

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 hours 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, in-person or online (hybrid) at Trinity International University - Florida, fully online, and at the extension sites (listed here (<https://catalog.tiu.edu/evangelical-divinity-school/academic-life/flexible-delivery-extension-affiliated-online-distance-education/sites/>)).

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/MHC. Students may also complete their MA/TS degree and, depending on course alignment, use all the hours 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" in this Catalog.)

MA/TS Admission Requirements and Prerequisites

The admission requirements for the MA/TS are those described in the Admissions section of the Catalog and the following requirements specific to the MA/TS:

Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree, or the educational equivalent, from a recognized accredited institution. Applicants who lack an accredited baccalaureate degree may be asked to submit additional application materials, including a recent writing sample and evidence of their ministry experience. In some cases, admission with deficiencies is possible with the fulfillment of those deficiencies at Trinity.

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 admissions counselor.

Scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) (preferred) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) are required for applicants whose undergraduate GPA is less than 2.5, for those who do not have an accredited baccalaureate degree, and for others upon request from the Admissions Office.

MA/TS Residency Requirement and Program Duration

The residency requirement for the MA/TS degree is a minimum of 24 hours must be completed through Trinity coursework, with the final 8 hours taken through Trinity. The 24 hours may be completed with a combination of Bannockburn and extension site courses and through Trinity Distance Education or independent study courses as arranged with the program advisor.

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.
- Complete a minimum of 42 semester hours with a cumulative GPA for program coursework of at least 2.5, with no coursework graded below a "C-" applicable to the degree.
- All entrance deficiencies and conditions are removed.
- Complete two semesters of Field Education; or one semester of Field Education and two semesters of Formation Group.
- Complete the MA/TS capstone project in the form of an integrative paper or ministry project for 2 hours.

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 eclectic 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 5-17 semester hours 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 hours 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 hours 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 hours 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	

Electives ⁴ 16

Required

PT 5100 Spiritual Formation for Ministry 2

Select one option from the following: 0

Option 1:		
PT 5090	Field Education (two semesters)	
Option 2:		
ID 5080	Formation Group (two semesters)	
PT 5090	Field Education (one semester)	

Capstone 2

ID 7467 MA Theological Studies Capstone Proposal 0

ID 7468 MA (Theological Studies) Capstone 2

Total Hours 42

1

Include both OT and NT studies; languages not applicable.

2

Select from ST, PR, CC, BE studies

3

Select from CH and ME studies

4

These courses may focus in a department or area of interest or 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.

Code	Title	Hours
Cross-Cultural Ministry Track		
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 for Ministry	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

Code	Title	Hours
Executive Leadership Track		
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

Code	Title	Hours
Preaching Ministry Track		
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

Code	Title	Hours
Ministry Care Track		
BE 5020	Bioethics and Cultural Engagement	2-3
CM 5000	Introduction to Counseling Ministries	2
CM 6000	Issues in Counseling Ministries	1-3
EM 5510	Christian Formation & Journey	1-2
EM 6265	Building Ministry Teams	1-2
EM 6275	Developing Healthy Spiritual Leaders	1-2
ES 7815	Change, Power, and Conflict	1-2
ID 6500	Understanding the Social and Cultural Contexts of Ministry	2
PT 7290	Pastoral Practices	2
ST 5600	The Christian Life and Contemporary Challenges	2
ST 7200	Christian Ethics	2
Total Hours		17-24