

## 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 with a 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 for the task of Bible translation.

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.

#### 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 as theologians to incorporate the arts in communication of God's truth: as thought leaders, 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 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 Theology, 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  
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  
BE5315 Bible Manners and Customs

**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/PM5515 Spiritual Disciplines

EML5760/PM5530 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 30 hours (i.e., 10 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](https://dts.edu/chinese) or contact the Chinese Studies office for more information on completing the ThM in Chinese.