

The Master of Theological Studies Degree

This two-year (four semesters) general academic degree is designed to provide an introduction to the theological disciplines as: (1) foundation for a graduate research degree (PhD); (2) preparation for lay religious careers; (3) grounding for teaching, research, or practice in another field (e.g., history, psychology, music); (4) enhancement of institutional leadership roles; or (5) personal enrichment.

Requirements:

1. Sixteen courses and four or more semesters of residency (transfer credit is limited to two courses), with no more than two courses outside of the Divinity School;
2. a normal load of four courses per semester;
3. Old Testament 11 and 12, New Testament 18, Church History 13 and 14, Christian Theology 32, Christian Ethics 33
4. the maintenance of a cumulative grade point average of 2.5;
5. submit a well researched, clearly written final paper. This paper may build upon and elaborate work done in a previous paper in the program; it may be written in the context of a course, or as an independent study, or as an additional paper outside current course work. The writing is normally done in the final semester
6. completion of all requirements for the degree within a four-year (eight-semester) period.

Administration. In consultation with the MTS director, students will draft a set of program goals and project a four-semester course plan (or an appropriate alternative plan on a part-time basis). At each registration conference, students and the director will reassess program goals and the course plan adopted by the student. Required courses for the MTS are: Old Testament 11 and 12, New Testament 18, Church History 13 and 14, Christian Theology 32, Christian Ethics 33, one course in ministerial studies, and eight open electives. In consultation with the MTS director and relevant division chairs, students may be considered for an alternative configuration of coursework, to include a minimum of 2 courses in biblical studies, 2 courses in theological studies, 2 courses in historical studies, and 1 course in ministerial studies, leaving 9 open electives.

At the end of the first year of course work, the director will assess the progress and academic performance of the student. By either October 15 or February 15 of the second year (depending on whether the student intends to submit the final paper at the close of the fall or spring semester, respectively), the student must submit a paper proposal to the MTS director. Proposal forms can be picked up in the office of the registry; before being turned in to the MTS director, the forms must be signed by the faculty advisor and a second reader (if the student chooses to use one). The proposal must also include a tentative title and a brief description of the topic. The paper itself is due upon the date the student sets in agreement with the faculty advisor, but no later than the final reading period of the semester in which it is submitted.

Before graduation and after the paper is submitted, there will be a final evaluation of the student's academic performance. Both the assessment and the final evaluation are submitted to the associate dean for academic formation and placed in the student's academic record.

A SUGGESTED MTS CURRICULAR PARADIGM

First Year

Fall Semester

Elective
Old Testament 11
Church History 13
Elective or biblical language
Church Ministry 1 optional

Spring Semester

Old Testament 12
New Testament 18
Church History 14
Elective or biblical language
Church Ministry 2 optional

Second Year

Christian Theology 32
Ministerial Studies course
Elective
Elective

Christian Ethics 33
Elective
Elective
Elective

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES PROGRAM (MTS)

Prospective students are encouraged to apply online at www.divinity.duke.edu. Hard copies of the application and reference letter forms may be obtained online at www.divinity.duke.edu. The MTS application deadline for August 2009 enrollment is February 1, 2009. Online applications must be submitted by midnight E.S.T. on the stated deadline date. All hard copy applications and all supporting documents (e.g. transcripts and reference letters not submitted online) for online and hard copy applications must be received in the admissions office by 5 p.m. on the stated deadline date. If the application deadline falls on a weekend, all hard copy applications and all supporting documents for online and hard copy applications must be received in the admissions office by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the deadline date. Offers of admission for the August M.T.S. class are announced within six weeks of the application deadline.

The student is required to provide the following supporting documents and information: (1) one official transcript from each college, university, or seminary attended sent by the institution directly to the director of admissions; (2) one supplementary transcript (if needed), sent as soon as possible, showing completion of any work that was in progress when the earlier transcript was printed; (3) five reference letters written by people who are best qualified to judge the applicant as a prospective student in the Divinity School and who will be contacted by the applicant. Of these five references, two should be

academic, two should be character, and one should be church (pastor, campus minister, denominational official). It is the responsibility of the student to contact the admissions office prior to the application deadline to confirm that all supporting documents and information have been received.

Materials submitted in support of an application are not released for other purposes and cannot be returned to the applicant. A nonrefundable \$50 application fee must accompany the application. Online applications require that the \$50 fee be paid, by credit card only, at the time of submission. Applications submitted via the mail must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$50 made payable to Duke Divinity School. The application cannot be processed without this fee. An application processing fee waiver is not available.

Admission Requirements.

Those people are encouraged to apply for the MTS:

1. who have been awarded a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university prior to their intended date of enrollment;
2. who have attained at least an overall B+ (3.25 on a 4.0 scale) academic average;
3. who demonstrate program goals commensurate with this degree program; and
4. where applicable, who are committed to some form of lay ministry.