

HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ABOUT THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The Master of Divinity degree prepares students for a variety of ministry opportunities such as church leadership, social ministry, chaplaincy, education, missions, and church music ministry. Students who sense a call to pastoral ministry, full-time vocational ministry, or who desire to prepare for an academic career in college or university teaching are especially encouraged to pursue the Master of Divinity.

The core curriculum is designed to prepare students pursuing full-time vocational or bi-vocational ministry with the basic biblical, theological, historical, and ministerial foundations needed for Christian ministry. Concentrations are offered to assist students with focusing on a particular area of ministry. A minimum of 18 hours in an area of concentration of the 90 required for the Master of Divinity are needed for an individual to meet the requirements to complete a concentration as part of the degree program. A minimum of 18 hours in a concentration must be included in the 90 hours required for the degree.

Faculty advisers are available to counsel with students regarding course selection. Throughout the curriculum, students are led to develop their spiritual lives and to engage in theological reflection and dialogue. Also, additional electives are available for students to study in the areas of their interests and gifts.

HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

The Historical and Theological Studies concentration equips students with in-depth knowledge of church history and the central teachings of the Christian faith. By increasing their knowledge of the Christian tradition, students are able to teach, preach, and minister with greater depth and sensitivity to timeless religious questions. Course topics include the histories of various denominational traditions, women's roles throughout church history, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the church's engagement with modern culture, the Trinity, Christian ethics, and the formation of Christian character. Students may also pursue practica that involve compiling the written history of a church, exploring some aspect of applied theology or ethics, or conducting other independent studies of historical and theological topics.

MASTER OF DIVINITY HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Minimum of 18 hours beyond core requirements

CORE COMPETENCY (9 HOURS)

Christian Ethics (3) if not taken as a core requirement
Special topics in Christian Ethics (hrs. as specified)
Any course in the 2000's beyond core requirements
Any course in the 2100's beyond core requirements
Any course in the 2200's beyond core requirements

PROCLAIMING (3 HOURS)

Great Preachers and Their Preaching (2)
Teaching the Bible with Adults and Youth (3)
The Practice of Preaching (3)
The Ministry of Writing (3)
Any additional advanced preaching course

PRAXIS (2-3 HOURS)

Practicum in applied theology or ethics
Practicum in writing the history of a church
Independent study or research project in a historical and theological topic

CHOOSE TO COMPLETE HOURS (3-5 HOURS)

Biblical and Theological Foundations for Age Group Ministry (2)
Introduction to Christian Education (3) OR Christian Education and Faith Development (3)
Bible language course
Advanced Bible book courses
Any additional course listed in the sections above