

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) (MA/TS)

MA/TS Purpose

The MA/TS provides a basic understanding of Christianity for general educational purposes. Trinity's MA/TS draws from the breadth of the curriculum requiring substantive study in biblical, theological, and historical and global areas, combined with a significant number of units in the student's area of interest. The MA/TS is particularly suited for Christians desiring to better understand God's revelation to humanity in the biblical and theological context of orthodox historic Christianity and who are engaged in non-church-related vocations or for those seeking a general theological degree to accompany a specialized master's degree. As a seminary degree, its particular focus is to relate theological studies to the work of the church. Program participants may also elect to focus their elective coursework, capstone project, and field education coursework on a particular subject area available in the curriculum or at their particular site.

The MA/TS may be completed in-person at the Deerfield campus and fully online.

Program Outcomes

Students graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies will be able to:

- Understand the biblical and theological constructs that form the foundation for the Christian faith.
- Think critically and constructively about the historic and global contexts of Christianity.
- Examine closely an area of Christian studies of personal interest.
- Articulate their Christian faith in light of their present vocational engagement.
- Grow in personal and spiritual maturity.
- Demonstrate competence in writing and research.

MA/TS and the MDiv or a Second Degree

The flexibility of the MA/TS curriculum and its biblical-theological focus makes it an ideal fit as a complementary degree to other MA programs, such as the MA in MHC. Students may complete their MA/TS degree and, depending on course alignment, also use all the units in the program toward an MDiv degree. If MA/TS students are anticipating future MDiv studies, they should select courses that are required in the MDiv program, including biblical language courses. See Degree Combinations or a Second TEDS Degree (<https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/academic-life/information/>).

MA/TS Admission Requirements and Prerequisites

The admission requirements for the MA/TS are those described in General Admission Requirements for Master's Programs ([https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/admissions/general-](https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/admissions/general-admission-requirements-masters-programs/)

[admission-requirements-masters-programs/](https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/admissions/general-admission-requirements-masters-programs/)) and the following requirements specific to the MA/TS:

- Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree, or the educational equivalent, from a recognized accredited institution.
- The applicant's undergraduate grade point average must be a minimum of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; however, since GPA is not always an accurate indicator of an applicant's abilities for graduate work, those with a lower GPA are encouraged to consult with an admission counselor.
- Applicants without an accredited undergraduate degree or who otherwise do not meet the admission requirements may be asked to submit additional documents, such as test scores, a writing sample or other evidence of preparation for Master's level coursework as decided by the program director and the Admissions team.

MA/TS Residency Requirement and Program Duration

The residency requirement for the MA/TS degree is a minimum of 24 units must be completed through Trinity coursework, with the final 8 units taken through Trinity. The 24 units may be completed with either in-person and online classes.

MA/TS Statute of Limitation

All MA/TS requirements must be completed within eight years of matriculation into the program. Extension of the statute of limitation for up to two years may be granted by petition when a student has demonstrated consistent program progress toward the degree.

MA/TS Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General Graduation Requirements for All Master's Programs (<https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/academic-life/information/>).
- Complete a minimum of 42 units with a cumulative GPA for program coursework of at least 2.5, with no coursework graded below a "C-" applicable to the degree.
- Fulfill all entrance deficiencies and conditions.
- Complete two semesters of PT 5090; or one semester of PT 5090 and two semesters of ID 5080.
- Complete ID 7468 in the form of an integrative paper or ministry project for 2 units.

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) Requirements

The flexibility of the curriculum in the MA/TS allows participants to focus a significant part of their studies in an area of interest. Options available vary widely according to the interests of the student, curriculum available at a particular site, and course selections a student might make from the ability to cross-register into other seminaries in the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) consortium. Such flexibility provides a strong understanding of Christianity for general educational purposes while enabling students to use the 16 units of electives plus the capstone in their area of interest. Interest areas include: church administration, age or specialized ministry, Bible, theology, and many

others. Many interest areas may be further pursued in a complete degree program in that area.

Code	Title	Hours
Biblical Studies		
Select 8 units of Biblical Studies ¹		8
Recommended:		
NT 5001	Introduction to the New Testament 1	
NT 5002	Introduction to the New Testament 2	
OT 5001	Introduction to the Old Testament 1	
OT 5002	Introduction to the Old Testament 2	
Theological Studies		
Select 8 units of Theological Studies ²		8
Recommended:		
ID 5000	Biblical Theology and Interpretation	
ST 5211	Theology 1: The God of the Gospel: From the Father	
ST 5212	Theology 2: The God of the Gospel: Through the Son	
ST 5213	Theology 3: The God of the Gospel: In the Holy Spirit	
Historical and Global Studies		
Select 6 units of Historical and Global Studies ³		6
Recommended:		
CH 5061	History of Christianity 1. The Patristic and Middle Ages	
CH 5062	History of Christianity 2. The Age of Reform	
CH 5063	History of Christianity 3. The Modern Age	
ID 6500	Understanding the Social and Cultural Contexts of Ministry	
ME 5001	Evangelism and the Local Church	
ME 6760	Theology of Mission & Evangelism	
Required ¹		
ID 5080 & 5080 & PT 5090 or PT 5090 & 5090	Formation Group and Formation Group and Field Education Field Education and Field Education	0
ID 7467	MA Theological Studies Capstone Proposal	0
ID 7468	MA (Theological Studies) Capstone	2
PT 5100	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	2
Electives ⁵		16
Total Hours		42

¹ Include both NT and OT studies; beginning language classes not applicable.

² Select from BE, PR, and/or ST courses.

³ Select from CH and/or ME courses.

⁴ Includes either two semesters of ID 5080 plus one semester of PT 5090, or two semesters of PT 5090.

⁵ These courses may focus in a department or area of interest of be selected from across the curriculum.

Optional Tracks

Students completing the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) may choose to complete one of the following optional tracks as part of their coursework.

Cross-Cultural Ministry Track

Code	Title	Hours
ID 6500	Understanding the Social and Cultural Contexts of Ministry	2
ME 5000	Global Mission and the Local Church	2
ME 5001	Evangelism and the Local Church	2
ME 6410	History of the Expansion of Christianity	2
ME 6610	Anthropology and Society	2
ME 6760	Theology of Mission & Evangelism	2
ME 7300	World Religions	2
ME 7450	The Church in Latin America, Africa, and Asia since 1500	2
ME 7710	Gospel in Cultural Context	2-3
ME 8230	Global Church Planting and Development	2-3
PT 6500	Money and Ministry	2
ST 5600	The Christian Life and Contemporary Challenges	2
Total Hours		24-26

Executive Leadership Track

Code	Title	Hours
EM 5110	Educational Ministry	2
EM 6265	Building Ministry Teams	1-2
EM 6275	Developing Healthy Spiritual Leaders	1-2
ES 7550	Local Church as System	1-2
ES 7815	Change, Power, and Conflict	1-2
ES 8710	Social Intelligence and Leadership	1-2
ES 8715	Appreciative Inquiry	1-2
ME 8250	Leadership Development and Culture	2-3
PT 6500	Money and Ministry	2
PT 7290	Pastoral Practices	2
Total Hours		14-21

Ministry Care Track

Code	Title	Hours
EM 5125	Teaching and Learning	2
HM 6200	Theology and Methodology of Biblical Preaching	2
HM 6201	Preaching Lab	2
HM 7215	Preaching with Genre Sensitivity	2
HM 7220	Preaching and Pastoral Issues	2
HM 7316	Preaching and Systematic Theology	2
HM 7410	Learning from Minoritized Preaching Traditions	2
PT 6280	Christian Worship	2
PT 7225	The Essence of Biblical Leadership	2
PT 7290	Pastoral Practices	2
Total Hours		20

Preaching Ministry Track

Code	Title	Hours
EM 5125	Teaching and Learning	2
HM 6200	Theology and Methodology of Biblical Preaching	2
HM 6201	Preaching Lab	2
HM 7215	Preaching with Genre Sensitivity	2
HM 7220	Preaching and Pastoral Issues	2
HM 7316	Preaching and Systematic Theology	2
HM 7410	Learning from Minoritized Preaching Traditions	2
PT 6280	Christian Worship	2
PT 7225	The Essence of Biblical Leadership	2
PT 7290	Pastoral Practices	2
Total Hours		20