Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity degree is the basic graduate degree in theological education. The eighty-one hour program of study leading to this degree is designed to prepare students for various forms of ministry in the church. In recognition of the great diversity of students’ undergraduate preparation and vocational goals, the M.Div. curriculum is flexible and allows much freedom in the selection of courses. An optional certificate in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, Military Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, or Sexual and Gender Justice is also available within the structure of the general M.Div. program.

Curriculum

I. Basic Theological Studies - 57 hours

Requirements for Basic Theological Studies are normally satisfied by courses in the 60003-69999 series. However, a student with a special background in a subject matter may, with approval, substitute an advanced course for a 60003-69999 series course.

A. Bible - 9 hours, of which 3 must be in Hebrew Bible (HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books) and 3 in New Testament (NETE 60003 Interpreting the New Testament). Once the appropriate introductory course is completed, the 3 hours of an exegesis course (650xx) may be chosen from the wide range of upper level courses in either HEBI or NETE.

B. History - 6 hours:
   1. CHHI 60013 History of Christianity I, Early and Medieval
   2. CHHI 60023 History of Christianity II, Reformation and Modern

C. Theology and Ethics - 12 hours, distributed in the following ways:
   1. CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology I
   2. CHTH 65003 Introduction to Christian Theology II
   3. CHET 60013 Introduction to Contemporary Theological Ethics
   4. One course selected from the following:
      CHTH 65033 Black Theologies
      CHET 65013 History of Christian Ethics
      CHET 65073 Feminist Theology and Ethics
      RECU 65013 Seminar: Social Ethics
      RECU 65033 Religion and Violence
      RECU 65053 African-American Experiences and Perspectives in Social Ethics
      RECU 65083 Feminism in American Culture
      Modern Christian Political Thought
      Womanist Theology and Ethics

D. Practical Theology - 24 hours
   1. HOML 65003 Foundations for Preaching
   2. PRTH 60003 Congregational Leadership
   3. PRTH 65013 Supervised Ministry I
   4. PRTH 65023 Supervised Ministry II
   5. PTPC 60003 The Ministry of Pastoral Care
   6. REED 60003 The Church’s Educational Ministry
   7. SPIR 60003 Spiritual Life and Leadership
   8. WRSP 60003 Christian Worship

E. Contextualization - 6 hours

Three hours chosen from any of the following:
   1. JWST 60003 Introduction to Judaism
   2. RECU 60013 Religious Plurality: Theologies and Geopolitics of Religion
   3. RECU 60023 Christian Theology of Religion
   4. RECU 60033 Religious Fundamentalism
   5. RECU 60034 Interreligious Dialogue
   6. RECU 60063 World Religions and Gender
Three hours chosen from a course addressing oppressive forms of difference OR Ministry in Public Contexts. Students should consult their academic advising sheets for courses that meet this requirement.

II. Denominational Requirements for Ordination (required of all Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and United Methodist students) - 0 to 18 hours

A. CHHI 70113 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is required of Disciples students.

B. United Methodist students are required to take CHHI 70134 History and Doctrine of the United Methodist Church, PRTH 70212 United Methodist Polity, PRTH 70223 Evangelism, and a course on Mission. Students should consult their Annual Conference for any additional requirements unique to their Conference.

C. Baptist students are required to take CHHI 70133 Baptist History and CHTH 70113 Survey of Christian Theology from Baptist Perspectives.

D. Presbyterian students are required to take NETE 70013 Basics of Biblical Greek, NETE 75013 Biblical Greek II, HEBI 70013 Biblical Hebrew I, HEBI 75033 Biblical Hebrew II, Reformed Theology, Presbyterian Polity, and an exegesis course in both Testaments (one of the exegesis courses may be used to satisfy requirements under I.A Basic Theological Studies, Bible requirements).

E. Episcopal students are required to take Anglican History, Anglican Thought, Episcopal Polity, The Book of Common Prayer, and either NETE 70013 Basics of Biblical Greek and NETE 75013 Biblical Greek II or HEBI 70013 Biblical Hebrew I and HEBI 75033 Biblical Hebrew II.

F. Metropolitan Community Church students are required to take MCC Polity, PTPC 75053 Clinical Pastoral Education, a Sexual Studies course, and a course on LGBTQ History.

III. Electives - 4 to 24 hours

The remaining hours—4 to 24—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.Div. 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.