

## ADMISSION TO MASTER OF THEOLOGY (TH.M.)

Admission application request forms for all programs are available online at [www.brite.edu/admissions](http://www.brite.edu/admissions).

Brite Divinity School offers the Master of Theology in four areas of study: Hebrew Bible, Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and Literature of Early Judaism; New Testament and Literature of Early Christianity; Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care; History and Theology.

### A. General Application Information

In addition to area specific requirements (see B.), all Th.M. applications must include the following:

#### 1. Application and Admission Fee

Applications are available from:

Office of Admissions
Brite Divinity School
TCU Box 298130
Fort Worth, Texas 76129
Or online: <a href="http://www.brite.edu/admissions">www.brite.edu/admissions</a> .

Each application must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 application fee made payable to Brite Divinity School.

#### 2. Statement of Purpose

As part of the application, the candidate must submit a statement of purpose. This is a very important part of the application. The candidate should prepare it carefully, being sure to specify the reasons for applying to the Th.M. Program of Brite Divinity School.

#### 3. Three Letters of Recommendation

These should come from persons who are able to evaluate your academic and professional qualifications, such as undergraduate or graduate faculty familiar with your work. These letters must be in sealed envelopes and signed across the seal for security; however, you are responsible for seeing that the letters of recommendation are sent. If letters are faxed, they must be faxed to the attention of the Admissions Office and followed by mailed hardcopies to the Admissions Office.

#### 4. Financial Certificate for International Students

In order to meet requirements for entry into the United States, international applicants must demonstrate that they have the financial resources to cover the cost of their education. Visa documents are issued only when all admission procedures have been satisfied. Applications for financial awards to international students are considered in competition with all other applications received.

#### 5. Transcripts

Official transcripts (bearing the signature of the registrar and the seal of the institution) of all post-secondary work are required. Transcripts are to be sent directly to Brite Divinity School from each institution.

#### 6. Test Scores

- a. Graduate Record Examinations Scores (GRE) are required.
- b. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants whose primary language is other than English and who have not received their education at an English-speaking college or university will also submit TOEFL scores of normally not less than 600 (computer-based 250 or internet-based 100).

You may select either the computer-based or paper-based test format. Online information about the GRE and TOEFL is available at <http://www.ets.org> or you may contact Educational Testing Service (ETS), P.O. Box 6000, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6000. Please use Institutional Code 6803 when requesting that test scores be sent to Brite Divinity School. We realize that the GRE scores of international students, particularly those whose native language is not English, may be affected by language and cultural differences. These scores are taken into consideration only as part of a student's total profile when such students' applications are evaluated. The scores are nevertheless required and must come directly from the Educational Testing Service.

## **B. Additional Area Application Requirements**

### **1. Hebrew Bible & New Testament Specific Requirements for Admission**

Hebrew Bible and New Testament applications must contain the following area specific requirements:

- a. M.Div., M.T.S., or M.A. degree with courses in biblical studies and Biblical Hebrew and Greek;
- b. Reading knowledge of both Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek is required for matriculation. During orientation, entering students will take brief diagnostic tests in both biblical languages (thirty minutes allowed for translation in each testament with the aid of a dictionary). Students who do not pass the tests or have not had one of the two languages may achieve competency by passing a one-semester / three hour graduate course in the language;
- c. Provide a Writing sample (thesis, research paper, article, or essay) demonstrating the applicant's area of interest in biblical studies, scholastic preparation, and intellectual ability.

### **2. Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care Specific Requirements for Admission**

Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care applications must contain the following area specific requirements:

- a. M.Div. degree or its equivalent.  
"Equivalent" means that the Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care department may consider an applicant who has a theological degree other than the M.Div. from an accredited seminary or divinity school. The Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care department will assess the applicant's transcript and recommend course work necessary to achieve equivalency. At minimum, the applicant will be expected to have completed within the existing theological degree:

9 hours of pastoral care, pastoral theology, or pastoral counseling  
 3 hours of ethics  
 6 hours of theology

6 hours of Bible  
6 hours of church history

The department may also require courses in other disciplines expected from an M.Div. program to prepare a student for ministry. Normally, and by ATS standards, equivalent work, plus the previous degree, would equal the number of hours required for an M.Div. degree.

- b. Provide a document (thesis, research paper, article, lecture, writing project) in the applicant's area of specialty that demonstrates abilities to conceptualize and communicate through the written word.

### **3. History and Theology Specific Requirements for Admission**

- a. M.Div., M.T.S., or M.A. degree with courses in historical studies, theology, and ethics.
- b. Provide a writing sample (thesis, research paper, article, or essay) demonstrating the applicant's area of interest, scholastic preparation, and intellectual ability.

### **C. Th.M. Application Deadline**

Completed Th.M. applications must be received no later than April 15 (fall matriculation) and October 15 (spring matriculation). The Advanced Programs Admissions Committee, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Dean make admission decisions. Admission is competitive and students are selected on the basis of a total profile of their scholastic preparation and intellectual ability. Applicants are notified by May 31 of admission for the following fall semester/ November 15 for the following spring semester.

### **D. Th.M. Admissions Timeline (Fall / Spring)**

*February 1 / August 1*

Last date for applicants to take the paper-based GRE in order for Brite to receive the scores by April 15 / October 15.

*February 15 / August 15*

Last date for international applicants to take the paper-based TOEFL in order for Brite to receive the scores by April 15 / October 15.

*March 1 / September 1*

Last date for applicants to take the computer-based GRE or TOEFL in order for Brite to receive the scores by April 15 / October 15.

*April 15 / October 15*

Completed applications must be on file.

*May 15 / November 15*

Admission decisions will be mailed by this date to all applicants whose files are complete by April 15 / October 15.

*May 31 / December 7*

Deadline for response to offers of admission and financial award. If your reply is not received by May 31 / Dec. 7, Brite may rescind the offer of admission and financial award. An offer of admission is made for a specific entrance date. In some cases, admission may be deferred until the following semester.

