

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. 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. The ThM requires that 48 credit hours be completed in real-time.

As part of the ThM core curriculum, all students take a 3-hour Internship course (INT5130). During the Internship course, students 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 course 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 course 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 Academic Advising 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
- Jewish Studies
- Leadership Studies
- Media Arts and Worship
- Ministry with Women
- Home-Context Missions
- 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 Foundations of 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
- BE5545 Introduction to Biblical Theology

Select an additional 3–6 hours from the following (optional):

- BE5305 Physical and Historical Geography of Israel
- 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
- BE5450 The Book of Hebrews
- BE5455 Daniel and Revelation
- BE5503 The Psalms and the Worship of God
- BE5510 The Life of Christ
- BE5515 The Parables of Christ
- BE5540 Discipleship in the Gospels
- BE5547 A Biblical Theology of Suffering, Disability, and the Church
- BE5555 Messianic Prophecy
- BE5909 Israel Study of the Bible

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:

- MIM5205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
- MIM5540 Applied Biblical Contextualization (taken for 3 credit hours)
- DIU Elective in Cultural Anthropology

Additional Information:

Because of the unique nature of Bible-translation ministry and the needs of Bible translators on the field, completion of this concentration requires 18 credit hours, most of which courses are offered at Dallas International University (DIU). Completion

of this concentration fulfills the 9-hour requirement from the Division of Ministries and Communication.

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:

- MIM5340 Ministry in Chinese Contexts
- MIM5420 Missions Strategies for Unreached Peoples
- MIM5545 Chinese Historical and Theological Trends
- EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations
- EML5705 Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking

*Available **only** to students who are completing the ThM in Chinese

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 Counseling Ministries coursework in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor and with the approval of the Department of Counseling Ministries.

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/CM5547 A Biblical Theology of Suffering, Disability, and the Church
- BE5412 Job and a Theology of Suffering
- MIM5412 Ministry to Children at Risk
- MIM5905 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.

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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. 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

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
MIM5525 Spiritual Warfare
MIM5530 Cross-cultural Apologetics and Worldview Evangelism

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.

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

Home-Context Missions

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.

Requirements:

MIM5325 Ministry in Multicultural America
MIM5440 Foundations of Christian Community Development

Select 6 hours from the following:

PM5540 Developing and Leading the Culturally Diverse Church
ST5515 Theology of Ethnic Concerns
MIM5205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
MIM5425 Intercultural Church Planting
MIM5540 Applied Biblical Contextualization

Additional Information:

Students are encouraged to consult with the Department of Missiology and Intercultural Ministries to select the courses that will best prepare them for serving in their anticipated ministry context.

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.

Requirements:

- MIM5205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
- MIM5210 Intercultural Communication
- MIM5215 Dynamics of Missionary Development

Select 3 hours from the following:

- MIM53xx Contexts Elective
- MIM54xx Strategic Approaches Elective
- MIM55xx Biblical and Theological Studies Elective

Additional Information:

Students are encouraged to consult with the Department of Missiology and Intercultural Ministries to select the courses that will best prepare them for serving in their anticipated ministry context.

Jewish Studies

Students in this concentration will be equipped to serve among the Jewish people.

Requirements:

- JS5600 History of the Jewish People
- MIM5345 Ministry in Jewish Contexts
Jewish Studies Elective

Select one of the following:

- JS5630 Rabbinic Literature
- GSH621 Introduction to Rabbinic Literature

Leadership Studies

Students in this concentration will be equipped, through training in areas such as personal leadership development, organizational leadership development, change and resistance in leadership, team leadership, and emotional intelligence, in such a way as to enhance their ability to provide servant leadership within personal, ministry, parachurch, and other contexts.

Requirements:

- EML5331 Personal Leadership Development
- EML5332 Organizational Leadership Development

Select 6 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:

- MW5201 Medieval Art in Spirituality
- MW5202 Calvin Festival: Writing and Writers
- MW5203 Calvin Symposium: Worship Arts in the Church
- MW5204 Theology at Sundance Film Festival
- MW5205 South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference and Festivals
- MW5206 British Authors and Biblical Themes
- MW5301 Creative Writing in Ministry
- MW5302 Writing for Publication
- MW5303 Advanced Creative Writing
- MW5304 Theology and Contemporary Literature
- MW5305 C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien: Imaginary Worlds and Learning Moral Virtue
- MW5404 Media Presentations
- MW5410 Digital Production for Ministry
- MW5451 Theological Reflections on Technology and Digital Culture
- MW5603 Collaborative Practices in Art and Theology
- MW5701 Hymnology
- MW5702 Praise and Worship Music
- MW5703 Seminar in Worship Arts
- MW5704 Theology and Practice of Ethnodoxology
- MW5801 Public Reading of Scripture
- MW5802 Dramatizing Scripture
- MW5901 Independent Study in Media Arts and Worship
- MW5905 Special Topics in Media Arts and Worship

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
- EML5435 Effective Ministry with Women
- PM5351 Theological and Biblical Views of Women in Ministry Leadership

Select 3 hours from the following:

- EML5110 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML5205 Effective Small-Group Ministry
- EML5425 Effective Ministry with Adults
- EML5450 Women Teaching Women

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EML55xx The Christian Home
EML5515 Family Life Education
EML5615 Applied Skills for Ministry Staff
EML5705 Principles and Practice of Disciplemaking

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.

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 (including a minimum of 6 hours from the NT department):

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

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 Pastoral Theology and Church Leadership

Select 6 hours from the following:

PM52xx Homiletics Elective(s)
PM5341 Church Planting
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
EML5331 Personal 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 as well as contemporary culture, in order 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

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; Washington, DC; or Atlanta 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 life and 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, transcribed experience that must be completed prior to enrolling in the ThM Ministry Formation Internship. (For other requirements related to the internship, please see the Ministry Formation Internships section of this catalog.)

Real-Time and Degree Limit Requirements

Of the 120 credit hours of coursework required for graduation, a minimum of 48 hours (i.e., 16 3-hour courses) must be taken in a real-time 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.

ThM in Chinese

Courses in the Chinese-English bilingual ThM must be completed in a real-time 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.