

CONCENTRATION IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (MA/ST)

MA/ST Concentration Purpose

The Master of Arts concentration in Systematic Theology provides specialized study in Christian doctrine: its biblical grounding, historical development, logical coherence, and contemporary context. The MA/ST trains students to engage theological ideas in the world today through a strong biblical, evangelical foundation, mastery of our diverse theological heritage, and familiarity with contemporary (including global) developments in theology. The concentration seeks to equip students to become responsible interpreters of Scripture and faithful stewards of Christian thought. The MA/ST is academic rather than professional in focus, preparing participants in knowledge and practice for teaching or researching in Christian secondary schools, or as a preparatory step (among others) toward doctoral study in a related area.

MA/ST Concentration Objectives and Student Learning Objectives

- Students will learn to think from a biblical, evangelical foundation and responsibly interpret Scripture (e.g., by taking the "Use of Scripture in Theology" course).
- Students will obtain competence in the historic traditions of Christian theology (e.g., by taking courses in historical theology).
- Students will gain familiarity with contemporary, global developments in Christian theology (e.g., by taking Contemporary Theology).
- Students will develop skills in speaking, writing, and teaching towards professional/vocational goals (e.g., through papers, seminar presentations, and perhaps a thesis).

MA/ST Prerequisites

Students who are admitted with an undergraduate major in Bible and/or theology, or who took a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate work in biblical and/or theological studies are eligible for substituting courses in the core Systematic Theology sequence, pending approval from the department chair. Students who lack these prerequisites will be required to take the Systematic Theology sequence consisting of ST 5211, ST 5212, and ST 5213.

MA/ST Concentration Format

The MA/ST is offered only in a residential format. Students who are admitted to the MA/ST should expect that some required courses will be offered only in person on the main campus. Students should not expect to graduate without taking these courses in a residential format. Students should plan to take the MA/ST Comprehensive Exam in person on the main campus.

Code	Title	Hours
Biblical and Theology Core ¹		
ID 5000	Biblical Theology and Interpretation	2
ST 5211	Theology 1: The God of the Gospel: From the Father	2

ST 5212	Theology 2: The God of the Gospel: Through the Son	2
ST 5213	Theology 3: The God of the Gospel: In the Holy Spirit	2
Concentration Core ¹		
ST 5600	The Christian Life and Contemporary Challenges	2
ST 7200	Christian Ethics	2
ST 7504	Theological Method	2
ST 7505	Use of Scripture and Theology	2
Select two hours in Biblical Theology (NT or OT)		2
Select four hours, in Historical Theology and/or Contemporary Theology such as:		4
CH 8330	John Calvin	
ST 8100	Essentials of Reformed Theology	
ST 8102	Analytic Theology	
ST 8310	Theology of Augustine	
ST electives ²		6-12
Select at least 6 hours of elective courses in Systematic Theology, such as: ³		
ST 7715	Political Theology	
ST 8000	Seminar: Current Issues in Theology	
ST 8211	God in Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology	
ST 8213	Models of Sanctification	
ST 8200	Seminar: Current Issues in Theology	
ST 8215	Pneumatology	
ST 8224	Theological Investigation in Human Identity: Gender	
ST 8225	Theological Investigation in Human Identity: Race	
Elective Courses		0-6
After satisfying the above-mentioned requirements, students who have not taken a total of 36 hours may take further elective course work in a secondary area related to the Concentration (e.g. Apologetics, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion; Bioethics).		
Field Education		
Select one of the following:		
ID 5080	Formation Group (2 semesters)	0
PT 5090	Field Education (1 semester)	0
MA/ST Capstone		
ST 7477	MA Major Comprehensive Exam ⁴	0
Select one of the following:		2
ST 7485	MA Thesis	
ST 7980 & 7980	MA Major Research Paper and MA Major Research Paper	
Total Hours		36

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MA/ST students should work with faculty advisor to ensure coursework provides adequate background for the capstone comprehensive exam and writing projects.

3

For courses numbered 8000 and above, students must have either (a) taken the three core ST courses or have those courses counted as credit from a prior degree or (b) request permission from the department chair to be admitted into such a course.

4

Students may elect to complete the Comprehensive Exam for 1 hour of credit.