

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

1. 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).
2. Students will obtain competence in the historic traditions of Christian theology (e.g., by taking courses in historical theology).
3. Students will gain familiarity with contemporary, global developments in Christian theology (e.g., by taking Contemporary Theology).
4. 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

An undergraduate major in Bible and/or theology, or a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate work in biblical and/or theological studies. Students entering with deficiencies are advised to satisfy up to 9 hours of those deficiencies by taking any or all of ST 5201, 5202, and ID 5000.

Code	Title	Hours
Biblical and Theology Core		
ID 5000	Biblical Theology and Interpretation	3
ST 5201 & ST 5202	Theology I: The God of the Gospel and Theology II: The Gospel of God	6
Students who have taken the equivalent of these courses with a grade of B or above are encouraged to take at least two advanced doctrinal courses such as the following:		
ST 7070	Models of Sanctification	
ST 8040	Justification	
ST 8050	Pneumatology	
ST 8xxx	Christology	
ST 8xxx	Providence	
ST 8xxx	God in Biblical and Systematic Theology	
Concentration Core ^{1,2}		
ID 6011	The Church and its Mission	2
ST 7505	Use of Scripture and Theology	3

Select one course in Biblical Theology such as:	3
OT 7090	Old Testament Theology
NT 8640	New Testament Theology
Select two courses, in Historical Theology and/or Contemporary Theology such as:	5-6
CH 8320	Luther
CH 8330	Calvin
CH 8361	Jonathan Edwards
ST 7510	Survey of Contemporary Theology
ST 8310	Theology of Augustine
ST 8360	Karl Barth
ST 8390	Recent & Contemporary Theologians
ST electives (6-12 hours)	
Elective Courses	
Select 7-8 hours of elective courses ³	7-8
Symposium in ST (two times/semester)	
Symposium in ST once each semester and one ST discussion each semester ⁴	0
Field Education	
Select one of the following:	0
PT 5090	Field Education (1 semester)
ID 5080	Formation Group (2 semesters)
MA/ST Capstone	
MA/ST Major Comprehensie Exam	0
Select one of the following:	
ST 7980	MA Major Research Paper (Two)
ST 7485	MA Thesis ⁵
Total Hours	32

- ¹ Up to 2 hours of the Capstone Project may be applied to the Core
- ² MA/ST students should work with faculty advisor to ensure coursework provides adequate background for the capstone comprehensive exam and writing projects.
- ³ After satisfying the above mentioned requirements, students who have not taken a total of 32 hours may take further elective course work in a secondary area related to the Concentration (e.g., Apologetics; Ethics; Philosophy of Religion; Bioethics).
- ⁴ Each MA/ST student is required to attend a Symposium in ST once each semester. In addition, each student is required to attend a discussion groups coordinated by the department in that same semester. Thus in two semesters of coursework, a student will attend two symposiums and two discussion groups. ST Symposia will be hosted by the ST Department.
- ⁵ The thesis option requires a research methods course as an elective (generally ID 7900)