

## 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 each of their first four consecutive fall and spring semesters at either the Dallas campus or Houston 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 on which is required, Spiritual Formation and completion of half of the student's DTS course work are the primary prerequisites for internship eligibility.

## AGAPE PROJECT

The Agape Project is an initiative that gives feet to the seminary's commitment to the concept 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.

Agape assignments are embedded in courses throughout the curriculum and enhance the learning outcomes of those courses. Some courses require Agape assignments, while other courses offer them as optional. Agape assignments require students to engage in an approved ministry setting in the community 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 Internship. For more information, contact the Associate Director of the Agape Project.

## 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 that involves the production of a portfolio), students will customize the remaining 24 elective hours with respect to their ministry goals and areas of interest. Regardless of their Ministry Emphasis, students will take at least 9 of their 24 credit hours

in the Ministries and Communication division. A faculty coordinator for each emphasis is available to meet with students. The requirements for each emphasis will 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 in the Student Advising Center in the Walvoord Student Center. Students may request an emphasis through CampusNet.

- Adult Education
- Apologetics
- Bible Backgrounds
- Bible Translation\*
- Biblical Theology
- Children's Education
- Educational Administration
- Educational Leadership
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- Exposition of Biblical Books
- Family Life Education
- General Studies
- Hebrew and Cognate Studies
- Hermeneutics
- Historical Theology
- Homiletics
- Intercultural Ministries
- Jesus Studies
- Leadership Studies
- Media Arts
- Ministry with Women
- New Testament Studies
- New Testament Textual Criticism
- Old Testament Studies
- Parachurch Ministries
- Pastoral Care and Counseling
- Pastoral Theology and Practice
- Philosophy
- Spiritual Formation
- Systematic Theology
- Teaching in Christian Institutions
- Urban Ministries
- Worship Studies
- Youth Education

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

Additional Ministry Emphases may be approved subsequent to the publishing of this catalog. For a complete listing of current Ministry Emphases, go to [www.dts.edu/thm/#emphases](http://www.dts.edu/thm/#emphases). See the

departmental Course Descriptions sections later in this catalog for additional Ministry Emphasis information.

## ADULT EDUCATION

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for ministry with adults in a local church or parachurch context. Courses focus on foundational adult learning theory and practice, the ability to create and lead transformational ministries to adults, and understanding generational, gender, and cultural differences that affect learning.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process
- EML104 Media Presentations

### Select 9 hours from the following:

- EML205 Small-group Process in Ministry
- EML425 Church Ministries with Adults
- EML435 Effective Ministry with Women
- EML445 Young Adult Ministry in the Post-modern Era
- EML705 Principles of Discipleship
- EML710 Practice of Discipleship

## 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. Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the department of theological studies.

### Requirements:

A minimum of nine hours in Apologetics, to be crafted in consultation with the Department of Theological Studies.

## 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
- BE310 Bible Chronology
- BE315 Bible Manners and Customs

- BE909 Field Study of the Bible
- NT410 Greco-Roman and Jewish Sites and Backgrounds
- OT605 Old Testament Backgrounds
- OT610 History of Israel
- OT615 Israelite Religion in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context
- OT620 Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
- OT625 Field Work in Biblical Archaeology

## 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 the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL). GIAL 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.

- AL 5207 Field Data Management
- AL 5312 Discourse Analysis
- AL 5315 Semantics and Pragmatics
- AL 5316 Theory and Practice of Translation
- AL 5406 Field Methods and Linguistic Analysis

### Select one of the following:

- WM205 Cultural Dynamics in Ministry
- WM540 Applied Biblical Contextualization (taken for 3 credit hours).
- GIAL 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 6 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

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for ministry with children in a local church or parachurch organization. Elements of foundational education training are combined with courses related to the student's ability to organize and supervise local church or parachurch ministries to children, including the recruitment and retention of adult staff.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process
- EML104 Media Presentations

### Select 9 hours from the following:

- EML365 Administrative Process
- EML405 Early Faith Foundations
- EML410 Children's Ministry in the Church
- EML412 Ministry to Children at Risk
- EML515 Family Life Education

## EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for ministry in schools or other educational institutions. Elements of foundational education training are combined with courses related to the student's ability to equip students for leadership in an educational institution at the elementary, secondary, or higher level.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process
- EML104 Media Presentations

### Select 9 hours from the following:

- EML310 Administration in Higher Christian Education
- EML320 Christian School Administration
- EML365 Administrative Process
- EML615 The Role of the Associate in Ministry
- Any EML electives

## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for educational leadership in a local church or parachurch organization, and includes training both in foundational education and courses related to the student's ability to design, direct, supervise, and evaluate the overall educational process of a local church or other ministry. This emphasis is not designed for those whose primary ministry will be preaching or pastoral leadership.

### Requirements:

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process
- EML104 Media Presentations

### In addition, the student must take:

- EML410 Children's Ministry in the Church
- EML415 Church Ministries with Youth
- EML425 Church Ministries with Adults

## 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 Discipleship
- EML710 Practice of Discipleship
- PM251 Evangelistic Preaching
- PM405 Seminar in Evangelistic Issues and Strategies
- PM410 Lifestyle Evangelism and Apologetics
- ST215 Issues in Soteriology and Sanctification
- WM210 Intercultural Communication
- WM305 Context for Intercultural Ministry -345 Courses
- 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.

## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for ministry with families in a local church or parachurch organization. Elements of foundational education training are combined with courses related to the student's ability to develop and direct a church program of family life education, including family classes, counseling, and discipling relationships.

### Requirements:

EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education  
 EML103 Teaching Process  
 EML104 Media Presentations

### Select 9 hours from the following:

EML325 Legal and Financial Issues in Ministry  
 EML405 Early Faith Foundations  
 EML420 Outdoor Ministry  
 EML505 The Christian Home (1 hour per module)  
 EML505-1 Dynamics of a Christian Marriage  
 EML505-2 Communication and Conflict Resolution  
 EML505-3 Dynamics of a Christian Family  
 EML505-4 Family Research and Assessment

EML505-5 Grace-based Parenting  
 EML515 Family Life Education  
 EML705 Principles of Discipleship

## GENERAL STUDIES

This emphasis 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 other ministry emphases. *Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the Student Advising Center* based on the student's unique ministry experience and goals and will guide the student in setting goals for his or her ThM internship.

## 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 courses.**

## 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:

BE205 The Analytical Method of Bible Study  
 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:

A minimum of 9 hours in Historical Theology, to be crafted in consultation with the Department of Theological Studies.



## HOMILETICS

This 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  
 PM200-level   Homiletics Elective  
 PM360      Preparation for Ordination  
 or  
 MW802      Dramatizing Scripture  
 or  
 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 elect from any of these categories.

## JESUS STUDIES

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to prepare students for a variety of academic, college campus, and apologetic ministries through additional studies in the biblical, theological, and historical subject of Jesus Christ.

### Requirements:

#### 6 hours from the following:

NT305   Exegesis of Gospel Narrative  
 NT405   New Testament Study and the Life of Christ  
 NT407   Historical Jesus

### Select 3 hours from the following:

NT310   The Gospel of Matthew  
 NT315   The Gospel of Mark  
 NT320   The Gospel of Luke  
 NT325   The Gospel of John  
 NT408   Jesus and the Media  
 NT410   Greco-Roman and Jewish Sites and Backgrounds  
 BE510   The Life of Christ on Earth  
 ST415   Theology and World Religions  
 or  
 WM535   Theology and World Religions  
 HT217   The Apostolic Fathers  
 PM232   Preaching the Gospels

## 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:

EML305   Dynamics of Christian Leadership

In addition, the student must take 6 hours in consultation with the Educational Ministries and Leadership department.

## MEDIA ARTS

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to equip students to serve the body of Christ in media-arts vocations such as artists, writers, musicians, directors, and producers in the context of biblically oriented, congregational, and parachurch ministries. Courses in this emphasis will be selected in consultation with the Media Arts and Worship department.

### Requirements:

MW103   A Christian View of Art

### Select 6 hours from any Media Arts and Worship electives (MW101-905).

## MINISTRY WITH WOMEN

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip women to understand women as an audience and learners and 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
- EML425 Church Ministries with Adults
- EML435 Effective Ministry with Women
- EML450 Women Teaching Women

**NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES**

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to prepare students for a variety of church, parachurch, or academic ministries through additional studies in exegesis and other New Testament disciplines, such as textual criticism, lexical and literary analysis, use of interpretive tools, exegetical problem-solving, New Testament introduction, grammar, and syntax.

**Requirements:**

**Select 6 hours from the following:**

- NT205 Advanced Greek Grammar
- NT305 Exegesis of Gospel Narrative
- NT335 The Epistle of 1 Corinthians

**Select 3 hours from any remaining New Testament electives.**

**NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM**

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to prepare students for a variety of academic, college campus, church, or apologetic ministries through additional studies in New Testament textual criticism and related sub-disciplines.

**Requirements:**

- NT215 New Testament Textual Criticism

In addition, the student must select 6 hours in consultation with the Department of New Testament Studies. Because of the unique nature of this emphasis, students may fulfill elective requirements by independent study on various topics related to textual criticism. Consult the Department of New Testament Studies for more information.

**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).**

**PARACHURCH MINISTRIES**

This 15-hour emphasis, developed jointly by the departments of Christian Education and World Missions and Intercultural Studies, is designed to facilitate ministry training for those currently engaged in or anticipating serving in either the United States or overseas.

**Requirements:**

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education
- EML103 Teaching Process
- EML104 Media Presentations

**Select 9 hours from the following:**

- EML365 Administrative Process
- EML425 Church Ministries with Adults
- Any WM elective

**PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING**

This 9-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for effective Christian counseling in a non-professional 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 Pastoral Theology and Leadership II

**Choice of 6 credit hours from:**

- General Pastoral Ministry–Homiletics elective, PM360 (for 3 cr. hrs.), 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:** A minimum of 9 hours in Philosophy, to be selected in consultation with the Department of Theological Studies.

**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

In addition, the student must select 7 hours in consultation with the Department of Educational Ministries and Leadership.

**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 engage constructively the issues and implications of theology in various ministerial settings.

**Requirements:**

ST295 Systematic Theology Colloquium  
ST620 History of Philosophy

In addition, the student must select 6 hours in consultation with the Department of Theological Studies.

**TEACHING IN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS**

This 15-hour emphasis seeks to develop skill in the teaching role of educators at the K–12 and higher-education levels. This will be accomplished with selective, but advanced exploration of learning theory, designing course syllabi and other materials, and investigating several prominent Christian school models. Skills will be further developed and honed through modular courses that build on previous study with a view to simulated practice and laboratory exploration.

**Requirements:**

EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education  
EML103 Teaching Process  
EML104 Media Presentations

**Select 9 hours from the following:**

EML215 Teaching in Christian Higher Education  
EML310 Administration in Christian Higher Education  
EML320 Christian School Administration  
EML325 Legal and Financial Issues in Ministry  
EML905 Special Topics in Christian Educational Ministries and Leadership

**URBAN MINISTRIES**

This 9-hour emphasis deals with particular issues arising from urban, culturally diverse ministry. It provides an opportunity for students to focus either on a single ethnic community or multi-ethnic, socioeconomically diverse context.



**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

**WORSHIP STUDIES**

This 9-hour emphasis, as a joint project between Pastoral Ministries and Media Arts and Worship, seeks to prepare students to design and lead theologically sound worship experiences in the local church.

**Requirements:**

- PM302 Pastoral Theology and Leadership II  
 MW103 A Christian View of Art

**Select 3 hours from the following:**

- MW701 Hymnology  
 MW702 Praise and Worship Music  
 MW703 Seminar in Worship Arts

**YOUTH EDUCATION**

This 15-hour emphasis is designed to equip students for ministry with youth in a local church or para-church organization. Elements of foundational education training are combined with courses related to the student's abilities in order to better equip the student to organize and supervise an effective program of ministry for adolescents and their families.

**Requirements:**

- EML102 History and Philosophy of Christian Education  
 EML103 Teaching Process  
 EML104 Media Presentations  
 EML415 Church Ministries with Youth  
 EML430 Programming for Youth Ministries  
 EML615 The Role of the Associate in Ministry

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Of the 120 semester hours of coursework required for graduation, a minimum of 48 must be taken in residence at the Dallas campus or at the Houston Campus. **All work leading to the degree must normally be completed within eight years from the time a student begins the program.**

Extension beyond the eight years requires approval by the Credits Committee. Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires Admissions Committee action 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 semester prior to the semester/term of degree conferral or the semester 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 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 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 semester hours of coursework, including ThM Internship credits, 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 (or certificates) will not be released, transcripts issued, or placement assistance provided unless all financial obligations to the seminary and/or student loan program are current.