

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity degree is recognized as the historical standard in academic preparation for both vocational ministry and advanced theological study. This particular program is designed to develop essential biblical and theological competencies for ministry leadership in congregations, as well as other ministry contexts. Those interested in building a foundation for advanced study may also find the Master of Divinity an attractive option. The program consists of 94 semester hours which emphasize the study and interpretation of the Scriptures in the original languages, breadth in the disciplines of theology, and the development of essential ministry competencies. The program has been designed around a core of basic biblical and theological studies, a ministry leadership core, ministry specialization courses and eight semester hours of ministry residency. Applicants for the Master of Divinity degree program should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. Applicants not meeting this standard may be considered for probationary admission. For students planning to enroll full time, the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending part-time enrollment 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-511	Greek II	3	THE-640	Systematic Theology II	3
	BBL-510	Greek I	3	THE-540	Systematic Theology I	3	MIN-560	Global Impact	3
	THE-501	Program Introduction Seminar	2	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3			
					<i>One of the following courses:</i>	3			
					MIN-543 Christian Formation in the Church				
				MIN-545 Teaching & Learning					
	Total		8	Total		12	Total		6
YEAR TWO	BBL-516	Hebrew I	3	BBL-517	Hebrew II	3	MIN-685	Ministry Residency I	2
	BBL-672	NT I: Introduction to Exegesis	3	BBL-601	Experiencing the Ancient World of the Bible (ISRAEL)	2	MIN-510	Organizational Leadership	3
	THE-673	Moral Issues in Christian Life & Ministry	3	BBL-677	NT II: The Gospels	3	General Elective		3
					General Elective	3			
	Total		9	Total		11	Total		8
YEAR THREE	BBL-640	OT I: Intro to Hebrew Exegesis	3	BBL-641	OT II: Exegesis in the Pentateuch	3	MIN-711	Program Completion	1
	BBL-678	NT III: The General Epistles	3	History Theology Elective		3	MIN-782	Ministry Residency IV	2
	Ministry Specialization Course		3	Ministry Specialization Course		3	General Elective		3
	MIN-686	Ministry Residency II	2	MIN-781	Ministry Residency III	2			
	Total		11	Total		11	Total		6
YEAR FOUR	BBL-642	OT III: Exegesis in the Prophets and Writings	3						
	THE-641	Systematic Theology III	3						
	History Theology Elective		3						
	Ministry Specialization Course		3						
	Total		12						
TOTAL HOURS: 94									

MASTER OF DIVINITY SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

Pastoral Ministries

MIN-530	Pastoral Competencies
MIN-636	Homiletics I
MIN-637	Homiletics II Ministry Residency

Student & Family Ministries

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

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 Ministry Residency

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	Group Techniques

Intercultural Ministries

MIN-567	The Church's Relationship to a Post-Christian Culture
MIN-660	Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding
MIN-667	Urban and Local Development: Exegeting Our Own Communities Ministry Residency

Formation & Soul Care Ministries

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

Chaplaincy Ministries

MIN-525	Introduction to Chaplaincy
MIN-636	Homiletics I
COU-500	Counseling Philosophy
COU-510	Consulting Ministry Elective

Academic

BBL-782 or THE-782	Thesis Research and Proposal
BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785, or THE-786	Independent Study
BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785, or THE-786	Independent Study
BBL-783, BBL-784, THE-784, THE-785, or THE-786	Independent Study
MIN-685	Ministry Residency I
MIN-686	Ministry Residency II
BBL-792 or THE-792	Master's Thesis

ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION QUALIFICATIONS

The academic specialization is designed exclusively for the student with superior exegetical and theological capacity who aspires to complete the Master of Divinity degree as a basis for doctoral study and with the goal of a vocation in teaching. In addition to the regular admissions requirements, admission into this specialization requires the following:

1. Achievement of a 3.70 cumulative grade point average at a regionally accredited college or university at the point of admission to GRTS, or achievement of a 3.70 cumulative grade point average at GRTS after completing a minimum of 24 credits which must include the following: BBL-501, BBL-510, BBL-511, and THE-540. For those receiving advanced standing credits for BBL-510 and BBL-511, they must complete BBL-516 and BBL-517 instead.
2. Two letters of reference from full-time teaching faculty at regionally accredited colleges/universities or ATS member schools.
3. A one to two page statement of educational plan and vocational intent.
4. For students new to GRTS (i.e., seeking admission into this specialization at initial point of entry to GRTS), the application process will be administered by the GRTS Admissions Office as part of the regular admission process. For returning students, the application process will be administered by the Bible division via a faculty sponsor.

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. The Master of Divinity degree is conferred when the following conditions are met: Completion of 94 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are 68 hours of core curriculum, a 15-17 hour ministry specialization, and 9-11 hours of general elective credit.
2. Transfer students must achieve a minimum of 47 semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (24 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. The meeting of all financial obligations.
8. Satisfactory completion of Ministry Residency requirements.
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 DIVINITY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Divinity curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

Core Curriculum

1. Conduct disciplined biblical interpretation and application with reference to the Greek and Hebrew 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. Exhibit knowledge, values and skills essential to effective ministerial and public leadership.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in cultural intelligence and cultural exegesis.