locations offering the thm degree program are dallas with the full program available, houston with the full program available, dc with the full program available, extensions with some but not all courses available, online with some but not all courses available.

hours required for this degree are 120. this degree is currently offered in english only.

purposes:

the master of theology degree program is designed to produce competent bible expositors who are qualified to serve god effectively as pastors, missionaries, or leaders in other areas of vocational christian ministry.

goals

educational goals

to enable students to:

• verbalize a general knowledge of the bible, including a synthetic understanding of the major books;
• evidence an understanding of the historical development of theology, a knowledge of premillennial theology, and an ability to support their theological views and apply them to contemporary issues;
• demonstrate the ability to exegete the hebrew and greek texts of the bible; and
• evidence an understanding of the educational program of the local church and an awareness of the worldwide mission of the church.

spiritual goals

to enable students to evidence an increasing likeness to christ as manifested in love for god, love for others, and the fruit of the spirit.

ministry goals

to enable students to:

• communicate the bible effectively;
• demonstrate skills in various ministries; and
• lead a local church or other group by means of biblical exposition, leadership skills, evangelism, and service.

admission requirements

admission requirements and application procedures for the thm 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.

• transfer of up to 60 credit hours is allowed toward the thm degree from accredited graduate theological schools. please see the transfer of credit section of this catalog for additional details, including eligibility requirements.
• students entering dts with a strong background in bible or theology from an approved christian university, bible college, or parachurch ministry may apply for the accelerated thm program on the dallas campus.

for more information about the accelerated thm program, please visit dts.edu/advancedstanding.
Course Requirements

The prescribed Master of Theology curriculum involves not only extensive preparation in Hebrew, Greek, Bible, and systematic and historical theology, but also preparation in pastoral ministries, Christian education, missions, and ministry leadership. ThM students enroll in Spiritual Formation groups during four consecutive fall and spring terms at the Dallas, Houston, or Washington, DC, campus.

Students are encouraged to take courses in the order in which they appear on the curriculum chart in this section. This is to the student’s advantage, as courses are designed to build on previous coursework.

Out of the required 120 credit hours in the ThM curriculum, 96 credit hours are predetermined in the curriculum. With the remaining 24 credit hours beyond this core, students are given the flexibility to pursue areas of ministry emphasis and choose electives based on vocational intent and interests.

As part of the ThM core curriculum, all students take a 3-hour internship course (INT5130). During the internship, students will complete a portfolio. When students declare their desired concentration (no later than at the completion of 60 hours), they should start planning for their internship experience. Students in the Media Arts and Worship concentration should consult that department to clarify their apprenticeship requirements. Please consult the Interdepartmental Courses section of this catalog for more information on internship requirements.

ThM students are responsible for demonstrating competence in research by satisfactorily completing either (1) a ThM thesis in an academic department of their choosing or (2) a 2-hour research seminar (RS5102).

To provide greater opportunity for learning, students may also take up to five courses for credit beyond the 120 hours required for the degree for a modest fee. Please contact the Registrar’s office for more information on this special program.

ThM Concentrations

Each student in the Master of Theology program must select a concentration by the halfway point of their program (60 hours) and prior to beginning their INT5130
ThM Ministry Formation Internship. In addition to the 96-hour core curriculum (which includes a 3-hour internship involving the production of a portfolio), students customize the remaining 24 elective hours with respect to their ministry goals and areas of interest. Regardless of their concentration, students must complete at least 9 of their 24 elective hours in the Division of Ministries and Communication.

Available ThM concentrations—including the course options and/or requirements for each—are listed in the section that follows. Faculty coordinators for each concentration are available to advise students regarding course selection, and the Advising Center is available to help with general questions. Students may pursue two concentrations as long as they take at least 9 unique hours for each concentration.

- Apologetics and Philosophy
- Bible Exposition
- Bible Translation
- Chinese Ministry
- Counseling and Ministry Care
- Disability Ministry
- Educational Ministries
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- General Studies
- Historical Theology
- Homiletics
- International Missions
- Leadership Studies
- Media Arts and Worship
- Ministry with Women
- Multicultural Ministries
- New Testament Studies
- Old Testament Studies
- Pastoral Theology and Practice
- Spiritual Formation
- Systematic Theology

ThM students who satisfactorily complete the requirements for a concentration(s) will see their respective concentration(s) noted on their transcript. Students who do not meet the requirements for their chosen concentration will receive the General Studies designation on their transcript.

The following descriptions provide the specific purpose and requirements for each concentration. Unless otherwise noted, concentrations involve 12 credit hours of prescribed coursework.

**Apologetics and Philosophy**

Students in this concentration will be equipped to respond effectively to intellectual challenges to their faith and to use philosophical reflection to serve Christ and His church.

**Requirements:**
- ST5605 Apologetics
- ST5620 History of Philosophy

**Select an additional 6 hours from the following:**
- ST56xx Apologetics and Philosophy electives

**Additional Information:**

Students should plan to write their capstone research paper (RS5102) or thesis on a topic related to this concentration. Depending on course availability and individual interests, students may select other courses in Historical or Systematic Theology in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Theological Studies.

**Bible Exposition**

Students in this concentration will be equipped for a lifetime of study, exposition, and application of the Scriptures.

**Requirements:**

**Select one or more of the following:**
- BE5220 Advanced Hermeneutics
- BE5225 Interpreting Progressive Revelation

**Select one or more of the following:**
- BE5505 The Kingdom and Covenants
- BE5542 The Lord’s Supper
- BE5545 Introduction to Biblical Theology

**Select an additional 3–6 hours from the following (optional):**
- BE5405 Exposition of Genesis
- BE5408 The Books of Samuel
- BE5410 The Wisdom Books
- BE5412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
- BE5415 The Book of Isaiah
- BE5425 The Minor Prophets
- BE5430 The Sermon on the Mount
- BE5445 The Gospel of John
- BE5446 The Upper Room Discourse
- NT5425 Daily Life in the First-Century City
- OT5605 Old Testament Backgrounds
- OT5610 History of Israel
- OT5615 Israelite Religion in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context

**Bible Translation**

Students in this concentration will be equipped for the task of Bible translation.

**Requirements:**
- AL5207 Field Data Management
- AL5312 Discourse Analysis
- AL5315 Semantics and Pragmatics
- AL5316 Theory and Practice of Translation
- AL5406 Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis

**Select one of the following:**
- WM5205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
- WM5540 Applied Biblical Contextualization (taken for 3 credit hours)

Dallas Intl. Elective in Cultural Anthropology

**Additional Notes:**

Most courses in this concentration are offered at Dallas International University (Dallas Intl.), which is located at the International Linguistic Center in south Dallas and is associated with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Because of the unique nature of Bible-translation ministry and the needs of Bible translators on the field, 18 credits hours are required to complete this concentration.
Chinese Ministry*
Students in this concentration will be equipped to respond to challenges related to ministry in Chinese communities, whether concerning leadership, inter-generations, or particular geographic regions.

Requirements:
Select 12 hours from the following:
WM5340 Ministry in Chinese Contexts
WM5420 Missions Strategies for Unreached Peoples
WM5545 Chinese Historical and Theological Trends
EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations
EML5705 Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking

*Counseling and Ministry Care*
Students in this concentration will be equipped for effective Christian counseling in a nonprofessional environment.

Requirements:
Students will select 12 hours of Biblical Counseling coursework in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Biblical Counseling.

Additional Information:
Students who are completing the ThM in Chinese and are interested in the Counseling and Ministry Care concentration should consult the Chinese Studies office for available course offerings in the Chinese language.

*Available to students who are completing the ThM in Chinese

Disability Ministry
Students in this concentration will be equipped to constructively engage the issues and implications of ministering with persons affected by disability.

Requirements:
BE/BC5547 A Biblical Theology of Suffering, Disability, and the Church
Select 9 hours from the following:
BE5412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
WM5412 Ministry to Children at Risk
WM5460 Disability and the Body of Christ
WM5905 Applied Beyond Suffering

Additional Information:
Depending on course availability and individual interests, students may select other courses in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor.

Educational Ministries*
Students in this concentration will be equipped for educational ministry and leadership through training in foundational skills related to the design, direction, supervision, and evaluation of various aspects of a local church or parachurch ministry program.

Requirements:
EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations
EML5110 History and Philosophy of Christian Education

Select 6 hours from the following areas:
Children's Ministry
Guided Studies
Marriage and Family Ministry
Spiritual Formation and Disciplemaking
Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Additional Information:
Course options in the above areas can be found in the MACE Concentrations section of this catalog. Students should select their courses in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.
Master of Theology (ThM)

Historical Theology
Students in this concentration will be equipped, through studying the development of the Christian faith, to communicate faithfully the teachings of Scripture in continuity with historic orthodoxy.

Requirements:
- HT5200 History of Doctrine

Select 6–9 hours from the following:
- HT5xxx Historical Theology Electives

Select one of the following (optional):
- ST5620 History of Philosophy
- ST5630 Postmodernism
- PM5510 Spiritual Formation in Historical Perspective
- WM5270 Historical Expansion of Global Christianity

Homiletics
Students in this concentration will be equipped to develop their personal preaching styles in order to prepare them for pastoral ministry that is centered on biblical exposition.

Requirements:
- PM5202 Advanced Expository Preaching
- PM52xx Homiletics Elective

Select 6 hours from the following:
- PM52xx Homiletics Elective(s)
- PM5360 Preparation for Ordination
- MW5802 Dramatizing Scripture

International Missions
Students in this concentration will be equipped for a variety of ministries in international environments through training in cultural dynamics, intercultural communication, missions strategies, applied contextualization, and intercultural spiritual formation.

Evangelism and Discipleship
Students in this concentration will be equipped to do the work of evangelism and to develop disciples.

Requirements:

Select 12 hours from the following:
- BE5540 Discipleship in the Gospels
- EML5435 Effective Ministry with Women
- EML5450 Women Teaching Women
- EML5705 Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking
- PM5251 Evangelistic Preaching
- PM5405 Theology and Apologetics in Advanced Evangelism
- ST5215 Issues in Soteriology and Sanctification
- WM5525 Spiritual Warfare
- WM5530 Cross-cultural Apologetics and Worldview

General Studies
Students in this concentration will be equipped for their particular ministry goals and/or interests through a customized, general course of study.

Requirements:

Students will select their courses for this concentration—including INT5130 ThM Ministry Formation Internship—in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor based on their unique ministry experience and goals. Those considering this concentration should consult with their faculty advisor before taking electives.

Those who are completing the ThM in Chinese and are interested in the Educational Ministries concentration should consult the Chinese Studies office for available course offerings in the Chinese language.

* Available to students who are completing the ThM in Chinese
Requirements:
WM5205  Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
WM5210  Intercultural Communication
WM5215  Dynamics of Missionary Development

Select 3-4 hours from the following:
WM53xx  Contexts Elective(s)
WM54xx  Strategic Approaches Elective(s)
WM55xx  Biblical and Theological Studies Elective(s)

Additional Information:
This concentration may require the completion of more than 12 hours. Students are encouraged to consult with the Department of World Missions and Intercultural Studies to select the courses that will best prepare them for serving in their anticipated ministry context.

Leadership Studies
Students in this concentration will be equipped, through training in areas such as leadership dynamics, change and resistance in leadership, and team leadership, in such a way as to enhance their ability to provide organizational leadership in a variety of ministry settings.

Requirements:
Select 12 hours from the following:
EML53xx  Leadership and Administration Electives

Additional Information:
Students must select their coursework in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.

Media Arts and Worship
Students in this concentration will be equipped to serve the Lord in media arts-related positions as worship pastors, artists, writers, musicians, directors, and producers in a variety of vocational contexts.

Requirements:
MW5101  The Art of Media and Worship
MW5103  A Christian View of Art

Select 6 hours from the following:
MW5xxx  Media Arts and Worship Electives

Additional Information:
This concentration requires the completion of MW5102 Media Arts Apprenticeship in place of INT5130 ThM Ministry Formation Internship. Students should consult with the Department of Media Arts and Worship to receive assistance with course selection and to clarify their apprenticeship requirements.

Ministry with Women
Students in this concentration will be equipped to understand women as an audience and learners and to teach, lead, mentor, shepherd, and care for women in a variety of contexts.

Requirements:
EML5105  Teaching Process and Media Presentations
EML5110  History and Philosophy of Christian Education
EML5435  Effective Ministry with Women

Select 3 hours from the following:
EML5205  Effective Small-Group Ministry
EML5425  Effective Ministry with Adults
EML5450  Women Teaching Women
EML55xx  The Christian Home
EML5515  Family Life Education
EML5615  Applied Skills for Ministry Staff
EML5705  Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking
PM5351  Theological and Biblical Views of Women in Ministry Leadership

Additional Information:
Students may select other courses not listed above in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.

Multicultural Ministries
Students in this concentration will be equipped for a variety of ministries in multi-ethnic and culturally diverse environments in North America through training in cultural dynamics, intercultural communication, missions strategies, applied contextualization, and intercultural spiritual formation.
Master of Theology (ThM)

Requirements:
WM5325  Ministry in Multicultural America
WM5440  Foundations of Christian Community Development

Select 6–7 hours from the following:
PM5540  Developing and Leading the Culturally Diverse Church
ST5515  Theology of Ethnic Concerns
WM5205  Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
WM5425  Intercultural Church Planting
WM5450  Local Church and Social Outreach Ministry
WM5540  Applied Biblical Contextualization

Additional Information:
This concentration may require the completion of more than 12 hours. Students are encouraged to consult with the Department of World Missions and Intercultural Studies to select the courses that will best prepare them for serving in their anticipated ministry context.

New Testament Studies
Students in this concentration will be equipped for ministry in a variety of settings through advanced studies in the New Testament in such areas as grammatical/textual studies, background studies, Gospel/Jesus studies, and exegetical/theological studies.

Requirements:
Select 12 hours from the following:
NT5xxx  New Testament Elective(s)
OT5320  The Septuagint
OT5720  The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
BE5315  Bible Manners and Customs
BE5909  Israel Study of the Bible

Additional Information:
Students should select their coursework in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of New Testament Studies.

Old Testament Studies
Students in this concentration will be equipped in the areas of interpreting the Hebrew text, the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, theological and spiritual formation, and engaging contemporary culture.

Requirements:
Select 6 hours from the following:
OT54xx  OT Exegetical Studies Elective(s)
OT5720  The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament

Select an additional 6 hours from the following:
OT5xxx  Old Testament Electives (any)

Pastoral Theology and Practice
Students in this concentration will be equipped for the multiple challenges of pastoral ministry in the local church through training in pastoral theology and broad exposure to diverse pastoral skills.

Requirements:
PM5301  Pastoral Theology and Leadership
PM5302  Worship and Pastoral Care

Select 6 hours from the following:
PM52xx  Homiletics Elective(s)
PM5341  Church Planting I
PM5342  Church Planting II
PM5905  Special Topics in Pastoral Ministries
• Church Planting Boot Camp
• Town and Country Training Program
PM5360  Preparation for Ordination (for 3 hours)
PM5510  Spiritual Formation in Historical Perspective
PM5520  Spiritual Formation in Contemporary Culture
EML5330  Personal and Organizational Leadership Development

Additional Information:
Students should select their coursework in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Pastoral Ministries.

Spiritual Formation
Students in this concentration will be equipped, through training in areas such as the practice of spiritual disciplines and spiritual formation in historical perspective and in contemporary culture, in such a way to enhance their ability to guide others in spiritual formation in a variety of ministry settings.

Requirements:
EML5730  Spiritual Formation in Historical Perspective

Select 9 hours from the following:
EML5705  Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking
EML5740  Spiritual Formation in Contemporary Culture
EML5750  Spiritual Disciplines
EML5760  Readings in Christian Spirituality

Systematic Theology
Students in this concentration will be equipped, through systematic study of the sources of the evangelical Christian faith, to constructively engage the issues and implications of theology in various ministerial settings.

Requirements:
ST5295  Systematic Theology Colloquium
ST5620  History of Philosophy
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 Master of Theology 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) a minimum grade point average of 2.0; (2) satisfactory progress toward meeting ThM Ministry Formation internship requirements, thereby evidencing ability and acceptability in Christian ministry; (3) 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; (4) provision of a written statement of church involvement from the local church regularly attended while in seminary; and (5) 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 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 Master of Theology degree must have completed 120 credit hours of coursework, including the ThM Ministry Formation internship course, with a grade point average of at least 2.0, 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.

ThM in Chinese
Courses in the Chinese-English bilingual ThM must be completed in a residential (face-to-face) format in Dallas or Houston. Please see dts.edu/chinese or contact the Chinese Studies office for more information on completing the ThM in Chinese.

Select 6 hours from the following:
ST5xxx Theological Studies Electives (any)

Additional Information:
Students should plan to write their capstone research paper (RS5102) or thesis on a topic related to this concentration.

Spiritual Formation
Because Dallas Theological Seminary values Christlike character and spiritual maturity, ThM 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, campus.

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 ministry. Students participate with the same group during four consecutive fall and spring terms; therefore, they should make plans to arrange their schedules so that they meet on the same day and at the same time each term. Spiritual Formation is a noncredit, transcripted experience that must be completed prior to enrolling in INT5130 ThM Ministry Formation Internship. (For other requirements related to the internship, please see the Ministry Formation Internships section of this catalog).

Agape Project
The Agape Project is an initiative that gives feet to the seminary’s commitment to “Teach Truth. Love Well.” The Agape Project provides opportunities to put into practice compassionate ministry in often-overlooked settings. ThM students are required to complete two Agape assignments prior to enrolling in their internship course.

Agape assignments are embedded in courses throughout the curriculum and enhance the learning outcomes of those courses. Some courses require Agape assignments, while in other courses they are optional. Agape assignments require students to engage in an approved ministry setting for approximately 15 hours over the term of a 3-hour course. A final reflection paper will also be written. Assessment for the Agape Project will take place at the beginning of the student’s ThM program and again during the student’s ThM Ministry Formation internship. For more information, please visit dts.edu/agape.

Residential Requirements
Of the 120 credit hours of coursework required for graduation, a minimum of 48 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.) All work leading to the degree must normally be completed within eight years from the time a student matriculates. Extension beyond the eight years requires approval by the Credits Committee. Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires action by the Admissions Committee and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree.
## CURRICULUM (MASTER OF THEOLOGY)

The following table represents the required curriculum for the Master of Theology program. 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.

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In addition to the 96-hour core ThM curriculum, students must complete 24 elective credit hours. At least 9 of these 24 hours must be completed in the Division of Ministries and Communication. Students should select a concentration and elective courses in light of ministry goals and in consultation with an academic advisor. Students in the ThM program may also take up to an additional (over the 120 hours required for the degree) five courses for credit for a modest fee. Students may start taking the free classes any time during their program of study but may take no more than one free class in any term.

1. Students at the Houston and Washington, DC, locations should contact their campus-specific academic advisor for schedule planning and course availability.

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. Students can only begin the Spiritual Formation process in the fall. Please see the Spiritual Formation section of this catalog for more information.

3. In addition to the 96-hour core ThM curriculum, students must complete 24 elective credit hours. At least 9 of these 24 hours must be completed in the Division of Ministries and Communication. Students should select a concentration and elective courses in light of ministry goals and in consultation with an academic advisor. Students in the ThM program may also take up to an additional (over the 120 hours required for the degree) five courses for credit for a modest fee. Students may start taking the free classes any time during their program of study but may take no more than one free class in any term.

4. ThM students complete an internship over three consecutive terms. In order for students to complete their coursework by May graduation, students may begin the internship course in the summer term prior to graduation. Students with an emphasis in the Department of Media Arts and Worship must complete the MWS5102 Media Arts Apprenticeship in place of the ThM Ministry Formation Internship. Please contact the Department of Media Arts and Worship for more information. All other students should consult the Ministry Formation Internships section of this catalog for more information.

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