

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity curriculum of the School of Theology is designed to provide students with the spiritual formation, knowledge, and skills required to become committed, effective ordained clergy. To this end, the curriculum includes study of Scripture, the Christian tradition, ministerial skills, and modern cultural contexts, with a view to the reasoned practice of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in both its historical context and its contemporary setting.

Student Learning Outcomes: “Devout, Learned, and Useful”

1. Students demonstrate knowledge of their religious heritage.
2. Students demonstrate an awareness of cultural contexts.
3. Students demonstrate evidence of personal and spiritual formation.
4. Students demonstrate capacities for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Spiritual Formation

Christian ministry requires leaders who are sensitive to the presence of God in their own lives and in the lives of those with whom they are called to serve. Through daily worship, prayer, study, spiritual direction, a rule of life, and quiet days, the School of Theology seeks to develop in its students such an awareness and pattern of life.

Worship Life

The community is grounded in worship. Morning Prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and Evening Prayer are celebrated in the Chapel of the Apostles. Students and faculty take part in at least one of those offices daily, including a weekly community Eucharist. Attendance at the School's Triduum liturgies (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) is expected of seminary students. Those in field placements are released from obligations to their fieldwork parishes in order to participate fully in the Triduum at the School. Through participation in the church's liturgical life, students deepen their awareness of the meaning of worship and are provided opportunities to develop their skills in the ordering and conducting of a variety of Prayer Book rites. Students and faculty participate in planning liturgy, leading worship, and preaching.

The Dean has responsibility for the spiritual and community life of the School of Theology. The Dean is the Ordinary of the Chapel of the Apostles.

Curriculum

The master of divinity program is designed to educate a critically informed clergy for ministry in a changing world. The School of Theology is committed to the task of integrating the various areas of theological study within a basic core curriculum.

Electives allow students to focus their attention and advance their learning in selected areas of academic and practical interest. Lectures, seminars, and small group discussions all contribute to the ongoing task of critical and practical integration of the traditions of theological learning with life in the contemporary world.

Requirements for the Degree

The curriculum for the Master of Divinity degree requires 75 semester hours. To retain the status of regular (full-time) student, at least twelve semester hours must be taken for credit each semester.

Core courses are listed indicating when each is normally taken. Circumstances, such as sabbaticals, may dictate changes in when a course is offered. Students, such as those participating in an exchange program or those transferring credits from another school, may find that their sequence must differ from the paradigm below. In such cases, the student should be mindful of course prerequisites and should consult with their advisor (and, when appropriate, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs).

Graduation from the School of Theology follows the successful completion of all requirements for the specified program of study and the approval of the degree by the Senate of the University upon nomination by the Faculty of the School of Theology.

A Master of Divinity student who has successfully completed all prescribed work, has fulfilled the clinical pastoral education and field education requirements, has completed all non-credit degree requirements, has submitted a complete portfolio, and has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.33 is eligible to be awarded the Master of Divinity degree. Work toward this degree is to be concluded within six consecutive years from the date of matriculation.

Additionally, a student must satisfy all financial obligations to the University. The University will neither confer a degree nor provide transcripts to any student or former student who has unsatisfied financial obligations to the University.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
JUNIOR CURRICULUM		
Advent Semester		
BIBL 501	Old Testament I: From Prehistory to the Promised Land	3
BIBL 511	New Testament I: The Gospels in Context	3
CHHT 511	Church Histories I: Asia and Africa	3
THEO 503	Foundations of Christian Spirituality	3
Easter Semester		
BIBL 502	Old Testament II: Prophets, Exile, and Aftermath	3
BIBL 512	New Testament II: The Bible after Jesus	3
CHHT 512	Church Histories II: Europe and North America	3
HOML 530	Introduction to Preaching	3
Summer Term		
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is ordinarily taken in the summer after the junior year, if it was not taken before matriculation.		
MIDDLER CURRICULUM		
Advent Semester		
LTCM 507	Church Music	3
MNST 511	Pastoral Theology: Theology and Practice of Pastoral Care	3
MNST 515	Congregational Studies	3
THEO 511	Systematic Theology I	3
Easter Semester		
CEMT 511	Introduction to Moral Theology	3
LTCM 511	History of Christian Worship	3
MNST 516	Parish Leadership	3
THEO 521	Systematic Theology II	3
SENIOR CURRICULUM		
Advent Semester		
LTCM 521	Pastoral Liturgics: The Prayer Book of the Episcopal Church	3
MNST 525	Introduction to Christian Education and Formation	1
MNST 564	Community and Organizational Leadership	3
WREL 501	World Religions	2
Electives ¹		3
Easter Semester		
WREL 502	World Christianities and Missiology	2
Electives ¹		13
Total Semester Hours		75

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Students are required to take one three-semester hour elective in each of the following subjects: ethics and homiletics. Courses that satisfy these requirements will be marked on the class schedule.

Non-credit Degree Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	Bibliography, Research, and Writing Workshop	
	Chapel Participation, as scheduled	
	Clinical Pastoral Education	
	Constitution and Canons (Title IV) Workshop	
	Cross-Cultural Workshop	
	Cultural Diversity Workshop	
	Education for Ministry (EfM) Workshop	

Safeguarding God's Children Workshop

Safeguarding God's People Workshop

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For details on these workshops, see the Non-credit Degree Requirements for Graduation (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/archives/2024-2025/theology/programs-of-study/noncredit_degree_requirements_for_graduation/) section.

Portfolio

Each Master of Divinity student will maintain a portfolio, filed with the Coordinator of Academic Affairs in the School of Theology. A completed portfolio is a degree requirement. Portfolios are used for program assessment. A complete portfolio includes:¹

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select one of the following:		
	A short paper from THEO 511	
	A paper from CEMT 511	
Select one of the following:		
	The Prophets paper from BIBL 502	
	A paper or final exam from BIBL 511 or BIBL 512	
Select one of the following:		
	WREL 502 assignment	
	The Prophets paper from BIBL 502	
	The issues paper from BIBL 502	
	One mid-term exam or paper from either CHHT 511 or CHHT 512	
	The final exam from LTCM 521	
	The final exam from WREL 501	
	The middler evaluation	
	One exam from MNST 511	
	Theology of Preaching reflection paper from HOML 530	
	Field education final evaluation	

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Exams and papers are to be scanned and submitted electronically to preserve faculty grades and comments. Each item should be labeled by the student, so that it may be easily identified according to the contents list above.