

## MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Master of Theological Studies degree is a general theological degree designed for persons who want to explore disciplines related to theology and religion. The degree requires forty-nine semester hours and provides a basic understanding of theology, biblical studies, history and ethics. Certificates in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics, and Sexual and Gender Justice are available within the structure of the program.

The M.T.S. is an appropriate degree program for (1) lay persons who seek to enrich their theological understanding; (2) persons who wish to examine and develop religious and theological perspectives on their life situations; or (3) persons who plan to use the M.T.S. degree as preparation for further graduate study such as a Master in Theology.

The degree is not designed for those who want to pursue vocations such as ordained ministry. Normally those seeking to prepare for ministerial vocations pursue the M.Div. or M.A.T.M. degrees at Brite.

### Curriculum

#### I. Distributive requirements - 24 hours

Six hours (two courses) from each of the following areas:

- A. **Biblical Studies** (prerequisite must be met as required)—HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, HEBI 65013 Exegesis in the Hebrew Bible, HEBI 65023 Exegesis in Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, NETE 60003 Interpreting the New Testament, NETE 65013 Exegesis in the Gospels and Acts, NETE 65023 Exegesis in the N.T. Epistles, NETE 65033 Exegesis in the Gospels and Acts (Greek), or NETE 65043 Exegesis in the N.T. Epistles (Greek)
- B. **Historical Studies** (must choose at least one 60000 level course)—CHHI 60013 History of Christianity I, Early and Medieval, CHHI 60023 History of Christianity II, Reformation and Modern, CHHI 70013 History of Christianity in America, or any other CHHI 70000 level course
- C. **Theological/Ethical Studies** (70000s as approved by advisor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs)—CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology I, CHET 60013 Introduction to Contemporary Theological Ethics, or CHET 65013 History of Christian Ethics
- D. **Cultural/Global Context**—CHHI 70023 The Church in the Midst of Pluralism, CHHI 70533 The Black Religious Experience in America, CHTH 70013 Postcolonial Theologies, CHTH 70043 Feminism and Theology, JWST 60003 Introduction to Judaism, RECU 60013 Religious Plurality: Theologies and Geopolitics of Religion, RECU 60023 Christian Theology of Religions, RECU 60033 Religious Fundamentalism, RECU 60043 Interreligious Dialogue, RECU 60063 World Religions and Gender, RECU 60073 Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Christianity, RECU 65053 African-American Experiences and Perspectives in Social Ethics, RECU 70003 Intro to Black Church Traditions and Culture, or RECU 70053 Studies in World Christianity

#### II. Electives - 21 hours

Concentration and elective hours 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.T.S. 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.

#### III. Colloquium/Final Exercise - 4 hours

Students will participate in a three-hour MTS Colloquium, normally in the penultimate semester of study, which provides students with a foundation in theological research and writing and lays a substantive foundation for a final exercise. Following completion of the colloquium, students will complete a final exercise. The final exercise consists of a one-hour independent research study course in one of the appropriate departments, as listed in the above Distributive requirements taken in the final semester of the program. The student will work closely with a professor to integrate material covered in coursework and produce a final paper, normally 25-40 pages in length.

## **Degree Requirements**

1. Forty-nine 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. Except for approved transfer credit, M.T.S. students will normally fulfill all their course requirements through courses taught by Brite faculty or adjunct faculty.
5. Normally the M.T.S. requires two academic years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who transfers from another institution must complete the final twenty-five semester hours of the M.T.S. program at Brite Divinity School directly under the supervision of the Brite faculty.
6. Students who give evidence of special deficiencies may be required to do remedial work in the areas of their deficiencies.
7. Students may be withdrawn from individual courses for lack of academic progress upon the recommendation of the faculty member and with the approval of the Dean. Students may be dismissed from the Divinity School at the discretion of the Dean or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at such times as it is clearly demonstrated that the student is not interested in, or making, acceptable academic progress.
8. 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.
9. Normally, students transferring from the Brite Divinity School M.Div. program to the M.T.S. program must complete at least 12 hours and the 4-hour Colloquium and Final Exercise courses while enrolled in the M.T.S. program.