

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)

Vocational Calling

To prepare students for research degrees in theological studies for the purpose of teaching, research, or writing in a field of theological studies. Students may opt for a generalist degree or for a concentration in Theology, Church History, Philosophy of Religion and Apologetics, Christian Ethics, or Islamic Studies. This is an **advanced** degree, not a first degree in Religion. Students must have a baccalaureate degree in Religion. The goal is to prepare the student for entry into the PhD program.

Basic Competency Component * (36 hours)

Biblical Studies Component (12 hours)

Greek Exegesis courses 6 hours
 Hebrew Exegesis courses 6 hours

It is presupposed that students will have had elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew at the collegiate level; thus, the student would be able to go directly into advanced Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses. Through the Baptist College Partnership Program, such students with such prerequisites would automatically receive transcribed credit at NOBTS for elementary and intermediate Greek and/or Hebrew. Applicants who cannot earn credit in elementary and intermediate Greek and Hebrew through the Baptist College Partnership Program must earn these credits during the MA (Theology) program as a condition of graduation. Students who complete the MA (Theology) program will have earned the 12 hours each in Greek and Hebrew required for application to the PhD program in the areas of theology and church history.

Historical Studies Component (7 hours)

History of Christianity: Early-Medieval** 2 hours
 History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern** 3 hours
 Baptist Heritage* 2 hours
 NOBTS, SBC, and Cooperative Program ***

Theological Studies Component (6 hours)

Systematic Theology 1 3 hours
 Systematic Theology 2 3 hours

Philosophical/Ethical Studies Component (6 hours)

Philosophy of Religion 3 hours
 Christian Ethics** OR Biblical Ethics 3 hours

Ministry Studies Component (5 hours)

Proclaiming the Bible OR Teaching the Bible 3 hours
 Supervised Ministry 1: Personal Evangelism Practicum 2 hours

Theology Concentration & Electives Component (18 hours)

Concentration (9 hours)

In order to complete these hours, students may choose to pursue a generalist degree or a concentration in one of the following areas:

Theological Studies Generalist
 Church History
 Theology
 Philosophy of Religion and Apologetics
 Islamic Studies
 Christian Ethics

Note: No later than the third semester of course work the student should declare an area of concentration and secure a Thesis Advisor.

Electives (9 hours)

Note: Electives are to be taken from within the Division of Theological and Historical Studies.

Thesis Component (4 hours)

Thesis (4 hours)

An acceptable research thesis of 75-100 pages in Turabian style must be written in the student's area of concentration. The division will appoint a Thesis Advisor to approve the thesis proposal (in consultation with the division) and provide guidance to the student in the writing of the thesis. The thesis proposal must be submitted for approval no later than within one semester of completion of coursework. The thesis will be evaluated by the Thesis Advisor and one additional reader.

Total Required: 58 hours

*Upon the transcript evaluation by the division, students with strong undergraduate preparation may be accorded advanced standing for certain introductory classes, and advanced electives may then be substituted for those introductory courses.

**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.

Master of Arts (Theology) (Continued)

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the MA (Theology) degree 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. Upon admission to the Seminary, students desiring admission to the MA (Theology) program will apply to the Theological and Historical Studies Division for admission to the MA (Theology) program. The following criteria will be used in reviewing applications for the MA (Theology) program:

- 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.
- Applicants must have completed a total of at least 24 transcribed credit hours with a grade of "B" or above in biblical studies, theology, historical studies, philosophy, and/or ethics.
- Applicants must submit a research paper on a topic in some area of theological studies for consideration by the Theological and Historical division. In some cases the division may require a personal interview with the applicant.
- Students should evidence the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for the particular application of this degree.
- The Theological and Historical Studies Division, in consultation with the Registrar, shall determine the applicant's suitability for admission and admit qualified candidates into the MA (Theology) program. Upon admission to the MA (Theology) program, the Theological and Historical Studies Division, will tailor a program of study for each student. 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.

Academic Requirements

The 58 hour course requirement of the MA (Theology) degree (as delineated above) is intended to introduce students to a broad range of theological disciplines necessary for further studies in theological research or interdisciplinary studies related to theology. A thesis is required. Students in the MA (Theology) 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.

PhD Eligibility

Students who complete all the degree requirements of the MA (Theology) are eligible to apply to the PhD at NOBTS in the majors of Church History and Theology. 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. Jeffrey B. Riley (Curriculum Coordinator)**
- **Dr. Michael H. Edens (Concentration Advisor)**
- **Academic Advisor in the Registrar's Office**