Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies degree is a general theological degree designed for persons who want to explore disciplines related to theology and religion. The degree requires forty-nine semester hours and provides a basic understanding of theology, biblical studies, history and ethics.

The M.T.S. is an appropriate degree program for (1) lay persons who seek to enrich their theological understanding; (2) persons who wish to examine and develop religious and theological perspectives on their life situations; or (3) persons who plan to use the M.T.S. degree as preparation for further graduate study such as a Master in Theology.

The degree is not designed for those who want to pursue vocations such as ordained ministry. Normally those seeking to prepare for ministerial vocations pursue the M.Div. or M.A.T.M. degrees at Brite.

Curriculum

I. Distributive requirements - 24 hours
Six hours (two courses) from each of the following areas:

A. Biblical Studies (prerequisite must be met as required) – HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, HEBI 65013 Exegesis in the Hebrew Bible, HEBI 65023 Exegesis in Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, NETE 60003 Interpreting the New Testament, NETE 65013 Exegesis in the Gospels and Acts, NETE 65023 Exegesis in the N.T. Epistles, NETE 65033 Exegesis in the Gospels and Acts (Greek), or NETE 65043 Exegesis in the N.T. Epistles (Greek)

B. Historical Studies (must choose at least one 60000 level course) – CHHI 60013 History of Christianity I, Early and Medieval, CHHI 60023 History of Christianity II, Reformation and Modern, CHHI 70013 History of Christianity in America, or any other CHHI 70000 level course

C. Theological/Ethical Studies (70000s as approved by advisor and the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs) – CTHH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology I, CHET 60013 Introduction to Contemporary Theological Ethics, or CHET 65013 History of Christian Ethics


II. Electives - 21 hours
Concentration and elective hours are to be selected in consultation with the student’s faculty advisor. Graduate courses from TCU divisions normally do not receive credit toward the M.T.S. degree. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) courses, however, do not count toward a degree at Brite.

III. Colloquium/Final Exercise - 4 hours
Students will participate in a three-hour MTS Colloquium, normally in the penultimate semester of study, which provides students with a foundation in theological research and writing and lays a substantive foundation for a final exercise. Following completion of the colloquium, students will complete a final exercise. The final exercise consists of a one-hour independent research study course in one of the appropriate departments, as listed in the above Distributive requirements taken in the final semester of the program. The student will work closely with a professor to integrate material covered in coursework and produce a final paper, normally 20-30 pages in length.