

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation is designed to develop basic competencies essential to the study of the Bible and related theological literature, while also nurturing knowledge and skill development in the enactment of educational ministry leadership. The program consists of 65-semester hours, which includes a 32-hour Bible and theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization. In addition to foundational courses, applicants choose a nine-hour ministry specialization (Student & Family Ministries, Small Group & Discipleship Ministries, Interdisciplinary Studies, Intercultural Ministries, Formation & Soul Care Ministries, or Campus & Student Development Ministries) and an eight-hour ministry residency (contextual learning under the supervision of a seasoned ministry mentor). The eight-hour ministry residency can be replaced with MIN-584, MIN-797 and elective credits for the student intending to pursue doctoral study. Applicants for this degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For the student planning to enroll full-time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
YEAR ONE	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
	THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2	Bible Elective		3	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
				MIN-543	Christian Formation in the Church	3			
	Total		8	Total		12	Total		9
YEAR TWO	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3	THE-710	Prayer & Spirituality of the	3		Bible Elective	3
	THE-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life and Ministry	3		Early Church or one Historical Theology Elective (THE-515, THE-516, THE-517, or THE-518)		MIN-711	Program Completion	1
	MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2	MIN-545	Teaching and Learning	3	MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2
		Ministry Specialization	3	MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2			
					Ministry Specialization	3			
	Total		11	Total		11	Total		6
YEAR THREE		Bible Elective	3						
	MIN-782	Ministry Residency	2						
		Ministry Specialization	3						
	Total		8						
TOTAL HOURS: 65									

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

Student & Family Ministries

- MIN-553 Sociology of Youth and Emerging Adulthood
MIN-641 Foundations for Ministry to Youth and Emerging Adults

One of the following:

- COU-520 Child & Adolescent Counseling
COU-521 Marriage & Family Counseling

Small Group & Discipleship Ministries

- MIN-630 Small Group Ministries
MIN-643 Educational Ministries for Adults

One of the following:

- MIN-534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries
MIN-554 Theology of Women in Ministry
MIN-567 The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture
COU-532 Counseling Women through the Life Cycle
COU-612

Interdisciplinary Studies

Three course cluster from ministry disciplines (MIN and/or COU) selected with consultation of faculty advisor.

Intercultural Ministries

- MIN-567 The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture
MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence
MIN-667 Urban and Local Development

Formation & Soul Care Ministries

- COU-500 Counseling Philosophy
COU-510 Consulting
COU-521 Marriage & Family Counseling

Campus & Student Development Ministries

- MIN-533 Sociology of Youth and Emerging Adulthood
MIN-518 Foundations of Student Development
COU-520 Child & Adolescent Counseling

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 65 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are a 15-hour Bible core, 17-hour theology core and a 33-hour educational ministries specialization.
2. A minimum of 33 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.

3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (16 hours).
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.
6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. Successful completion of the Ministry Residency requirement or M.A. thesis component.
8. The meeting of all financial obligations.
9. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
10. Participation in commencement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Christian Formation curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

Core Curriculum

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.
4. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.

Christian Formation Major

1. Demonstrate a distinctively Christian philosophy of spiritual formation that is informed by sound education theory and best practices.
2. Exhibit the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective communication of biblical truth.
3. Demonstrate proficiency to direct people, resources, and programs necessary to the effective spiritual formation of individuals and communities.