

MASTER OF ARTS (BIBLICAL STUDIES)

Vocational Calling

To prepare students for research degrees in biblical studies for the purpose of teaching, research, or writing in various fields of biblical studies. Students may opt for a broad-based degree in Biblical Languages or for a concentration in Old Testament and Hebrew, New Testament and Greek, or Biblical Backgrounds.

Prerequisites: Equivalent of 3 hours each of Introductory Greek Grammar, Introductory Hebrew Grammar, Exploring the Old Testament, Exploring the New Testament, and Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics

Basic Ministerial Competency Component (36-37 hours)

Biblical Studies Competency	(14 hours)
Encountering the Biblical World*	2 hours
Intermediate Greek Grammar for NT Exegesis*	3 hours
Greek Exegesis	3 hours
Intermediate Hebrew Grammar for OT Exegesis*	3 hours
Hebrew Exegesis	3 hours

Theological and Historical Studies Competency	(16 hours)
History of Christianity: Early-Medieval*	2 hours
History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern*	3 hours
Baptist Heritage*	2 hours
Systematic Theology 1	3 hours
Systematic Theology 2	3 hours
NOBTS, SBC, and Cooperative Program	**
One course from the following:	3 hours
Philosophy of Religion,	
Christian Ethics*	
Contemporary Philosophical Hermeneutics	

Ministry Studies Competency	(6-7 hours)
Supervised Ministry 1: Personal Evangelism Practicum	2 hours
Spiritual Formation 1	1 hour
Spiritual Formation 2	1 hour
Ministry Studies elective	2-3 hours
(choose one of the following)	
Church Leadership and Administration	2 hours
Pastoral Ministry OR Christian Ministry	3 hours
Proclaiming the Bible OR Teaching the Bible	3 hours
Interpersonal Relationship Skills	2 hours
Worship Leadership	3 hours

*Credit for some courses may be achieved through the Baptist College Partnership Program.

**All graduate students must take this course during orientation in their first semester; however, students will not receive a credit hour or be charged for the course.

Biblical Studies Concentration (9 hours)

Concentration	(9 hours)
An area of concentration should be declared no later than the beginning of third semester of course work in order to fulfill the requirements for the concentration and write a satisfactory thesis. Students may choose a concentration in one of the following areas:	

New Testament and Greek	9 hours
Greek Exegesis	6 hours
Hebrew Exegesis	3 hours

Old Testament and Hebrew	9 hours
Hebrew Exegesis	6 hours
Greek Exegesis	3 hours

Biblical Languages	9 hours
Hebrew Exegesis	3 hours
Greek Exegesis	3 hours
Biblical Aramaic	3 hours

Biblical Backgrounds***	9 hours
Any Biblical Backgrounds and Archaeology courses	9 hours

***Students taking the Biblical Backgrounds concentration will need to take 3 semester hours each of Greek and Hebrew Exegesis courses if they intend to make application to the PhD program in the Division of Biblical Studies.

Electives Component (4-6 hours)

Free Electives	(4-6 hours)
These two courses may be taken from within the Division of Biblical Studies or outside the division.	

Thesis Component (4 hours)

Thesis	(4 hours)
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Total Required: 53-56 hours

Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)

(Continued)

Admission Requirements and Process

Admission to the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) requires the following:

1. Applicants must fulfill all the normal admission requirements for NOBTS, including the admission form, transcript, church endorsement, statement of call, medical clearance, TOEFL for international students, etc.
2. Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree, normally with at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale, from an institution accredited by a regional accreditation agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or holding membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, or the educational equivalent.
3. Applicants must have completed a total of at least 24 transcript credit hours with a grade of "B" or above in biblical studies, theology, historical studies, philosophy, and ethics.
4. Applicants must submit a research paper on a topic in some area of theological studies for consideration by the Division of Biblical Studies. In some cases the division may require a personal interview with the applicant.
5. The Division of Biblical Studies, in consultation with the Registrar, will evaluate the transcript of the applicant. Students should evidence the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for the particular application of this degree. Students with weak undergraduate preparation in a discipline may be required to take introductory courses or, in some cases, remedial work to insure minimum competency in that discipline. Students with strong undergraduate preparation in a discipline may be eligible for advanced standing and may therefore take advanced electives in that discipline rather than the introductory courses in that discipline. After the transcript evaluation and the approval of the Division of Biblical Studies, a faculty advisor will be assigned who will assist in the design of a plan of study tailored to meet the needs of the student.

Prerequisite Studies

Prerequisite to entry into Intermediate Greek and Hebrew courses are elementary Greek and Hebrew, and Biblical Hermeneutics at the collegiate level; thus, the student with such prerequisites would be able to go directly into advanced Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses. Applicants who cannot earn credit in elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew through the Baptist College Partnership Program must earn these credits prior to entry into the MA (Biblical Studies) program. Students who complete the MA (Biblical Studies) program will have earned the 12 hours each in Greek and Hebrew required for application to the PhD program in the area of Old Testament or New Testament.

Academic Requirements

The 53-56 hour course requirement of the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree (as delineated above) is intended to introduce students to a broad range of theological disciplines necessary for further studies in biblical studies. A thesis is required. Students in the MA (Biblical Studies) must maintain at least a B average in the program. Those who do not maintain a 3.0 GPA will go on probation status after the first semester and will be dismissed after the second consecutive semester below a 3.0 average.

Thesis Guidelines

An acceptable research thesis of 75-100 pages in Turabian style must be done in the student's area of concentration.

1. Upon the student's completion of 30 semester hours of the degree program, the division chairperson will appoint a Thesis Advisor, who will assist the student in development of a Thesis Proposal.
2. The student shall present the Thesis Proposal for approval to the Thesis Advisor no later than one semester after the completion of all course work in the degree program.
3. The Thesis Advisor will approve the Thesis Proposal in consultation with the Division of Biblical Studies and provide guidance to the student during the writing of the thesis.
4. The thesis shall be submitted not later than March 1 for May graduation or October 1 for December graduation. Corrections shall be completed no later than May 1 and December 1 respectively.
5. An additional reader will be appointed to assist the Thesis Advisor in evaluating the thesis.

PhD Eligibility

Students who complete all the degree requirements of the MA (Biblical Studies) are eligible to apply to the PhD at NOBTS in the majors of Old Testament or New Testament. Students who choose to major in other disciplines may be required to take other prerequisite courses as required in those majors.

For further information, please contact:

- **Dr. Dennis Cole (Curriculum Coordinator)**
- **Dr. Archie England (Old Testament Advisor)**
- **Dr. Charles Ray (New Testament Advisor)**
- **Academic Advisor in the Registrar's Office**