



Master of Arts (MA)

Locations: ● Dallas ● Houston ● DC ● Extensions ● Online

Hours: 60 Languages: English

PURPOSE:

The Master of Arts degree program is designed to combine concentrated study in an academic area with a foundation of biblical and theological studies. This degree is designed for persons anticipating advanced research in a particular academic discipline.

The MA currently provides majors in Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, and Theological Studies. Those who are anticipating vocational ministry should apply for admission to one of the seminary's professional degree programs.

Goals

Students in the MA program will be able to:

- demonstrate a general knowledge of the Bible, including a synthetic understanding of major Bible books;
- evidence a general knowledge of systematic theology from a premillennial framework and an ability to support their theological views and apply them to contemporary issues;
- demonstrate specific knowledge in the discipline of their selected concentration in the program necessary for advanced research in that discipline;
- evidence an increasing likeness to Christ as manifested in love for God, love for others, and the fruit of the Spirit; and
- demonstrate involvement in their local churches and/or other ministries with which they are associated.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements and application procedures for the MA are the same as for all programs of study at the seminary. (Please refer to the Admission section of this catalog for more information.) However, due to the research nature of the MA, admission to the program is generally limited to students who have a strong biblical, theological, and ministry-training background. It is assumed that students admitted to the program meet or exceed the seminary's Accelerated Advanced Standing requirements. If such prerequisites are not met, leveling work will be required. For more information on the seminary's Accelerated Advanced Standing Program requirements, please see dts.edu/advancedstanding.

Transfer of Credit

Transfer of up to 30 hours of credit is allowed toward the MA program from accredited graduate programs in related fields of study. Students must have earned a grade of C or better (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for a course to be considered for transfer.

Residential Requirements

Although some of the MA courses may be completed online or at one of the seminary's approved extension locations, the unique nature of the MA requires students to complete the majority of their coursework in residence at the Dallas campus. Students in the MA degree program will work with the Advising Center and the department of their intended major on course requirements and scheduling.

Regardless of the mode of delivery (at the Dallas campus, an approved extension, or online), at least fifty percent of the coursework required for the degree must be earned through DTS.

All work toward the MA degree must be completed within seven years from the time of initial matriculation. Extension of this time limit requires the approval of the Credits Committee. Reinstatement to the MA after withdrawal requires action by the Admissions Committee and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree.

Course Requirements

Sixty credit hours of coursework are required as a minimum for graduation. Students may also be required to complete additional leveling work in foundational biblical, theological, and ministry areas and/or in the biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek) if they have not had sufficient background in these disciplines prior to admission. The amount of leveling work required will be determined as part of the admissions process for the degree.

Common Required Core

In addition to any required leveling work, students in the MA will complete 32 hours of common prescribed courses, which include advanced Hebrew language study for Old Testament Studies majors or advanced Greek language study for New Testament Studies majors. The

core requirements also include a 2-hour thesis in the student's intended major. In addition to the common 32-hour core, MA students will complete 28 hours in their intended major (Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, or Theological Studies).

MA Majors

Students in the MA will select a major in Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, or Theological Studies. The required thesis listed above in the Common Required Core for the MA will be written in the department of the student's major. Students must also pass comprehensive exams in their area of major. Students may contact their major department for more information concerning these exams.



Master of Arts (MA)

Accelerated Core 18

AS5101	Seminar on Practical Theology, Hermeneutics, and Research	3
AS5102	Seminar on Educational Ministry and Leadership and World Missions	3
AS5103	Seminar on the Old Testament	3
AS5104	Seminar on the New Testament	3
AS5105	Seminar on God, Creation, Humanity, and Sin	3
AS5106	Seminar on Salvation, Sanctification, and the Church	3

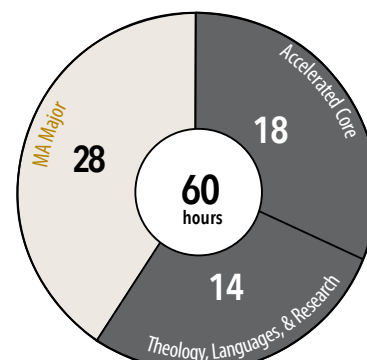
Theology, Languages, and Research 14

ST5101	Theological Method and Bibliology	3
ST5106	Eschatology	3
OT5103	Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I	(3)
and		
OT5104	Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction II ¹	(3)
or		
NT5103	Intermediate Greek	(3)
and		
NT5104	Introduction to New Testament Exegesis ¹	(3)
XX5902	Thesis (OT5902, NT5902, or TS5902) ²	2
SF5100	Spiritual Formation (4 terms)	0

MA Major³ 28

Total 60

- 1 Proficiency in both Elements of Hebrew and Elements of Greek is required for all MA students. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency in these languages must complete OT5101-5102 Elements of Hebrew (6 hours) and NT5101-5102 Elements of Greek (6 hours) in addition to the 60 hours required for the degree.
- 2 Students majoring in New Testament Studies will be required to write a 3-hour thesis instead of a 2-hour thesis.
- 3 Students will select a major in Old Testament Studies (OT), New Testament Studies (NT), or Theological Studies (TS). In addition to the thesis, students will complete comprehensive exams in their area of major.



complete up to
12
hours online



Old Testament Studies

Required

OT Major Courses 20

- OT5205 Introduction to Old Testament Criticism (3)
- OT5605 Old Testament Backgrounds (2)
- OT54xx Exegetical Studies Electives (6)

Choose one of the following:

- OT5315 Old Testament Textual Criticism (3)
- OT5320 The Septuagint (3)

Choose two of the following:

- OT5302 Historical Hebrew Grammar (3)
- OT5305 Advanced Hebrew Grammar (3)
- OT5310 Hebrew Reading (3)

Old Testament Studies Tracks 8

(students may choose either Ancient Near Eastern Studies or Old Testament Studies)

Ancient Near Eastern Studies

- OT5606 Seminar in Old Testament Backgrounds (2)

Choose two of the following

- OT5325 Biblical Aramaic (3)
- OT5330 Introduction to Ugaritic (3)
- OT5335 Northwest Semitic Inscriptions (3)
- OT5360 Introduction to Akkadian (3)

Old Testament Studies

- OT5206 Seminar in Old Testament Criticism I (3)
- OT5207 Seminar in Old Testament Criticism II (2)

Choose one of the following

- OT5325 Biblical Aramaic (3)
- OT5330 Introduction to Ugaritic (3)
- OT5335 Northwest Semitic Inscriptions (3)
- OT5360 Introduction to Akkadian (3)

Total Hours for OT Studies Major 28

New Testament Studies

Required

NT Major Courses 19

- NT5105 Exegesis of Romans (3)
- NT5205 Advanced Greek Grammar (3)
- NT5400 The New Testament in Contemporary Culture (3)
- NT5425 Daily Life in the First-Century City (3)
- NT5420 Seminar in New Testament Literary Contexts (3)
- NT5435 Seminar in New Testament Theology (3)
- NT5902 New Testament Thesis* (1)

NT Major Open-Elective Hours 9

(consult New Testament advisor)

Total Hours for NT Studies Major 28

*New Testament majors are required to write a 3-hour thesis. This hour reflects that additional hour.

Theological Studies

Required

TS Major Courses 18

- HT5101 Church to the Modern Era (3)
- HT5102 Church in the Modern Era: Europe and North America (3)
- HT5200 History of Doctrine (3)
- ST5295 Systematic Theology Colloquium (3)
- ST5200

to
ST5500-Level Elective (3)
ST5600-Level Elective (3)

TS Major Open-Elective Hours 10

(any HT/ST electives)

Total Hours for TS Major 28

Spiritual Formation

Because DTS values Christlike character and spiritual maturity, MA students are required to register for and participate in Spiritual Formation groups for four consecutive fall and spring terms at the Dallas, Houston, or Washington, DC, locations. (Students who are not planning to move to Dallas, Houston, or Washington, DC, for four consecutive fall and spring terms must contact the Spiritual Formation office concerning how to meet their Spiritual Formation requirement.)

In the Spiritual Formation curriculum, small groups of five to seven students focus on identity, community, integrity, and fidelity. The groups also provide an atmosphere for prayer, fellowship, and the integration of learning with life and ministry.

Because students participate with the same group during four consecutive fall and spring terms, they should plan their schedules so they may meet on the same day and at the same time each term. Spiritual Formation is a noncredit, transcribed experience.

CURRICULUM (MASTER OF ARTS)

The following table represents the required curriculum for the Master of Arts. Students should create an individualized plan of study in light of their current realities and future ministry plans in consultation with an academic advisor. The prerequisites and corequisites for each course may be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog. The terms during which courses are offered vary by location, and the plan provided below pertains specifically to Dallas-campus course offerings. Online courses are typically offered each fall, spring, and summer term. Courses may be cancelled or offered in alternate terms as needed. Required courses are regularly offered during summer terms in intensive or hybrid formats. Please refer to dts.edu/schedule for the most updated list of available course offerings.

FIRST YEAR		HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
ADVANCED STANDING					
AS5101 Seminar on Practical Theology, Hermeneutics, and Research	3	●			
AS5102 Seminar on Educational Ministries and Leadership and World Missions	3		●		
AS5103 Seminar on Old Testament Books	3	●			
AS5104 Seminar on New Testament Books	3		●		
BIBLICAL STUDIES					
NT5103 Intermediate Greek OR OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis & Old Testament Introduction I ¹	3	●			●
NT5104 Introduction to New Testament Exegesis OR OT5104 Hebrew Exegesis & Old Testament Introduction II	3		●		●
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES					
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	3	●	●		●
INTERDEPARTMENTAL					
SF5100-1 Spiritual Formation ²		●			
SF5100-2 Spiritual Formation			●		
Major Courses ³	9				
FIRST YEAR HOURS	30				
SECOND YEAR		HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
ADVANCED STANDING					
AS5105 Seminar on God, Creation, Humanity, and Sin	3	●			
AS5106 Seminar on Salvation, Sanctification, & the Church	3		●		
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES					
ST5106 Eschatology	3		●		●
RESEARCH					
XX5902 Thesis (OT5902, NT5902, or TS5902) ⁴	2	●	●		
INTERDEPARTMENTAL					
SF5100-3 Spiritual Formation ²		●			
SF5100-4 Spiritual Formation			●		
Major Courses ³	19				
SECOND YEAR HOURS	30				

¹ Proficiency in both Elements of Hebrew and Elements of Greek is required for all MA students. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency in these languages must complete OT5101-102 Elements of Hebrew (6 hours) and NT5101-102 Elements of Greek (6 hours) in addition to the 60 hours required for the degree.

² Completion of SF5100 Spiritual Formation requires two calendar years. Students who register for SF5100 need to keep in mind that the course is a four-term-long course that will meet at the same day and time each of the four terms. The first Spiritual Formation class is only offered in the fall term. Please see the Spiritual Formation section of this catalog for more information.

³ Students will select a major in Old Testament Studies (OT), New Testament Studies (NT), or Theological Studies (TS). In addition to the thesis, students will complete comprehensive exams in their area of major.

⁴ Students majoring in New Testament Studies will complete a 3-hour thesis instead of a 2-hour thesis, reducing the overall number of required major-course hours by 1.