

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity degree is the basic graduate degree in theological education. The eighty-one hour program of study leading to this degree is designed to prepare students for various forms of ministry in the church. In recognition of the great diversity of students' undergraduate preparation and vocational goals, the M.Div. curriculum is flexible and allows much freedom in the selection of courses. Certificates in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics, Military Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, and Sexual and Gender Justice are available within the structure of the program.

### Curriculum

#### I. Basic Theological Studies - 57 hours

Requirements for Basic Theological Studies are normally satisfied by courses in the 60003-69999 series. However, a student with a special background in a subject matter may, with approval, substitute an advanced course for a 60003-69999 series course.

- A. **Bible** - 9 hours, of which 3 must be in Hebrew Bible (HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books) and 3 in New Testament (NETE 60003 Interpreting the New Testament). Once the appropriate introductory course is completed, the 3 hours of an exegesis course (650xx) may be chosen from the wide range of upper level courses in either HEBI or NETE.
- B. **History** - 6 hours:
  1. CHHI 60013 History of Christianity I, Early and Medieval
  2. CHHI 60023 History of Christianity II, Reformation and Modern
- C. **Theology and Ethics** - 12 hours, distributed in the following ways:
  1. CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology I
  2. CHTH XXXX Three additional hours chosen from specified course options.  
(Students should consult their academic advising sheets for courses that meet this requirement.)
  3. CHET 60013 Introduction to Contemporary Theological Ethics
  4. One course selected from the following:
    - CHTH 65033 Black Theologies
    - CHET 65013 History of Christian Ethics
    - RECU 65013 Seminar: Social Ethics
    - RECU 65033 Religion and Violence
    - RECU 65053 African-American Experiences and Perspectives in Social Ethics
    - Modern Christian Political Thought
    - Womanist Theology and Ethics
- D. **Practical Theology** - 24 hours
  1. HOML 65003 Foundations for Preaching
  2. One course selected from the following:
    - PRTH 60003 Congregational Leadership
    - PRTH 60033 The Church's Mission and the Minister's Vocation
    - The Person as Leader
    - Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations
  3. PRTH 65013 Supervised Ministry I
  4. PRTH 65023 Supervised Ministry II
  5. PTPC 60003 The Ministry of Pastoral Care
  6. REED 65003 The Church's Educational Ministry
  7. SPIR 60003 Spiritual Life and Leadership
  8. WRSP 60003 Christian Worship
- E. **Contextualization** - 6 hours  
Three hours chosen from any of the following:
  1. JWST 60003 Introduction to Judaism
  2. RECU 60013 Religious Plurality: Theologies and Geopolitics of Religion
  3. RECU 60023 Christian Theology of Religion
  4. RECU 60033 Religious Fundamentalism

5. RECU 60043 Interreligious Dialogue
6. RECU 60063 World Religions and Gender

Three additional hours chosen from a course addressing oppressive forms of difference OR Ministry in Public Contexts. Students should consult their academic advising sheets for courses that meet this requirement.

**II. Denominational Requirements for Ordination** (*required of all Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Metropolitan Community Church, Presbyterian, and United Methodist students*) - 0 to 18 hours

- A. CHHI 70113 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is required of Disciples students.
- B. United Methodist students are required to take CHHI 70134 History and Doctrine of the United Methodist Church, PRTM 70212 United Methodist Polity, PRTM 70223 Evangelism, and a course on Mission. Students should consult their Annual Conference for any additional requirements unique to their Conference.
- C. Baptist students are required to take CHHI 70133 Baptist History and CHTH 70113 Survey of Christian Theology from Baptist Perspectives.
- D. Presbyterian students are required to take NETE 70013 Basics of Biblical Greek, NETE 75013 Biblical Greek II, HEBI 70013 Biblical Hebrew I, HEBI 75033 Biblical Hebrew II, Reformed Theology, Presbyterian Polity, and an exegesis course in both Testaments (one of the exegesis courses may be used to satisfy requirements under I,A Basic Theological Studies, Bible requirements).
- E. Episcopal students are required to take Anglican History, Anglican Thought, Episcopal Polity, and The Book of Common Prayer.
- F. Metropolitan Community Church students are required to take MCC Polity, PTPC 75053 Clinical Pastoral Education, a Sexual Studies course, and a course on LGBTQ History.

**III. Electives - 4 to 24 hours**

The remaining hours—4 to 24—are to be selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. Graduate courses from TCU divisions normally do not receive credit toward the M.Div. degree. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) courses, however, do not count toward a degree at Brite.

**Degree Requirements**

1. Eighty-one semester hours of credit must be completed with a grade point average of at least 2.50, based on a four-point grading system.
2. All entering students are required to participate in orientation sessions conducted prior to the beginning of classes in the fall and spring semesters.
3. All entering students are required to attend a Seminar on Healthy Boundaries. Students who do not complete this requirement will be subject to the cancellation of their registration.
4. Entering students should work to complete courses at the 60000 series level. For detailed suggestions, please refer to the paragraph entitled "First Year Courses" in the section of this bulletin entitled "Divinity School Program."
5. Entering students should complete required courses early in their program.
6. A student who transfers from another institution must take at least forty-one semester hours in Brite Divinity School to receive the degree.
7. Students who give evidence of special deficiencies will be required to do remedial work in the areas of their deficiencies.
8. The student is required to participate in an approved program of Supervised Ministry which in the judgment of the student and Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry meets the needs of the individual student, viewed in the light of the student's past experience and stated goals. This program shall be developed on the initiative of the student in consultation with the Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry and may be amended from time to time with the approval of the Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry. A minimum program shall include the following:
  - A. Two semesters of work in a church or institution under approved supervision.

- B. Concurrent with these semesters in Supervised Ministry the student shall successfully complete PRTH 65013 and PRTH 65023.
  - C. Work done before enrollment in the seminary does not count toward this requirement, although previous experience shall be given consideration making field assignments. Work undertaken without consultation with the Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry shall not count toward this requirement.
  - D. Any variation from the above must be with the counsel and approval of the Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry.
9. Students may be withdrawn from individual courses for lack of academic progress upon the recommendation of the faculty member and the approval of the Dean. Students may be dismissed from the Divinity School at the discretion of the Dean at such times as it is clearly demonstrated that the student is not interested in, or making, acceptable academic progress. Likewise, the Dean has both the authority and the responsibility to take action, including dismissal from a program of study or the Divinity School itself, if a student's conduct is determined to be contrary to the professional and ethical standards of the field of ministry.
10. Normally students must complete the last nine semester hours at Brite.
11. All degree requirements must be completed within seven years from the date of the earliest credit counted toward the degree (including transfer credit, if any). Extensions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after consultation with the Masters Programs Committee. Additional course work may be required.