

Master of Arts (Religion) Program

The Master of Arts (Religion) M.A.R. at Memphis Theological Seminary is designed for lay persons who want to broaden and deepen their theological understandings as a basis for further graduate study or application in other fields.

The M.A.R. degree curriculum seeks to accomplish the following:

- 1) Students will be able to understand, appreciate, and use a critical approach to biblical studies.
- 2) Students will be able to understand the historical development of Christian doctrine and to incorporate its ongoing significance for the life of the church and Christian ethical life.
- 3) Students will gain insight and skill regarding the practice of faith within particular cultural contexts.
- 4) Students will complete a thesis or project proposal that demonstrates the development of a methodology, bibliography, and the use of critical research skills.
- 5) Students will complete a thesis or project that demonstrates the integration of their theological studies with a particular area of focus.

Requirements

Area Course Title Concentration	Credit Hours
Biblical Studies	
NT 10000 Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament	3
OT 10000 Introduction to Interpreting the Old Testament	3
Theology and Social Context	
TH 10000 Christian Beliefs	3
CH 10000 Introduction to Church History	3
ET 20000 Introduction to Christian Ethics	3
SF 10108, 20108, 30108, Spiritual Formation	3

(18 credits total)

Electives

27 hours

Students must take at least nine hours in the area in which they seek to focus for their Thesis or Project. Students who wish to write a thesis in Old Testament or New Testament must complete two semesters of the appropriate Biblical language.

Integrative Seminars and Thesis or Project (6 credit hours)

Two integrative seminars are required in addition to the thesis or project. In the second semester of course work, students will take *Integrative Seminar I*. In this seminar, students will develop their thesis or project proposal developing a methodology and

bibliography, and the theological foundations for their project (2 credits). In the final semester of course work, students will take *Integrative Seminar II*. In this seminar, students will present their thesis research or project and further reflect upon how their thesis or project draws upon their coursework, research and/or practice, and prepares them for further theological reflection and practice (1 credit). In addition to the 3 credit hours for *Integrative Seminar I and II*, students will receive 3 credit hours for the work of the thesis or project.

Totals 48 credit hours

Additional Graduation Requirements: M.A.R. students are required to earn 4 Theological Colloquia credits and earn no less than a 2.00 cumulative grade point average.

Sequencing of Courses

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 courses must be 10000 courses; and 20000 courses may be taken concurrently with 10000 courses.

M.A.R. Thesis Requirements

The thesis shall be between 50 and 75 pages, plus bibliography, and written in compliance with the current version of the MLA Handbook. If the thesis is in an area of biblical study, the student must take 6 hours in the appropriate biblical language. In developing a thesis topic, students should be sure to take 6-9 hours in the area in which they are writing the thesis. In addition to the presentation of thesis research in *Integrative Seminar II*, there will be an oral defense of the thesis.