

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

MA/TS Program Purpose

The MA/TS purposes to provide a basic understanding of Christianity for general educational purposes. Trinity's MA/TS program 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 program 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-pastoral vocations or for those seeking a general theological degree to accompany a specialized master's degree. As a seminary degree, its particular concern 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 total at the Florida Regional Center. Some coursework may also be completed through distance education.

MA/TS Program Objectives

The MA/TS will enable participants to

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

MA/TS Program Admission Requirements and Prerequisites

The admission requirements for the MA/TS are those described under the Admissions section of the catalog and the following further requirements specific to the MA/TS program:

1. Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree, or the educational equivalent, from a recognized accredited institution. In some cases, admission with deficiencies is possible with fulfillment of those deficiencies at Trinity.
2. 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 indication of an applicant's abilities for graduate work, those with a lower GPA are encouraged to consult with an admissions counselor.
3. 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, and for others upon request from the Admissions Office. The recommended minimum scores are the 50th percentile for both GRE (150 verbal, 4.0 analytical) and MAT (400). Note that standardized test scores alone will not determine

whether an applicant is admitted to a program of study, but will be considered in conjunction with the rest of an applicant's file.

MA/TS Residency Requirement and Program Duration

The residency requirement for the MA/TS degree is that 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 in Florida, at an extension site, at the Deerfield campus, or through Trinity Distance Education or independent study courses as arranged with the program advisor.

Note: It is not the design or intent of the MA/TS program to be completed solely in an independent or distant mode. Participants should anticipate spending a majority of their coursework in the classroom at a TEDS site. Numerous delivery options are available, including summer, weekend, evening, and other class formats.

MA/TS Statute of Limitations

All MA/TS program 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 Candidacy Requirements

Admission to the MA/TS program must be followed by achievement of candidacy for the degree. Program candidacy occurs when:

1. A minimum of 16 hours in the program is completed with a minimum GPA of 2.5 for program coursework after admission to the program
2. All entrance deficiencies and conditions are removed.
3. Formal action has been taken by the faculty to grant candidacy for the degree.
4. Additional candidacy requirements may be present at regional sites. Contact the local program director for details.

MA/TS Graduation Requirements

1. Complete the General Graduation Requirements for all master's programs.
2. 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.
3. Complete two semesters of Field Education; or one semester of Field Education and two semesters of Formation Group.
4. 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 complete as many as 14 or more semester hours (electives plus 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 7-12 hours of Biblical Studies ¹		7-12
Recommended:		
OT 5000	Intro to the Old Testament	
NT 5000	Intro to the New Testament	
Theological Studies		
Select 9-12 hours of Theological Studies ²		9-12
Recommended:		
ID 5000	Biblical Theology and Interpretation	
ST 5201	Theology I: The God of the Gospel	
ST 5202	Theology II: The Gospel of God	
Historical and Global Studies		
Select 5-9 hours of Historical and Global Studies ³		5-9
Recommended:		
CH 5051	History of Christianity I	
CH 5052	History of Christianity II or CH 5050 American Church History	
ID 6500	Understanding the Social and Cultural Contexts of Ministry	
ME 6410	History of Missions in the Modern World	
ME 6760	Theology of Mission & Evangelism	
ME 7710	Contextualization	
Electives ⁴		5-16
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:		
PT 5090	Field Education (one semester)	
ID 5080	Formation Group (two semesters)	
Capstone		
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.