

Graduate Studies in Theology

Overview

Mission

At Whitworth, we seek to produce Christ-centered, well-educated, spiritually disciplined, and visionary leaders for the church and society. Typically, students beginning our programs are already engaged in some form of leadership within a church, school or nonprofit, or they have shown interest and promise to pursue such leadership. Students sometimes use our programs as a foundation for an M.Div. or other advanced degree, or as the first step in becoming a chaplain. The students who benefit most from our programs share our deep commitment to the following:

- *Classical Theology*: Professors teach the traditional theological disciplines of biblical studies, systematic theology and church history.
- *Practical Preparation*: Classes address contemporary challenges that people in ministry face every day; they also explore concrete and creative solutions.
- *Spiritual Formation*: Students learn together in a praying, worshiping community, enjoy many meals together, and practice traditional spiritual disciplines.

While each of our graduate programs in theology comprises a unique set of required courses and differs in the number of elective courses that students may take, *all share the same foundation*. No matter the degree they seek, each one of our students completes a series of six core courses (18 credits) covering the classical disciplines of Bible, doctrine and history. For details, see the page for each individual program.

Design and Schedule

Our graduate programs are designed specifically for individuals who are energized by learning with peers and scholars and are prepared to grow in their Christian vocation. Students have the opportunity to integrate community and spiritual enrichment by sharing meals, worshiping together and networking with colleagues. One of the more unique features of our schedule is that on-campus time for each course is *clustered*. This enables individuals with family commitments and full-time jobs, as well as students living outside the Spokane area, to pursue theological education in community. Students complete assignments before each monthly on-campus meeting; they engage in classroom discussion; and each course requires students to submit a final project oriented toward practice. Between on-campus sessions, students and professors engage online to continue each student's learning.

Academic Values

The Whitworth University Theology Department is solidly rooted in the Trinitarian faith of the church throughout the ages. It is committed to the authority of Holy Scripture as God's word and to the worldwide mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Its goal is to provide students with an intellectually challenging, academically rigorous and spiritually enriching theological education that will equip them to serve in a wide variety of contexts. Each of our graduate programs is centered upon the classical disciplines of biblical studies, church history and Christian theology. As students move through the curriculum, they are challenged to discern God's call on their lives and to apply what they are learning to the ministries in which they are engaged. For student-learning outcomes, see the page for each individual program.

Application and Admission Process

Admission Requirements

Each of our graduate programs seeks students who are currently involved in a church and/or Christian organization, as well as those who desire a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christian theology. Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA from a regionally accredited institution. Prior graduate coursework may also be considered if an applicant's GPA is below 3.0.

If the applicant's academic record does not demonstrate graduate-level academic ability, further evidence of academic ability may be required.

A student's application is complete when we have received the following:

- a completed application
- two professional recommendations
- official college/university transcripts
- a personal essay of up to 600 words
- a writing sample of up to 1,000 words
- a current CV

For further details, and to apply online, go to www.whitworth.edu/theologyma. Information not submitted online should be sent directly to the following address:

Graduate Studies in Theology
Whitworth University
300 W. Hawthorne Road
Spokane, WA 99251

An on-campus interview is required prior to or following submission of all application documents. Call 509.777.3222 to schedule an appointment.

Transfer Credit

Whitworth will accept applicable graduate work transferred from regionally accredited institutions or institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States or Canada. For institutions without regional accreditation, transfer credit will be considered if the credibility of the institution can be supported by the "three-letter rule," which states that it is the responsibility of the student to provide letters from three regionally accredited institutions certifying that they will accept credit from the institution from which the student is seeking credit.

Admission Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the admission-decision process: undergraduate academic record, personal interview, quality of writing samples, professional recommendations, and involvement in churches and/or Christian organizations. Applicants will be notified of their admission status by the graduate studies office once all documents are received and reviewed by the admissions committee.

Description

The MA(T) program prepares Christians for theologically informed service in a wide variety of fields. Students pursuing this degree are often intrinsically motivated lay leaders within their churches or within other, nonprofit organizations. These students desire graduate-level training in the classical disciplines of Bible, theology and church history, as well as the flexibility to take elective courses in a range of subdisciplines.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the MA(T) will be able to:

- Analyze the biblical writings in terms of their historical, literary and theological contexts; critically appropriate those interpretations for contemporary life and ministry.
- Analyze the major events, movements and figures in church history; evaluate how this history can influence and form the contemporary church.
- Analyze the fundamental themes of Christian theology in their development and interrelationship; evaluate ways these themes can transform thinking and living.
- Carefully read texts, and clearly and cogently argue a point of view.
- Develop a basic understanding of the content of several subdisciplines in theology; and create a plan for implementing them in everyday life.

Master of Arts in Theology (36)

Core Courses (18 credits)

THG 510	History of Christianity I: Great Tradition	3
THG 515	Christian Theology	3
THG 520	History of Christianity II: Reform and Renewal	3
THG 530	Christian Spirituality	3
THG 545	New Testament Theology	3
THG 560	Old Testament Theology	3
Electives (choose 18 credits)		18

Note: Additional courses may apply. See advisor for details.

THG 509	New Testament Greek I
THG 512	New Testament Greek II
THG 518	Greek Reading and Exegesis I Tradition
THG 519	Greek Reading and Exegesis II
THG 525	Leadership in the Christian Community
THG 535	Biblical Exegesis for Ministry
THG 541	Biblical Hebrew I
THG 542	Biblical Hebrew II
THG 543	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis I (narrative)
THG 544	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis II (poetry)
THG 565	Pastoral Care in a Faith Community
THG 567	Mission-Shaped Church: The Church in Post-Christendom
THG 570	Christianity & Culture
THG 572	Reasons for Faith
THG 574	Missional Perspectives of Global Christianity
THG 577	Theology in the Public Square
THG 580	Teaching/Preaching the Bible
THG 580A	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Theology
THG 580B	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Spirituality
THG 580C	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Performance
THG 586	Readings
THG 599A	Master's Thesis
THG 599B	Master's Thesis

Note: THG-596 courses will apply toward this requirement. See advisor for details.

Description

The MA(CM) program combines rigorous academic preparation and vocational training. The students drawn to this degree are often pursuing full-time service in a range of ministries centered both on a traditional, Christian community and chaplaincy. In addition to a classical program of theological study, these students require special preparation in the practical ministries of preaching, leadership, pastoral care and worship.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the MA(CM) will be able to:

- Analyze the biblical writings in terms of their historical, literary and theological contexts; critically appropriate those interpretations for contemporary life and ministry.
- Analyze the major events, movements and figures in church history; evaluate how this history can influence and form the contemporary church.
- Analyze the fundamental themes of Christian theology in their development and interrelationship; evaluate ways these themes can transform thinking and living.
- Carefully read texts, and clearly and cogently argue a point of view.
- Develop a basic understanding of the fundamental practices of pastoral ministry; and create a plan for effective implementation in concrete situations.

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (45)

Core Courses (18 credits)

THG 510	History of Christianity I: Great Tradition	3
THG 515	Christian Theology	3
THG 520	History of Christianity II: Reform and Renewal	3
THG 530	Christian Spirituality	3
THG 545	New Testament Theology	3
THG 560	Old Testament Theology	3

Required Ministry Courses (12 credits)

THG 525	Leadership in the Christian Community	3
THG 535	Biblical Exegesis for Ministry	3
THG 565	Pastoral Care in a Faith Community	3
THG 580	Teaching/Preaching the Bible	3

OR in the following 3-credit sequence

THG 580A & THG 580B & THG 580C	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Theology and Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Spirituality and Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Performance	
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Electives (choose 15 credits)	15
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Note: Additional courses may apply. See advisor for details.

THG 509	New Testament Greek I	
THG 512	New Testament Greek II	
THG 518	Greek Reading and Exegesis I Tradition	
THG 519	Greek Reading and Exegesis II	
THG 541	Biblical Hebrew I	
THG 542	Biblical Hebrew II	
THG 543	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis I (narrative)	
THG 544	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis II (poetry)	
THG 567	Mission-Shaped Church: The Church in Post-Christendom	
THG 570	Christianity & Culture	
THG 572	Reasons for Faith	
THG 574	Missional Perspectives of Global Christianity	
THG 577	Theology in the Public Square	
THG 580C	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Performance	
THG 586	Readings	
THG 599A	Master's Thesis	
THG 599B	Master's Thesis	

Description

The MA(MC) program trains Christian leaders to respond with theological depth and cultural understanding to God's mission to the world. Students pursuing this degree are often church-planters, leaders in nonprofit organizations, and pastors working specifically at the boundary line between church and world. In addition to a classical program of theological study, they require special preparation in the particular skills of missional awareness, contextual reflection and public engagement.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the MA(MC) will be able to:

- Analyze the biblical writings in terms of their historical, literary and theological contexts; critically appropriate those interpretations for contemporary life and ministry.
- Analyze the major events, movements and figures in church history; evaluate how this history can influence and form the contemporary church.
- Analyze the fundamental themes of Christian theology in their development and interrelationship; evaluate ways these themes can transform thinking and living.
- Carefully read texts, and clearly and cogently argue a point of view.
- Develop a basic understanding of mission strategies in light of our cultural contexts; and create an effective model of cultural engagement or church planting.

Master of Arts in Mission & Culture (45)

Core Courses (18 credits)

THG 510	History of Christianity I: Great Tradition	3
THG 515	Christian Theology	3
THG 520	History of Christianity II: Reform and Renewal	3

THG 530	Christian Spirituality	3
THG 545	New Testament Theology	3
THG 560	Old Testament Theology	3
Required Mission & Culture Courses (choose 12 credits)		12
THG 567	Mission-Shaped Church: The Church in Post-Christendom	
THG 570	Christianity & Culture	
THG 572	Reasons for Faith	
THG 574	Missional Perspectives of Global Christianity	
THG 577	Theology in the Public Square	
Electives (choose 15 credits)		15
Note: Additional courses may apply. See advisor for details.		
THG 509	New Testament Greek I	
THG 512	New Testament Greek II	
THG 518	Greek Reading and Exegesis I Tradition	
THG 519	Greek Reading and Exegesis II	
THG 525	Leadership in the Christian Community	
THG 535	Biblical Exegesis for Ministry	
THG 541	Biblical Hebrew I	
THG 542	Biblical Hebrew II	
THG 543	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis I (narrative)	
THG 544	Hebrew Reading & Exegesis II (poetry)	
THG 565	Pastoral Care in a Faith Community	
THG 580	Teaching/Preaching the Bible	
THG 580A	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Theology	
THG 580B	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Spirituality	
THG 580C	Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Performance	
THG 586	Readings	
THG 599A	Master's Thesis	
THG 599B	Master's Thesis	

Courses

- THG 501 Christian Leadership** 1
This course will introduce the M.A. in Theology program by focusing on the way in which Christ's values provide a leadership template for Christian leaders. We will also look at the ways in which the most successful 21st century organizations are structured and led.
- THG 509 New Testament Greek I** 4
The basic vocabulary and grammar required for reading the Greek New Testament. An intensive course. Fall semester, odd years.
- THG 510 History of Christianity I: Great Tradition** 3
The history, thought, and practices of the Christian church from its beginning to the dawn of the Reformation, with special attention given to pastoral, ecclesiastical, and cultural issues. Summer offering.
- THG 512 New Testament Greek II** 4
Translation of the Epistles of John and selected passages from the Gospel of John in Greek. An intensive course. Prerequisite: THG 509. Spring semester.
- THG 515 Christian Theology** 3
An examination of all the major topics of Christian theology. Attention will be given to the core content of each doctrine, the coherence of the doctrines with one another, and the practical implications of the gospel in the lives of individuals, the church, and the world.

- THG 518 Greek Reading and Exegesis I Tradition** 3
 This course develops proficiency in the grammar and vocabulary of Koine Greek through the reading of a variety of Greek texts, particularly in the New Testament, and it introduces students to the fundamentals of New Testament exegesis. Prerequisite: THG-512. Fall semester, even years.
- THG 519 Greek Reading and Exegesis II** 3
 Continuation of THG-518. Prerequisite: THG-518. Spring semester, odd years.
- THG 520 History of Christianity II: Reform and Renewal** 3
 The history, thought, and practices of the Christian church from the beginning of the Reformation to the present, with special emphasis on church reform and spiritual renewal.
- THG 525 Leadership in the Christian Community** 3
 The foundational premise behind this course is that the leaders' own personal journey of faith and their own continued growth in emotional, mental, and spiritual health is the most critical component in responding to challenging ministry realities in our rapidly changing world. In this course, we will look at some of the seminal issues facing ministry leaders and the communities they serve today, and some of the personal attributes and ministry skills that are necessary to survive and thrive over the long haul.
- THG 530 Christian Spirituality** 3
 This course will explore the nature of Christian Spirituality by focusing on the way in which various spiritual disciplines apply today. We will also look at the ways in which Christians of the past and present followed Christ and put in practice God's Word.
- THG 535 Biblical Exegesis for Ministry** 3
 This graduate level course in Theology will explore the various genre of scripture (narrative, history, poetry, parable, exhortation, teaching, and pastoral guidance) in order to discern the precise interpretive tools required to understand each type of literature in its original historical form and context. This course serves as prerequisite for the course "Preaching and Teaching the Bible," in which contemporary application and proclamation will be considered. Spring semester, odd years.
- THG 540 Life of Jesus and the Early Church** 3
 This course introduces students to the significance of the gospels for preaching, catechesis, and life in Christ by examining the genre of gospel literature, the formation of the four-fold gospel tradition, the unique characteristics and purpose of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the early missionary outreach of the church, as recorded in the Book of Acts.
- THG 541 Biblical Hebrew I** 3
 An introduction to Biblical Hebrew study within a ministerial context, including vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, for the purpose of reading narrative texts from the Hebrew Bible. Fall semester, even years.
- THG 542 Biblical Hebrew II** 3
 An introduction to Biblical Hebrew, including vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, for the purpose of reading narrative texts from the Hebrew Bible. Spring semester, odd years.
- THG 543 Hebrew Reading & Exegesis I (narrative)** 2-3
 This course, the first of a two-semester sequence, presupposes the knowledge of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar and is intended to enable students to gain greater mastery over the vocabulary, syntax and grammar of biblical Hebrew and to introduce them to the fundamentals of exegesis of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), including textual criticism, literary analysis, and theological interpretation. Prerequisites: THG 541 and THG 542.

THG 544 Hebrew Reading & Exegesis II (poetry) 2-3

This course, the second of a two-semester sequence, presupposes the knowledge of the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar and experience in translating and interpreting biblical Hebrew narrative. The course is intended to enable students to continue to develop in their mastery of the vocabulary, syntax and grammar of biblical Hebrew and to introduce them to the fundamentals of exegesis of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), including textual criticism, literary analysis, and theological interpretation. In this semester, students will be introduced to the issues involved in translating biblical Hebrew poetry. Prerequisite: THG 541, THG 542 and THG 543, or the equivalent.

THG 545 New Testament Theology 3

Focused attention on the dominant theological contours of the New Testament, its literary genre, the historical context in which Jesus and the early Church ministered, as well as the development of exegetical skills. A consistent emphasis throughout will be the potential of the New Testament witness to transform Christian life and thought.

THG 550 New Testament Letters 3

A careful study of Paul's Letters, Hebrews, the General Epistles, and Revelation, focused on the content, distinctive emphases, and theology of each letter, and its potential to transform Christian living and thinking today; development of exegetical and hermeneutical skills.

THG 560 Old Testament Theology 3

The literature of the Old Testament, the history of Israel, critical issues and method in Old Testament study, and the theology of the Old Testament with an emphasis on covenant as an integrative theme and as anticipatory of Jesus Christ.

THG 565 Pastoral Care in a Faith Community 3

This course equips students for ministries of compassion and caregiving. We will examine the varieties of struggles and illnesses common to our time and culture, and seek to apply the rich resources of the Christian tradition and the Church to the task of fostering healing and wholeness for those in our care. Through a combination of Biblical and theological perspectives, as well as the insights of modern psychology, students will gain a holistic understanding of the task of pastoral care. Jan Term, even years.

THG 567 Mission-Shaped Church: The Church in Post-Christendom 3

Students will learn to analyze our postmodern, pluralist American context with the goal of developing a more faithful witness. Special consideration will be given to a biblical-theological rationale for the existence of the church as well as tensions between Christendom and missional models of its life.

THG 570 Christianity & Culture 3

This course helps students develop an understanding of the notion of "culture", especially in terms of postmodern culture, and its relationship to the Christian faith in order to better equip students for Christian ministry.

THG 572 Reasons for Faith 3

The course will consider the rational basis for belief in the gospel, in light of common critiques. Three topics will be given special attention: the existence of God, the reliability of the bible, and belief in Jesus Christ.

THG 574 Missional Perspectives of Global Christianity 3

The Global South has emerged as the center of evangelical Christianity. The purpose of this course is to understand that movement, its impact on how missions are conducted today, and how collaboration and partnership need to be redefined for tomorrow. Several pressing topics will be given special attention, including the Middle East migration crisis, the rise of fundamentalisms, and the moral challenge of sexual ethics. We will also hear from key mission practitioners abroad through live video interviews. Coursework will culminate in the creation of a ministry outreach methodology that is more adequate to today's globalized world.

- THG 577 Theology in the Public Square** 3
 With Christendom now behind us, the American church has been given an urgent and exciting opportunity to re-think its presence in the public square. The purpose of this course, then, is to explore the uniqueness of the gospel. We will consider a Christian approach to human life and dignity; to community and its barriers; to excellent work and the freedom of genuine play. The goal of this graduate level course is not only to appreciate how the gospel illumines our world, but to develop our own strategies for creative engagement in our contexts.
- THG 580 Teaching/Preaching the Bible** 3
 A study of effective communication in teaching and preaching the bible. Attention will be given to the nature of human communication, principles of teaching biblical texts, and the preparation and presentation of messages involving a variety of biblical genres. Prerequisite: THG 535.
- THG 580A Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Theology** 1
 A study of effective communication in teaching and preaching the bible. Attention will be given to theological foundations, the nature of human communication, principles of teaching biblical texts, and the preparation of a Christian witness that is more winsome, effective and faithful. (See also THG-580B and C)
- THG 580B Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Spirituality** 1
 A study of effective communication in teaching and preaching the bible. Attention will be given to theological foundations, the nature of human communication, principles of teaching biblical texts, and the preparation of a Christian witness that is more winsome, effective and faithful. (See also THG-580A and C)
- THG 580C Teaching and Preaching the Bible: Performance** 1
 A study of effective communication in teaching and preaching the bible. Attention will be given to theological foundations, the nature of human communication, principles of teaching biblical texts, and the preparation of a Christian witness that is more winsome, effective and faithful. (See also THG-580A and B)
- THG 586 Readings** 3
- THG 599A Master's Thesis** 3
 A master's thesis is aimed at development of scholarly competence and expertise on a particular topic of church history, Christian doctrine, or biblical studies. Students may register to complete the two parts of this project (THG-599A and THG-599B) within the same semester or across consecutive semesters.
- THG 599B Master's Thesis** 3
 The second of two parts required for a thesis.

Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.