

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Master of Divinity degree program is designed for those engaged in or preparing for vocational ministry, including the pastorate, intercultural service, Christian education, pastoral counseling, chaplaincy, evangelism, music and worship ministries, and related areas of service. Historically, the M.Div. degree has been the recommended program for those preparing for ordination.

The M.Div. program requires a core of biblical, theological, and applied ministry studies. In addition, students select an elective track consisting either of a ministry specialization or a self-designed sequence of electives approved by a faculty mentor. This flexibility of design recognizes that many students come with differing God-given gifts, passions, talents, experiences, and goals.

The M.Div. course of study, designed to assist the local church in the training and nurturing of godly leaders, is guided by five overarching educational values which the Seminary believes are essential to that objective. Those values are:

1. Outcome-based instruction.
2. Spiritual and character formation.
3. Mentor relationships.
4. Church relatedness.
5. Global and cultural awareness.

M.DIV. CORE OUTCOMES

The explicit outcomes which the M.Div. seeks to produce encompass multiple dimensions of the graduate's life and work. This means that the M.Div. student's educational experiences are intended to produce growth in knowledge, character, and skills for ministry. Many of these outcomes are best achieved and measured in the field, rather than the classroom. Consequently, many of the educational experiences bring the classroom and the church together in partnership to prepare the student for a life of fruitful ministry.

In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the Master of Divinity program attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Be a person whose Christ-like character is worthy of being emulated, and whose integrity imparts credibility to his/her ministry.
2. Be a person who understands his/her optimal role in the furthering of God's purposes.
3. Be a person who experiences healthy interdependency and genuine community with other believers.
4. Be a person with a global vision who thinks, acts, and prays strategically.
5. Know the nature and mission of the church, being able to implement a biblically-based philosophy of ministry in various contexts and cultures.
6. Be able to interpret and apply biblical texts using sound hermeneutical principles and the biblical languages.

7. Know the major themes and developments of God's redemptive activity revealed in Scripture.
8. Know the historical tenets and contemporary significance of evangelical theology and practice.
9. Be able to think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated.
10. Know the leading figures, movements, and events of church history world wide.
11. Be able to discover those elements of culture that must be understood for effective ministry.
12. Be able to communicate God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly.
13. Be able to lead and equip a group of people so that God's purposes are efficiently accomplished in and through them.
14. Be a true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 18-19, applicants for the M.Div. program are expected to present an accredited baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), including a breadth of liberal arts. Applicants who do not meet these general academic requirements may petition the Admissions Committee for consideration. A recommendation from the applicant's pastor and three personal recommendations regarding the applicant's Christian character and leadership potential also are required.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Divinity degree is conferred upon the attainment of certain personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 30-31, degree candidates must (1) give evidence of a genuine Christian character, orthodox belief, and conduct consistent with a God-given call to a position of leadership; (2) complete all courses in the prescribed M.Div. curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Students may complete their studies in as few as six semesters, including mentored field ministry. At least one year of studies (30 credits) must be completed in residency.

THE M.DIV. DEGREE REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 90 CREDIT HOURS. The program is designed around a common core of 76 hours and an elective track of 14 hours. The 76-hour core contains six hours of mentored ministry. The elective track involves either the completion of a ministry specialization (14 hours of prescribed and elective credits) or an open track (14 hours of elective credits approved by a faculty mentor). Students in either track may choose a concentration (open track students may select as many as two concentrations). Each concentration consists of six elective hours in a particular discipline, with the course selection requiring faculty mentor approval. (A further explanation of the concentrations may be found under the heading "Program Concentrations" below.)



Master of Divinity Core

76 CREDIT HOURS

Spiritual Formation [6] **Theological Studies [16]**
Biblical Studies [16] **Ministerial Studies [20]**
Biblical Languages [12] **Mentored Ministry [6]**

(specializations below)

OPEN TRACK

Concentration [8] + Open Electives [6]
OR...
Open Electives [14]

(see this page for detail)

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY

Required NTS, OTS [6]
Restricted Electives [2]
Open Electives [6]

(see page 38 for detail)

PASTORAL MINISTRY – OPTION 1

Required PTS [6]
Restricted Electives [2]
Open Electives [6]

(see page 39 for detail)

PASTORAL MINISTRY – OPTION 2

Required PTS, NTS, OTS [12]
Open Electives [2]

(see page 39 for detail)

WORLD MINISTRY

Required DIS [6]
Restricted Electives [2]
Open Electives [6]

(see page 40 for detail)

**DEGREE TOTAL
= 90 CREDIT HOURS**

M.DIV. CORE (76 HRS)

Spiritual formation: 6 hours

- SFS 501 Learning to Love God and Others (2)
- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines (2)
- SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity..... (2)

Biblical studies: 16 hours

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture..... (4)
- BLS 501 Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon (4)
- BLS 502 Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels..... (4)
- BLS 503 Interpreting Acts to Revelation (4)

Biblical language studies: 12 hours

(see note below on biblical language options)

- NTS 501 Functional Foundations of Greek..... (3)
- NTS 502 Functional Application of Greek..... (3)
- or
- NTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis (3)
- NTS 509 Greek Reading and Syntax (3)
- (Students complete either NTS 501/502 or NTS 508/509)
- OTS 501 Functional Foundations of Hebrew (3)
- OTS 502 Functional Application of Hebrew (3)
- or
- OTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis (3)
- OTS 509 Hebrew Reading and Syntax (3)
- (Students complete either OTS 501/502 or OTS 508/509)

Theological studies: 16 hours

- THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I (4)
- THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II (4)
- THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III (2)
- THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology..... (2)
- CHS 505 Wisdom from Church History (4)
- or
- CHS 506 Insight and Inspiration from Church History..... (2)
- CHS 5xx Church history elective (2)
- (Students complete either CHS 505 or CHS 506 and a CHS elective)

Ministerial studies: 20 hours

- DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture (2)
- DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry..... (2)
- DMS 502 Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship (2)
- DMS 506 Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century..... (2)
- EMS 505 Growing Disciples Intentionally (2)
- PTS 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics (2)
- PTS 504 Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence (2)
- PTS 507 Providing Pastoral Counseling (2)
- PTS 508 Developing Strong Families (2)
- PTS 510 Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons (2)

Mentored Ministry: 6 hours

- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential (2)
- MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Note: Check with your program advisor for MFM 501-504 details. Students selecting the World Ministry Specialization or the dual track MA Counseling/MDiv Pastoral Counseling specialization will fulfill the mentored field ministry requirement through alternatives specified in the description of those specializations.

M.Div. Specialization or Elective Tracks: 14 hours

The 14 hours of course work in the elective tracks may be taken in one of three ways: (1) a ministry specialization (minimum of 8 hours in pastoral, expositional, or world ministry courses); (2) selecting one or more program concentrations (consisting of a minimum of 6 hours of coursework in a specific discipline); or (3) an integrated sequence of electives chosen with faculty guidance. The choice among these three options is based on student goals, talents, God-given gifts, and prior experiences.

MDiv program total: 90 hours

MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION, PROGRAM CONCENTRATION OR ELECTIVES

Ministry Specialization

The intent of a ministry specialization is to further equip an individual with the skills, insights, and training experiences necessary for a distinctly defined ministry role. Like the divinity core, the ministry specializations are outcome-driven. Eight-to-twelve hours of course work reflect a thoughtful blend of required courses and restricted electives designed to impart the character, knowledge, and skill outcomes deemed essential for each particular role.

Program Concentrations

The purpose of program concentrations is to provide a focused, intensive preparation in one narrow area of emphasis. They may be ministry-specific, academically-oriented, or a combination of both. Program concentrations consist of at least six hours of course work in one area of emphasis, chosen in consultation with one's faculty mentor. Courses selected for a program concentration may not come from the core of the M.Div. program.

Program concentrations currently offered:

Bible	Evangelism	
Pastoral Care	Chaplaincy	
Family Ministry	Preaching	
Children/Youth at Risk	Greek	Spiritual Formation
Church History	Hebrew	Theology
Church & Culture	Intercultural Studies	Youth Ministry
Church Planting	Leadership	Worship
Coaching	Pastoral Care to Women	
Educational Ministry	Pastoral Counseling (dual MAC)	

Students may choose from among the concentrations listed above, or may propose a new concentration drawn from courses offered by Western Seminary (subject to approval). Appropriate course work from other graduate institutions might also be used in designing a concentration (subject to transfer credit provisions). These must be acceptable graduate-level work, with at least 50% of the credits being taken at Western.

Students may complete both a ministry specialization and a program concentration, but no more than two hours of credit may overlap and be applied to both. The successful completion of a program concentration is noted on the student's academic transcript. No course may be applied to more than one concentration. Please consult with the Registrar's Office for additional information.

Open Track Electives

Students may elect to choose up to 14 hours of course work apart from any specialization or concentration. Electives are chosen with faculty mentor guidance based on student goals, prior experiences, talents, and God-given gifts.

BIBLICAL LANGUAGE OPTIONS

The seminary offers Master of Divinity students two options to complete their requirements in the biblical languages: the exegetical language track and the functional language track.

The exegetical language track equips students with both the foundations of the Greek and Hebrew languages, including the elements of grammar, syntax, and reading, and with the skills of exegesis--the interpretation of the text. Then students will be able to read the Bible as it was written and encounter the depths of meaning that can get lost in translation. Students are introduced to a wide range of language tools, including computer programs. Following this track will lay a foundation for in-depth study in advanced classes. It will give students the strongest foundation as life-long learners to teach and preach the biblical text in an informed manner and/or to pursue advanced studies in which this level of original language competence would be expected. In addition, students in this track will be able to read advanced commentaries with greater understanding, be able to take additional elective courses

in the interpretation of various biblical books, and be better equipped to evaluate commentaries, articles and theological books on their own. If the study and the preaching of God's Word is your main focus of ministry, this is the recommended track to take. Students in the exegetical language track enroll in NTS 508-509 and OTS 508-509.

For students who choose not to develop the skill to read and translate the Bible in the original languages, the seminary offers the functional language track. It is designed to give students the practical ability to access the original languages through the Bible Works computer program and other contemporary reference tools. Using these tools, the student will learn the essential grammar and syntax of the biblical languages. Students will use the computer to find word meanings, parsing, etc. By the end of the two-semester sequence, students will be able to use original language commentaries with discernment and do many steps of the exegetical process as they prepare sermons and lessons in ministry. Students in the functional language track enroll in NTS 501-502 and OTS 501-502.

“What is the great need of the church at the present moment? Leaders consumed with ambition to spread God’s glory throughout the world - leaders who are biblically saturated, theologically robust, historically informed, pastorally sensitive, and gospel focused. These are the very characteristics that distinguish the intention of the Master of Divinity program at Western. As such, our classes are not only taught by professors who embody this passion, they are intentionally designed to produce leaders eager to embrace it.”

Dr. Art Azurdia, Associate Professor of Pastoral and Church Ministry; Director of Pastoral Mentoring



EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

The MDiv Expository Ministry specialization seeks to develop advanced skills in those whose ministry will focus especially on the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Hence advanced studies in the biblical languages and exegetical skills are provided, along with additional training in communicating the fruit of one's study.

In addition to the Master of Divinity Core Outcomes, the Expository Ministry specialization attempts to achieve the following specific outcomes:

1. Know the full process of exegesis pertinent to biblical Greek and Hebrew
2. Be able to apply this full exegetical method to the texts of various Old and New Testament genre.
3. Be able to develop and deliver expository messages and lessons.

MDiv Expository Ministry Track:

Spiritual formation: 6 hours

- SFS 501 Learning to Love God and Others (2)
- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines (2)
- SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity (2)

Biblical studies: 16 hours

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture (4)
- BLS 501 Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon (4)
- BLS 502 Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels (4)
- BLS 503 Interpreting Acts to Revelation (4)

Biblical language studies: 12 hours

- NTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis (3)
- NTS 509 Greek Reading and Syntax (3)
- OTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis (3)
- OTS 509 Hebrew Reading and Syntax (3)

Theological studies: 16 hours

- THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I (4)
- THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II (4)
- THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III (2)
- THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology (2)
- CHS 505 Wisdom from Church History (4)

or

- CHS 506 Insight and Inspiration from Church History (2)
- CHS 5xx Church history elective (2)

(Students complete either CHS 505 or CHS 506 and a CHS elective)

Ministerial studies: 20 hours

- DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture (2)
- DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry (2)
- DMS 502 Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship (2)
- DMS 506 Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century (2)
- EMS 505 Growing Disciples Intentionally (2)
- PTS 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics (2)
- PTS 504 Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence (2)
- PTS 507 Providing Pastoral Counseling (2)
- PTS 508 Developing Strong Families (2)
- PTS 510 Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons (2)

Mentored Ministry: 6 hours

- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential (2)
- MFM 501-04 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Expository Ministry required courses: 6 hours

- NTS 510 Greek Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretative Skills (3)
- OTS 510 Hebrew Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretative Skills (3)

Restricted electives: 2 hours

(Choose two credits from courses with a NTS, OTS, BLS, or THS prefix, or from those with a communications emphasis such as teaching, preaching, etc.)

Open electives: 6 hours

Total: 90 hours

“The expository track of the M.Div. program provides the student with the interpretative skills that are foundational to the reading and understanding of Scripture—whether that takes place in the pastorate, the chaplaincy, women’s or men’s ministries, Bible translation, counseling, or one’s personal pursuit of God. Biblical languages are essential to a biblical understanding, and thus provide the foundation for discernment between competing, contemporary world-views. Using the biblical languages opens a whole new world of creative ideas to aid in the understanding of one’s self and others, and to the doing of God’s will.”

Dr. James DeYoung,
Professor of New Testament Studies

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

The Pastoral Ministry specialization is designed as the foundational preparation for those who are called to serve the local church in a pastoral capacity. The specialized courses seek to develop pastors competent to lead a church with integrity, understanding, and skill. Learning is guided by faculty and pastor/mentors in both classroom and church contexts.

In addition to the Master of Divinity Core Outcomes, the Pastoral Ministry specialization attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Know the biblical, theological, and ministerial foundations for pastoral ministry including pastoral identity, the nature of pastoral ministry, preaching, soul care, and ministry programs.
2. Be able to do basic, tool-assisted exegesis of texts from various Old and New Testament genre with a view to preparing expository messages and lessons.
3. Be able to develop and deliver with advanced proficiency expository sermons and lessons from various biblical genres.
4. Be able to perform relevant pastoral duties such as administering the ordinances, performing weddings and funerals, doing visitation, dealing with crisis situations, counseling, equipping, and practicing church discipline.
5. Be able to deal with issues of leadership and management in the church, such as decision making, team building, board dynamics, conflict management, finances, buildings, legal matters, and the like.

MDiv Pastoral Ministry Track:

Spiritual formation: 6 hours

SFS 501	Learning to Love God and Others	(2)
SFS 502	Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines	(2)
SFS 504	Growing into Ethical Maturity	(2)

Biblical studies: 16 hours

DBS 506	Learning to Interpret Scripture	(4)
BLS 501	Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon	(4)
BLS 502	Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels.....	(4)
BLS 503	Interpreting Acts to Revelation	(4)

Biblical language studies: 12 hours

(see note on biblical language options)

NTS 501	Functional Foundations of Greek.....	(3)
NTS 502	Functional Application of Greek	(3)
or		
NTS 508	Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis	(3)
NTS 509	Greek Reading and Syntax	(3)
(Students complete either NTS 501/502 or NTS 508/509)		
OTS 501	Functional Foundations of Hebrew	(3)
OTS 502	Functional Application of Hebrew	(3)
or		
OTS 508	Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis	(3)
OTS 509	Hebrew Reading and Syntax	(3)
(Students complete either OTS 501/502 or OTS 508/509)		

Theological studies: 16 hours

THS 501	Knowing the Triune God: Theology I	(4)
THS 502	Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II	(4)
THS 503	Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III	(2)
THS 508	Integrating Ministry and Theology	(2)

CHS 505	Wisdom from Church History	(4)
or		
CHS 506	Insight and Inspiration from Church History	(2)
CHS 5xx	Church history elective	(2)
(Students complete either CHS 505 or CHS 506 and a CHS elective)		

Ministerial studies: 20 hours

DIS 501	Communicating Christ in Culture	(2)
DMS 501	Thinking Theologically about Ministry.....	(2)
DMS 502	Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship	(2)
DMS 506	Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century.....	(2)
EMS 505	Growing Disciples Intentionally	(2)
PTS 503	Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics	(2)
PTS 504	Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence	(2)
PTS 507	Providing Pastoral Counseling	(2)
PTS 508	Developing Strong Families	(2)
PTS 510	Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons	(2)

Mentored Ministry: 6 hours

MFM 500	Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential	(2)
MFM 501-04	Mentored Field Ministry	(1+1+1+1)

Pastoral Ministry Specialization – Option 1

Recommended for students electing the functional language sequence (NTS 501/502; OTS 501/502):

Required courses: 6 hours

PTS 505	Providing Pastoral Leadership	(2)
PTS 506	Providing Pastoral Care	(2)
PTS 515X	Advanced Expository Preaching I	(2)

Restricted electives: 2 hours

Select one of the following courses:

PTS 515Y	Advanced Expository Preaching II	(2)
EMS 546	Advanced Bible Teaching	(2)

Open electives: 6 hours

Pastoral Ministry Specialization – Option 2

Recommended for students electing the exegetical language sequence (NTS 508/509; OTS 508/509) in the core curriculum:

Required courses: 12 hours

PTS 505	Providing Pastoral Leadership	(2)
PTS 506	Providing Pastoral Care	(2)
PTS 515X	Advanced Expository Preaching I	(2)
NTS 510	Greek Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretative Skills	(3)
OTS 510	Hebrew Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretative Skills	(3)

Open electives: 2 hours

Total: 90 hours

“The 21st Century pastor needs the ability to plumb the depths of God’s Word and classic pastoral wisdom, as well as skills to navigate through contemporary culture. The M.Div. in Pastoral Ministry track equips students to build ministries theologically via sound exegetical skills and the experiences of seasoned ministry.”

Dr. John Johnson, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology

WORLD MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

Recognizing the importance and challenges of global ministry, the World Ministry specialization is especially suited for students anticipating intercultural ministry whether in the United States or abroad. Special sensitivity to cultural dynamics is therefore stressed, along with the ability to minister and communicate God’s truth to those of a different culture.

In addition to the Master of Divinity Core Outcomes, the World Ministry specialization attempts to achieve specific outcomes:

1. Be able to develop effective interpersonal relationships in a second culture
2. Be aware of significant world affairs/needs and of contemporary world Christian movements
3. Be able to analyze culture and society at a specialist level
4. Be able to recognize, enhance, and disciple leaders in a second culture
5. Be able to plant and develop sending churches that penetrate beyond existing church frontiers
6. Be able to adopt bi-vocational intercultural ministry when appropriate
7. Know the fundamentals of learning a second language.

MDiv World Ministry Track:

Spiritual formation: 6 hours

- SFS 501 Learning to Love God and Others (2)
- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines (2)
- SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity (2)

Biblical studies: 16 hours

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture (4)
- BLS 501 Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon (4)
- BLS 502 Interpreting the Prophets to Gospels (4)
- BLS 503 Interpreting Acts to Revelation (4)

Biblical language studies: 12 hours

(see note on biblical language options)

- NTS 501 Functional Foundations of Greek (3)
 - NTS 502 Functional Application of Greek (3)
- or

- NTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis (3)
- NTS 509 Greek Reading and Syntax (3)

(Students complete either NTS 501/502 or NTS 508/509)

- OTS 501 Functional Foundations of Hebrew (3)
- OTS 502 Functional Application of Hebrew (3)

or

- OTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis (3)
- OTS 509 Hebrew Reading and Syntax (3)

(Students complete either OTS 501/502 or OTS 508/509)

Theological studies: 16 hours

- THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I (4)
- THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II (4)
- THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III (2)
- THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology (2)
- CHS 506 Insight and Inspiration from Church History (2)
- DIS 520 History of Missions (2)

Ministerial studies: 20 hours

- DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture (2)
- DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry (2)
- DMS 502 Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship (2)
- DMS 506 Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century (2)
- EMS 505 Growing Disciples Intentionally (2)
- PTS 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics (2)
- PTS 504 Maximizing the Church’s Redemptive Influence (2)
- PTS 507 Providing Pastoral Counseling (2)
- PTS 508 Developing Strong Families (2)
- PTS 510 Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons (2)

Mentored Ministry: 6 hours

- DIS 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential (2)
- DIS 530 World Ministry Practicum (4)

World Ministry required courses: 6 hours

- DIS 534 Adapting Cross-Culturally (2)
- DIS 508 Applied Anthropology (2)
- DIS 506 Applied Cultural Analysis (2)

Restricted electives: 2 hours

(Choose two credits from courses with a DIS, or TSL prefix.)

Open electives: 6 hours

Total: 90 hours

“The M.Div./World Ministry program is designed to help students exegete Scripture as well as understand culture. As students study with experienced practitioners they learn how to serve in a cross-cultural context here in the U.S. or overseas.”

Dr. John Branner,
Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies
Chair, Division of Intercultural Studies