

## MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MATS)

The sixty credit hour MATS (plus two credit hours of field education) is designed for those whose primary focus is graduate theological studies rather than ministerial studies. Two one credit field education modules are required—the Cultural Competency Module and Vocational Excellence. Learning outcomes for the MATS include the following:

- Interpret Scripture with historical and theological integrity for diverse communities and contexts.
- Interpret the Christian historical and theological tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the church.
- Demonstrate research competency including analyzing sources, building bibliographies, constructing arguments, and other skills appropriate to area of concentration.
- Embody a vocational identity that incorporates one's gifts in scholarship.
- Demonstrate master's level expertise within an area of major concentration.
- Communicate effectively through spoken and written media, engaging in critical, respectful dialogue with others.
- Engage diversity and exhibit growth towards inter-cultural competence reflective of God's global redemptive work.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree is awarded to students who:

1. Complete all Vocational and Spiritual Formation for Leadership evaluations and receive approval by faculty vote.
2. Complete the required 60 semester hours of academic course work, plus 2 field education credit hours.
3. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5. No grade under C- shall be counted toward the degree.
4. Complete a declared area of concentration with a minimum of nine semester hours beyond the core requirement.
5. Successfully complete a thesis with an oral defense completed in the final semester of studies.
6. Rectify all incomplete grades no later than week seven of the semester in which they plan to graduate.
7. Fulfill all financial obligations to the Seminary.
8. Complete the degree program within seven (7) years from the time of matriculation.

### FIELD OF CONCENTRATION

MATS students declare a field of major concentration by the beginning of the second semester. Fields of concentration

include Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Theology/Ethics, and Cross-Cultural Ministry. Students may petition the Academic Cabinet for permission to declare a field of concentration not listed. The student fulfills the concentration requirement by taking nine hours in the chosen field.

Required core classes may not count toward the nine-hour concentration.

#### **Concentration in Old Testament Language Requirement**

This field of concentration requires working knowledge of biblical Hebrew. Students may demonstrate adequate proficiency in Hebrew by completing six semester hours of Hebrew at NPTS, or by passing a language proficiency exam administered by the biblical faculty. Language requirements are prerequisite to the 60-hour MATS. A student needing Hebrew is strongly encouraged to take the summer Hebrew intensive.

#### **Concentration in New Testament Language Requirement**

This field of concentration requires working knowledge of biblical Greek. Students may demonstrate adequate proficiency in Greek by completing 6 semester hours of Greek at NPTS, or by passing a language proficiency exam administered by the biblical faculty. Language requirements are prerequisite to the 60-hour MATS. A student needing Greek is strongly encouraged to take the summer Greek intensive. All MATS students concentrating in New Testament must also complete New Testament Greek Exegesis.

#### **MATS Thesis Requirement**

During the second year of studies, MATS students register for three credit hours of thesis research each semester through the Seminary Academic Services Office. Students are charged the Thesis Fee in addition to tuition at registration. The topic of the thesis must relate to the student's field of major concentration. The topic is chosen in consultation with the director of the MATS degree program, who then assigns a thesis advisor to the MATS student. The thesis must be submitted by the beginning of the eighth week of the final semester. An oral defense of the thesis before a faculty committee must occur no later than week twelve of the final semester. Full thesis guidelines will be distributed by the director of the MATS degree program. Successful defense of the thesis is required for completion of the MATS with thesis option. The grading scale for theses is high pass, pass, or fail. Students are invited, though not required, to participate in a campus-wide event in which they may present their thesis work to the community.

#### **Bible | 15 credit hours**

BIBL 5210 Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Interpretation  
BIBL 5220 Old Testament 2: Prophets and Preaching Legacy

BIBL 5230 Old Testament 3: Wisdom and Israel's Praise  
BIBL 5240 New Testament 1: The Texts and Their World  
BIBL 5250 New Testament 2: The Texts and Their Theology

#### **History | 9 credit hours**

HSTY 5210 Christian History 1: The Early Church to the Early Reformation (1-16c)  
HSTY 5220 Christian History 2: Global Christianity (17-21c)  
HSTY 5230 Christian History 3: North American Christianity

#### **Theology | 12 credit hours**

THEO 5102 Research Methods  
THEO 5110 Christian Theology  
THEO 5130 Christian Ethics  
THEO 5140 Advanced Seminar in Theology

#### **Spiritual Formation | 3 credit hours**

SPFM 5201 Journey: The Story of Our Lives  
SPFM 5211 Intercultural Spirituality: Praying Together  
SPFM Spiritual Formation Elective

#### **Communication Skills Elective | 3 credit hours**

*Student selects one course from the following:*

BIBL 6220 Biblical Preaching  
MNST 5115 Preaching the Word  
MNST 5120 Gospel Communication in Context  
*On occasion, a 7190 Topics course which is not offered on a regular basis will fulfill an area requirement.*

#### **Cultural Diversity Elective | 3 credit hours**

*Student selects one course from the following:*

BIBL 6290	Intercultural Readings of the Bible
MNST 5110	Religions and Cultures
MNST 6125	Issues of Christian Faith in the Americas
MNST 6130	The Gospel in Asian Context
MNST 6135	Experiencing African Christianity
MNST 6140	Experiencing Global Christianity
MNST 6151	Cultural Dimensions of Mission
MNST 6152	Rethinking Mission: Lessons From Christian Art, History & Practice
MNST 6352	Journey to Mosaic
MNST 6401	Sankofa: Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation

*On occasion, a 7190 Topics course which is not offered on a regular basis will fulfill an area requirement.*

#### **Concentration Electives | 9 credit hours**

#### **Thesis | 6 credit hours**

**Total Credit Hours for the Degree**

**60 credit hours**

Students are recommended for graduation when all requirements

are fulfilled for the degree.

**FIELD EDUCATION**

The experiences designated as field education will be awarded two (2) credit hours in addition to the sixty (60) credit hours required for the MATS degree.

- FLDC 5300 Vocational Excellence  
1 credit hour toward field education requirements
- FLDC 7315 Cultural Competency Module  
1 credit hour toward field education

HSTY 5230	Christian History 3: North American Christianity	3
THEO 5140	Advanced Seminar in Theology	3
<b>Total 12 academic, 1 field education</b>		
<b>Total Academic Credit Hours</b>		<b>60</b>
Plus Field Education: 2 Credit Hours		

**THE FOLLOWING IS A RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF COURSES:**

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
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*Year One: Fall Semester*

BIBL 5210	Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Interpretation	3
HSTY 5210	Christian History 1: The Early Church to the Early Reformation (1-16c)	3
HEO 5102	Research Methods	3
SPFM 5201	Journey: The Story of Our Lives	1
FLDC 5300	Vocational Excellence	1
<b>Total 16 academic, 1 field education</b>		

*Year One: Spring Semester*

BIBL 5240	New Testament 1: The Texts and Their World	3
HSTY 5220	Christian History 2: Global Christianity (17-21c)	3
THEO 5110	Christian Theology	3
SPFM 5211	Intercultural Spirituality: Praying Together	1
	Concentration Elective	3
	Concentration Elective	3
<b>Total 16 academic</b>		

*Year Two: Fall Semester*

BIBL 5220	Old Testament 2: Prophets and Preaching Legacy	3
BIBL 5230	Old Testament 3: Wisdom and Israel's Praise	3
THEO 5130	Christian Ethics	3
SPFM	Spiritual Formation Elective	1
	Concentration Elective	3
	Thesis I	3
<b>Total 16 academic</b>		

*Year Two: Spring Semester*

BIBL 5250	New Testament 2: The Texts and Their Theology	3
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