

## Ministry Emphases

Each student in the Master of Theology program must select a Ministry Emphasis from the following list prior to beginning their INT105 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 Ministry Emphasis, students must complete at least 9 of their 24 elective hours in the Ministries and Communication division. A faculty coordinator for each emphasis is available to meet with students. Departments responsible for particular emphases are noted after each. The requirements for each emphasis vary based on student backgrounds and interests, but each department may require certain courses and hours for the emphases supervised by that department. Academic advising for all Ministry Emphases begins with the Advising Center. Students may request an emphasis through [students.dts.edu](http://students.dts.edu).

- Apologetics (TS)
- Bible Backgrounds (TS)
- Bible Translation\* (WM)
- Biblical Theology (BE)
- College Teaching (EML)
- Disability Ministry (BE/WM)
- Educational Administration (EML)
- Educational Ministries (EML)
- Evangelism and Discipleship (WM)
- Exposition of Biblical Books (BE)
- General Studies
- Hebrew and Cognate Studies (OT)
- Hermeneutics (BE)
- Historical Theology (TS)
- Homiletics (PM)
- Intercultural Ministries (WM)
- Leadership Studies (EML)
- Media Arts and Worship (MAW)
- Ministry in Multi-Ethnic Communities (WM)
- Ministry with Women (EML)
- New Testament Studies (NT)
- Old Testament Studies (OT)
- Pastoral Care and Counseling (BC)
- Pastoral Theology and Practice (PM)
- Philosophy (TS)
- Spiritual Formation (EML)
- Systematic Theology (TS)

\* Due to the specialized nature of this ministry, the program layout is unique and completed in conjunction with Dallas Intl.

At the completion of the program, ThM students are assessed by faculty for satisfactory completion of their emphasis requirements. A student's emphasis is noted on his or her transcript. Those students who do not meet the requirements of their chosen emphasis

will graduate with the General Studies designation.

The following descriptions provide the specific purpose and requirements for each emphasis.

### Academic Ministry

This 12-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for the teaching ministry in a variety of educational contexts, including grade schools, institutions of higher education, and other formal and non-formal educational institutions. Elements of foundational education training, which include the exploration of learning theory, the practice of curriculum and course design and the investigation of prominent educational models, are combined with courses related to the students' interests to equip them for leadership in a variety of educational environments.

(Note: Most college, universities, and seminaries require an earned doctorate in the teaching discipline. Most seminaries and graduate schools also require an MDiv degree or, in some cases, the ThM/STM degree for admission to doctoral programs).

#### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process\*
- EML104 Media Presentations\*
- EML215 Teaching in Christian Higher Education

#### Select an additional 3 hours from the following:

- EML230 Theological Education in Intercultural Contexts
- EML320 Christian School Administration
- EML310 Administration in Christian Higher Education
- EMLxxx (Other course as approved in consultation with the EML Department)

\*Students may substitute EML105 for EML103 & EML104.

### Apologetics

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by focusing on acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for defending Christianity against its various opponents. In so doing, it equips students to respond effectively to intellectual challenges to their faith in a variety of ministerial settings.

#### Requirements:

- ST605 Apologetics
- RS102 Senior Research Seminar

#### Select an additional 6 hours from the following:

- ST6xx Apologetics and Philosophy electives (Students may also select one of the following courses as part of their 6 elective hours.)
- HT218 Early Christian Literature
- ST405 Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Theologies
- ST410 Theology of Alternative Religious Movements
- ST415 Theology and World Religions

- ST420 Global Christian Theology
- ST520 Issues in Science and Theology
- ST525 Theology and Popular Culture

## Bible Backgrounds

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by concentrating on the geographical, cultural, and archaeological background to the Scriptures and the contribution such make to a proper understanding and application of the Bible.

### Requirements:

#### 9 hours from the following:

- BE305 Physical and Historical Geography of Israel
- BE315 Bible Manners and Customs
- BE909 Field Study of the Bible
- NT410 Daily Life in the First-Century City
- OT605 Old Testament Backgrounds
- OT610 History of Israel
- OT615 Israelite Religion in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context

## Bible Translation

This 18-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for the task of Bible translation. Most courses in this emphasis are offered by Dallas International University (Dallas Intl.). Dallas Intl. is located at the International Linguistic Center in south Dallas and is associated with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Because of the unique nature of the Bible translation ministry and the needs of translators on the field, 18 semester hours of courses are required to complete the Bible Translation emphasis.

- 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:

- WM205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
  - WM540 Applied Biblical Contextualization (taken for 3 credit hours).
- Dallas Intl. Elective in Cultural Anthropology

## Biblical Theology

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by focusing on the development of a biblical theology. Biblical theology is that exegetical and synthetic study of a biblical text, texts, or section of the Bible that seeks to determine the theological meaning of that portion as it was written and then to explain what that theology means for today.

### Requirements:

- BE505 The Kingdom and Covenants
- BE545 Introduction to Biblical Theology

#### Select 3 hours from the following:

- BE412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
- BE503 The Psalms and the Worship of God

- BE542 The Lord's Supper
- BE555 Messianic Prophecy
- OT705 Introduction to Old Testament Biblical Theology

## Disability Ministry

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry with people affected by disability through theological, biblical, and practical understanding. The study equips the student to constructively engage the issues and implications of ministering with persons affected by disability.

### Requirements:

- BE/BC547 A Biblical Theology of Suffering, Disability, and the Church

#### Select 6 hours from the following:

- BE412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
- WM412 Ministry to Children at Risk
- WM460 Disability and the Body of Christ
- WM905 Applied Beyond Suffering

## Educational Ministries

This 12-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for educational ministry and leadership in a local church or parachurch ministry organization. It includes training in foundational education and courses related to the student's ability to design, direct, supervise, and evaluate various aspects of a ministry program.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
  - EML103 Teaching Process\*
  - EML104 Media Presentations\*
- \*Students may substitute EML105 for EML103 & EML104.

#### Select 6 hours from the following areas as approved the EML department:

- Adult Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Educational Leadership
- Marriage and Family Ministry
- Parachurch Ministry
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry

## Evangelism and Discipleship

This 12-hour emphasis is designed to equip students to do the work of evangelism and to develop disciples. It combines advanced courses taught in Bible Exposition, Theological Studies, Pastoral Ministries, Christian Education, and World Missions and Intercultural Studies departments.

### Requirements:

- Select 12 hours from the following:
- BE540 Discipleship in the Gospels
  - EML435 Effective Ministry with Women
  - EML450 Women Teaching Women
  - EML705 Principles of Disciplemaking

- EML710 Practice of Disciplemaking
- PM251 Evangelistic Preaching
- PM405 Theology and Apologetics in Advanced Evangelism
- ST215 Issues in Soteriology and Sanctification
- WM210 Intercultural Communication
- WM3xx Intercultural Ministry Context Elective
- WM525 Spiritual Warfare
- WM530 Cross-cultural Apologetics and Worldview Evangelism

## Exposition of Biblical Books

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by concentrating on developing expositional skills (understanding and application) by studying specific biblical books.

### Requirements:

9 hours from the following:

- BE405 Exposition of Genesis
- BE408 The Books of Samuel
- BE410 The Wisdom Books
- BE412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
- BE415 The Book of Isaiah
- BE425 The Minor Prophets
- BE430 The Sermon on the Mount
- BE445 The Gospel of John
- BE446 The Upper Room Discourse
- BE450 The Book of Hebrews
- BE455 Daniel and Revelation

Students should choose courses representing both OT & NT, and various genres.

## Hebrew and Cognate Studies

This 9-hour emphasis broadens skills necessary for advanced work in Hebrew exegesis through introduction to cognate Semitic languages, further development of Hebrew reading ability, and an emphasis on research methods.

### Requirements:

- OT310 Hebrew Reading

**Select 6 hours from any OT300-level Philological Studies course.**

## Hermeneutics

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by helping students to advance in their understanding and practice of a proper approach to the application of Scripture.

- BE220 Advanced Hermeneutics

**Select 6 hours from the following:**

- BE210 Advanced Bible Study Methods
- BE215 Literary Genre in the Scriptures
- BE225 Interpreting Progressive Revelation
- OT720 The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament

## Historical Theology

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by focusing on the development of the Christian faith through historical study of its classic sources. This study equips the

student to communicate faithfully the teachings of Scripture in continuity with historic orthodoxy in various ministerial settings.

### Requirements:

- HT200 History of Doctrine
- RS102 Senior Research Seminar

**Select an additional 6 hours from the following:**

- HTxxx Historical Theology electives

(Students may also select one of the following courses as part of their 6 elective hours.)

- ST620 History of Philosophy
- ST630 Postmodernism
- PM510 Spiritual Formation in Historical Perspective
- WM270 Historical Expansion of Global Christianity

## Homiletics

This 9-hour emphasis, designed to prepare students for pastoral ministry that is centered on biblical exposition, helps students develop their personal preaching styles across multiple biblical genres. Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the Department of Pastoral Ministries.

### Requirements:

- PM202 Advanced Expository Preaching
- PM2xx Homiletics Elective

**Select 3 hours from the following:**

- PM360 Preparation for Ordination
- MW802 Dramatizing Scripture
- PM2xx Additional Homiletics Elective

## Intercultural Ministries

This 13-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for evangelistic, church planting, discipleship, and educational ministries in intercultural situations in North America and abroad. It provides training in cultural adaptation, effective mission strategies, religious and cultural contexts, and leadership development. Students may consult with WMIS department professors to construct the most appropriate courses for the ministry context they anticipate.

### Requirements:

- WM205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
- WM210 Intercultural Communication
- WM215 Dynamics of Missionary Development

**Select 4 hours from any WM305–615 courses.**

The WMIS department recommends that students complete one course from each of these four elective categories: Context (WM300-level), Strategic Approaches (WM400-level), Biblical and Theological Studies (WM500-level), and TESOL (WM600-level). However, students also may freely select from any of these categories.

## Leadership Studies

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance the student's ability to provide organizational leadership in a variety of ministry settings

by offering additional training in areas such as leadership dynamics, change and resistance in leadership, personal and organizational leadership development, and team leadership.

### Requirements:

A minimum of 9 hours in Leadership, to be selected in consultation with the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.

## Media Arts and Worship

This 12-hour emphasis is designed to equip students to serve the Lord in media arts-related positions as worship pastors, artists, writers, musicians, directors, and producers in a variety of vocational contexts. Students with an emphasis in the Department of Media Arts and Worship must complete MW102 Media Arts Apprenticeship in place of the ThM Ministry Formation Internship. Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the Department of Media Arts and Worship.

### Requirements:

- MW101 The Art of Media and Worship
- MW103 A Christian View of Art

**Select 6 additional hours in the Media Arts and Worship department.**

## Ministry in Multi-Ethnic Communities

This 9-hour emphasis deals with selected topics related to multi-ethnic communities, whether in city centers, suburbs, or rural areas. It provides an opportunity for students to focus on leadership development, ethical responsibility, and scripturally-based ministry in diverse communities.

### Requirements:

#### Choose one of the following:

- PM540 Developing and Leading the Culturally Diverse Church
- WM325 Ministry in Multicultural America

#### Select 6–7 hours from the following:

- ST515 Theology of Ethnic Concerns
- BC235 Social and Cultural Foundations
- WM425 Intercultural Church Planting
- WM440 Foundations of Christian Community Development
- WM445 Business as Mission
- WM450 Local Church and Social Outreach Ministry

## Ministry with Women

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip women to understand women as an audience and learners and how to teach, lead, mentor, shepherd, and care for women in a variety of contexts. The Ministry with Women emphasis falls under the oversight of the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process\*

- EML104 Media Presentations\*
- EML435 Effective Ministry with Women
- PM351 The Role of Women in Ministry

\*Students may substitute EML105 for EML103 & EML104.

### Select 3 hours from the following:

- EML205 Small Group Process in Ministry
  - EML260 Advanced Teaching Practicum
  - EML425 Effective Ministry with Adults
  - EML450 Women Teaching Women
  - EML505 The Christian Home
  - EML515 Family Life Education
  - EML615 Applied Skills for Ministry Staff
  - EML705 Principles of Disciplemaking
  - EML710 Practice of Disciplemaking
- Other courses approved in consultation with the EML department.

## New Testament Studies

This 12-hour emphasis is designed to prepare students to serve the body of Christ in a variety of church, parachurch, or academic ministries through additional studies in exegesis and other New Testament disciplines, such as textual criticism, lexical, historical, and literary analysis, use of interpretive tools, exegetical problem-solving, New Testament introduction, grammar, and syntax.

### Requirements:

A minimum of 12 hours in New Testament Studies electives (including BE315 Bible Manners and Customs) selected in consultation with the Department of New Testament Studies (excluding independent studies). **Students in this emphasis might consider selecting at least one elective from each of the following areas:**

- Exegetical/Theological Studies (NT335–390; NT415; NT430)
- Gospel/Jesus Studies (NT305–325; NT405–407)
- Background Studies (BE315; NT400; NT410; NT420)
- Grammatical/Textual Studies (NT205–230)

## Old Testament Studies

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by refining skills for Bible interpretation and exposition. It focuses on interpreting the Hebrew text, use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, theological and spiritual formation, and engaging contemporary culture.

### Requirements:

**Select 3 hours from any OT400-level courses (OT405–460) or OT720.**

**Select 6 hours from any remaining Old Testament electives (OT205–905).**

## Pastoral Care and Counseling

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for effective Christian counseling in a nonprofessional environment. Individuals interested in exploring nuances of pastoral

counseling, pastoral care, and marriage and family ministry will be served well by this area of emphasis.

**Requirements:**

A minimum of 9 hours in Biblical Counseling electives selected in consultation with the Department of Biblical Counseling.

### Pastoral Theology and Practice

This emphasis, designed to equip students for the multiple challenges of pastoral ministry in the local church, provides students with pastoral theology and a broad exposure to diverse pastoral skills. Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the Department of Pastoral Ministries.

**Requirements:**

- PM301 Pastoral Theology and Leadership I
- PM302 Worship and Pastoral Care

**Choice of 6 credit hours from:**

- General Pastoral Ministry—Homiletics elective, PM360 (for 3 hours), or EML330
- Church Planting—PM341, PM342, Church Planting Boot Camp (PM905)
- Rural/Small Town Pastoral Ministry—Town and Country Training Courses (PM905)
- Spiritual Formation—PM510, PM520

### Philosophy

This 9-hour emphasis focuses on developing and articulating a distinctively Christian philosophy. In so doing, it equips students to engage constructively the broader philosophical milieu in which they find themselves and to use philosophical reflection to serve Christ and His church.

**Requirements:**

- ST620 History of Philosophy
- RS102 Senior Research Seminar

**Select an additional 6 hours from the following:**

- ST6xx Apologetics and Philosophy electives (Students may also select one of the following courses as part of their 6 elective hours.)
- HT220 Augustine and Augustinian Theology
- HT245 Theology of Karl Barth
- HT260 Readings in Jonathan Edwards
- ST210 Issues in Trinitarianism
- ST220 Issues in Dispensational Theology

### Spiritual Formation

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance the student’s ability to guide others in spiritual formation in a variety of ministry settings by offering additional training in areas such as spiritual formation in historical perspective, spiritual formation in contemporary culture, and the practice of the spiritual disciplines.

**Requirements:**

- EML730 Spiritual Formation in Historical Perspective

**Plus six hours from**

- EML705 Principles of Disciplemaking
- EML710 Practice of Disciplemaking
- EML740 Spiritual Formation in Contemporary Culture
- EML750 Spiritual Disciplines
- EML760 Readings in Christian Spirituality

### Systematic Theology

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to enhance ministry by focusing on articulating the evangelical Christian faith through systematic study of its sources. This study equips the student to constructively engage the issues and implications of theology in various ministerial settings.

**Requirements:**

- ST295 Systematic Theology Colloquium
- RS102 Senior Research Seminar

**Select 3 hours from the following:**

- ST6xx Apologetics and Philosophy electives

**Select an additional 3 hours from the following:**

- HT200 History of Doctrine
- HT230 Readings in John Calvin
- HT260 Readings in Jonathan Edwards

### General Studies

This option is designed to provide a more generalized ministry preparation course of study for students whose ministry goals are less settled, who want to incorporate elements from multiple courses in various departments, or whose specialized ministry goals are not addressed by the above ministry emphases. Courses and the internship in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the faculty advisor based on the student’s unique ministry experience and goals. Students considering this emphasis should consult with the faculty advisor before taking electives.

### 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 semesters 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 semesters; therefore, they should arrange their schedules so they meet on the same day and at the same time each semester. Spiritual Formation is a noncredit, transcribed experience. For all degrees for which it is required, Spiritual Formation, an approved communications course, and completion of