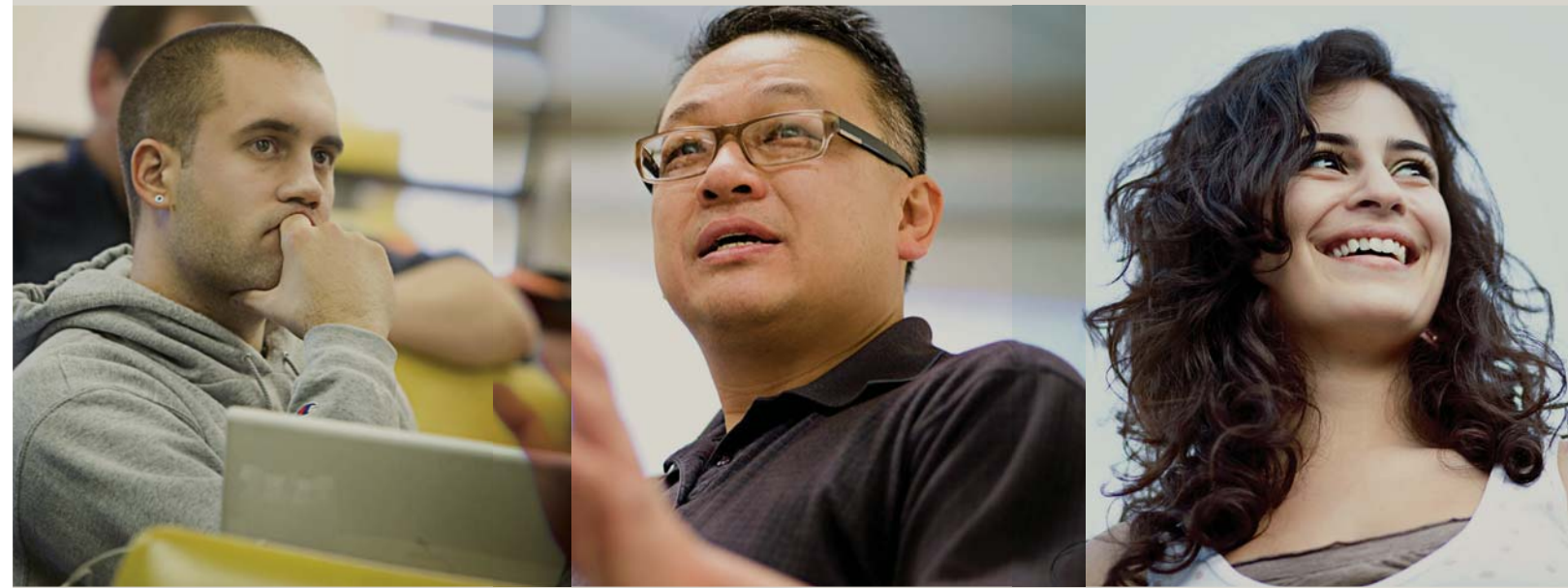




WESTERN SEMINARY



2009-2010
Academic Catalog
Master of Divinity
Degree Program

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CAMPUSES**

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program is designed for men and women engaged in or preparing for a wide range of ministry leadership roles with a major emphasis upon the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Most M.Div. graduates enter vocational ministry roles such as pastors, educators, missionaries, evangelists, chaplains, and other related areas of service. Historically, the M.Div. has been the appropriate educational preparation for those seeking ordination.

The M.Div. program requires a divinity core of biblical, theological, and applied ministry studies. In addition, students select an elective track consisting either of a ministry specialization of a self-designed sequence of electives approved by a faculty mentor.

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 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 COMPLETION OPTIONS

Course scheduling permits individuals who commute long distances or who are employed in occupations or ministry vocations to make significant academic progress. Students are recommended their first year to enroll in the weekend sequence as the initial seminary experience. This three-term introduction to theological education provides a base of personal direction, biblical and theological foundation, and ministry orientation for subsequent advanced study and skill development.

THREE-YEAR SEQUENCE. The three-year program includes classes in Hebrew and Greek one or two evenings per week each semester of the first two years and one day of weekend classes per week each semester of all three years.

FIVE-YEAR SEQUENCE. The five-year program begins with one day of weekend classes each week during each semester of the first year. Hebrew and Greek are taken during the evenings of the second and third years. The degree program is completed with weekend classes the fourth and fifth years.

DISTANCE LEARNING. A number of required and elective courses are offered through the Center for Lifelong Learning. Students may enroll in CLL courses with program advisor approval.

“Ministry of the Word’ is the paramount New Testament priority for church leadership. Western’s M.Div. is about laying a solid foundation for a lifetime of effective ministry of the Word. It gives balanced focus to receiving the message from God and relating that message to any people group on the planet.”

Dr. Gary Tuck, Professor of Biblical Studies
Academic Coordinator, San Jose Campus



Master of Divinity Core

76 CREDITS

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

(specializations below)

OPEN TRACK

Concentration [6] + Open Electives [8]

OR...

Open Electives [14]

(see page 73 for detail)

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY

Restricted Electives [10]

Open Electives [4]

(see page 73 for detail)

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Required PTS [2]

Restricted Electives [8]

Open Electives [4]

(see page 74 for detail)

**DEGREE TOTAL
= 90 CREDITS**

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 31-32, 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 nine semesters (three years), including practicum.

The M.Div. degree requires a minimum of 90 credit hours. The program is designed around a common core of 76 credits and an elective track of 14 hours. The 76 credits core includes six credits of mentored field ministry. The elective track involves either the completion of a ministry specialization (totaling 14 credits of prescribed and elective credits) or the Open Track (14 credits of elective credits approved by a faculty mentor). In addition, students in either track may choose a concentration (open track students may choose up to two concentrations). Each concentration requires 6 elective credits in a particular subject, with the course selection requiring faculty mentor approval. Students in a specialization who also desire a concentration may apply up to two credits for both specialization and concentration credit. No course may be applied to more than one concentration. Please consult with the Registrar's Office for additional information.

BIBLICAL LANGUAGE OPTIONS

The Seminary offers Master of Divinity students two options to complete their requirements in the biblical languages: the exegetical language track (San Jose campus) and the functional language track (Sacramento campus).

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 at the Sacramento campus. 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.

M.DIV. CORE (76 CREDITS)

Spiritual formation: 6 credits

- 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 credits

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture (4)
- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel..... (2)
- BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)
- BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi..... (2)
- BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels (2)
- BLS 503X Interpreting New Testament II: Epistles 1 (2)
- BLS 503Y Interpreting New Testament III: Epistles 2 (2)

Biblical language studies: 12 credits

- 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 credits

- CHS 505X Wisdom from Church History, Pt 1 (2)
- CHS 505Y Wisdom from Church History, Pt 2..... (2)
- 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)

Ministerial studies: 20 credits

- 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 credits

- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential (2)
- MFM 501-504 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

M.Div. Specialization or Elective Tracks (14 credits)

The 14 hours of coursework in the elective tracks may be taken in one of two ways: (1) a ministry specialization (minimum of 10 hours in expositional or pastoral courses); or (2) an integrated sequence of electives chosen with faculty guidance. The choice among these two options is based on student goals, talents, God-given gifts, and prior experiences.

Total: 90 credits

MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS

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. Ten credits of course work reflect a thoughtful blend of required courses and restricted electives designed to impart the character, knowledge, and skill competencies deemed essential for each particular role.

Choices from the restricted electives are informed by each student's strengths, interests, and ministry goals, as identified in consultation with each specialization's faculty mentor. More detailed statements of the outcomes that guide each of the ministry specializations can be obtained by request from the Admissions Office.

Ministry specializations are currently offered in the following ministry roles: pastoral ministry and expositional ministry.

Students enrolled in ministry specializations also design their mentored field ministry practicum courses under the guidance of that specialization's faculty mentor. These course experiences will further the development of gifts and skills for ministry identified in the specialization.

EXPOSITIONAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

The M.Div. 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 specific outcomes. For each student, these outcomes are:

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.

M.Div. Expository Ministry Track:

Spiritual formation: 6 credits

- 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 credits

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture (4)
- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel..... (2)
- BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)
- BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi..... (2)
- BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels (2)
- BLS 503X Interpreting New Testament II: Epistles 1..... (2)
- BLS 503Y Interpreting New Testament III: Epistles 2 (2)



Biblical language studies: 12 credits

- 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 credits

- CHS 505X Wisdom from Church History, Pt 1(2)
- CHS 505Y Wisdom from Church History, Pt 2.....(2)
- 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)

Ministerial studies: 20 credits

- 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 credits

- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential(2)
- MFM 501-504 Mentored Field Ministry(1+1+1+1)

Expositional ministry restricted electives:

10 credits

- NTS or OTS exegesis course.....(2)
- BLS, CHS, NTS, OTS, THS electives(6)
- PTS or EMS communications course(2)

Open electives: 4 credits

Total: 90 credits

PASTORAL MINISTRY SPECIALIZATION

The Pastoral Ministry specialization is designed as the foundational preparation for those who are called and expect 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. For each student, these outcomes are:

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 genre.

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.

M.Div. Pastoral Ministry Track:

Spiritual formation: 6 credits

- 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 credits

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture(4)
- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel.....(2)
- BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)
- BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi.....(2)
- BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels(2)
- BLS 503X Interpreting New Testament II: Epistles 1(2)
- BLS 503Y Interpreting New Testament III: Epistles 2(2)

Biblical language studies: 12 credits

(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 credits

- CHS 505X Wisdom from Church History, Pt 1(2)
- CHS 505Y Wisdom from Church History, Pt 2.....(2)
- 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)

Ministerial studies: 20 credits

- 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 credits

- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential (2)
- MFM 501-504 Mentored Field Ministry (1+1+1+1)

Pastoral ministry required course: 2 credits

- PTS 506 Providing Pastoral Care (2)

Pastoral ministry restricted electives: 8 credits

- NTS or OTS exegesis course..... (2)
- PTS communication course (2)
- PTS or CNS electives (4)

Open electives: 4 credits

Total: 90 credits