

THEOLOGY

MASTER OF ARTS
PROGRAM (36 CREDITS)

The Master of Arts in Theology is designed to expand the depth of Christian thought from an in-depth biblical and theological position. The focus is to equip students to more effectively wrestle with contemporary and human condition issues in a scholarly fashion. Multiple cultures are taken into account. Students are exposed to the most recent scholarship in the various disciplines of theology. To accomplish this, the program confronts the issues through a biblical, theological, philosophical and sociological grid. This provides a platform for skills in scholarly research and insight into world issues. The program serves those desiring to pursue a Master of Arts degree, additional degrees, those actively involved in academia, church ministries, Christian organizations and parachurch groups.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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| THE | 505 | Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation |
| THE | 510 | Sacred Voices: Advanced Biblical Theology |
| THE | 515 | Echoes from the Journey: Historic Theology |
| THE | 520 | Theology: Classic and Contemporary |
| THE | 525 | The Interface of Theology and Psychology |
| PHL | 505 | Spirituality & Philosophical Thought |
| PHL | 510 | Apologetics and Ethics: Contemporary Challenges |
| THE | 585 | Cross-Cultural Theology 1 |
| THE | 590 | Cross-Cultural Theology 2 |
| THE | 595 | Research Dynamics |
| THE | 599 | Research Project |

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will communicate in writing biblical and theological academic research that addresses concerns within the community of faith.
2. Students will analyze empirical and theological concepts in cross-cultural settings and directly assess and formulate theological construct to enrich that particular culture.
3. Students will delineate the historical roots of theological and philosophical developments and identify the societal influences upon those developments.
4. Students will articulate various schools of theological thought and how they apply to the interpretation of Scripture.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

THE 505 Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation 3 credits

This course will examine the science of hermeneutical analysis, processes, and methods in which one can derive the most accurate and valid interpretation of passages of the Bible. Due consideration will be given to the art involved in integrating various lines of thought in the Bible to accomplish an adequate understanding and application of any passage in the Bible.

THE 510 Sacred Voices: Advanced Biblical Theology 3 credits

This course is an introduction to biblical theology covering methodology, history, basic issues, and the foundational content of the field. Correlation between biblical and systematic theology is explored and discussed. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation.

THE 515 Echoes from the Journey: Systematic and Historical Theology 3 credits

This course is an exploration of thought about Christian theology through the centuries and systematic theology. Special attention is given to systematics and the nature of historical thinking (historiography), theology understood in a broad sense to include devotional thought, etc; the development of Pentecostalism, the ways to anticipate the future, etc.

THE 520 Theology: Classic and Contemporary 3 credits

This course is a discovery of theological systems used throughout Church history and into the present with a particular focus on contemporary developments. Special attention is given to biblical foundations, philosophical presuppositions, psychosocial forces, and the practical consequences of these developments in the life of the Church and the quest for truth.

THE 525 The Interface of Theology and Psychology 3 credits

This course will examine the different approaches in relating the long traditions of theological inquiry with the more recent influential theories of psychology. Issues that will be discussed include: human nature, the notion of sin, the concept of salvation/sanctification, and the goal of spiritual and psychological wellness. The role of the Holy Spirit and human agents, as divine and people facilitators respectfully, will be explored.

Prerequisites: THE 505, and 515 or 520.

PHL 505 Spirituality and Philosophical Thought 3 credits

This course will examine spirituality and its development in philosophical thought through the centuries, how it has shaped Eastern and Western thought and approaches to spirituality and where it has left us in our understanding of spirituality today on a philosophical level. Spiritual formation approaches will be examined in this course.

PHL 510 Apologetics & Ethics: Contemporary Challenges 3 credits

An exploration of the integration and interdependence of apologetics and ethics in the contemporary world. The reasonableness of Christianity in both its truth claims and moral determinations is considered. Approaches to apologetics and ethics are analyzed, and the combined insights are applied to contemporary issues.

THE 585 Cross-Cultural Theology 1 3 credits

This course will consist of an international or stateside cross-cultural experience under the direction of a professor that can take place within settings such as: overseas universities or training centers, mission field experiences, mega-churches or approved stateside cross-cultural settings in which theological analysis, teaching and training will be conducted. Field service will be required. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various theological constructs.

THE 590 Cross-Cultural Theology 2 3 credits

This course will build upon THE 585. It will also consist of an international or stateside cross-cultural experience under the direction of a professor that can take place within settings such as: overseas universities or training centers, mission field experiences, mega-churches or approved stateside cross-cultural settings in which theological analysis, teaching and training will be conducted. Field service will be required. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various theological constructs. In addition to the requirements of THE 585 the student will have to formulate a theological rubric in which to assess various theological issues within a particular culture that is transferable to other cultural contexts.

Prerequisite: THE 585.

THE 595 Research Dynamics 3 credits

This course will train the student in the advanced skills of scholarly research, design, writing and documentation as a direct preparation for the final research project of the degree. The student must receive an “A” or a “B” in this course to proceed to the final Research Project. A “C” will require the student to retake THE 595.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least five of required courses.

THE 599 Research Project 6 credits

This course will consist of a major written project that reflects graduate level research and writing on an area of study agreed upon and under the direct supervision of a professor who has specialization in the chosen topic of study in keeping with the degree. The final project must receive committee approval.

Prerequisite: THE 595.