



## Master of Sacred Theology (STM)

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

Hours: 32      Languages: English

### PURPOSE:

The Master of Sacred Theology degree program is open to those who have graduated from a standard three-year seminary program and hold the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent. The STM is designed for those who desire greater competency in a specific area of study in the biblical, theological, and ministry disciplines, whether in support of Christian service or for advanced theological study.

### Goals

To enable students to:

- interpret competently the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible;
- understand the major areas of systematic theology and their historical development;
- demonstrate Christlike leadership;
- communicate the Bible and/or theology effectively;
- critically address contemporary issues within their chosen area of study; and
- charitably interact with the ideas of others.

### Admission Requirements

Admission requirements and application procedures for the STM program are the same as for all programs of study at the seminary (please refer to the Admission section of this catalog for more information), with three exceptions: (1) STM applicants must have attained accredited college and seminary degrees or their respective academic and theological equivalents; (2) transcripts of this work must show a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a scale of 4.0; and (3) applicants must provide a research paper (in English) previously written at the master's level that shows an acceptable level of competency in research and writing.

Each applicant's evaluation for admission to the STM program will include a review of the applicant's completed MDiv (or equivalent) coursework to ensure the appropriate breadth of preparation necessary to pursue the STM degree. Identified deficiencies must be completed in addition to the standard program requirements.

All STM students must demonstrate exegetical proficiency in Greek and Hebrew. Students who do not have the appropriate Hebrew and Greek courses at the MDiv level will also be required to take the prerequisite Hebrew and Greek courses as necessary (OT5101–OT5102, NT5101–NT5103).

Students who have had Hebrew or Greek at the MDiv level will need to pass a Hebrew or Greek proficiency exam before enrolling in OT5103 or NT5103. Failure to pass the exams will require the student to enroll in first-year language courses. Prerequisite courses in Hebrew or Greek, if required, will not count toward the 32-hour requirement for the STM degree.

Transfer of up to 6 credit hours from accredited graduate theological schools is allowed under certain circumstances. Please contact the Registrar's office for more information.

## Course Requirements

The STM degree normally requires 32 credit hours of coursework. Students pursuing this degree will individually customize their program for their intended ministry goals by selecting courses from one of the following departments of choice (selected in conjunction with an academic advisor): Biblical Counseling, Bible Exposition, Educational Ministries and Leadership, Historical Theology, Media Arts and Worship, Old Testament, New Testament, Pastoral Ministries, Systematic Theology, or World Missions.

<b>Biblical and Theological Studies</b>	<b>15</b>
OT5103* Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I	3
NT5104* Introduction to New Testament Exegesis	3
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	3
HT5200 History of Doctrine	3
Biblical and Theological Studies Elective	3
<b>Ministry and Communication</b>	<b>6</b>
Ministries and Communication Elective	3
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>	
EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations or EML5425 Effective Ministry with Adults or PM5103 Expository Preaching I	3
<b>Departmental Courses</b>	<b>11</b>
RS5102 Senior Research Seminar	2
Courses in Selected Department	9
<b>Total STM Hours</b>	<b>32</b>

\* STM students intending to apply to the PhD program at DTS must include OT5104 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction II and NT5105 Exegesis of Romans.

## Residential Requirements

Of the 32 credit hours of coursework required for graduation, 18 hours must be taken in a residential (face-to-face) format at any of the seminary's approved locations. (Students should note that not all courses are offered at all locations.) In most cases it will be necessary for STM students to be enrolled in a minimum of three terms of study, which can include the summer term.

All work leading to the STM degree must be completed within six years from the time of matriculation. Extension requires approval by the Credits Committee. Reinstatement in the program after withdrawal requires action by the Admissions Committee and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree.

## Admission to Candidacy

Students may be admitted to candidacy by action of the faculty for the STM degree in the fall or spring term prior to the term of degree conferral or the term prior to their participation in the Commencement ceremony after these requirements have been met: (1) grade point average of 2.5; (2) evidence, to the satisfaction of the faculty, of proven Christian character and adherence to the following doctrines: the authority and inerrancy of Scripture, the Trinity, the full deity and humanity of Christ, the spiritual lostness of the human race, the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and the physical return of Christ; (3) provision of a written statement of church involvement from the local church regularly attended while in seminary; and (4) provision of a reference form completed by a pastor or spiritual overseer.

Admission to candidacy is valid for one year. Students who postpone degree conferral beyond one year from the original admission to candidacy or who postpone participation in the Commencement ceremony until the following spring will be required to reapply for admission to candidacy.

## Graduation Requirements

Candidates for the STM degree must have completed the required 32 credit hours of coursework with a grade point average of at least 2.5, and must evidence, to the satisfaction of the faculty, ability and acceptability in Christian ministry, proven Christian character, and adherence to the doctrines stated in the Admission to Candidacy section.

Diplomas will not be released, transcripts issued, or placement assistance provided unless all financial obligations to the seminary and/or student loan program are current.

