each professor reserves the right either to accept such work (thus allowing the student credit in his course for

- past research and writing), or to reject such work as inadmissible for the given course.
- For the ThM Program: Since the capstone projects of the portfolio project (non-Ph.D. track) and research thesis (Ph.D. track) assume the incorporation of at least some writing done for the Th.M. program, students in both tracks are expected to work closely with their advisors to determine how this material can be incorporated (if any), how it must be reworked (if at all), and how it must be acknowledged (in footnotes and bibliographies).

Learning always takes place by incorporating past knowledge into the learning process of the present. Moreover, every student has a personal writing style and way of articulation that will be repetitive throughout most of if not all of his writing pieces. A certain level of reduplication is unavoidable and there is nothing wrong with this. However, what raises concerns is the effort to cut corners and reproduce past work, especially with the intent to deceive the reader(s) of that work. This raises suspicions about whether the student is “above reproach” (1 Tim 3:1).

If a student is caught in self-plagiarism, the consequences will be determined based on the severity of the case. In general, they will follow the procedure outlined for plagiarism within this catalog. Taking care at TMS not to cut corners or to deceive readers will set the student up well for a reputation of integrity in ministry and scholarship.

Penalties

When an act of plagiarism is discovered or suspected (even after graduation), the matter will be reported to the Dean of Students who will move to investigate the matter.

Penalties for those found guilty of plagiarism can be as follows.

1. Reduced or failing grade
2. An official letter of reprimand
3. A defined period of probation, with or without the attachment of conditions
4. Withdrawal of seminary scholarship funding
5. A defined period of suspension, with or without the attachment of conditions
6. Expulsion from the seminary
7. Revocation of an awarded degree

To avoid the temptation of the sin of plagiarism, allow for the proper amount of time to research and write papers. Lack of time is the most common excuse for engaging in plagiarism.

RECORDING OF LECTURES

No personal audio or video recordings of any class sessions may be made without securing the permission of the professor. Professors may legitimately choose not to allow such recording. When permission is granted, it is understood that the recording is to be used only by the student(s) registered in the course involved. No public use or reduplication is permitted without permission of the professor. The recording of one class, or several classes, or portions of classes, when absence is necessary, may generally be permitted, but such recordings should not be collected, copied, or preserved for other uses. In no case should the professor be expected to arrange for the recording or asked to operate the recording devices. Occasionally, when daily recording is helpful for a student attending the course, as with certain disabled persons, recording is permitted with the understanding that it will not be distributed.

In rare cases a student may record, or have recorded, an entire course or a major portion of a course in lieu of attending classes or as a way to solve a scheduling conflict. Exception may be granted in the case of unavoidable

scheduling conflicts during the final two semesters before graduation, but not even then if one of the two conflicting classes is an elective.

ATTENDANCE

All students are expected to be prompt and faithful in class attendance. Unexcused absence for the equivalent of one week of the class time for any class is allowed without penalty in a given course to provide for absences due to personal reasons or to fulfill ministry opportunities. Students are responsible for all work required, including any assignments missed because of absence. Professors are not under obligation to review missed assignments or provide supplementary instruction for students who miss classes. Whenever possible the student should consult with the professor for any instructions or assignments in advance of a foreseeable absence. Excused absence is permitted in cases of sickness or emergency, but in no case may the number of absences for any course exceed the equivalent of three weeks of class time. When absences exceed this limit, a grade of “F” is required as appropriate. Individual faculty members are responsible to clarify any additional attendance policies, and corresponding penalties, for each class.

First Week Attendance/Participation Policy

Any student taking an online course is required to participate during the first week of class by completing at least one assignment or the Course Syllabus Reading Quiz. First week participation requires all students to complete at least one assignment for the first week or the Course Syllabus Reading Quiz by Monday of the second week of class. If the student has not completed either one of these options, they will be dis-enrolled by Tuesday of the second week and their tuition will be refunded. Students who have been dropped due to inactivity will not have the option to re-enroll for that session.

No Show Policy

No shows are students who enroll in classes but never attend TMS. They may be processed via an administrative drop. Non-attendance may be evidenced by one or more of the following:

- Non-payment of tuition and fees
- Non-attendance of classes during the entirety of add/drop
- Non-attendance of chapel

Attendance or action in any of the above-mentioned may negate an administrative drop. Second-session online classes will not be included in the decision; rather the First Week Attendance/Participation Policy will drop these classes for inactivity, if applicable.

EXAMINATIONS

Except in cases of illness or family emergency, students are expected to be present for any scheduled examination. Requests to take an examination at any time other than the time scheduled must be addressed to and approved by the class professor.

COURSE PAPERS

All assigned course and term papers are to be submitted in thesis form unless the professor indicates otherwise. All papers should be prepared in conformity with the latest editions of the *TMS Style Guide* and Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 9th Edition*. Where these sources differ, the seminary's "Guidelines" takes precedence.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Master's Seminary complies with the provisions of the (FERPA) Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The seminary does not permit access to, or the release of, personally identifiable information, or educational records, to any individual without the written consent of the student, with the following exceptions.

- All records are available to the administrators, faculty, or staff of the seminary, having legitimate educational concerns.
- Appropriate information is released to medical personnel when the health of the student or others would be endangered by the withholding of information.
- Appropriate information is supplied to financial aid personnel in connection with an application for such aid.
- Specified data is given to the governmental officials and agencies designated by law, or in compliance with a judicial order.

FERPA permits institutions to specifically define some education record information as "directory information" not confidential under FERPA. This is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The seminary may release "directory information" unless the student withholds permission. Directory information is defined as:

- Student name
- TMS e-mail address
- Date of birth (verification only)
- Dates of attendance at the seminary
- Degrees and honors received
- Program enrollment status
- Year in the program
- Program discipline (if applicable)
- Participation in officially recognized activities
- Photographs
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

The seminary recognizes the right of the student to limit or prohibit disclosure of this information. In view, however, of this statement of disclosure, the seminary assumes that failure on the part of any student to request the withholding of this information indicates permission for such disclosure. Requests to limit or withhold this information should be submitted to the Administration office.

ELECTIVE COURSES (TRACKS)

Summary

The MDiv curriculum includes seven elective courses (14 units total). These courses enable students to prepare for various kinds of future ministry opportunities—whether they want to (1) preach more effectively, (2) pursue further academic training, (3) serve overseas on the mission field, or (4) hone their skills in the area of pastoral counseling.

Purpose

Though not required, students are encouraged to plan their elective courses strategically—choosing to take elective courses that correspond to a specific track. These tracks, though not a formal part of the MDiv program, allow students to customize the education they receive at TMS.

Academic Tracks

For students planning to pursue further studies (at the ThM or PhD level), the seminary recommends concentrating on a specific area of academic study. Numerous electives are regularly offered in the following areas.

1. Old Testament
2. New Testament
3. Systematic Theology
4. Bible Exposition

Students can emphasize any one of these fields of study by selecting electives in these areas.

PROFESSIONAL/PASTORAL TRACKS

Additionally, the seminary offers electives for students who wish to focus on (1) Missions and Bible Translation (2) Pastoral Counseling, and (3) Homiletics and Preaching. Elective courses are regularly offered for students looking to be equipped in these vital areas of ministry.

The Tyndale Center for Translation

The Tyndale Center Translation Track is designed to prepare the student for the work of Bible translation. While the courses focus on the translation of the Bible from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into English, the principles of translation could be applied to many contexts in which this work is to be carried out. Five general elective courses in the MDiv curriculum are required to fulfill this track: Introduction to Bible Translation, Introduction to Semantics, an Old Testament Exegesis Elective or a New Testament Exegesis Elective (this is in addition to the already required Greek and Hebrew exegesis electives of the MDiv curriculum), Hebrew Readings, and Greek Readings. Each course must be completed with a minimum grade of C+ to pass. Upon successful completion of this program, the diploma will indicate that the student fulfilled the requirements of The Tyndale Center Translation Track.

Biblical Counseling Studies

The Master's Seminary is recognized as a Certified Biblical Counseling Center, with counseling classes taught by Certified Biblical Counselors. Consequently, the counseling courses are an accepted source of education for the certification of Biblical Counselors by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC).

Homiletics & Preaching

The core curriculum at TMS places a primary emphasis on the priority and practice of biblical exposition. A number of electives have been designed to help students further develop their preaching ability. From rightly dividing the Word of truth, to preaching it effectively, these courses are aimed at preparing future pastors for pulpit ministry.

STUDY ABROAD

Israel Studies

The Master's Seminary, through the Israel Bible Extension (IBEX) program of The Master's University, offers graduate and post-graduate training in the fields of biblical history, geography, customs, and archaeology by means of studying in Israel. Our main vehicle for doing this is a three week study trip in Israel in May, right after the end of the spring semester. During that trip the Director of the Israel Studies Program guides the students through numerous biblical sites throughout the land of Israel. This trip can be taken for academic credit as an elective in the MDiv or ThM curriculum. TMS is also a member of a consortium of schools that works with Associates for biblical Research, who conducts archaeological digs in Israel every May/June. Any student interested in Biblical archaeology can join ABR on one of their summer digs as well. Finally, there is also the option for a student to spend a semester studying in Israel on the IBEX campus in the beautiful Judean hills. The interested student would need to contact Dr. Grisanti for more information about that possibility.

Lands of Paul Studies

The Master's Seminary offers seminary credit for a study trip offered by The Master's University, retracing the missionary journeys of Paul in Turkey and Greece, including the seven churches of Revelation. The trip also includes visits to 44 major biblical and historical sites, including Istanbul, Tarsus, Ephesus, Troy, Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi. Students will receive information regarding this trip.

Cross-Cultural Training

The seminary has a high level of commitment to overseas ministry. When possible, ministry teams travel to one or more countries conducting leadership seminars and visiting missionaries. In most cases the student will be involved with experienced pastors who will guide the student throughout the cross-cultural experience. The student may be eligible to receive two units of elective credit for the overseas involvement, providing that the assignments are satisfactorily completed.

Foreign Studies in Missions

In order to expand the world-vision of its students, The Master's Seminary encourages students to participate in ministry trips in foreign countries and in study programs sponsored by the seminary, by Grace Community Church, or by other approved missions agencies or churches that sponsor foreign internship programs. These programs are designed to introduce students, both practically and academically, to both specialized and non-

specialized missionary service while under the direction of approved missiologists. In all cases where seminary credit is approved, special course assignments designed by the seminary faculty must be fulfilled. Approval will be granted for more than four hours of credit only when the foreign stay involves actual *in situ* class work.

DISTANCE LEARNING & INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Distance Education Program

The Master's Seminary has begun multiple distance locations for students who wish to study under the TMS faculty without relocating to Los Angeles. These distance locations have been established in conjunction with TMS alumni-lead churches across the United States. Students at each location have the opportunity to study under the TMS faculty through online and two-way live courses. Each distance location is founded on the principle of training up men to shepherd God's flock through both a strong academic education and mentorship with those who have years of experience leading churches. For specific information on current Distance Locations consult www.tms.edu. The Master's University and Seminary is a religious institution exempt from state regulation and oversight in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mentor Model Program

Prospective students may also apply for the Mentor Model program, which allows a student to complete his MDiv (also offered as a BTh and DipTh) in his home church under the mentorship of his mentor/pastor. When applying to TMS, students must give valid reason why they are not able to relocate to a distance location or to the Los Angeles campus. In addition to the student application, the proposed mentor must also complete an application which examines the pastor's doctrine, ministry experience, and aptitude to mentor the student. All the curriculum is completed by the student through Canvas. The mentor will engage with the student on the Pastoral Ministry courses to help the student bridge the gap between what is being learned in the classroom and practical ministry experience.

Online Head Start

The online head start program is designed for students to complete introductory Master of Divinity coursework with the flexibility of remote instruction. This option enables a student to complete 16 units of the M.Div. curriculum online, allowing students to remain in their present ministry until they are able to move to Los Angeles for full-time on-campus training. The following courses can be taken under the online head start program:

- BI 501/BI 502 - Old Testament Studies I & II (3 units each)
- PM 505 - Grammar, Research, and Writing (2 units)
- TH786 - Charismatic Theology (2 units)
- TH 507/TH 508 - Historical Theology I & II (3 units each)

Arranged Courses

Students who have completed a minimum of 50 credit hours may occasionally wish to pursue an elective course or topic of interest that is not currently offered in a classroom setting. In such cases, the student is encouraged to discuss the possibility of arranging an independent study course with a professor from that discipline. A required course may not be so arranged unless it is in the student's final year, and then only if it conflicts with another required course. All petitions for Arranged Courses must be approved by the Academic Dean.

WINTER & SUMMER SESSIONS

A limited selection of courses are offered in winter and summer sessions. Students should not plan for a substantive part of curriculum requirements to be offered in these sessions. One elective course each winter will usually be offered by a distinguished guest lecturer (list of past lecturers is noted below). Students enrolled in any course during the winter session will be charged for the winter term separately from the spring term. Students must enroll in a minimum of 11 units in the spring semester (in addition to the winter units) to maintain full-time status.

Winter Distinguished Scholars Series

- 1990 S. Lewis Johnson, Jr., Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
- 1991 Homer A. Kent, Jr., Exposition of Acts
- 1992 Robert L. Saucy, Dispensational Theology
- 1993 Kenneth L. Barker, Scope of OT Theology as Fulfilled in Christ's First and Second Advents
- 1994 John A. Sproule, Exposition of Hebrews
- 1995 John Woodbridge, History of Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism
- 1996 Stanley D. Toussaint, Galatians
- 1997 Walter C. Kaiser, Old Testament Ethics
- 1998 George W. Knight, III, Studies in the Pastoral Epistles
- 1999 John S. Feinberg, Continuity & Discontinuity between the Testaments
- 2000 Thomas R. Edgar, Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Acts & 1 Corinthians
- 2001 Eugene Merrill, Theology of the Pentateuch
- 2002 Harold Hoehner, Ephesians
- 2003 Wayne Grudem, Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
- 2004 Steven Lawson, Preaching from the Psalms
- 2005 R. Kent Hughes, Paul's Concept of Ministry in Second Corinthians
- 2006 Ralph Alexander, Ezekiel
- 2007 John D. Hannah, Life of Jonathan Edwards
- 2008 Douglas Moo, Epistle of James
- 2009 Daniel Block, Worship in the Old Testament
- 2010 Bruce Ware, Universal Reign of the Triune God
- 2011 Charlie Dyer, Jeremiah and Lamentations
- 2012 John S. Feinberg, Issues in Christian Ethics
- 2013 Robert Yarbrough, 1,2,3 John
- 2014 Duane Garrett, Job
- 2015 Larry Pettegrew, Contemporary Evangelicalism
- 2016 Tom Pennington, Practical Process for Exposition: A Study in Romans
- 2017 Carl Trueman, The Reformation
- 2018 Thomas Schreiner, Biblical Theology
- 2019 Chris Mueller, Training Leaders in the Church
- 2020 Keith Essex, Ezra and Nehemiah
- 2021 Owen Strachan, Issues in Anthropology
- 2022 Abner Chou, Advanced Hermeneutics
- 2023 Michael A.G. Haykin, From Gill to Spurgeon: Learning from British & Irish Pastor-Theologians
- 2024 Andy Naselli, Exegetical Theology of Romans
- 2025 Derek Thomas, Theology of John Calvin

STUDENT ACCOUNTS CONTACT INFORMATION

accountinfo@masters.edu
661-362-2212

STUDENT FEES

The seminary's operations are supported by the generosity of ministry partners. All full-time residential students receive full tuition coverage from various scholarships. In addition, many of our residential students receive stipends to aid with the high cost of living in Los Angeles. Thus, the continuing and charitable support of individuals and churches is necessary for the ongoing ministry of the seminary.

The charges listed below reflect the pricing structure for the current academic year. The seminary reserves the right to change these charges without notice.

Application fee	\$50	(not refundable; MMB is \$25)
Enrollment deposit	\$250	(not refundable)

Tuition

MDiv, BTh, DipTh programs

Tuition per credit hour for on campus, full-time students (11 credit hours or more)	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for on campus, part-time students (under 11 credit hours)	\$600
Tuition per credit hour for Online students, full-time students (all terms per unit)	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for Online students, part-time students (all terms per unit)	\$600
Tuition per credit hour in summer & winter post-sessions	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for Mentor Model students	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for Distance Location Campus (all terms per unit)	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for on campus, Spanish MDiv students (all terms per unit)	\$550
Tuition per credit hour for Spanish Online MDiv students	\$270
Continuing registration	\$55

MMB program

Tuition per credit hour	\$270
Continuing registration	\$25

ThM program

Tuition per credit hour, full-time students (4 credit hours or more)	\$610
Tuition per credit hour, part-time students (under 4 credit hours)	\$770
Tuition per credit hour for pre-requisite	\$610
Continuing registration	\$160
Thesis Fee (per course registration)	\$200

PhD program

Tuition (per unit).....	\$950
Tuition per credit hour for pre-requisite	\$625
PhD Research and Writing Fee (per course registration)	\$1,000
PhD Qualifying Exams (per exam)	\$775
Approved absence, qualifying and residency (per semester)	\$775

DMin program

Tuition (per semester).....	\$3,675
Continuing registration	\$160

General Fees

On campus student service fee (fall and spring semesters)	\$290
Shepherds Conference Fee (MDiv, BTh, DipTh on campus, spring semester)	\$260
Distance Location student service fee (fall and spring semesters)	\$290
Online student service fee (fall and spring semesters)	\$160
Mentor Model student service fee (fall and spring semesters)	\$160
Technology Fee (MDiv, BTh, DipTh)	\$230
Technology Fee (Spanish Programs)	\$90
MMB on campus student service fee	\$160
MMB online student service fee	\$160
Spanish MDiv student services fee (fall and spring)	\$160
ThM student service fee (fall and spring).....	\$160
DMin student service fee (fall and spring semesters).....	\$160
PhD student service fee (fall and spring semesters)	\$300
Pre-Registration Fee (fall, spring, summer and winter- all degrees)	\$50
Carrel rental fee (optional, large carrel, per semester of residency)	\$75
Carrel rental fee (optional, small carrel, per semester of residency)	\$45
Thesis/ Project binding (ThM, DMin & PhD, original plus two copies)	\$165
Additional personal copies (each).....	\$45
Graduation fee (participation in ceremony)	\$225
Graduation fee (non-participation in ceremony).....	\$110
Transcript fee (electronic delivery)	\$12
Transcript fee (mail delivery, campus pick-up)	\$15
Course Audit fee (per credit)	\$100
Late Registration fee	\$110

Projected Tuition Cost and Length of Program

Note that the following chart assumes full-time status.

Degree	Total Cost of Tuition**	Projected Length of Program
DipTh (on campus)	\$53,900	3–4 years
Dip. Th. (distance)	\$53,900	4 years
BTh (on campus)	\$53,900	3–4 years

BTh (distance)	\$53,900	4 years
MMB	\$10,530	3 years
MDiv (on campus)	\$53,900	3–4 years
MDiv (distance)	\$53,900	4 years
ThM	\$17,690	2–4 years
DMin	\$22,050	3 years
PhD	\$22,800	2–3 years of residential program

**see general fees for additional charges

HOUSING AND OTHER COSTS

The seminary does not provide housing for either married or single students; students are responsible for making their own living arrangements. In addition to tuition and fees, students should plan for expenses like medical insurance, housing, food, transportation, and books. Married students who have children should anticipate the additional expenses involved.

MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

All registered Los Angeles on-campus students are required to have adequate medical insurance. Students will be automatically enrolled in the TMUS-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan unless they submit an online insurance waiver. Waivers will be approved if coverage meets certain minimum criteria (such as provision for doctor visits, emergency visits, prescriptions, locality of coverage, etc.). Students must submit a waiver each semester; premiums will be charged each semester to all student accounts that do not have an approved waiver.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Tuition, fees, and charges are due in a timely manner during the regular billing cycle. Students who are unable to pay their entire semester charges may elect to use the Payment Plan. This plan allows students to budget more easily, reducing the size of the tuition payments by spreading them over the semester. Actual monthly payments are automatically adjusted when courses are added or dropped, or when enrollment plans change.

For those who choose this plan, a student's *semester* tuition charges, based on his enrollment, are paid over a five-month period, beginning in July and ending in November for the fall semester, and beginning in December and ending in April for the spring semester. A payment plan fee will be assessed to your account *per semester* for using the plan. Please make payments in a timely manner to avoid any late fees being assessed to your account. Payment is due on the tenth of each month. *Note: This applies to students who complete registration before June 20 for the Fall semester and November 20 for the Spring semester. Students using the payment plan who register after these dates will have their balance divided by the number of payments remaining for the semester (i.e. a student who registers mid-August would have a payment due upon arrival, with successive payments due September 10, October 10, and November 10).*

Winter and summer post-session tuition costs cannot be rolled into your fall or spring tuition payment plans. Post-sessions must be paid separately.

Students with unpaid balances after these dates may be suspended from classes in Canvas and will forfeit the opportunity to enroll in courses for the subsequent school term until their bill is paid. TMU/TMS reserves the right to dismiss a student from classes due to non-payment or other payment issues.

If your tuition is being paid by another person or organization, it is your responsibility to make sure your tuition

is paid on time to avoid the penalties listed above.

Questions regarding the payment of accounts should be addressed to the Student Accounts Office. They can be reached at accountinfo@masters.edu or by phone at 661.362.2212.

REFUNDS

For all degrees, failure to officially withdraw will result in an “F” on the student’s transcript, as appropriate, even though the student may never have attended the class(es). A student who does not withdraw officially will not be entitled to any refund. A student who chooses to withdraw from class(es), whether he has attended them or not, must officially withdraw by completing the forms that are available from the Administration office.

DipTh, BTh, MMB, and MDiv

Fall and Spring 16 Week Classes

Refunds of tuition payments are based upon the week that the official withdrawal form is signed by the Administration office, not the time the student ceases to attend the class(es).

Withdrawal during the first two weeks	100%
During the third week	75%
During the fourth week	50%
During the fifth week	25%
During the sixth week	10%
During the seventh week or later	0%

Eight-Week Classes

Refunds of tuition payments are based upon the week that the official withdrawal form is signed by the Administration office, not the time the student ceases to attend the class(es).

Withdrawal during the first week	100%
During the second week	75%
During the third week	50%
During the fourth week or later	0%

Summer and Winter Post-Sessions

The following policy pertains to all summer and winter post-session classes except for eight-week classes, see above for the eight-week refund policy. For summer classes 100% refund is given if dropped prior to or during the first two days of class. No refund is given if dropped after the second day of class. For winter classes, 100% is given if dropped prior to or during the first day of class. No refund is given if dropped after the first day of class. The date used to establish the amount of refund will be the date the add/drop form is signed by the Office of Academic Administration.

ThM

A student who chooses to withdraw from class(es), whether he has attended them or not, must officially withdraw by completing the forms which are available from the Administration office. See refund schedule under DipTh, BTh, M.M.B & MDiv 16-week classes. Modular withdraw periods start the first day of the modular session, not the first day of the on-campus class.

DMin

Classes can be added through the first day of class and dropped until the end of the “drop” period, on the Monday following the second week of the semester. A grade of “W” indicates withdrawal during the third through the twelfth weeks for fall and spring semester. No withdrawals are permitted after the twelfth week. Information on refunds and penalties for failure to withdraw officially may be found above. Refunds of tuition payments are based upon the week that the official withdrawal form is signed by the Administration office, not the time the student ceases to attend the class(es).

PhD

Refunds of tuition payments are based upon the week that the official withdrawal form is signed by the Administration office, not on the time the student ceases to participate in the program. See refund schedule under DipTh, BTh, M.M.B & MDiv 16 week classes.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

There are select opportunities available for on campus employment at The Master’s Seminary and Grace Community Church. Most students work between ten and twenty hours per week and wages vary by department. Employment opportunities exist in the library, facilities, bookstore, security, media, events and select internships are available based on need in other departments.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Financialaid@masters.edu
661-362-2292

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Federal Student Aid (Federal Loans, Grants)

Eligibility:

- To be eligible to receive federal student aid, a student must:
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (For international students, see “TMS Scholarship Aid”).
- Have a bachelor’s degree conferred or higher. (For those in the BTh you must have a high school diploma or equivalent.)
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress towards graduation and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA as required.
- Not be in default on any Title IV loans or owe repayment on any Title IV grant.

Graduate Federal Aid

Graduate level students (i.e. MDiv, DMin, ThM, etc.) are eligible to receive unsubsidized Stafford loans in the amount of \$20,500 per academic year. All TMS students desiring Federal Financial Aid will need to complete a Seminary Financial Aid Application, a Seminary Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, and a FAFSA.

Undergraduate Federal Aid

Undergraduate students in the BTh program may be eligible to receive federal aid in the form of Pell Grant and subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans. Eligibility for Pell Grant and Subsidized loans is based on need determined by the FAFSA. All TMS students desiring Federal Financial Aid will need to complete a Seminary Financial Aid Application, a Seminary Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, and a FAFSA.

Federal Student Aid Application Process

To apply for federal aid, the student will need to:

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Complete The Master's Seminary Financial Aid Application (FAA) and return it to the Office of Financial Aid.
- If required for verification, submit the appropriate Federal Verification Worksheet and appropriate tax documents.
- Submit any additional documentation requested by the Office of Financial Aid

Determination of Need

Financial need is calculated by information the student provides on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This standard form, used nationwide in higher education, gathers information on the family's financial situation—their income and assets. Other requested information includes the number of family members and the number of family members in college. The results of this calculated assessment are commonly referred to as Student Aid Index (SAI).

The SAI is subtracted from the cost of attendance and the result is a calculation of the student's "financial need." Aid eligibility at The Master's Seminary is a function of both the cost of attendance and the student's SAI.

TMS Scholarship Aid

The Master's Seminary has a scholarship program which is made possible by the generosity of ministry partners. Scholarships are awarded annually based on the availability of these funds. All TMS students are eligible to apply for scholarships. Students must complete a scholarship application to be considered for funds. Before funds can be applied to a student's account, the student will need to complete the scholarship application process.

TMS Scholarship Application Process

To apply for a TMS Scholarship, the student will need to:

Complete The Master's Seminary Financial Aid Application (FAA) and return it to the Office of Financial Aid. This application includes the Master's Seminary Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. Students may then submit scholarship applications for the scholarships they desire.

Priority in awarding is based upon the timely filing of all required applications, supporting documents and notification of admission to the Seminary. Most awards (scholarships, grants, loans) are disbursed in two equal installments, Fall and Spring, which are credited directly to the student's account. Most financial awards are eligible for renewal based on program guidelines and the submission of an annual application.

Financial Aid Awards

Once all applications and supporting documents are received, a financial aid award will be offered to the student.

Verification

Verification is the process of confirming the accuracy of information reported on the FAFSA. Only students who complete a FAFSA are selected by the Department of Education for verification will be required to submit a Federal Verification Worksheet and complete IRS Data Retrieval or IRS transcript. This process is required of The Master's Seminary by the federal government in order to help maintain the integrity of the Federal Student Aid program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Each student must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) as outlined below:

2.00 GPA Requirement	2.5 GPA Requirement	3.0 GPA Requirement
Bachelor of Theology	Master of Divinity Master of Biblical Ministry	Master of Theology Doctor of Ministry Doctor of Philosophy

Cumulative GPA is based on institutional and transfer credit hours. A student must also complete 75 percent of the institutional units he/she has attempted. For example, a student who attempts 24 credit hours for the first year must complete 18 of those credit hours. A student who has attempted 60 credit hours by the end of the second year must have completed 45 of these credit hours. A student must also demonstrate progress toward graduation. The timeframe in which a student finishes his degree cannot exceed 150 percent of the published length of the program. For example, for an academic program with a program length of 98 units, the timeframe of completion cannot exceed 147 units. Part-time students must also complete 75 percent of their attempted units. "F" grades, incompletes, withdrawals, and "no credit" marks affect your GPA as outlined in this catalog.

Evaluation of Student's Progress

A GPA and unit evaluation will be completed at the beginning of each semester. If either of the criteria are not met at the time of the evaluation, the student will be notified of his failure to meet the standards, and the student will be placed on financial aid warning.

Financial Aid Warning for Failure to Meet the GPA Requirement

If a student is put on financial aid warning for failure to meet the cumulative GPA standard for their program, the student has one semester to raise his cumulative GPA to the minimum requirement. The student must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA for one semester before being removed from financial aid warning.

If the student does not raise his GPA to the minimum standard within the warning semester, the student will have all financial aid suspended until they have met the standard. After maintaining the cumulative GPA for one semester, the student will again be eligible for financial aid.

If a student is academically suspended, the student must complete the re-admission procedures for an academically disqualified student as outlined in the student catalog. The student must then meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement for one semester before that student will be eligible for financial aid. After such a time as the requirements have been met, the student may again apply for financial aid.

Financial Aid Warning to Meet the Unit Requirement

If a student has failed to complete 75 percent of the attempted units at the time of the unit evaluation, they will be placed on financial aid warning and will be notified of the failure to meet the minimum standard. That student will have one semester in which to improve this percentage. If the student has not completed 75 percent of the cumulative attempted units by the end of that semester, that student will have all financial aid suspended until they again meet the minimum standards. The student may again apply for financial aid after the minimum standards have been met.

Appeal

If a student has been suspended, they are permitted one opportunity to appeal. A student may appeal their suspension by presenting a letter of appeal to the Office of Financial Aid. The appeal must include why you have failed to meet Satisfactory Progress and what changes have been made to ensure academic success. If granted an appeal, the student will have one additional semester to meet the minimum standards of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. Cases of extreme illness or death in the family will be taken into consideration. The Office of Financial Aid will notify the student as to the final decision.

An approved appeal will grant the student one semester of probation in which they will still be eligible to receive financial aid. If satisfactory progress is not met at the end of this probation period, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension until the student has met the minimum requirements. No additional appeals will be granted.

FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is money provided from federal and local governments, independent and private organizations, and institutional funds set aside by the seminary to assist families in meeting the costs of higher education. Most opportunities for financial assistance fall into either of two categories: “merit-based aid” and “need-based aid.”

“Merit-based” scholarships are granted based on a student’s achievements or promise of achievement in academics. “Need-based” aid, as the name implies, requires that the student and their family demonstrate a financial need in meeting seminary costs. Simply stated, financial need is the difference between the amount a family is expected to contribute and the actual amount to attend seminary. In most cases the amount of financial aid offered will be based on a combination of factors involving both types of aid. Once application materials are received, students are assigned counselors to assist them through the financial aid process.

Scholarships

Scholarships and tuition grants come through the endowment funds and sacrificial gifts provided by friends of TMS. A limited number of scholarships are available. Please see <https://tms.edu/admissions/tuition-financial-aid/> for a current listing of scholarships.

Pell Grant

Eligibility (BTh Students Only)	Must meet all eligibility requirements for federal student aid. Must demonstrate financial need.
Amount	Varies year to year.

Federal Stafford Loans

Subsidized	Need-based, fixed rate, low-interest student loan in which the government pays the interest while the student is enrolled at least half-time (6 units). Loan is deferred until 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half-time.		
Unsubsidized	Fixed rate, low-interest student loan in which interest accrues while the student is enrolled at least half-time (6 units). Loan is deferred until 6 months after the student graduates or drops below half-time.		
Eligibility	Must meet all eligibility requirements for federal student aid. Minimum half-time enrollment		
Amount	Grade Level	Amount	Unsub Stafford
	Freshmen (0-23 units)	\$3,500	\$6,000
	Sophomore (24-48 units)	\$4,500	\$6,000
	Junior (49-74 units)	\$5,500	\$7,000
	Senior (75+ units)	\$5,500	\$7,000
	Graduate	N/A	\$20,500

Veterans' Educational Assistance

The Master's Seminary is approved as a degree-granting institution for the acceptance of veteran benefits under Title 38, United States Code. This includes the programs covered in chapters 30, 31, 32, 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill® and the Yellow Ribbon Program), and 35 of Title 38, and chapter 1606 of Title 10. The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education under the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs has also authorized the Seminary for the attendance of veterans and dependents who are eligible to receive benefits. Veterans or their dependents who plan to enroll in the Seminary are urged to contact the VA School Certifying Official in the Office of Financial Aid well in advance of registration so that the necessary arrangements may be made with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the California Department of Veterans Affairs. For Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Ch 33) students and VA Veteran Readiness and Employment (Ch 31) students, our tuition policy complies with 38 USC 3679(e) which means Post 9/11 GI Bill® and Veteran Readiness and Employment students will not be charged or otherwise penalized due to a delay in VA tuition and fee

payments. For eligibility consideration, a Post 9/11 GI Bill® student must submit a VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and a Veteran Readiness Student must provide a VAF 28-1905 form. All persons seeking enrollment must meet the general admissions policies. Those seeking to use VA Education Benefits must submit all prior transcripts for a transfer evaluation and submit one of the following a 22-1990, 22-1995, 22-5490, or a 22-5495 to the VA. GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by the VA is available at the official U.S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/.

FINANCIAL AID REFUND POLICY

Dropping Classes

A student's final eligibility for aid will be based on the number of hours for which they are enrolled on the Official Day of Record, as listed in the class schedule. If a student registers for, and then drops a class (or classes) prior to the Official Day of Record, the student's eligibility for aid will be re-calculated based on the hours remaining as of the Official Day of Record. Since financial aid is released prior to the Official Day of Record, students who receive a financial aid payment based on more hours than those remaining as of the Official Day of Record may be responsible for repaying a portion of any financial aid received.

Dropping classes may affect a student's eligibility for future aid. Students should consult the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy or the Office of Financial Aid to determine if dropping classes will affect their eligibility for future aid.

Total Withdrawal from School

If a student registers and then completely withdraws from all classes, their eligibility for aid will be re-calculated based on the number of days they attended class. If a student totally withdraws from all classes prior to the first class day, all financial aid will be canceled, and no funds will be disbursed. If a student withdraws on or after the first class day, the student may have to repay a portion of any cash financial aid received. See Return of Title IV Funds. Withdrawal from classes may affect a student's eligibility for future aid. Students should consult the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, or the Office of Financial Aid to determine if dropping classes will affect their eligibility for future aid.

School Return of Title IV Funds

The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2008 changed the formula for calculating the amount of aid a student and school can retain when the student totally withdraws from all classes. Students who withdraw from all classes prior to completing 60% of the semester will have their eligibility for aid recalculated based on the percentage of the semester completed. The Office of Financial Aid encourages students to read a complete copy of this policy carefully. Students considering withdrawal from all classes PRIOR to completing 60% of the semester, should contact the Office of Financial Aid to see how that withdrawal may affect their financial aid.

Student Consumer Information

In compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act, students can access compliance and consumer information for The Master's University and Seminary at www.masters.edu/HEOA.

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

The most important aspect of life for a student at The Master's Seminary is his personal relationship with God. The seminary seeks to provide an environment which encourages spiritual growth that is commensurate with academic and intellectual growth.

In order to promote an atmosphere conducive to such development, the seminary provides various programs and pursues various approaches designed to emphasize worship, spiritual discernment, and devotion to the Lord. Because of the biblical requirements for a role in Christian leadership (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1) and in view of the character qualities which are the goal for all maturing believers (Galatians 5:22–23), it is the conviction of the seminary that every administrator, faculty member, and student must zealously pursue these qualifications. In an effort to assist in achieving these objectives, the seminary desires that all activities be pervaded by an atmosphere of prayer so that not only chapel services and prayer meetings, but also every class, every committee meeting, every task, and every ministry might become, by God's grace, an avenue of spiritual blessing and growth.

CHAPEL

The seminary community meets each Tuesday and Thursday morning for one hour. Tuesday chapels highlight expository preaching, while Thursday chapels focus on discipleship and small-group interaction. The purpose of chapel is to provide students with an opportunity to engage in worship, hear sound preaching, participate in discipling relationships, and be exposed to current issues and ministries. Speakers for Tuesday chapels include faculty members, pastors, missionaries, and other Christian leaders.

Because chapel services are an integral part of the pastoral training, campus life, and educational experience, enveloping both the corporate and individual growth of the student body, attendance is required. Students whose classes start before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday are required to attend chapel. Students taking 4 or less units in a semester are automatically exempted from the chapel requirement.

From time to time, it may be necessary to be absent from chapel because of extenuating circumstances (illness, the birth of a child, family tragedy, unavailable transportation, church crisis, etc.) truly beyond the student's control. Students may choose to miss chapel but must make it a matter of integrity when deciding if the circumstances are justifiable. Please know that attendance will still be monitored and may require an appointment with the Dean of Students if a student demonstrates a pattern of unjustifiable chapel absences.

Any exemption from chapel attendance requires a written application to the Dean of Students. Students should plan their work schedule around their class and chapel requirements.

At Distance Locations, the site administrator determines the best process for chapel in their respective locations.

Spanish Programs

Participation in chapels is a mandatory requirement for all students in the Spanish programs.

Master of Biblical Ministry and MDIV Online Students

It is mandatory for online students to view the assigned chapel and confirm their viewing by marking it through

the Canvas platform.

MDiv On Campus Students

It is mandatory for on-campus students to attend chapel.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship Groups focus on discussions relating to the development of Christian living skills and character qualities. Students meet in small groups during the Thursday chapel hour with a faculty member or a church leader. Individual giftedness, personal and ministry experiences, the application of chapel messages, and personal ministry goals are discussed and evaluated. Each student is required to attend Discipleship Groups for at least six semesters throughout his time in the MDiv program.

Groups are not primarily academic in nature, but instead, are designed to promote self-examination, growth in Christian character qualities, and increased ability in encouraging and motivating others toward deeper devotion to God, greater love for others, and a more effective ministry to others. The rationale for these practicums is based on the fact that most failures in pastoral ministry are not because of a lack of knowledge but because of moral failure and the inability to work well with others. Therefore, Discipleship Groups are designed as a major part of the seminary's commitment to being involved in the ministry of Building Men of God. In Distance Locations, the Associate Deans determine the best process for discipleship groups in their respective locations.

Specifically, Discipleship Groups are designed to:

- Strengthen personal relationships between the students
- Focus on the personal character and giftedness of each student
- Evaluate and hone each student's "people skills"
- Mentor each student
- Entertain questions that classroom time does not allow
- Validate the "candidacy" process by which the faculty can determine a student's suitability for ministry
- Provide time to pray with students and see how God answers
- Create a lifetime friendship between students and faculty member

Spanish Programs

Participation in discipleship groups is a mandatory requirement for all students in the Spanish MDiv program.

MDiv Online Students

Students must accept the invitation via Microsoft Teams and coordinate their meeting with the professor using this platform.

MDiv On Campus Students

Students must attend discipleship in person on the assigned days. Each student is entitled to one excused absence per semester. It is required that they inform of any absence in advance: chapel absences should be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students, and discipleship absences should be communicated to the assigned professor.

MINISTRY APTITUDE PROGRAM

One of the strongest points of distinction for TMS is the emphasis placed on character development. When the seminary puts the seal of graduation upon a student, it is an affirmation not only of his academic ability and spiritual qualification, but also upon his aptitude for pastoral ministry. Effective preparation for the ministry of the gospel requires on-the-job training; therefore, the seminary requires significant ministry involvement under a faithful church and pastoral supervision. The distinctive nature of the school's presence on the campus of Grace Community Church and its location in the ethnically diverse Los Angeles area provide students with opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of ministries. Our location also gives students varied employment opportunities in church-related ministries.

Each MDiv student is required to be involved in a local church ministry and will complete a MAP survey each semester during pre-registration. Areas will include an evaluation form by the leadership of his local church, as well as a self-evaluation form. These assessments enable the student, his church leadership, and the seminary faculty to monitor his progress in issues of character, biblical knowledge, and ministry abilities. Ministry observation and involvement, when coupled with seminary studies, provides an opportunity for the student to be involved in specific aspects of ministry that will help prepare him to shepherd God's flock with excellence. Each requirement or ministry involvement (e.g. attend elders/leadership meetings, preaching/teaching assignments, attend premarital training sessions) has a specific purpose that is attested to and evaluated by the student and the seminary.

These Ministry Aptitude evaluation forms help confirm the maturation progress of each student and assist the faculty and the Director of Placement in guiding the student through his training and into future ministry opportunities.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Master's Seminary provides various opportunities for students to be involved in activities that will encourage, further equip, and enrich their experience during their time of study.

Academic Advising

Students are provided opportunities to receive academic advising through faculty members or through the Student Services department. While students are encouraged to meet with faculty and student service representatives throughout the semester, the seminary also provides an advising period each semester where students can sign up for a time to discuss their academic plan for coming semesters. Academic advising is also available for online and distance location students. For more information, students may contact the Student Services department at studentservices@tms.edu.

Associated Student Body

The students of The Master's Seminary maintain an organization designed to serve the student body. Through example and direction, the Associated Student Body (ASB) officers promote unity and fellowship among the students by leading in humility, "stimulating one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). They minister to the students spiritually, socially through organizing times of fellowship, and physically through arranging accommodations for new and prospective students when they arrive. The activities of the ASB are supported through a Student Services Fee.

Seven ASB members, of whom three hold the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, are

selected annually by the former ASB committee, confirmed by the faculty, and then elected to serve by the student body. The ASB Officers work closely with the Dean of Students as necessary to seek wisdom and counsel for the most effective way to serve the student body.

Student Services Fee

This fee primarily covers services targeted at enriching student life. Students receive focused care from various individuals including but not limited to our Dean of Students, program directors, and the Student Services team. There are regular pastoral and practical services that are provided to students throughout their time at TMS. Services range from student activities to thesis and dissertation reading and advising.

Grace Books

For the convenience of faculty and students, Grace Community Church, in cooperation with The Master's Seminary, maintains a bookstore, Grace Books, where books and supplies may be purchased at a discount. Most required textbooks as well as a diverse selection of additional theological and practical volumes are available. Books not in stock may be ordered.

Shepherds' Conference

Each spring Grace Community Church sponsors its annual Shepherds' Conference. Regular classes for this week are dismissed so that students may be involved in workshops and in interaction with pastors and church leaders from all over the world. All students are eligible to receive a discounted admission to the conference. All residential students are required to attend as many conference hours as class hours they normally attend each week.

Annual Social Activities

Early in each fall semester, the seminary faculty and students and families gather at the TMS Fall picnic for enjoyable food and fellowship. The event is designed to provide a special opportunity for all members of the seminary family to become better acquainted.

Social activities include regular lunches for students and faculty sponsored by the ASB, and various other activities sponsored by the seminary to help promote genuine fellowship and provide students a respite from their academic rigors.

Graduation and Placement

Every year, the Placement Office hosts a one-day seminar designed to prepare students for finding ministry employment. The Director of Placement also works with denominational leaders and interdenominational ministries to list available positions on the Placement portion of the Alumni Platform. Students are encouraged to use their internship and ministry involvements as opportunities to build a resume of experiences which will lead naturally toward their ministry goals.

In addition to assisting in placement for graduates, the seminary is often able to find part-time or interim ministries for advanced students. The seminary is unable to make recommendations or seek placement for applicants or first-year students, except in rare instances when there has been extensive ministry experience.

DRESS

Student Attire, Los Angeles—Ultimately, clothing centers around three key ideas— culture, occasion, and purpose; the most important being purpose. Cleanliness and neatness in appearance are indispensable for effectiveness in your Christian testimony. This attention to detail is part of your training.

Because the seminary is preparing men for professional occupations as ministers of the gospel, adherence to certain professional standards of dress and appearance is required. During class and chapel hours, students are required to wear dress shoes with socks (no tennis shoes), dress slacks (no jeans), dress shirts, and ties. Hair is to be worn conservatively and neatly groomed.

Dress requirements for summer school, winter, and finals week are more relaxed. Students are asked to wear slacks, dress shoes, and a collared shirt. Tennis shoes, blue jeans, and flip flops are not appropriate attire.

Student Attire, Distance Locations—Students are asked to wear slacks, dress shoes, collared shirts, and ties.

STUDENT EMAIL POLICY

The student email policy provides guidelines regarding the following aspects of electronic communications as an official means of communication with students:

- Seminary use of email;
- Assignment of student email addresses;
- Expectations of email communication between TMS Administration and Students;
- Announcements and targeted messages

All students currently enrolled at The Master’s Seminary are required to have email addresses, as outlined below.

1. Seminary use of email

All students enrolled at The Master’s Seminary (TMS) are assigned an email address. Email is a mechanism for official communication within TMS. Official email communications are intended only to meet the academic and administrative needs of the campus community. All students are *required* to use their student email address for communication with TMS administration. All communication from TMS administration will be sent directly to the student’s email address. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly check their student email account in order to receive all needed information from TMS. This includes but is not limited to registration information, course information, and important TMS announcements.

2. Assignment of student email addresses

Information Technology Services (ITS) will assign all students an official Seminary e-mail address. It is to this official address that the Seminary will send all e-mail communications. The student email address will be created when a student is accepted to TMS. The student email address along with login information will be issued to the newly admitted student by the Student Services department. New students may contact the Student Services department for more information at studentservices@tms.edu.

3. Appropriate use of student e-mail

In general, e-mail is not appropriate for transmitting sensitive or confidential information unless such information is encrypted.

- Confidentiality regarding student records is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of

1974 (FERPA). All use of e-mail by TMS, including use for sensitive or confidential information, will be consistent with FERPA.

4. Misuse

As mentioned above, email is simply another form of communication technology. Any policy of the Seminary that applies to communications also generally applies to Email. Use of Email in violation of other Seminary policies is also a violation of this policy.

Examples of improper uses of Seminary email:

- Concealment or misrepresentation of names or affiliations (e.g., misrepresenting oneself as another user);
- Use of email to send spam (unsolicited non-Seminary commercial email);
- Alteration of source or destination address of Email;
- Use of email to violate the Seminary's policy on Harassment and Discrimination; and
- Use of email to violate the law.

5. Security

- All students currently enrolled at The Master's Seminary will be required to sign up for Multi- Factor Authentication (MFA). MFA is a protective measure to prevent unwanted access to a student's account. Upon first log in to the student's email, Microsoft will prompt asking the student to set up additional security information.
- All students are responsible to be cautious about fraudulent emails and opening attachments/clicking links from unknown senders. If students believe that their credentials are compromised, students should immediately report the compromised account to IT at help@tms.edu. TMUS is required to report such breaches to the Department of Education.

6. Expiration of Accounts

- Students who leave before graduation— Students who leave the Seminary without completion of their degree or other program will keep their emails until the following semester. If the student does not register for the semester following, the email account will be terminated.
- Withdrawn Students- Students who officially withdraw from the seminary will have their email accounts active until the end of the semester that they chose to withdraw.
- Expelled students - If a student is expelled from the Seminary, email privileges will be terminated immediately upon the directive of the Dean of Students Office.
- Graduating/Alumni – students who have graduated from the Seminary will be permitted to forward their email if their account remains active. The Seminary will allow 90 days for students to forward their emails to their personal account and at the end of the 90 days, the emails will be terminated. Notice will be provided to students prior to the termination of their student email account.

GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Purpose

The purpose of these procedures is to provide faculty, staff, and students with a reasonable and fair process for reporting concerns or resolving disputes related to The Master's Seminary or members of the seminary family.

Definition

For the purposes of this document, a grievance is defined as a formal complaint issued by a student, staff member, or faculty member against another member (student or employee) of The Master's Seminary due to a perceived injury or inequity, especially as it relates to institutional policies articulated in student and employee handbooks.

General Principles

If a member of the faculty, staff, or student body has a grievance against any other individual at the Seminary, the grieved party has the choice of accepting the matter in grace or raising the matter directly with the other person in order to seek resolution. If the individuals can resolve the issue together, in grace, then the matter will be deemed resolved for all purposes. At that point, no one else needs to be informed (unless others have been harmed thereby, in which case they should follow the principles outlined herein).

The following steps for dealing with grievances are an attempt to apply biblical principles, in the spirit of Christian love, mutual edification, and relational reconciliation (cf. Matt. 5:9; 18:15–17; Rom. 12:9–21; 1 Cor. 13:4–7; Phil. 2:1–4; etc.). It is the desire of the administration that grievances be resolved in the timeliest manner possible, and that when possible they should be resolved between the two parties directly involved in the situation, without involving a third party.

Informal Grievance Procedures

Open communication between students, staff, faculty, and administration is encouraged and solicited. Ideally, when a member of the faculty, staff, or student body has a concern or grievance, he or she should first discuss it with the person directly involved. However, in some cases, the grieved party may not feel comfortable approaching the other individual directly. (For example, a student may not feel comfortable sharing a grievance with a member of the faculty.) In such cases, the grieved party may immediately address his or her concerns to the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Faculty, or the Director of Staff and Student Services.

If direct discussions do not bring resolution between the two parties involved, and the grieved party is convinced that substantial problems still exist, he or she should then approach the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Faculty, or the Director of Staff and Student Services for help in resolving the problem and, as needed, discussing it with all parties involved.

Please note: At this point, faculty or staff with a grievance should speak with the Associate Dean of Faculty or the Director of Staff and Student Services. Students with a grievance should approach the Dean of Students.

If the concern is still unresolved a formal grievance procedure may be initiated.

Formal Grievance Procedures

The formal grievance procedure outlined below provides members of the faculty, staff, and student body with an orderly process for seeking resolution of serious concerns that have not been resolved using the informal procedures articulated above. Only when all informal attempts have been exhausted should the following procedures be initiated.

Step One

If the grievance is not resolved by the informal procedure above, the grieved party may file a formal Grievance

Complaint *in writing* with the Dean of Students (for students) or either the Dean of Faculty or the Director of Staff and Student Services for faculty and staff. All Grievance Complaints must include a fully detailed and thorough explanation of the allegations and/or complaints being raised, and must be filed within 25 working days of the date on which the grievied party knew or should have known of the action(s) or condition(s) which occasioned the grievance. The Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Faculty, or the Director of Staff and Student Services shall respond to the grievied party, in writing, within 10 working days of receiving the Grievance Complaint

Step Two

If the grievance is not resolved at Step One and the grievied party desires to pursue the matter further, he or she may file the Grievance Complaint with the Executive Vice President within 10 working days of the Step One decision. The grievance must state the specific policy, regulation, or procedure alleged to have been misinterpreted, misapplied or violated, and the resolution requested. The Executive Vice President shall investigate the grievance and respond to the grievied party, in writing, within 10 working days of receiving the Grievance Complaint. The Executive Vice President's decision will be final.

Code of Conduct

In view of the high calling of the ministry and the great responsibility of example which must be assumed by Christian leaders, and by those aspiring to such leadership, it is expected that students at The Master's Seminary will maintain the highest of standards in personal conduct and biblical conviction. The seminary does not presume to be a monitoring or censoring agency for all activities but does expect personal testimony and outward evidence of maturing Christian convictions, concern for the conscience of others, and a willingness to submit to the authority of mature Christian leaders. Accordingly, as examples of the numerous ways to enhance the testimony of the individual and of the institution, the seminary requires conformity to the following Code of Conduct: Each student is expected to be faithful, committed, and involved in the ministry of a local church.

- The seminary standards for appearance and dress are to be fully respected. See the previous pages for seminary standards in these areas.
- Personal discipline in the discerning use of radio, television, and the printed page is expected. This includes total avoidance of pornographic internet sites, films, and literature.
- Students are required to abstain from such practices as gambling, the use of beverages for intoxication, the misuse of prescription drugs, the use of illegal drugs, and tobacco.
- Students must avoid all forms of dishonesty, including lying, plagiarism, cheating on exams or assignments, failure to meet financial obligations, and negligence in the performance of educational, employment, or ministry responsibilities.
- Family relationships and responsibilities are to be given a place of highest priority. Students are required to maintain a biblical pattern in family relationships, and to abstain from unbiblical sexual activities or relationships.

The Master's Seminary reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who does not conform to this code of conduct or any other of the seminary's principles, policies, or required procedures. By virtue of his enrollment, a student agrees to live within the framework of these standards and principles.

OVERVIEW

Course Identification System

The alphabetical components of each course identification indicate the subject area as follows.

BI	Bible Exposition (English texts)
OT	Old Testament Language and Literature
NT	New Testament Language and Literature
TH	Christian Theology
MI	World Missions and Evangelism
PM	Pastoral Ministries
EP	Educational Pedagogy
DM	Doctor of Ministry

The first of the three numbers in each course identification indicates the curriculum year in which the course is normally scheduled. This is not necessarily an indication of content level.

5	First year of seminary (Junior year)
6	Second and third year (Middler year)
7	Fourth year (Senior year)
8	ThM courses
9	Doctoral courses

The third number indicates the semester in which the course is normally offered:

Odd numbers	= Courses normally offered in the fall
Even numbers	= Courses normally offered in the spring

Class Schedules

A schedule of courses offered for any given semester, including winter and summers, is made available in advance of each registration period. The seminary reserves the right, however, to cancel any course for which enrollment is insufficient to justify offering the course. Courses may also be canceled in cases of faculty illness or other unforeseen circumstances. When such cancellations would cause unusual hardship for students, the seminary may arrange or allow for alternative requirements or electives.

DIVISION OF BIBLE EXPOSITION

Bible Exposition courses include survey studies in both testaments, intensive studies of specific books, syntheses of biblical teaching relating to important themes, topics, and genres, and background studies relating to such issues as biblical cultures, geography, and chronology. These provide background materials which are essential for Old Testament and New Testament courses in exegesis as well as for theological studies.

The meaning of Hebrew and Greek terms and grammatical constructions are discussed when they make special contributions to an understanding of the biblical text, but the courses listed under this heading, and designated by BI in the course identification, do not require prerequisite study or facility in the biblical languages unless otherwise noted.

Division of Bible Exposition—MDiv

The Division of Bible Exposition (MDiv) is designed to equip students for a foundational comprehension and accurate explanation of Scripture, as detailed in the following Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs).

- DLO 1: As a future Biblical expositor, implement a literal grammatical-historical interpretive practice within a comprehensive understanding of the Bible
- DLO 2: As a future Bible expositor, identify the background and context of each book of the Bible

BI 501, 502 • Old Testament Studies I and II

Includes a survey of the entire Old Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns. The first semester covers Genesis through Esther. The second semester covers Job through Malachi. *Three hours each.*

BI 505 • Hermeneutics

An introduction to the science and art of hermeneutics. Surveys the major interpretive approaches to the Bible, both historical and contemporary. Attempts to establish both general and special principles of interpretation by examining parables, types, prophecies, poetry, and a great variety of figurative constructs. Elucidates the principles of normal, cultural, and historical interpretation. *Three hours.*

BI 551 • Introduction to Exegesis

This class presents a detailed development of the study process used in sermon preparation. The class covers topics such as how to look at the text at the syntactic, grammatical, lexical, and morphological levels, how to read commentaries, and how to write an exegetical proposition. When the student finishes this class, he should know how to interpret a text he seeks to preach. *Three hours.*

BI 601 • New Testament Studies

A survey of the entire New Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. Also examines the historical, cultural, and geographical setting for the New Testament and for each book. Emphasizes both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living, and evaluates the major problems associated with each book. *Three hours.*

BI 626 • The Life and Mission of Paul

A study of life and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, with special emphasis placed on his ministry principles and practices as described in the book of Acts and the biographical portions of his letters. *Two hours.*

BI 627 • The Life and Mission of Paul: Field Studies

is a study of the life, context, and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul from within the lands of Turkey and Greece. The course will focus on the geography, history, topography, and archaeology of both Turkey and Greece as it relates to the life of Paul, although some attention will be given to other New Testament elements not directly connected with Paul. The purpose of this course is to deepen the student's understanding of the life of Paul by studying his key routes of travel and his primary locations of ministry. Most of the learning will be done on site, although preparatory and post-trip work will be required. *Two hours.*

BI 630 • Biblical Psalmody

This course will survey the use of Biblical Psalmody as practiced in both Jewish and Christian worship beginning from ancient history. It will begin with a study of the poetic structure and liturgical use of the book of the Psalms in Jewish liturgy to the destruction of the 2nd Temple. Attention will be given to the Psalms and their

development as musical devices through various translations and historical settings. Research will also give attention to major shifts in the use of Psalms in congregational settings and those personalities who influenced their development and growth. Finally, we will analyze Psalm singing historically and its use in contemporary worship settings. *Two hours.*

BI 631 • A Theology of Biblical Worship

This course will survey the exercise of Biblical Worship as practiced in both Jewish and Christian worship beginning with ancient history to the early church. We will begin by examining the Biblical texts applied to specifics acts of worship, their contexts, and their meanings. There will be a thorough examination of key Biblical texts on worship along with identifying the Holy Spirit's role in gospel-induced worship. We will define music and set about to determine its proper role in assisting worship practices. Attention will be given to other worship practices and their key points along with the elements that make up liturgical worship gatherings. Finally, practical direction will be provided in identifying and qualifying those who serve in the music leadership of the church. *Two hours.*

BI 632 • Theology of Congregational Singing

This course will survey the practice of congregational singing as exhibited in both Jewish and Christian liturgy beginning with ancient history to the present day. This will cover Biblical commands for singing and music in both the Old and New Testaments. Additionally, church history will be surveyed for an assessment of congregational singing from the early church to the contemporary church. Additionally, the class will examine music and its relationship to emotions and our theology of worship. *Two hours.*

BI 633 • Practical Skills for Music Ministry

This course will address the needs that every church has in its music ministry. Particular areas of focus are choosing accompaniments, directing the music team, using vocalists and/or choir, and how to build a small ensemble. *Two hours.*

BI 634 • Preaching and Poetry

This class examines the basics of poetic meter and looks at the use of poetry in scripture, preaching and sacred music. The history of poetry in the church is examined from the early church fathers through the Reformers and the Puritans. This class aims to kindle a spark of appreciation for theological poetry and the benefit it has in the Church and in personal devotion. *Two hours.*

BI 635 • A Study of Christian Hymnology

This class will look at the use of hymns that have been sung from the beginning of the Old Testament through modern history. The history of hymns will be examined from early Greek and Latin hymnology through the Reformation. The study of hymnology will also provide a look at the lives of those who penned these sacred lyrics and helped many in the maturing of their faith and the understanding of doctrine. *Two hours.*

BI 667 • Samuel, Kings & Chronicles

An expositional study of the prophetic record and evaluation of the rise and decline of the monarchy of Israel. Particular emphasis will be given to the Davidic Covenant as it is revealed, and lessons to benefit a life of godliness. *Two hours.*

BI 652 • Historical Geography of Israel

A careful study of the geographical layout of ancient Israel with a view to understanding the changes that occurred throughout Israel's history. The topographical and geological features of Israel will also receive treatment. *Two hours.*

BI 653 • Historical Geography of Israel Field Studies

As part of the seminary's field studies program, the student will travel to Israel and examine key site related to Biblical history and archaeology, particularly the Old Testament and the Life of Christ. Field education and lectures from the college's extension campus program in Israel (IBEX) and other guest lecturers will expose students to the socio-religious issues in modern Israel, the history of the land, and its rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Prerequisite: BI652. *Two hours*

BI 656 • Exodus and Leviticus

An analytical exposition of these two key Old Testament books, with special consideration of historical background, theme, interpretive difficulties, and the redemptive plan of God as evidenced and illustrated in the various aspects of the law, the priesthood, and the tabernacle. The theological dimensions of the books will be evaluated in the light of textual, historical, archaeological, and cultural perspectives. *Two hours.*

BI 658 • Ezekiel

A study of the life and times of Ezekiel, together with an exposition of the book. Solutions to key interpretive problems are evaluated, with applications to believers today highlighted. *Two hours.*

BI 659 • The Minor Prophets

A study of the role and significance of the prophets in Israel's history, a survey of each book, including its political, social, and religious milieu, and an exposition of the message of each prophet. *Two hours.*

BI 662 • Ezra and Nehemiah

An expository study of the post-exilic experience of Israel as described by Ezra and Nehemiah. The major interpretive and applicational issues of these books will receive special attention. *Two hours.*

BI 665 • Proverbs

An expositional study of the Book of Proverbs, with attention to the nature of Hebrew wisdom literature, the genre of proverbs, and the various hermeneutical approaches to this literature. Also emphasizes personal and homiletical applications to contemporary issues and relationships. *Two hours.*

BI 673 • New Testament and Its World

This class will introduce you to the religious, political, and cultural features of the world of Jesus. It will cover the historical trends that prepared the way for Jesus in the period of 300 BC to AD 300. This class will answer the questions—what was it like to live when Jesus lived? What events led to the writing of the NT? What language(s) did Jesus speak? What happened to Judaism after the destruction of the second temple and Jerusalem? What empires played a role in the formation of the NT and the culture of the NT? What key personalities shaped the Inter-testamental period and the early Christian period? *Two Hours.*

BI 675 • Life of Christ

A survey of the key events in the Life of Christ considered through the exposition of the pertinent narrative passages in the gospels. Important themes in the biblical narrative of the gospels and theologically significant aspects of the Life of Christ are highlighted. *Two hours.*

BI 677 • Gospel of Mark

A study of the second Gospel with special emphasis on Mark's portrayal of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and the Suffering Servant. The concept of discipleship seen in this gospel will also receive detailed consideration. *Two hours.*

BI 678 • Gospel of Luke

A study of the third Gospel with special attention devoted to the infancy narratives, the kingdom of God as in the parables, the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, and the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. *Two hours.*

BI 690 • Exposition of Titus

A course designed to delve into Paul's epistle to Titus, paying close attention to the study of its historical and cultural context. The course emphasizes the instructions and warnings regarding leaders, the doctrine applied to Christian living, and how grace in Christ is the sole means of justification and sanctification. Contemporary applications of the text will also be demonstrated. *Two hours.*

BI 701 • Ordination Preparation

Beginning with the biblical basis for ordination, the practical process for ordination is outlined. A thorough review is conducted of the student's biblical knowledge, including code outlining, code themes, key chapters, key verses, and important people. It is designed to functionally prepare the TMS senior to enter ministry after graduation at the highest level of excellence. This class, without exception, is limited to those who will graduate the following May. Prerequisites: BI 501, 502, 601, 505. *Two hours.*

BI 705 • Advanced Hermeneutics

An apologetic for the Grammatical-Historical method of interpretation. This course will explain why the Grammatical-Historical method can be applied to understanding New Testament use of the Old Testament, evaluating theological systems, and addressing contemporary issues in hermeneutics. Prerequisite: TH 605, BI 505. *Two hours.*

BI 715 • A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament

This class develops a pathway that begins with the hermeneutical principles for interpreting the Old Testament. With the Bible as the primary text, the course highlights the cohesion of the God's Word as traced through the biblical covenants, with a view towards the Advent of the Messiah in the New Testament. *Two hours.*

BI 716 • Biblical Theology of the New Testament

This class develops a pathway that begins with the hermeneutical principles for interpreting the New Testament and culminates with preaching the riches of the Scriptures. With the Bible as the primary text, the course highlights the cohesion of the God's Word as traced through the biblical covenants. *Two hours.*

BI 751 • Acts

A course designed to acquaint the student with the genesis and progression of early Christianity. Devotes special attention to evangelistic methodologies and to the tensions and confusions with regard to that which is normative or commanded versus that which is transitional or occasional. Also includes a study of the chronology of key events in the life of the Apostle Paul. *Two hours.*

BI 755 • 1 and 2 Thessalonians

An expositional approach to these early epistles with careful attention to their context in culture and history. Special emphases focus on the personal, pastoral, and prophetic elements that combine for a unique study. Appropriate applications for the contemporary church will be drawn. *Two hours.*

BI 756 • Selected General Epistles

A study of James, 1 Peter, and Jude, with special attention given to the occasion, purpose, structure, contents, and message of each epistle. *Two hours.*

BI 757 • Galatians

An exposition of the book, including the date, historical situation, and purpose. Special emphasis is given to the development of the argument and its relationship to the book of Romans. *Two hours.*

BI 761 • Hebrews

An analysis and exposition of the text, with attention given to authorship, date, theme, and interpretive difficulties. Special emphasis is also given to Christ's fulfillment of the types and shadows of the Old Testament sacrificial system. *Two hours.*

BI 768 • Exposition of Isaiah

An expositional analysis of the book of Isaiah, including key features for interpreting prophetic literature as well as the authorship and the argument of the book and key Messianic passages. Its connections with other OT books and the NT will also receive attention.

BI 777 • Pastoral Epistles

An expositional analysis of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on the practical application of the instruction of these epistles for contemporary Christian living and pastoral responsibilities. *Two hours.*

BI 779 • History of Israel

An examination of the history of God's chosen nation, Old Testament chronology, international relations, great national leaders, and the place of the prophets, beginning with the call of Abraham and ending with the Persian period (see OT 779). *Two hours.*

BI 784 • History of the English Bible

The English Bible, both in scope and volume, has been the most significant translation of the Bible in the history of the Church. With new versions of the Bible in English appearing almost annually, this course is designed to study the history of the Bible in English, examining genuine copies of the eight significant English Bibles. Additionally, the theological and practical issues related to Bible translation, evaluation of Bibles, and the Bible in worship will be engaged. *Two hours.*

BI 799 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved. *Two hours.*

Division of Bible Exposition—Th.M.

Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs):

- DLO 1: As an advancing scholar, specialize in an area of hermeneutics or homiletics, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO 2: As an advancing interpreter, apply the principles of interpretation in a refined and efficient manner,

showing aptitude in exegesis in the languages and literature of both the Old and New Testaments.

- DLO 3: As an advancing teacher, show aptitude in the ability to move from text to exposition, showing skill in teaching by maintaining faithfulness to the intent of the biblical text while explaining it clearly to a contemporary audience.
- DLO 4: As an advancing researcher, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

BI 824 • Readings in Contemporary Hermeneutics

This seminar is designed to expose students to the significant contemporary trends in evangelical and non-evangelical biblical interpretation, focusing on how these trends understand the role of the biblical writer, his text, and the reader, and analyzing them in light of the grammatico-historical method of interpretation. This seminar is also designed to prepare students to take a comprehensive exam in the area of hermeneutics in order to fulfill a key requirement of the Bible exposition emphasis in the Master of Theology program. *2 hours.*

BI 826 • Readings in Contemporary Homiletics

This seminar is designed to expose students to the significant contemporary trends in evangelical and non-evangelical biblical preaching, focusing on how these trends understand the role of the biblical text, the contemporary preacher, and the contemporary hearer, analyzing them in light of the text-driven expository method of preaching. This seminar is also designed to begin to prepare students to take a comprehensive exam in the area of homiletics in order to fulfill a key requirement of the Bible exposition emphasis in the Master of Theology program. *2 hours.*

BI 827 • Advanced Studies in the Life of Paul

The Master's Seminary provides the opportunity for students to study directly in the lands of the Bible. Advanced Studies in the Life of Paul is a 2-week Turkey/Greece study tour for any Master of Theology student. This trip is highly effective in expanding a student's awareness of geographical, cultural, and historical issues pertaining to the interpretation of the Old and New Testaments. Students in all four academic emphases within the Th.M. program can receive two units of academic credit. For students in the non-Ph.D. track, the two units will take the place of the open elective built into the curriculum of each of the four emphases. For students in the Ph.D. track, the two units would take the place of one of the seminars in the student's curriculum that is not part of his emphasis. Students in the Ph.D. track taking this trip for credit must consult with the Director of Th.M. Studies to determine which seminar to substitute. For more information, please refer to the Th.M. handbook. *Two hours.*

BI 829 New Testament Use of the Old Testament

An examination of how the New Testament writers quote and apply the Old Testament. This course looks at the ramifications of New Testament uses of the Old Testament for both hermeneutics and theology (see TH 829). *Two hours.*

BI 830 • History of Biblical Interpretation, Part 1: The Fathers to the Reformation

A survey of Patristic, Medieval, and pre-Reformation interpretive theory and practice, providing analysis of both historical writings on interpretation and historical commentaries that demonstrate interpretation in practice. *2 hours.*

BI 831 • History of Biblical Interpretation, Part 2: The Reformation to the Present

A survey of Reformation, Puritan, and Enlightenment interpretive theory and practice, providing analysis of both historical writings on interpretation and historical commentaries that demonstrate interpretation in practice. *2 hours.*

BI 832A • History of Biblical Preaching, Part 1: The Fathers to the Reformation

A survey of the history of biblical preaching, focusing on the biographies, theologies, and methods of significant preachers from the birth of the church to the pre-Reformation era. 1 hour. Recommended to be taken alongside BI 830. *1 hour.*

BI 832B History of Biblical Preaching, Part 2: The Reformation to the Present

A survey of the history of biblical preaching, focusing on the biographies, theologies, and methods of significant preachers from the Reformation era to the modern era. This seminar culminates with the comprehensive Ph.D. qualifying exam in the area of homiletics, and thus should be taken after BI 826 and BI 832A. *1 hour.*

BI 837A • Thesis Introductory Methods

This class is primarily an independent study, with initial and intermittent guidance provided by the student's thesis advisor. The class entails topic selection and approval, development of a prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and general synopsis of argument), and the introductory chapter. Deadline for completing this class is by the end of sixteen weeks. *Two hours.*

BI 838 • Th.M. Thesis

As the culmination of their Th.M. program, a student must write a Th.M. thesis. Building on the work submitted for BI 837A, this thesis must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Prerequisite: BI 837A. *Two hours.*

BI 847 • Pentateuch

Study of the major biblical and historical development of the first five books of the Old Testament. *Two hours.*

BI 851 • Gospel of Matthew

An analysis of the first Gospel with special attention devoted to the kingdom concept, the person of Christ, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the kingdom, and the Olivet Discourse. *Two hours.*

BI 853 • Hebrews

An analysis and exposition of the text, with attention given to authorship, date, theme, and interpretive difficulties. Special emphasis is also given to Christ's fulfillment of the types and shadows of the Old Testament sacrificial system. *Two hours.*

BI 862 • Isaiah

An analytical study of the words of this great prophet. Examines his life and character, as well as the historical background of his message, with special emphasis on messianic predictions. *Two hours.*

BI 864 • Romans

An exposition of the book, with careful attention given to background, theme, and doctrinal issues and solutions. Relevant practical applications are also presented. *Two hours.*

BI 870 • From Text to Exposition

A course designed to assess the student on his ability to move through the interpretive process from the beginning stages of exegesis to the final steps of exposition to a contemporary audience, using a book of the Old or New Testament of the student's choosing and approved by the professor. The course will implement all that is learned from the other seminars required in the Bible Exposition emphasis. *2 hours.*

BI 873 • Advanced Studies in the Geography of Israel

The Master's Seminary provides the opportunity for students to study directly in the lands of the Bible. Advanced Studies in the Geography of Israel is a 3-week Israel study tour for any Master of Theology student. This trip is

highly effective in expanding a student's awareness of geographical, cultural, and historical issues pertaining to the interpretation of the Old and New Testaments. Students in all four academic emphases within the Th.M. program can receive two units of academic credit. For students in the non-Ph.D. track, the two units will take the place of the open elective built into the curriculum of each of the four emphases. For students in the Ph.D. track, the two units would take the place of one of the seminars in the student's curriculum that is not part of his emphasis. Students in the Ph.D. track taking this trip for credit must consult with the Director of Th.M. Studies to determine which seminar to substitute. For more information, please refer to the Th.M. handbook. *Two hours.*

BI 874 • Revelation

An expository study of this book, including an examination of the historical backgrounds, literary structures, prominent systems of interpretation, and thematic development. Emphasis is placed on the prophetic chronology presented by the book, and on the relationships with other prophetic portions of Scripture—in particular with the Olivet Discourse of our Lord. *Two hours.*

BI 899 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. *Two hours.*

Division of Bible Exposition—Ph.D.

BI 930 • Writing and Research

This zero-unit course is reserved for Ph.D. students who will only complete writing and research for the semester and do not plan to complete a dissertation presentation. The fee for this course is available on the TMS website. *Zero hours.*

BI 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements. *Four hours.*

BI 942, 943, 944, 945, 947 • Dissertation Research I–IV

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written. *Four hours each.*

BI 947 • Doctoral Dissertation

Once Colloquium #3 has been orally presented to and approved by the full-time faculty, the student is expected to register for this course. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to write the first complete draft of his dissertation for evaluation and approval by the Dissertation Committee [advisor as chairman, second reader, and the third reader (external scholar)]. Afterwards, the student is expected to orally defend the first draft of the dissertation before the full-time faculty. When the faculty has approved the defense, the student is required to have the first draft professionally fully edited, make any minor changes required by the faculty, and

then submit the final draft of the dissertation to the TMS librarian on required paper for binding. *4 hours.*

DIVISION OF OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES

Because the Old Testament contains the foundational revelation of God to man in written form. Since these thirty-nine books, in our present divisions and numbering, constituted the Bible of our Lord, His apostles, and the early church, a basic understanding of these books is indispensable for any thoroughly equipped minister of the gospel. Accordingly, all candidates for graduation are required to acquire a broad familiarity with the contents of the Old Testament as seen against its historical and cultural backgrounds, an ability to translate biblical Hebrew with the use of appropriate language tools, and some practical skills in exegetical and expositional methodologies.

All of the courses listed under this heading, and designated by OT in the course identification, require extensive use of the Hebrew language.

Division of Old Testament Studies—MDiv

The Division of Old Testament Studies (MDiv) is designed to advance critical thinking skills in linguistic, exegetical, and apologetical aspects of Old Testament study and to promote growth in disciplined habits for ongoing independent study of the Old Testament, as detailed in the following Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs).

- DLO 1: Demonstrate competency with vocabulary, basic grammar, and standard tools to translate Biblical Hebrew texts
- DLO 2: Implement a sound research methodology to interpret the Hebrew Bible
- DLO 3: Produce a syntactical-lexical project reflecting accuracy with a view to exegesis
- DLO 4: Write an exposition combining accurate translation and exegesis of the Hebrew text with reliable practical and theological implications

OT 503 • Hebrew Grammar I

An introduction to biblical Hebrew designed to equip the student with a basic vocabulary and an understanding of the essential principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax. Permission to enter OT 504 is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” (or 78%) is achieved. *Three hours.*

OT 504 • Hebrew Grammar II

A continuation of the grammatical studies begun in OT 503 with emphasis on reading selected portions of the Hebrew Old Testament (with a view towards greater dexterity in handling the Hebrew text), increasing vocabulary, learning the basic use of language tools, and providing exposure to the major genres of the Old Testament. Permission to enter OT 603 is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” (or 78%) is achieved. Prerequisite: OT 503. *Three hours.*

OT 603 • Hebrew Exegesis

Designed to prepare the student for independent exegesis of the Hebrew text. Emphasizes principles of translation, syntactical analysis, and procedures in lexical word studies. Includes introduction to textual criticism, literary analysis, and relationship of ancient near eastern backgrounds to exegesis. Focuses on exegetical methodology with exposition as the goal. Permission to enter exegesis electives is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” (or 78%) is achieved. Prerequisite: OT 504, BI505, PM505. *Three hours.*

OT 663 • Exegesis of Exodus

An exegetical study of Exodus with careful attention given to the historical background of the book and its place

within the Pentateuch. *Two hours.*

OT 686 • Hebrew Readings (Tyndale Track)

Geared for students having completed first year of Hebrew, this course emphasizes reading, translation, and parsing, with attention given to exegetical observations. Prerequisite: OT504 *Two hours.*

OT 741 • Old Testament Theology

A study of the revelation of God through the religion, life, and history of Israel as contained in the Old Testament. Special attention is given to the development of Old Testament theology, revelation, inspiration, sin, redemption, and eschatology. OT603, BI501, and BI502. *Two hours.*

OT 752 • Exegesis of Amos

An exegetical study of this significant prophetic book as well as the last section of the book looking to Amos' distant future. It will give attention to covenant treachery in general and social injustice in particular in the time of Amos. Attention is also given to general principles for interpreting prophetic literature. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 753 • Exegesis of Zechariah

Careful exegetical and theological procedures are employed in examining the text of this important prophetic book for the purpose of exposing its meaning and significance for Zechariah's day, for the present, and for the future. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 755 • Exegesis in Isaiah

Exegesis of selected portions of this book, one of the major literary and prophetic works of the Old Testament. The issues concerning historical background, authorship, and the book's message receive initial attention, but the course gives primary focus to a selection of key chapters of Isaiah. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 757 • Exegesis of Deuteronomy

Exegesis of selected portions, with special emphasis upon God's covenantal dealings with Israel. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 759 • Exegesis of Hosea

An exegetical study of this significant book that graphically describes Israel's relationship (past, present, and future) with Yahweh. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 760A • Exegesis of Jonah

An exegesis of Jonah with careful attention given to significant historical, literary, syntactical, and theological issues. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours*

OT 761 • Exegesis of Genesis 1-11

An exegetical analysis of the first eleven chapters of Genesis with emphasis on problems having interpretive and theological significance. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 764 • Exegesis of Psalm 119

An exegetical examination of the individual stanzas of the biblical text with an emphasis on sound exegesis as a basis for a future biblical exposition of each stanza. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 765, 766, 767, 768 • Exegesis of Selected Psalms I-IV

An examination of the structure of the Psalter, the nature and forms of Hebrew poetry, and an exegesis of a

number of consecutive psalms. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 770 • Exegesis of Messianic Texts

Explores the key messianic passages in the Hebrew Bible with a view to understand and formulate the gradual revelation of the person of the Messiah. Prerequisite: OT603. *Two Hours.*

OT 775 • Exegesis of Ecclesiastes

An exegetical examination of the text, with comparisons to other wisdom literature, especially to Job. Special attention is given to the numerous textual allusions to Genesis 3, as well as the introductory matters of authorship and historical milieu. Prerequisite: OT 603. *Two hours.*

OT 796 • Old Testament Introduction

The course addresses the historical and cultural environment of the OT (Hebrew Bible), the composition of the OT and its literary genres, and the canonical development of the OT. Major contemporary interpretive and theological issues are discussed, including an examination and evaluation of the contribution of the modern critical approaches. Prerequisite: BI 501, BI 502, OT 603. *Three hours.*

OT 799 • Old Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: OT 603, one OT exegesis course, and two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved. *Two hours.*

Division of Old Testament Studies—ThM

The Division of Old Testament is designed to develop maturity in critical thinking skills related to exegetical and apologetical aspects of Old Testament studies, to refine disciplined habits for ongoing independent study of the Hebrew Bible. The Master of Theology Program in Old Testament provides the foundation as well as preparation for a doctoral program.

- 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.

EP 810 • Introduction to Academic Research

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. *One hour.*

EP 820 • Philosophy of Pedagogy

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. *One hour.*

OT 825 • Ancient Near Eastern History

A summary of the historical, cultural, and geographical context of ancient Israel.
Two hours.

EP 830 • Practice of Pedagogy

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. *One hour.*

OT 832, 834 • Old Testament Research Seminars I & II

A specific topic of contemporary significance in the area of Old Testament studies will be selected by the Old Testament faculty for each seminar. Students will present assigned papers with responses by fellow students and faculty. *Two hours each.*

OT 837A • Thesis Introductory Methods

This class is primarily an independent study, with initial and intermittent guidance provided by the student's thesis advisor. The class entails topic selection and approval, development of a prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and general synopsis of argument), and the introductory chapter. Deadline for completing this class is by the end of sixteen weeks. *Two hours.*

OT 838 • ThM Thesis

As the culmination of their ThM program, a student must write a ThM thesis. Building on the work submitted for OT 837A, this thesis must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Prerequisite: OT 837A. *Two hours.*

OT 839 • Advanced Research Methods

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. *Three hours.*

OT 840 • Old Testament Textual Criticism

A study of the history of the Old Testament text in the Hebrew manuscripts and in the ancient translations. Various theories of textual criticism will be evaluated and a viable methodology developed. Application will be made to a variety of Old Testament textual problems. *Two hours.*

OT 841 • Old Testament Issues

The purpose of this class is to review and further develop the student's understanding of many of the most significant textual, historical, archaeological, and interpretive issues related to Old Testament studies. Successful completion of this class and the final exam with a grade of 86% or above will also satisfy the OT PhD entrance exam requirements. *Two hours.*

OT 842 • Septuagint

Introduction to the Greek grammar of the Septuagint and selected readings in the text of the Septuagint. The contribution of the Septuagint to both Old and New Testament studies is presented. *Two hours.*

OT 853 • Advanced Hebrew Grammar

Advanced studies in exegetically significant elements of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Readings in major Hebrew grammatical materials including periodical literature. Illustrated by selected readings in the Hebrew Bible. Prerequisite: one OT exegesis course. *Two hours.*

OT 861 • Exegesis of Genesis 1–11

An exegetical analysis of the first eleven chapters of Genesis with emphasis on problems having interpretive and theological significance. *Two hours.*

OT 868 • Exegesis of Wisdom Literature

This course makes use of the exegetical method to examine significant semantic, grammatical, and literary features of the wisdom literature books. This course will examine select chapters of Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Job in order to further the student's understanding of the characteristics of wisdom literature in the Old Testament. *Two hours.*

OT 870 • Exegesis of Isaiah

This course will help the students deepen their exegetical skills as well as their understanding of this important book. Through a consideration of the book's message and the exegesis of select passages, the student will become better versed with grammar, syntax, and literary features for the interpretation of Isaiah. *Two hours.*

OT 871 • Advanced Hebrew Readings

Translation of various passages in the Old Testament selected from various genres including narrative, prophetic, poetic, and apocalyptic. *Two hours.*

OT 872 • Biblical Aramaic

An introduction to the grammar of biblical Aramaic. Includes translation of the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament. *Two hours.*

OT 873 • Akkadian

Introduction to Akkadian cuneiform signs and grammar. Contributions of Akkadian studies to the interpretation of the Old Testament are presented and evaluated. Prerequisite: OT 853. *Two hours.*

OT 875 • Ugaritic

Introduction to Ugaritic grammar and reading in selected texts. Contributions of Ugaritic studies to the interpretation of the Old Testament are presented and evaluated. Prerequisite: OT 853. *Two hours.*

OT 877 • Exegesis of Ezekiel

This course examines the Hebrew text of Ezekiel in detail, with specific attention given to lexical, syntactic, and semantic analysis. This course analyzes the structure of the text as well as the historical background, arguing for

a literal, grammatical, and historical approach to the text. *Two hours.*

OT 888 • Contemporary Old Testament Theology

An examination of the basis, task, and method of Old Testament theology as conceived by certain influential contemporary Old Testament theologians along with a survey of the contributions of these individuals to the understanding of the theological content of the Old Testament. *Two hours.*

OT 899 • Old Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. *Two hours.*

Division of Old Testament Studies—PhD

The purpose of the Old Testament emphasis in the Doctor of Philosophy program is to produce the next generation of OT scholars and expositors who will advance OT studies and maintain the biblical integrity and vitality of the discipline. Graduates with an OT major must produce a significant dissertation and become stewards of the discipline, entrusted with preserving and developing scholarly literature as well as communicating Hebrew Bible knowledge in the classroom, from the pulpit, and in publishing.

- DLO 1: As a specialist, demonstrate a deep, active knowledge of a specialized area of OT study.
- DLO 2: As a scholar, make a significant contribution to the literature of that specialty by means of a dissertation reflecting honed skills in research, critical thinking, translation, exegesis, and writing.

OT 930 • Writing and Research

This zero-unit course is reserved for PhD students who will only complete writing and research for the semester and do not plan to complete a dissertation presentation. The fee for this course is available on the TMS website. *Zero hours.*

OT 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements. *Four hours.*

OT 941A • Dissertation Research I

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course during which the dissertation is being researched and written. Along with this course, the student is expected to register for OT975 (*two hours*) during the same semester. Any exceptions must receive approval from the student's advisor or the director of the PhD program. *Two hours.*

OT 942, 943, 944 • Dissertation Research II–IV

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written. *Four hours each.*

OT 947 • Doctoral Dissertation

Once Colloquium #3 has been orally presented to and approved by the full-time faculty, the student is expected to register for this course. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to write the first complete draft of his dissertation for evaluation and approval by the Dissertation Committee [advisor as chairman, second reader, and the third reader (external scholar)]. Afterwards, the student is expected to orally defend the first draft of the dissertation before the full-time faculty. When the faculty has approved the defense, the student is required to have the first draft professionally fully edited, make any minor changes required by the faculty, and then submit the final draft of the dissertation to the TMS librarian on required paper for binding. *4 hours.*

OT 975 • Ugaritic

Introduction to Ugaritic grammar and reading in selected texts. Contributions of Ugaritic studies to the interpretation of the Old Testament are presented and evaluated. *Two hours.*

DIVISION OF NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

Because the New Testament is the culmination of divine revelation in written form, and therefore the major source of Christian truth, it is important for students to invest intensive study in comprehending and applying its vital contents. For this reason, a significant part of the seminary curriculum focuses on a study of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written. Grammatical and syntactical studies are emphasized with the goal of equipping students for life-long effectiveness in the study and exposition of this essential part of God's revelation to man.

As a part of the orientation program beginning each semester, a Greek PASS Exam is given to all entering students who have taken Greek at the undergraduate level. Students have one opportunity to pass the Greek PASS exam, that is the time when they first enter the seminary. Anyone not passing the exam at their first sitting or anyone not taking the exam when offered at the start of their first semester on campus will be required to enroll in and pass NT 501/502, or NT 500 as part of his seminary curriculum before enrolling in NT 603. Grades earned will be factored into the student's grade point average. Those who pass the exam are expected to enroll in Greek Exegesis I and II for the first year and in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the second year. Those entering seminary without having taken Greek, as well as those who do not pass the exam, are expected to enroll in Hebrew Grammar I and II for the first year, in Beginning Greek during the summer between the first and second year, and in Greek Exegesis I and II during the second year (see PASS Exams).

All of the courses listed under this heading, and designated by NT in the course identification, require extensive use of the Greek language.

Division of New Testament Studies—MDiv

The Division of New Testament Studies (MDiv) is designed to advance critical thinking skills in linguistic, exegetical, and apologetical aspects of New Testament study and to promote growth in disciplined habits for ongoing independent study of the New Testament, as detailed in the following Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs).

- DLO 1: as a translator, demonstrate competency with vocabulary, basic grammar, and standard tools to translate simple biblical Greek texts
- DLO 2: as a scholar, Biblically critique methods/ideologies of NT interpretation.
- DLO 3: as an exegete, demonstrate proper use of the historical grammatical hermeneutic applied to the New Testament.

NT 501/502 • Beginning Greek I and II

An introductory study of the basic elements of New Testament Greek designed for those who have not had Greek and for those who have had some exposure to Greek but are unable to pass the proficiency examination. Emphasizes vocabulary, grammar, the basic principles of Greek syntax, and the effective use of lexical, grammatical, and syntactical tools. Includes translation of portions of Koine Greek. Permission to enter NT 502 is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” is achieved in NT 501. Permission to enter NT 603 is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” (or 78%) is achieved in NT 502. *Two hours each.*

NT 601/ 602 • New Testament Issues I and II

These courses introduce the New Testament's content, backgrounds, and critical issues. One focus of the courses is on understanding the major contents of each book, with attention to literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages. The study aims to enhance comprehension and application to issues and concerns of life today in the will of God. The other focus is on understanding the major concerns of the discipline of New Testament studies, such as canonicity, the literary relationship of the Gospels, textual criticism, and historical backgrounds, as well as those of the individual books of the New Testament, with attention to authorship, literary structure, theological themes, and difficult passages. The study aims to communicate a comprehensive understanding of NT studies, which will equip future pastors to interpret and apply the New Testament holistically in their ministries. *Three hours each.*

NT 603, 604 • Greek Exegesis I and II

These courses are designed to make Greek a useful tool for interpreting the New Testament. The first semester builds Greek vocabulary, increases confidence in translation, highlights the significance of important grammatical features and syntactical structures, and introduces the practice of exegetical procedures. The exegetical method employed is both synthetic and analytical, with primary applicability to the didactic and epistolary literature of the New Testament. The second semester provides extensive opportunity for the application of exegetical methodologies in careful study of several epistles. Permission to enter exegesis electives is granted only when a minimum grade of “C-” (or 78%) is achieved in both NT603 and NT604 courses. Any student seeking to be exempt from taking these courses by receiving credit through examination or a waiver must receive approval of the New Testament department chair. Prerequisites for NT603: PM 505, BI505, NT 502 or Greek PASS Exam. Prerequisites for NT604: NT603. *Three hours each.*

NT 656 • Selected Greek Readings (Tyndale Track)

Geared for students having completed first year of Greek, this course emphasizes reading, translation, and parsing, with attention given to exegetical observations. Prerequisite: NT502 *Two hours.*

NT 672 • New Testament History

A study of the historical backgrounds for understanding the New Testament, including an introduction to the literature, culture, and history of the New Testament times. Special attention is given to understanding the political and social milieu of the Hellenistic period. Requires reading in both primary and secondary sources. *Two hours.*

NT 675 • Life of Christ

Examines the earthly life of our Lord, using a harmony of the Gospels as a basis for study. Evaluates historical, chronological, political, and geographic factors, but devotes primary attention to the theological issues relating to each event and discourse in the Gospels (see BI 675). *Two hours.*

NT 730 • Readings in Non-Biblical Greek

This course introduces various genres of ancient Greek literature outside the NT. Readings will briefly cover

several different genres of Greek literature and such diverse themes as the origin of the universe, the gods, the death of a condemned man, part of a military campaign, a theological treatise on the Incarnation, and an early Christian church service. Prerequisite: NT 604. *Two hours.*

NT 741 • Exegesis of Mark

This course involves a detailed study of the Greek text of Mark with an examination of important introductory matters as well as major interpretive, grammatical and theological issues. *Two hours.*

NT 745 • Exegesis of John 1–12

A detailed study of the Greek text of the first twelve chapters of John's gospel with an examination of important introductory matters as well as major interpretive and theological issues. Special emphasis will be given to the distinctive contribution of the gospel to the theology of the NT. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 756 • Exegesis of Romans 1–8

A detailed analysis of the Greek text of Romans 1–8, noting the structure and theological orientation of the chapters, and with special emphasis on the important teaching of the chapters with regard to man, sin, and salvation. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 757 • Exegesis of Romans 9–16

A detailed analysis of the Greek text of Romans 9–16, noting the structure and theological orientation of the chapters, and with special emphasis on the important teaching of the chapters with regard to the role of Israel in God's plan and Christian department. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 762 • Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 12–14

A careful study of 1 Corinthians 12–14, particularly the controversial passages, and suggestions regarding practical implementation of the lessons on spiritual gifts that are indicated therein. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 763 • Exegesis of Galatians

A careful consideration of the text of Galatians in the original language with special attention to the problems being addressed in the historical situation. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 764 • Exegesis of Ephesians

A critical and exegetical study of the Epistle to the Ephesians, designed to emphasize theological, expository, and practical values. Special attention is given to the major exegetical and theological problems. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 768 • Exegesis of Colossians

A detailed exegesis of the Greek text, with special attention to the nature of the error to which the Colossian church was exposed. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 784 • Exegesis of Hebrews

An examination of the Greek text with a view toward definitive interpretation. Special attention is given to linguistic style and to the interpretation of the important warning passages. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 785 • Exegesis of James

A critical and exegetical study of the epistle, designed to emphasize theological, expository, and practical aspects. Special attention is given to the major interpretive issues. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 793 • Exegesis of the Johannine Epistles

A detailed analysis of the Greek text of John's epistles, noting important introductory matters as well as major interpretive and theological issues in the epistles. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 795 • Exegesis of the Apocalypse

A study based on the original text and emphasizing the literary structure, prominent systems of interpretation, exegetical problems, and theological values of this major apocalyptic book of the New Testament. Prerequisite: NT 603. *Two hours.*

NT 796 • New Testament Introduction

A study of General Introduction and Special Introduction to the New Testament, including the fields of canonicity, textual criticism, criticism of the Synoptic Gospels, and special introductory matters pertaining to the books of the New Testament. Prerequisite: BI 601, NT 604. *Three hours.*

NT 799 • New Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: NT 603 and two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved. *Two hours.*

Division of New Testament Studies—ThM

The Division of New Testament Studies is designed to provide advanced mastery in the skills and research of New Testament language as well as the grammatical-historical interpretation and exegesis of its literature. The Master of Theology Program in New Testament provides the foundation as well as preparation for a doctoral program.

- 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.

EP 810 • Introduction to Academic Research

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. *One hour.*

EP 820 • Philosophy of Pedagogy

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. *One hour.*

EP 830 • Practice of Pedagogy

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. *One hour.*

NT 837A • Thesis Introductory Methods

This class is primarily an independent study, with initial and intermittent guidance provided by the student's thesis advisor. The class entails topic selection and approval, development of a prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and general synopsis of argument), and the introductory chapter. Deadline for completing this class is by the end of sixteen weeks. *Two hours.*

NT 838 • ThM Thesis in NT Exegesis

As the culmination of their ThM program, a student must write a ThM thesis. Building on the work submitted for NT 837A, this thesis must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Prerequisite: NT 837A. *Two hours.*

NT 840 • Advanced Research Methods

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. *Three hours.*

NT 842 • Septuagint

Introduction to the Greek grammar of the Septuagint and selected reading in the text of the Septuagint. The contribution of the Septuagint to both Old and New Testament studies will be presented. Prerequisites: NT 853, NT 854, one exegesis course in both NT and OT (see OT 842). *Two hours.*

NT 851 • Advanced Hermeneutics

A study and evaluation of recent trends in the field of hermeneutics, along with new questions they raise regarding biblical inerrancy and interpretation. *Two hours.*

NT 853, 854 • Advanced Greek Grammar I and II

A detailed study of the definitive works on the grammar of NT Greek with a view to providing a more confident approach to New Testament interpretation. Prerequisite: two NT exegesis electives. *Two hours each.*

NT 855 • New Testament Textual Criticism

A study of the history of the New Testament text and an evaluation of various theories regarding choosing correct variants in the text. *Two hours.*

NT 856 • Criticism of the Synoptic Gospels

An explanation and analysis of various theories regarding source, form, redaction, and canon criticism as they pertain to the Synoptic Gospel. *Two hours.*

NT 861 • Exegesis of Luke-Acts

An exegetical analysis of the Gospel of Luke and Acts with an emphasis on problems having interpretive and theological significance. *Two hours.*

NT 868 • History of New Testament Interpretation

A critical and historical review of the history of interpretation of the New Testament with an emphasis on the modern historical period, from the Reformation through the Enlightenment to contemporary issues of NT theology and interpretation. *Two hours.*

NT 870 • Exegesis of John

This class will introduce you to the theology and exegesis of the Gospel of John. It will include a critical reading of recent scholarly literature on the Gospel of John with a view to discovering the historical, narrational, theological, and sociological features in the text. The goal of this class will be to understand the Gospel of John through the purpose statement articulated in John 20:30-31 and to discern how the theme of discipleship fits into the greater schema of John's redemptive and Christological motifs. The class will entail translation and exegesis of the Gospel of John and will focus on interpretive and some theological issues as part of class lecture. *2 units.*

NT 877 • Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles

An exegetical analysis of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on the practical application of the instruction of these epistles for contemporary Christian living and pastoral responsibilities. *Two hours.*

NT 896, 897 • Research Seminar

Principles of thorough research. Supervised research into a problem related to New Testament studies. Periodic reports to other members of the seminar. Either one or two semesters devoted to the research. Elective for ThM students. *Two hours each.*

NT 899 • New Testament Exegetical Research

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. *Two hours.*

Division of New Testament Studies—PhD

The purpose of the PhD New Testament emphasis is provide the *highest skills* in mastery and academic research of New Testament language, literal grammatico-historical interpretation and exegesis of its literature as well as its history of interpretation throughout the centuries for the purpose of teaching in institutions of higher learning or in other advanced ministry settings. The culmination of this major is the production of a dissertation which makes a unique contribution to the field.

- DLO 1: As a specialist, demonstrate a deep, active knowledge of a specialized area of NT study.
- DLO 2: As a scholar, make a significant contribution to the literature of that specialty by means of a dissertation reflecting honed skills in research, critical thinking, translation, exegesis, and writing.

NT 930 • Writing and Research

This zero-unit course is reserved for PhD students who will only complete writing and research for the semester and do not plan to complete a dissertation presentation. The fee for this course is available on the TMS website. *Zero hours.*

NT 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements. *Four hours.*

NT 942, 943, 944, 945 • Dissertation Research I–IV

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written. *Four hours each.*

NT 947 • Doctoral Dissertation

Once Colloquium #3 has been orally presented to and approved by the full-time faculty, the student is expected to register for this course. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to write the first complete draft of his dissertation for evaluation and approval by the Dissertation Committee [advisor as chairman, second reader, and the third reader (external scholar)]. Afterwards, the student is expected to orally defend the first draft of the dissertation before the full-time faculty. When the faculty has approved the defense, the student is required to have the first draft professionally fully edited, make any minor changes required by the faculty, and then submit the final draft of the dissertation to the TMS librarian on required paper for binding. *4 hours.*

DIVISION OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

Because the local church serves as God's primary agency for Christian worship and nurture, pastoral ministries courses begin to translate the information and skills learned in biblical and theological studies into relevant application for pastoral ministry. Whether this application is to be demonstrated by public ministries in the pulpit, in the evangelistic and educational ministries of the church, in the ordinances and ceremonies of the church, in church worship and music, in administrative leadership in the church, or by the more private modeling of personal godliness in the private devotional life, in counseling sessions, in leadership within the family, and in all other relationships, careful and prayerful preparation is necessary. In all of these settings there is no necessary dichotomy between thorough preparation and prayerful reliance on the Holy Spirit. Though many of these courses necessarily focus on skills and methodologies, all are also concerned with the preparation of the inner person with the development of those character qualities necessary for effective ministry and spiritual leadership.

Expository Preaching courses are designed to channel the student's academic training, personal giftedness, and individual personality toward effectiveness in expositional preaching from God's Word. This training often interfaces with the Hebrew and Greek courses so as to take full advantage of exegetical assignments for developing pulpit materials. Preaching courses also require practicum sessions which include video taping of student preaching experiences for individual evaluation.

Division of Pastoral Ministry—MDiv

The Division of Pastoral Ministry (MDiv) is designed to advance on the knowledge base of biblical and theological studies, translating them into preaching and leadership skills necessary for effective ministry, as detailed in the following Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs).

- DLO 1: As a future pastor-teacher, effectively communicate the Scriptures through expository preaching
- DLO 2: As a future pastor/elder/church leader, demonstrate a strong comprehension of core church organizational and administrative functions
- DLO 3: As a future teacher and counselor, competently engage diverse groups in the church in the teaching and application of Biblical principles
- DLO 4: As a future spiritual leader, effectively shepherd individual believers into Christian maturity

PM 500 • Continuing Registration

All students are expected to register for each successive semester until graduation from their program. To maintain active student status a student who does not register for credits, either class or thesis credits, during any regular semester must register for Continuing Registration. This may be viewed as a non-credit course which is required whenever there would otherwise be an interruption in the student's program. Undergraduate and graduate students may register for Continuing Registration for no more than two successive semesters. A student who fails to register for either course credits, thesis credits, or Continuing Registration during any semester regularly scheduled for his program will be dropped from the program and must re-apply for admission prior to any subsequent registration. Zero hours.

PM 501 • Fundamentals of Expository Preaching

Understanding that the ultimate goal of every theological education is being able to effectively communicate God's truth, this first-semester course develops and illustrates the Biblical mandate for expository preaching. Special emphasis is placed on the essence and essentials of expository preaching and the source of its power. *One hour.*

PM 502 • Foundations of Expository Preaching

An introduction to the theology and history of expository preaching which emphasizes the centrality of Scripture and its applicability to the hearer. *Two hours.*

PM 505 • Grammar, Research Writing

This course provides students with an introduction to the basics of English Grammar, Scholarly Research, and Academic Writing. These skills are necessary not only for student success in later courses, but for the lifelong pursuit of excellence in the study and communication of biblical truth. Topics covered include basic grammatical constructions (such as parts of speech, syntax, phrases and clauses, and sentence diagramming), research methodology, bibliographic formatting, effective use of the library, and keys to writing well. *Two hours.*

PM 511A • Foundations of Pastoral Ministry

This course is designed to introduce students to the roles and responsibilities inherent to being a pastor. The class is crafted for the purpose of enhancing each student's ministry preparedness and focuses on topics like the qualifications for spiritual leadership, a biblical paradigm for local church ministry, and the practical realities of shepherding a congregation. *Two hours.*

PM 514 • Prayer and the Pastor

With a focus on the scriptural teaching on prayer, this course is designed to impact the personal prayer life of the students and also prepare them for leading a congregation of believers in its prayer worship and ministry. Issues

relating to the tensions with regard to the sovereignty of God, the responsibility of humans to pray and respond, and the role of the Holy Spirit are evaluated. *Two hours.*

PM 601 • History of Expository Preaching

Throughout history, God has always had His spokesman who articulated God's message to the people. Beginning with the OT prophets, Jesus Christ, the NT apostles, and continuing to the present, this course highlights the unbroken chain of preachers throughout history and establishes the student's responsibility and role in continuing this extraordinary chain. *One hour.*

PM 602 • Mechanics of Preaching

This course is designed to instruct the student in the fundamentals of actual sermon preparation and then how to effectively communicate that message. Attention is given to preparing the heart, selecting the approach, interpreting the text, and delivering the sermon. Prerequisite: PM502. *Two hours.*

PM 603 • History of Expository Preaching and Mechanics – Master of Biblical Ministry Course

This class presents the essential tools and elements that are part of the preparation and effective presentation of expository sermons and prepares the student to put them into practice. The student will receive practical help and instruction from the teacher through the lessons and feedback. *Three hours.*

PM 604 • Expository Preaching Workshop

This course is built on the foundation of previous coursework, including but not limited to the preaching courses. As a laboratory class, it is designed to expose and train the student in developing the various constituent parts of the sermon, such as the introductions, conclusions, illustrations, etc. Prerequisite: PM 602 and BI505. *Three hours.*

PM 605 • Christian Writing

When God chose to reveal Himself in detail, He did so in writing. Appropriately, this course involves the written medium in areas of both unpublished and published writings. Both content and style receive attention to enhance the pastoral capacity to communicate clearly and effectively. *Two hours.*

PM 613 • Hymnology and Worship

This study addresses the importance of music in the worship service, the "language" of music, and how pastors must exercise careful oversight of the church's music ministry. Also included is a survey of worship from early Jewish music to the present day, with an evaluation of the latest paradigms. *Two hours.*

PM 702 • Expository Preaching Clinic

As a continuation of PM 703 Expository Preaching Lab, this course is designed to help the student increase his effectiveness in moving from exegesis to exposition and delivery. With an emphasis on public speaking skills, it provides additional opportunities for the student to hone his sermon delivery. Prerequisite: PM 703. *Two hours.*

PM 703 • Expository Preaching Lab

Continues the study of homiletical methodology with special emphasis on expositional preaching and the development of communication skills. Video recordings are used as an aid allowing more personalized evaluation of effectiveness of communication in both content and style. Prerequisites: PM 604, OT 603, or NT 603 *Three hours.*

PM 709 • Effective Sermon Delivery

This course is designed to improve one's skill in handling and communicating the Word of God. The sermons of

Jesus and great preachers of history are examined for the purpose of studying the reasons for their effectiveness. Many practical assignments help the student make his exegetical data more understandable, memorable and applicable to the hearers. Prerequisite: PM 703. *Two hours.*

PM 712 • Pastoral Ministries

Provides a foundation to integrate pastoral concerns and responsibilities with regard to evangelism, Christian education, discipleship, missions, developing church leadership, leading in worship and special services, long-range planning, community relations, and church ordinances. Prerequisite: PM 511A. *Three hours.*

PM 715 • Implication, Application and Exposition

Students will explore the relationship of implication and application in expository preaching by considering the teaching of Scripture, biblical and historical examples, and the statements of noted expositors. Hermeneutical and pedagogical guidelines will be outlined to provide the parameters for preaching the implications and applications of a passage in the context of the local church for the edification of the body. Prerequisite: PM 604. *Two Hours.*

PM 750 • Social Justice, Wokeness, and the Church

Social Justice, Wokeness, and the Church is an interactive study and evaluation of the contemporary Social Justice movement and its impact on the life of the church. The course is designed to educate students on the movement, help them properly assess it, and assist them in navigating its ensuing dangers. The course will help the student understand the language, intention, and spiritual implications of the movement in pastoral ministry by providing a theological grid for evaluation and application in church life. The class will assist the student in formulating a biblical worldview of justice, shepherding congregants affected by the movement, and developing valuable resources for further study. *Two hours.*

PM 751 • Teaching in Christian Higher Education

A seminar on the role and structure of higher education; the nature and role of the professorate; designing and implementing courses in higher education; and review of best teaching techniques and learning assessment practices. *Two hours.*

PM 752 • Administration of Christian Higher Education

A seminar on the organization and structure of Christian higher education institutions; the place of academic governance; functional administrative roles in Christian higher education; challenges and issues within higher education; and the role of assessment, strategic-planning, and administrative leadership within these institutions. *Two hours.*

PM 756 • Church Growth

Qualitative and quantitative factors of growing a church from a biblical perspective receive attention. A twentieth century philosophy which remains biblical and is also contemporarily relevant highlights this course. *Two hours.*

PM 760 • Church Renewal and Planting

Church Renewal and Planting is an intense two-week course that equips men to plant a church with a core group or help rebuild an established church. The course covers practical topics ranging from steps before launching a church and developing lay leadership to vision casting and administrative principles for organizing ministry. *Two hours.*

PM 765 • Pastoral Counseling

This course covers topics such as the theological basis of discipleship/counseling, the definition of biblical counseling, the essentials for the discipler/counselor, a comparison of counseling philosophies, and the biblical

view of change, guilt, and self-image. Also included are the key elements of the counseling process, handling one's past and one's attitude (case studies are also discussed). *Three hours.*

PM 768 • Marriage and Family Counseling

This course is focused on the specific areas of marriage and the family. Topics covered include the purpose of marriage, divorce and remarriage, roles of husband and wife, physical intimacy within marriage, communication and conflict resolution, spouse and child abuse, stewardship of time and priorities, preventing and rebuilding after adultery, parenting, and family counseling (case studies are also discussed). Prerequisite: PM 765.

Two hours.

PM 769 • Advanced Biblical Counseling

This course is designed for those desiring to pursue a more in-depth understanding of discipleship/counseling. Topics covered include anger, worry, fear, depression, medical issues, counseling children, eating problems, decision making, incest, sexual abuse, crisis counseling, and other specific subjects (case studies are also discussed). Prerequisite: PM 765. *Two hours.*

PM 772 • Biblical Conflict Resolution

An investigation into the nature of conflict, the divine perspective of it, and the biblical principles that should guide the believer in responding to it. Special attention is focused on understanding and handling interpersonal struggles in business, the church, and marriage in a way that honors the Lord. *Two hours.*

PM 792 • Theology of Worship

A thorough study of worship examples in both the Old and New Testaments. The course will examine current philosophies of corporate worship and compare these with biblical examples. It will also offer a discussion of music, its role in corporate worship, and how it relates to biblical worship, providing the student opportunity to set forth his philosophy of worship in the church. *Two hours.*

PM 794 • Military Chaplaincy Residency

This program offers an opportunity to minister in a military environment alongside one of the U.S. Navy chaplains at the Chapel of Hope in Yokosuka, Japan. Interns engage in the various aspects of international mission work among the 24,000 American sailors and their dependents of the Navy's 7th fleet. Responsibilities include preparing ministry materials, sermons, Bible studies, and building relationships with sailors and their families.

Two hours.

PM 795 • Counseling Residency

The goal of this course is to help the student learn, evaluate, and sharpen his discipleship/ counseling skills. Practical application of biblical principles to human problems and relationships is promoted. Opportunities for observing counseling are offered along with interactive follow-up with the counselor. Prerequisite: PM 765.

Two hours.

PM 796 • Hospital Chaplaincy Residency

A study of the role of the pastor in hospital chaplaincy, including legal restrictions, etiquette, ministering to both the sick as well as to their families, and relating to the hospital staff. Considerable "hands-on" training is included.

Two hours.

PM 797 • Teaching Residency

This residency allows students to gain credit for teaching in the context of higher Christian education and academics. This fosters a practicum experience for those students who are pursuing faculty roles within academics and education. Emphasis is placed on pedagogy, course content, and classroom management. *Two hours.*

PM 798 • Pastoral Residency

Occasionally students are afforded significant ministry opportunity and responsibility that is over and above the normal pastoral ministry involvement and field education duties expected of all students. To be considered for enrollment in this course, the student must present, in consultation with a Pastoral Ministries faculty member and the pastor providing oversight, a detailed proposal describing how this ministry responsibility fits within the above parameters and what kind of assignments one would undertake to fulfill the academic requirements (research papers, reading, book reviews, etc.). *Two hours.*

PM 799 • Research in Pastoral Ministries

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course needed for graduation or important for needed expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisites: two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). *Two hours.*

PM 800 • Continuing Registration | Th.M. and D.Min.

All students are expected to register for each successive semester until graduation from their program. To maintain active student status a student who does not register for credits, either class or thesis credits, during any regular semester must register for Continuing Registration. This may be viewed as a non-credit course which is required whenever there would otherwise be an interruption in the student's program. Undergraduate and graduate students may register for Continuing Registration for no more than two successive semesters. A student who fails to register for either course credits, thesis credits, or Continuing Registration during any semester regularly scheduled for his program will be dropped from the program and must re-apply for admission prior to any subsequent registration. *Zero hours.*

WORLD MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM COURSES

In view of the explicit command of Christ, the entire curriculum at The Master's Seminary is permeated with a thematic emphasis on worldwide evangelism. In addition, specific courses have been designed to highlight this emphasis. The purpose of these courses is to equip students with a biblically based concern for the world mission of the church and to expand their understanding of missions activities, needs, and opportunities. The goal is to better prepare some for lifetime involvement in missions and others for lifetime support for missions in both their personal and pastoral roles.

MI 682 • Intercultural Communication

A study of the principles and processes of intercultural communication, specifically the proclamation of the gospel and theology in cross-cultural contexts. Students will exegetically trace the proclamation paradigms of the Old and New Testaments, explore the spectrum of cross-cultural engagement strategies throughout the Church Age, and critique contemporary missiological models, in order to establish conservative evangelical guidelines for the intercultural communication of the Christian faith. *Two hours.*

MI 750 • Introduction to Bible Translation (Tyndale Track)

is designed to familiarize students with the theory and practice of Bible translation. While this course focuses on

the translation of the Bible from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek specifically into English, the principles of translation could be applied to many contexts in which this work is to be carried out. Discussion includes a brief history of translation, various approaches to translation, a comparison of different English translations, and a selection of case studies of translation in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The end goal of this course is to introduce students to the issues that arise in the task of Bible translation. *Two hours.*

MI 751 • Introduction to Semantics (Tyndale Track)

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the concept of articulating meaning through words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs. Attention is given to “compositional semantics,” which addresses how words are combined to produce meaning within larger units such as sentences, and “lexical semantics,” which studies the fundamental essence of meaning within words. *Two hours.*

MI 754 • Grammatical Analysis in Translation

This course surveys the principal structures used for building words, phrases, clauses, and sentences across the world’s languages and the implications for translation. The manner in which grammatical information about number, gender, tense, aspect, and mode are encoded in the verbal system is treated, followed by an in-depth discussion of how the meaning could be conveyed in another language. Common translation problems and appropriate solutions are discussed. *Two hours.*

MI 756 • Discourse Analysis in Translation

This course surveys units of communication above the sentential level, from the paragraph to larger textual units. Linguistic features that signal the internal unity of a unit are contrasted with the features that signal a division. The course also covers participant reference, prominence, and direct and indirect quotations among other discourse features. The implications of discourse analysis for translation are examined in detail and common solutions addressed. *Two hours.*

MI 772 • Biblical Priorities in Missions

This course addresses the critical tasks and essential skills necessary to be effective in the work of missions. The principles for planting churches cross-culturally will be addressed, emphasizing how to advance an autonomous self-propagating church. Principles of team dynamics, including effective leadership and humble submission, will be discussed. Critical aspects of cross-cultural partnerships will be discussed to equip the student to achieve harmonious and sustainable working relationships. An emphasis will be placed on conflict resolution among team members and ministry partners. In addition, an analysis of cross-cultural issues which often lead to financial tensions will be provided. Two hours.

MI 773 • Biblical Practices in Missions

This course equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to start well on the mission field and also increase their longevity in overseas ministry. Key aspects of missionary responsibilities such as donor communication, language acquisition, and security preparedness will be addressed. Significant exploration of culture will be discussed including the origin of culture, recognition of cultural differences, principles of adaptation, and skills to overcome cultural dissonance. Other essential elements of missionary life will be covered including shepherding a family on the mission field, responding to beggars and extortion, safety and security, and reporting to supporting churches. Two hours.

MI 776 • History of Missions

This course provides an historical overview of the progress of Christian missions from the proclamation of the gospel at Pentecost to today. Consideration will be given to denominational patterns of missions providing the background to assess the current state of the church within specific geographical regions. Present trends and

possible future developments will also be addressed in an effort to better understand the outworking of the Great Commission until the return of Christ. *Two hours.*

MI 778 • Theology of Missions

A study of the biblical teaching and principles defining and undergirding the reality of missions, as well as a consideration of the missionary practices which arise therefrom. Includes an examination and critique of those issues affecting missions today, namely religious pluralism and ethnotheology, contextualization and indigenization, and power-encounter and spiritual warfare (see TH 778). Prerequisite: TH 606. *Two hours.*

MI 780 • Theological Issues Facing the Global Church

This course surveys contemporary issues facing evangelical churches within specific cultural contexts, such as the prosperity gospel, liberation theology, and vernacular theologies in order to develop a biblical response and an effective strategy for confronting these errors. Students interested in ministering within specific cultural settings will be able to conduct research into those issues related to their future field of ministry. Research will be conducted with the assistance of TMAI's international faculty. *Two hours.*

MI 782 • The Church and Missions

This course outlines the role of missions within a biblical ecclesiology. The principles and practices necessary for implementing an effective missions philosophy, vision, and strategy for the local church will be explored in the light of Scripture. This course is designed to prepare future pastors to lead the missions effort of their local church. *Two hours.*

MI 784 • Major Religions

Surveys the origins, growth, doctrines, and practices of the major religions of the world. Also examines their historical relationships and confrontations with Christianity, as well as suggested strategies for effective evangelism. *Two hours.*

MI 787 • International Pastoral Training and Discipleship

Students who desire to minister in an international context will be introduced to the roles, responsibilities, and models for training pastors in a cross-cultural setting. Subjects addressed include a biblical philosophy of education, effective teaching methodologies, competencies for preaching and shepherding, discipleship of students, and leadership skills for academic ministry. Students will investigate cultural implications on the learning styles of students, employment of technology, translation and publishing of theological resources, and development of an action plan for establishing a pastoral training center. Field research and direct engagement with experienced training center leaders will be integrated into the course. *Two hours.*

MI 788 • Urban Church Ministry

This course explores the concept of urban ministry, looking at past and current trends in reaching urban, minority, and economically challenged communities with the Gospel. Students will investigate the history of the evangelical church and the city in North America, while developing a biblical view of poverty, compassion, mercy ministry, injustice, and racism. The course design will engage students with leaders of urban and ethnic ministries within the Los Angeles area. *Two hours.*

MI 789, 790 • Internship in Missions

A specialized field involvement program designed to encourage interest and experience in cross-cultural ministries. Each student will be accountable to both on-campus and off-campus supervision and will be given exposure to as many aspects of missions as possible in view of the particular field assignment and the maturity of the student. Mission internship programs may be sponsored by The Master's Seminary, Grace Community Church, or other approved mission agencies. In all cases preparatory study is required with both reading and

writing assignments, an agreed upon subject will be researched while on the field, and a report or research paper must be submitted after the internship. No more than four hours of credit may be granted unless the internship program requires actual course work on the field. When such course work is involved the student may register, with the permission of the Vice President for Academic Administration, for the specific courses involved.

Two hours each.

MI 795 • Theory and Practice of Bible Translation

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of text translation, emphasizing the accurate, natural, and clear transference of meaning across languages and cultures. Current issues in translation theory will be discussed, especially the approach based on Relevance Theory. Practical aspects of the course will include recognizing common translation problems and solutions, maintaining quality control, the role of computation, program planning aspects of translation projects or activities, and teaching others to translate. *Two hours.*

MI 796 • Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis I

This course provides practical training in how to elicit, record, and transcribe linguistic data by working with a speaker of a non-Western language. Translation issues will be addressed with external sources as well as elicited data to formulate and test hypotheses and refine them to arrive at a better understanding of a given language and the best translation for that language. *Two hours.*

MI 797 • Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis II

This course provides practical training in how to elicit, record, and transcribe linguistic data by working with a speaker of a non-Western language. Translation issues will be addressed with external sources as well as elicited data to formulate and test hypotheses and refine them to arrive at a better understanding of a given language and the best translation for that language. *Two hours.*

DIVISION OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The theological approach at The Master's Seminary emphasizes the exegetical and systematic rather than the philosophical, confessional (denominational), or sociological. The analytical and synthetic contributions of Bible exposition, the data drawn from exegesis of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and the insights gained from orthodox theologies from church history, are all combined in comparing, exhibiting, and defending the theological truths revealed in the Christian Scriptures.

Theology courses at The Master's Seminary are not taught merely for the purpose of satisfying intellectual curiosity, but for the purpose of helping students grasp the significance of theology for Christian living, for the ministry of Bible-believing churches world-wide, and for insightful interaction with contemporary issues. Courses are offered in both Systematic Theology and Historical Theology.

Division of Theological Studies—MDiv

The Division of Theological Studies (MDiv) is designed to advance critical engagement in theology and apologetics through critiquing and refuting non-biblical systems along with promoting biblical doctrines as a foundation for teaching and godly living, as detailed in the following Division Learning Outcomes (DLOs).

- DLO 1: As a future spiritual leader, demonstrate how systematic theology (rooted in Scripture and in conversation with historic orthodox Christianity) is fundamental to the individual and corporate Christian life.
- DLO 2: As a future shepherd of the flock, critically evaluate the major Christian theological and apologetical systems in order to defend the truth and refute error.

- DLO 3: As a future evangelist and apologist, critically engage the major non-Christian worldviews from an evangelical Christian perspective that is founded on presuppositional apologetics.
- DLO 4: As a historically informed Christian, trace the rich spiritual heritage of evangelicalism in order to understand the development of doctrine and its practical implications for ministry today.
- DLO 5: As a future theologian, accurately express the major biblical themes in doctrinal formulations and apply them to current theological and cultural issues.

TH 500 • Theological English

A practical course aimed at helping non-native English speakers interact with complex theological ideas and vocabulary in the English language, both in written literature and also as used in the classroom. *Two hours.*

TH 507, 508 • Historical Theology I and II

A survey study designed to give the student a sense of perspective and appreciation of the church since the time of Christ. Primary attention is devoted to the major events, individuals, and issues which have played significant roles in the history of the church. The courses are constructed around three major periods: (1) Pre-Reformation, A.D. 33–1500; (2) The Reformation period, A.D. 1500–1648; and (3) The Modern Age, A.D. 1648 to the present. Gnosticism, Arianism, Nestorianism, Church Councils, Anabaptism, Catholicism, the Reformation, the Puritans, and the Great Awakening, are examples of the subjects discussed. The last period is devoted to a survey of American Christianity. *Three hours each.*

TH 602 • Apologetics and Evangelism

A careful biblical and theological development of a consistent apologetic. The course provides a basis for the evaluation of various empirical systems as well as a working knowledge of presuppositionalism for use in all aspects of practical ministry. Evangelism is then studied within this framework to present the student with a consistent gospel presentation for biblical evangelism. *Three Hours.*

TH 605 • Theology I

A study of prolegomena (the presuppositions/world view) and method of systematic theology); bibliology (emphasizing inspiration and inerrancy) and theology proper (God's perfections, trinitarianism, and God's relation to the universe); Prerequisite (or concurrent enrollment): PM 505, BI 505 (or concurrent). *Three hours.*

TH 606 • Theology II

A study of Christology, the person (deity and humanity—hypostatic union) Jesus Christ; pneumatology, the person (deity and personhood) of the Holy Spirit; and angelology (the nature and ministry of angels, Satan, and demons. Prerequisite: TH 605. *Three hours.*

TH 643 • The Attributes of God

This course will focus on the doctrine of God - His existence, nature, trinitarianism, attributes, and decrees. In so doing God's relationship to all of creation, including evil, will be examined. The course will also engage in a critical evaluation of erroneous views relating to the doctrine of God. This course will spend considerable attention on classical theism, incommunicable attributes, communicable attributes, and the influence of Theology Proper on the doctrine of the decrees of God. *Two hours.*

TH 705 • Theology III

A study of anthropology, focusing on the origin and nature of man; hamartiology, dealing with the fall and its consequences, especially total depravity; and soteriology, dealing with the atonement of Christ, election, regeneration, conversion, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Prerequisite: TH 605. *Three hours.*

TH 706 • Theology IV

A study of ecclesiology, focusing on the inception, organization, ordinances, and ministry of the church; and eschatology, including a study of the biblical covenants, the rapture, tribulation, the millennial reign of Christ, the resurrections, the eschatological judgments, the eternal state, and personal destiny. Prerequisite: TH 605.

Three hours.

TH 712 • Christology

An advanced study of the doctrine of the person of Christ. Topics include the person/nature distinction, the Son's Trinitarian relations, the aseity of the Son, the relationship of the incarnation to divine immutability and simplicity, the kenosis and kenotic Christologies, the impeccability debate, and the relationship between Christ's suffering and divine impassibility. Pre requisites: TH605 and TH606. *Two hours.*

TH 713 • Theology of John Calvin

A study of the theological contributions made by the Reformer, John Calvin. The main focus will be on understanding Calvin's theology through interaction with The Institutes of the Christian Religion. Also included will be an introduction to Calvin's life and an historical overview of Calvinism as a theological movement. *Two Hours.*

TH 720 • Ordo Salutis

This course will look at contemporary issues related to the doctrine of salvation, focusing on the divine plan of redemption. Commonly known as the ordo salutis. The outworking of God's plan of redemption, with a focus on the unifying doctrine of justification. Various viewpoints will be critically analyzed. *Two hours.*

TH 725 • Bibliology

Bibliology builds on the theological foundation laid in TH 605 to further clarify the student's doctrine of Scripture. The class explains precise definitions and concepts regarding the nature of Scripture, the attributes of Scripture, and the proper use of Scripture, all derived from the witness given by Scripture itself. Special attention will be given to the historical development of the doctrine of Scripture, which lies behind every major theological controversy in the history of the church. The class will enable men to accurately preach and defend a biblical doctrine of Scripture from the Scriptures in the context of pastoral ministry. *Two hours.*

TH 745 • Millennial National Restorations

Biblical and historical study of the restoration of the nation of Israel and Gentile nations in the Millennial Kingdom. This course will study the interpretation of Bible prophecies focused on the Millennial restorations of Israel and Gentile nations, the history of interpretation of these prophecies, and ramifications of these Millennial national restorations for present life and ministry. Prerequisite: TH706. *Two hours.*

TH 750 • The Offices of Christ

This course will look at various theological issues related to Christ's threefold office. The course will cover the Old Testament office of Prophet, New Testament office of Prophet, and theological issues related to Jesus' Prophetic office. It will then cover the OT office of King, NT office of King, and theological issues of Jesus' Kingly office. Finally the course will cover the OT office of Priest, NT office of Priest, and theological issues related to Jesus' Priesthood. Prerequisite: TH606. *Two hours.*

TH 754 • The Doctrine of the Atonement

A study of the extent of the atonement of Christ from the perspective of classic particularism. This course examines Scripture's teaching concerning the atonement from exegetical, theological, and historical perspectives, with specific emphasis on how the design and nature of the atonement bear on its extent. Opposing viewpoints and relevant objections will be considered and refuted. Topics of study include trinitarian unity, the

priesthood of Christ, and the atonement's relationship to the universal gospel call, common grace, and cosmic reconciliation. Prerequisites: TH606. *Two hours.*

TH 777 • The Kingdom of God

A study of God's kingdom program from a biblical theology perspective. Emphasis on nature and timing of the kingdom from Genesis through Revelation. *Two hours.*

TH 778 • Theology of Missions

A study of the biblical teaching and principles defining and undergirding the reality of missions, as well as consideration of the missionary practices which arise therefrom. Includes an examination and critique of those issues affecting missions today, namely religious pluralism and ethnotheology, contextualization and indigenization, and power-encounters and spiritual warfare (see MI 778). Prerequisite: TH 606. *Two hours.*

TH 780 • Issues in Christian Ethics

This course treats both the theory and the practice of ethical and moral decision-making. An examination is also made of the key ethical passages in the Scriptures with special application to the issues raised in modern life (see BI 780). *Two hours.*

TH 785 • Puritan Theology

A study of the theological system of the Westminster Confession emerging from the English Puritan traditions with emphasis given to the unique contributions made by the Puritans, and a biblical evaluation of their various contributions. *Two hours.*

TH 786 • Charismatic Theology

The major tenets of the contemporary charismatic movement are examined and critiqued in the light of Scriptural teaching on spiritual gifts, signs and wonders, revelation, tongues, prophecy, and healings, health and wealth, inter alia. Apostolic period and praxis is also given consideration as well as the importance and superiority of doctrine over experience and mysticism. Includes an overview of the historical background and development of the charismatic movement. Substantial readings make the student aware of the literature available on this important subject. Students are required to draw up position statements on selected issues. *Two hours.*

TH 788 • Contemporary Evangelicalism

An historical analysis of the Evangelical movement from its beginnings to the present focusing on its defining characteristics and current theological developments within evangelicalism. *Two hours.*

TH 795 • Fundamentals of Theological Method

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate the philosophical and theological underpinnings of the methodology of systematic theology and considering the contrasts in contemporary evangelical methodologies. Prerequisite: TH 605. *Two hours.*

TH 797 • Philosophy for Theology

A study of the interaction of Western philosophy with Christian theology from Plato and Aristotle through the Enlightenment to current philosophical trends. The course will be a diachronic historical survey of key philosophers and philosophical ideas that, on the one hand, helped to inform or otherwise influenced the articulation of Christian theology and, on the other hand, those that were inimical to the theology and worldview of the Bible and required Christian theology to articulate sound doctrine and refute those who contradicted. *Two hours.*

TH 799 • Research in Theology

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: BI 505, NT 604, TH 606, and two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved. *Two hours.*

Division of Theological Studies—ThM

The Division of Theological Studies is designed to offer students advanced specialized training in the major categories of theology and promote expertise in a specific area of theology. The Master of Theology Program in Theological Studies provides the foundation as well as preparation for a doctoral program.

- 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 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.

EP 810 • Introduction to Academic Research

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. *One hour*

TH 804 • History and Theology of Pietism

An analysis of the European and American pietist movement, with special emphasis on its impact on contemporary theology. *Two hours.*

TH 805 • Readings in Historical Theology

This course has a two-fold purpose. First, it is designed to provide students with exposure to a variety of historical texts from key writers and thinkers throughout church history. Second, it intends to provide students with the tools they need to take a comprehensive exam covering key people, events, and developments in the history of the church. This two-fold approach enables students to study the broad scope of Christian history while simultaneously engaging with key historical documents. *Two hours.*

TH 811 • Seminar in Christology

An in-depth study of selected topics relating to Christology, with student papers concentrating on exegesis of key passages and on research relating to important historical debates. Prerequisite: TH 606. *Two hours.*

TH 813 • Seminar in Bibliology

Selected issues concerning revelation, inspiration, canonicity, and illumination are researched, presented, and evaluated. *Two hours.*

TH 815 • Puritan Theology

A study of the theological system emerging from the English Puritan tradition with emphasis given to the unique contributions made by the Puritans, and a biblical evaluation of their thought. *Two hours.*

TH 816 • Seminar in Theology Proper

An in-depth study of selected topics relating to theology proper, with student papers concentrating on exegesis of key passages and on research relating to important historical debates. *Two hours.*

TH 819 • Seminar in Pneumatology

A study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in both testaments, with special emphasis on His ministries in the present age. *Two hours.*

EP 820 • Philosophy of Pedagogy

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. *One hour*

TH 823 • Seminar in Anthropology and Hamartiology

A careful review of the biblical teachings about man and sin, with analysis of historical and current issues. *Two hours.*

TH 824 • Seminar in Soteriology

An advanced study of the doctrine of salvation, focusing on the cross-work of Christ and the divine plan of salvation with student papers concentrating on exegesis of key passages and on research relating to important historical debates. *Two hours.*

TH 828 • Seminar in Dispensational Theology

A study of contemporary issues in dispensational interpretations of Scripture, and critical interaction with other systems of theology. *Two hours.*

EP 830 • Practice of Pedagogy

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. *One hour.*

TH 836 • Seminar in Sanctification

A careful study of key issues involved in God's work of progressive sanctification in the life of the believer. *Two hours.*

TH 837A • Thesis Introductory Methods

This class is primarily an independent study, with initial and intermittent guidance provided by the student's thesis advisor. The class entails topic selection and approval, development of a prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and general synopsis of argument), and the introductory chapter. Deadline for completing this class is by the end of sixteen weeks. *Two hours.*

TH 838 • ThM Thesis in Theology

As the culmination of their ThM program, a student must write a ThM thesis. Building on the work submitted for TH 837A, this thesis must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Prerequisite: TH 837A. *Two hours.*

TH 840 • Advanced Research Methods

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. *Three hours.*

TH 859 • Contemporary Theology

A survey of the significant theological developments and positions which have achieved prominence during the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasizes the contribution of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment to the development of modern religious liberalism, as well as an analysis of specific schools and representative theologians: Classic Modernism, Neo-Orthodoxy, Neo-Liberalism, Existentialism, and the radical theologies of the last three decades. *Two hours.*

TH 860 • Theological Systems

A comparative study of the various systems of theology by evaluating leading representative theologians. Student reports are included. *Two hours.*

TH 866 • Seminar in Christian Classics

Reading and discussion of selected classics from church history with an emphasis on the classics of spirituality. *Two hours.*

TH 869 • Seminar in Reformation Theology

A study of the major theologians of the Reformation and their theology, with special attention given to a comparison of its theology with Anabaptist theology. *Two hours.*

TH 877 • The Kingdom of God

A study of God's kingdom program from a biblical theology perspective. Emphasis on the nature and timing of the kingdom from Genesis through Revelation. *Two hours.*

TH 888 • Seminar in Eschatology

An advanced study of eschatology, including student papers on kingdom of God, heaven, hell, the rapture, tribulation, the millennial reign of Christ, the resurrections, the eschatological judgments, and the eternal state. *Two hours.*

TH 899 • Research in Theology

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The

special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. *Two hours.*

Division of Theological Studies—PhD

The purpose of the Theological Studies emphasis is designed to offer students in the Doctor of Philosophy Program advanced specialized training in the major categories of theology and promote expertise in a specific area of theology through the writing of a dissertation which advances or makes a unique contribution to field.

- DLO 1: As a specialist, demonstrate a deep, active knowledge of a specialized area of Christian theology.
- DLO 2: As a scholar, make a significant contribution to the literature of that specialty by means of a dissertation reflecting honed skills in research, critical thinking, translation, exegesis, and writing which advances Christian theology.

TH 930 • Writing and Research

This zero-unit course is reserved for PhD students who will only complete writing and research for the semester and do not plan to complete a dissertation presentation. The fee for this course is available on the TMS website. *Zero hours.*

TH 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements. *Four hours.*

TH 942, 943, 944, 945 • Dissertation Research I–IV

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written. *Four hours each.*

TH 947 • Doctoral Dissertation

Once Colloquium #3 has been orally presented to and approved by the full-time faculty, the student is expected to register for this course. Under the advisor's supervision, the student is expected to write the first complete draft of his dissertation for evaluation and approval by the Dissertation Committee [advisor as chairman, second reader, and the third reader (external scholar)]. Afterwards, the student is expected to orally defend the first draft of the dissertation before the full-time faculty. When the faculty has approved the defense, the student is required to have the first draft professionally fully edited, make any minor changes required by the faculty, and then submit the final draft of the dissertation to the TMS librarian on required paper for binding. *4 hours.*

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY COURSES

The hallmark of the evangelical movement throughout its history has been the priority of expository preaching. Because The Master's Seminary exists to advance God's kingdom by equipping godly men to be pastors and/or trainers of pastors for excellence in service to Christ, the seminary is committed to making every effort to enable evangelical pastors to develop into master expositors through a doctoral program that is singularly focused on

the exposition of Scripture.

The seminary, through the Doctor of Ministry program, is committed to enhancing the expositor's ability in the three classical disciplines of sermon preparation: exegesis, exposition, and eloquence. Each component of the curriculum relates clearly and specifically to the other elements of the program and is conducted with a view toward increasing the student's knowledge, understanding, and skills in these disciplines. The sequence of the seminars is designed to be linear, progressing from seminars that explore the more general and historical issues of expository preaching to studies in specific biblical genres of the Old and New Testaments, and culminating in an intensive examination of rhetorical/homiletical theory and models.

DM 900 • Preaching Evaluation I

These seminars (DM 900, DM 917, DM 918 and DM 920) will help the students refine their expository preaching through self-evaluation, critical evaluation of selected sermons, reading classic preaching texts, and receiving personal feedback and support from both peers and an experienced practitioner. *Half hour.*

DM 913 • Research Methods I

This seminar is designed to prepare the student for doctoral-level research, supporting both seminar work and the DMin Preaching Project. It also provides the opportunity to select the specific project topic to determine the best utilization of the subsequent seminars for project work. *One hour.*

DM 914 • Expository Preaching and the Old Testament

This seminar is an introduction to the interpretation of the Old Testament (OT) with the goal of attaining a faithful exposition of the OT based upon accurate handling of the text. Following a general introduction to the interpretation of the OT, professors will direct the student to appropriate hermeneutical strategies to be applied to different genres (types of literature) of the OT. Foundational to this approach is the conviction that the OT message is relevant for the church and the world today. *Four hours.*

DM 915 • Historical and Contemporary Preaching Models

This seminar involves an examination of the nature, history, and current state of preaching. Attention is given to historical and contemporary trends in order that the student may become a more reflective practitioner of the expository preaching model. The course employs various methods of research, evaluation, and analysis, thus enabling the student to understand the wider historical context of expository preaching and its contrasting models. *Four hours.*

DM 916 • Doctrinal Foundations for Expository Preaching

This seminar provides an introduction to the task of expository preaching and the doctrinal foundation upon which such a pulpit ministry is built. Specifically, the class emphasizes the sovereignty of God in preaching, the inerrancy of the scriptures, and preaching as a form of worship. The class will enable the men to define expository preaching and provide familiarity with several of the key preaching texts that have influenced this preaching style. *Four hours.*

DM 917 • Preaching Evaluation II

See DM900. *Half hour.*

DM 918 • Preaching Evaluation III

See DM900. *Half hour.*

DM 920 • Preaching Evaluation IV

See DM900. *Half hour.*

DM 921 • Research Methods II

This seminar is designed to prepare the student for doctoral-level research, supporting both seminar work and the DMin Preaching Project. It also provides the opportunity to select the specific project topic to determine the best utilization of the subsequent seminars for project work. *One hour.*

DM 923 • Expository Preaching and the New Testament

This seminar is an introduction to the interpretation of the New Testament (NT) with the goal of attaining a faithful exposition of the NT based upon accurate handling of the text. Following a general introduction to the interpretation of the NT, professors will direct the student to appropriate hermeneutical strategies to be applied to different genres of the NT. Foundational to this approach is the conviction that the NT message is relevant for the church and the world today. *Four hours.*

DM 924 • Homiletics and Sermon Delivery

This seminar is designed to help the preacher consider how their cultural setting impacts their preparation, the benefit of a *lectio continua* approach, and to refine the student's communication skills by examining various components of sermonic delivery. *Four hours.*

DM 925 • Theology and Expository Preaching

This seminar considers the role a systematic, biblical, historical, and practical theology may play in the preparation and delivery of the expository message. Theological discussion will serve as the basis for insights into how the expositor can present theological content and address theological issues in his teaching and preaching ministry. *Four hours.*

DM 937, 938 • Preaching Research Project (I & II)

The Preaching Project is the student's major research and evaluation project in the degree program. The project must be related to the student's ministry and make a significant contribution to his expository preaching effectiveness. The length of the project is to be appropriate to the subject as judged by the student's mentor/advisor. The specific topic of the Preaching Project will normally be determined by the completion of the Doctoral Research and Methods seminar in July of the first year. *Four hours each.*

ADVANCED FOREIGN LANGUAGES

GR 900 • Theological German

Introduces the basics of the German language, including vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure. With a focus on theological German, the course is designed to prepare the student for the qualifying exam in German. ThM students are welcome to enroll in the course for elective credit, upon instructor approval. *Two hours.*

LT 900 • Theological Latin

Designed to introduce the student to the vocabulary and grammar of Latin as a preparation for reading and writings of the Church Fathers and Reformation theologians. ThM students are welcome to enroll in the course upon instructor approval. *Two hours.*

FL 900 • Foreign Language

Two hours

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 PhD, *The Master's Seminary*
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Professor of Pastoral Ministries
Director of DMin Studies
 BA, *University of New Mexico*
 MDiv, *The Master's Seminary*
 DMin, *The Master's Seminary*
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Dean of Spanish Education
Associate Professor of Bible Exposition
 BA, *The Master's College*
 MDiv, *The Master's Seminary*
 DMin, *The Master's Seminary*
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Professor of Old Testament
Director of TMS Israel Studies
 BA, *Pillsbury Baptist Bible College*
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 PhD, *Dallas Theological Seminary*

Carl Hargrove
Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministries
BA, University of Cincinnati
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
DMin, The Master's Seminary

Brad Klassen
Associate Professor of Bible Exposition
BTh, Providence University College
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
PhD, The Master's Seminary

John MacArthur
Chancellor Emeritus
Professor of Pastoral Ministries
BA, Los Angeles Pacific College
MDiv, Talbot Theological Seminary
LittD, Grace Graduate School
DD, Talbot Theological Seminary

James Mook
Professor of Theology,
Director of PhD Studies
BA Washington Bible College
ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary
ThD, Dallas Theological Seminary

Bryan Murphy
Associate Professor of Old Testament
BA, Temple Baptist College
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
ThD, The Master's Seminary

Roberto Sánchez
Dean of Students, Spanish Education
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries
BA, San Jose State University
MDiv, The Master's Seminary
ThM, Golden Gate Baptist
DMin, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Paul Twiss
Instructor of Bible Exposition
M.Eng., Cambridge University
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary

PhD, Queens University

Iosif J. Zhakevich
Associate Professor of Old Testament
BA University of California — Los Angeles
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
MA, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
AM, PhD, Harvard University

Mark Zhakevich
Associate Professor of New Testament
Director of Finance
BA University of California — Los Angeles
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
PhD, University of Edinburgh

Philip Zhakevich
Associate Professor of Old Testament
BA University of California — Los Angeles
MA, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
PhD, University of Texas, Austin

Kevin Zuber
Professor of Theology
Managing Editor of TMS Journal
BA, Grace College
MDiv, ThM, Grace Theological Seminary
PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Chris Burnett
Faculty Associate, Theological Studies
BS, University of California, Los Angeles
BTh, Istituto Biblico Evangelico Italiano (Rome)
MDiv, Th.M., The Master's Seminary
PhD, The Master's Seminary

Irvin A. Busenitz
Professor of Bible Exposition and Old Testament
BA, Grace University
MDiv, ThM, Talbot Theological Seminary
ThD, Grace Theological Seminary

Abner Chou

Faculty Associate, Bible Exposition
BA, The Master's College
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
ThD, The Master's Seminary

Keith H. Essex

Professor Emeritus, Bible Exposition
A.B., California State University, Long Beach
ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary
DMin, The Master's Seminary

Kevin Hall

Adjunct Professor, Bible Exposition
MDiv, ThM, The Master's Seminary
PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Alex D. Montoya

Professor Emeritus, Pastoral Ministries
BA, Biola University
MDiv, ThM, Talbot Theological Seminary
D.D., The Master's Seminary

Kelly T. Osborne

Associate Professor of New Testament
BA, University of Washington
MDiv, ThM, Talbot Theological Seminary
MA, PhD, University of Washington

Michael Riccardi

Faculty Associate, Theology
BA, M.Ed., Rutgers University
MDiv, Th.M, The Master's Seminary
PhD, The Master's Seminary

John D. Street

Faculty Associate, Pastoral Ministries
BA, Cedarville University
MDiv, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
DMin, Westminster Theological Seminary

Mark Tatlock

Faculty Associate, Missions
BA, The Master's College
MDiv, The Master's Seminary

EdD, Nova Southeastern University

DISTANCE LOCATION

SITE ADMINISTRATORS

Anchorage, Alaska

Associate Dean

Jeff Crotts jcrotts@anchoragegrace.com
BA, Liberty University
MDiv, The Master's Seminary
DMin, The Master's Seminary

Administrator

Nathan Schneider
nschneider@anchoragegrace.com
anchoragegrace@tms.edu

Kingsburg, California

Associate Dean

Scott Ardavanis scott@graceofthevalley.org
BA, Los Angeles Baptist College
MDiv, The Master's Seminary
DMin, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Administrative Assistant

Brendan Tomassian btomassian@tms.edu

Walnut Creek, California

Associate Dean

Kent Dresdow kdresdow@northcreek.org
BA, The Master's College
MDiv, The Master's Seminary
ThM, The Master's Seminary
DMin, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Administrative Assistant

Heather Kamiya hkamiya@northcreek.org
Jordan Scott jscott@northcreek.org

Murrieta, California

Associate Dean

John Pleasnick jpleasnick@tms.edu
MDiv, The Master's Seminary

Dallas, Texas

Associate Dean

Tom Pennington tom@countysidebible.org
BA, MA, Bob Jones University

D.D., The Master's College

Administrator

Brandon Ragsdale

tmsdallas@countrysidebible.org

Springfield, Virginia

Associate Dean

Alex Hairgrove hairgrove@ibc.church

BA, Liberty University

MDiv, Capital Bible Seminary

Spokane, Washington

Associate Dean

Dan Jarms djarms@fbchurch.org

BA, The Master's College

BEd, Eastern Washington University

MDiv, DMin, The Master's Seminary

Administrative Assistant

Ian Rush irush@tms.edu