

Teaching Learning Outcomes and Prominent Characteristics of Brite's Master of Divinity Curriculum

Brite Divinity School's Master of Divinity degree program educates ministerial leaders who engage in effective, critically imaginative ministry as pastors and as public theologians seeking to increase the love of God and neighbor and justice in a diverse church and culture and to secure the well-being of the planet entrusted to our care.

Brite's Master of Divinity degree has the following four outcomes. Each outcome has prominent characteristics that, though not exclusive, elaborate or clarify Brite's understanding of the corresponding outcome.

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and skills for constructive theological analysis and articulation for ecclesial and public contexts

- a. knowledge of the Bible and Christian traditions across history and the ability to engage these critically and constructively;
- b. critical and constructive appreciation of the contributions and issues of contemporary, worldwide Christianity with its diverse contexts and priorities;
- c. skills for intelligent, articulate analysis and engagement of public issues which intersect with faith;
- d. sufficient self-understanding of their own particular Christian tradition to allow openness to the ideas and experiences of other Christian traditions and to opportunities for an ever-widening experience of God in contemporary life; and
- e. critical and constructive knowledge of other religions.

2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and skills for engaging social and religious diversity in the human family as evidence of God's creativity and vision

- a. a value for and knowledge of the social and cultural diversity in the human family;
- b. cross cultural fluency that includes a deep self-understanding of various aspects of their own social and religious identities; and
- c. a capacity to engage critically and respectfully other religions.

3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and skills for effective, ethical, and wise ministerial leadership

- a. an understanding of and critically constructive engagement with the history of the office of ministry and the evolving contemporary understanding of ministerial leadership;
- b. an understanding of and a readiness to make use of intellectual, spiritual and social resources for ministry that will nurture and lead congregants in their faith journeys and in effective witness;
- c. an understanding of strategies and practices for ethical behavior as ministerial leaders;
- d. an understanding of multiple practices and disciplines that support ministerial leaders; and
- e. A capacity to reflect critically and theologically upon religious experience and practice.

4. Students will demonstrate growing knowledge and skills to engage in advocacy for the justice and love promised in Christian tradition for all God's creation

- a. constructive and imaginative theological resources for recognizing the interconnectedness and value of every human life and a readiness to confront and resist forces that would undermine the fullness of all God's people;
- b. resources for contextual analysis and skills for engaging social justice in a range of diverse contexts;
- c. skills to be effective agents of change for enlarging social justice in ecclesial and cultural contexts;
- d. recognition of the interconnectedness of the ecological web and a readiness to confront and resist forces that would undermine the fullness of all God's creation;
- e. resources for contextual analysis and skills for engaging planetary justice in a range of diverse contexts;
- f. skills to be effective agents of change for enlarging ecological justice in ecclesial and cultural contexts; and

g. Engage spiritual practices to sustain ministries of social and ecological justice.

5. Students will demonstrate integrative capacities

- a. Students will draw on content, methods, and/or skills from multiple disciplines (viz. fields of theological studies);
- b. Students will advance in more complex analyses through the degree program; and
- c. Students will interrelate two or more of the other four outcomes of the MDiv Curriculum.