Master of Divinity Program

The Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree at Memphis Theological Seminary is at minimum a three year program of study. A certain concentration in a field may be achieved by selecting a number of courses in that particular discipline. The M. Div. curriculum acquaints students with the theological disciplines and encourages communal exploration in the life of the church so that graduates will serve the church as leaders in greater faithfulness to God.

The M. Div. degree curriculum objectives seek to accomplish the following:

1. Scripture: Students will be able to understand, appreciate, and use a critical approach to biblical studies, especially as those relate to the role of Scripture in the Christian community in worship, preaching, and teaching.

2. Interpretation: Students will acquire a foundation in theological analysis and reflection grounded in the Christian tradition that recognizes the role of historical development in Christian belief and practice.

3. Context: Students will develop knowledge of the diverse cultural contexts in which the practice of ministry takes place and the ability to critically engage with those contexts, including the ability to do ethical analysis from within the Christian tradition.

4. Practice of Ministry: Students will acquire the knowledge and skills needed for a basic proficiency in practical skills for ministry and gain theological understanding of the ways in which Christian faith is expressed in the ministries of Christian churches.

5. Formation: Students will develop an informed sense of their ministerial vocation through discernment and formation so as to appreciate the vital connection between spiritual formation and ministry.

A. Master of Divinity Degree Requirements

Note: 6 of the first 9 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 9 of the first 18 hours taken must be 10000 courses; 15 of the first 35 hours taken must be 10000 courses; and 20000 courses may be taken concurrently with 10000 courses. Formation for Ministry classes must be taken the 1st, 2nd and last semesters while at MTS.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory</td>
<td>PM 10000</td>
<td>Christian Ministry</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>(13 courses)</td>
<td>NT 10000</td>
<td>Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>OT 10000</td>
<td>Introduction to Interpreting the Old Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH 10000</td>
<td>Christian Beliefs</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CH 10000</td>
<td>Introduction to Church History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EM 20000</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Ministry</td>
<td>3</td>
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WP 20000  Theology of Worship and Preaching  3
PC 20000  Introduction to Pastoral Care  3
ET 20000  Introduction to Christian Ethics  3
CM 20000  Mission of the Church  3
FM 10108  Formation for Ministry (1st Semester)  1
FM 20108  Formation for Ministry (2nd Semester)  1
FM 30108  Formation for Ministry (Last Semester)  1
Practica  PC 01151  Clinical Practicum  3
(3 courses)  PM 01100  Supervised Parish Practicum  3
WP 01104  Worship and Preaching Practicum  3

Specified Electives
(11 courses) History (any course with a CH designation except CH03834, CH03735, CH03945)  3
Theology (any course with a TH designation except TH03953 and TH01111)  3
Biblical Studies (any courses with OT or NT prefixes except OT02431 and NT00395)  6
Ethics and Mission (any courses with the ET or CM prefixes)  6
Practice of Ministry (at least one must be a preaching elective others may bear EM, PC, WP and or PM prefixes)  9

Cross Cultural Studies**  6

Free Electives Free Electives  12
(4 courses)

Totals 31 courses  87

**Cross Cultural Studies designates those courses that expose the student to the perspectives of diverse communities and aspects of cultures beyond or different from the student’s own cultural, ethnic, social or ecclesial context. For this reason, students must select courses that differ from their own context to meet the requirement for cross-cultural studies. Courses counting toward fulfilling this requirement must be approved by the student’s advisor or the VPAA/Dean.

Biblical Languages: 1st semester Greek or 1st semester Hebrew may only be counted as “free electives” toward the M. Div. degree. Either 2nd semester Greek or 2nd semester Hebrew—but not both may be counted as one of the two biblical electives required for the M. Div. degree.

Additional Graduation Requirements: M. Div. students are required to earn 8 Theological Colloquia credits, complete Stage II of Profiles of Ministry and earn no less than a 2.00 cumulative grade point average.
Theological Colloquia: The colloquia are intended to provide theological learning opportunities beyond the classroom through dialogue and exposure to scholarship, preaching, teaching, and the life work of scholars, practitioners, and leaders who exemplify the mission goals of MTS. A listing of “approved” events that will fulfill this requirement will be published on the electronic website bulletin board and postings on campus. Traditionally, these approved events have consisted of MTS-sponsored lecture series; however, students may obtain approval to attend a limited number of events not sponsored by MTS to earn colloquia credits.

It is expected that all Theological Colloquia credit will be earned by students attending the approved events; however, if a student is unable to attend the colloquia events in person, he/she may earn up to 50% of the colloquia credits by viewing video tapes of the missed lectures. Most lecture series tapes are available in the MTS library. Students may submit a one-page synopsis for each lecture missed to the Registrar’s Office no later than one calendar month after the first date of the lecture series missed. All written documents are required to be written in compliance with the current version of the MLA Handbook.

B. Ordination Requirements
Many denominations require a course on polity, history or doctrine specific to their denomination. The Registrar can assist students in obtaining information about such courses that might be necessary for ordination, but which are not regularly offered as part of our curriculum. When necessary, special offerings of courses required for ordination might also be possible. Students seeking ordination from other denomination affiliations not listed below should consult their denominational officials to ascertain current requirements and procedures.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
CH 03735 Disciples of Christ Polity, History and Doctrine 3 credit hours

Christian Methodist Episcopcal
PM 03313 Doctrine and Polity of Christian Episcopal Church 3 credit hours

Cumberland Presbyterian
CH 03834 Cumberland Presbyterian History and Doctrine 3 credit hours
PM 03111 Cumberland Presbyterian Polity and Program 3 credit hours

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Candidates from any PCUSA presbytery must successfully complete Greek, Hebrew and exegesis courses in both Old and New Testaments. It is recommended that all PCUSA students consult with their presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The Presbytery of the Mid-South requires candidates for ordination to complete successfully courses in Reformed Theology and PCUSA polity.
United Methodist
PM 03212 Early Methodism: History, Doctrine, and Polity 3 credit hours
PM 03213 American Methodism: History, Doctrine and Polity 3 credit hours