

# SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

---

## Degrees Offered

### **Available Online and on the Jackson, Germantown, Hendersonville Campuses**

- Master of Christian Studies

### **Available on the Germantown Campus and in partnership with the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore**

- Doctor of Ministry with an Emphasis in Expository Preaching

## Mission Statement

The School of Christian Studies exists to advanced the Kingdom of God through theological education by integrating rigorous academics, deep devotion to Christ and His Church, skill in teaching, and attention to students as individuals.

# MASTER OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

## SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

### Purpose Statement

The Master of Christian Studies exists to raise the level of ministry competence among bi-vocational pastors, missionaries, church planters, foreign nationals planting ethnic churches in the U.S., church staff members, and laypersons seeking a more thorough blending of faith and life in the workplace through on-site offerings in Jackson, Hendersonville (Nashville area), and Memphis, as well as through online offerings.

### Program Emphases

MCS courses are foundational, in terms of the student's ability to think biblically and theologically, and synergistic, fostering effective ministry. MCS students become biblically and theologically grounded, while developing ministry skills that integrate faith and learning.

### Expected Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will acquire competence in (and deepen their analytical skills as they reflect on) the biblical text, theology, and Christian history, as well as how these apply to the ministries of churches.
- Students will acquire skill in Bible study methods, Christian ethics, and leadership principles.
- Students will integrate what they learn in classes with the ministry they complete in their church or ministry setting.
- Students will be more motivated to participate in and lead their churches in advancing the kingdom of God.
- Students will demonstrate commitment to apply Scripture to their personal lives and ministries.

### Required Courses Include:

Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise	3 hrs.
Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule	3 hrs.
New Testament I: Gospels and Acts	3 hrs.
New Testament II: Letters of the New Testament	3 hrs.
Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching	3 hrs.
Theology I: God, Revelation and Humanity	3 hrs.
Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things	3 hrs.
Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity	3 hrs.
Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity	3 hrs.
Introduction to Christian Ethics	3 hrs.
Christian Leadership	3 hrs.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>33 hrs.</b>

### Academic Calendars and Schedules

Calendars and Schedule of Course offerings for the M.C.S. program follow those for non-cohort programs. For additional information see <http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/mcs/>

### Admission Requirements

1. A Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution as documented on official transcripts, which must include all postsecondary academic work
2. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) are accepted on academic probation on an individual basis.
3. Complete Union M.C.S. Application Form and \$25 application fee.
4. Three personal letters of recommendation.
5. An Autobiographical Essay of 3-5 pages, describing the applicant's spiritual pilgrimage.
6. If English is not a student's first language, minimum scores of 560 or 220 computer must be achieved on the TOEFL.

### Transfer of Credit

Up to nine semester hours of graduate credit from a regionally accredited college or university may be transferred into the degree program at the time the student is admitted provided the grades earned were B or higher.

### Financial Information

Application Fee:	\$25
General Student Fee:	\$20/hour
Tuition per Semester Hour:	\$315

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

All financial information is subject to change without notice.

### Financial Assistance

The M.C.S. does not qualify for Federal Stafford Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.

### Graduation Requirements

- A. The completion of 33 hours of course work with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- B. The fulfillment of all financial obligations
- C. The approval of the faculty

## Course Descriptions: Master of Christian Studies (MCS)

500. *Exegesis, Hermeneutics, and Theology* (3)

An investigation of the theological implications of God's promises that were given to his covenant people, as well as the people's response to God in praise and lament. This course will analyze these themes through the study of the history, background, literary genre, structure, and theology of Genesis through Psalms. Exegetical methodologies for analyzing narrative and poetic texts will be introduced.

505. *Practical Principles of Divine Wisdom* (3)

An investigation of how practical principles of divine wisdom impact human behavior and doubting, how God's plan to create a world of justice and trust impacted Israelite and world history, and how God's sovereign power will one day triumph and usher in the messianic kingdom. This course will introduce a method of analyzing the prophet's messages in order to perceive how they attempted to transform the worldview of their audiences by persuading them to change their thinking and behavior.

510. *Survey of the Gospels and Acts* (3)

A survey of the Gospels and Acts with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included are a survey of New Testament background, evaluation of various critical approaches to the life of Christ, consideration of the historical reliability of the Gospels, and a survey of central theological themes in the teaching of Jesus, the individual Gospels, and the book of Acts.

515. *Survey of the Pauline Epistles and Revelation* (3)

A survey of the Pauline epistles, the general epistles and Revelation, with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included is a survey of basic issues in Pauline theology, issues in interpreting New Testament letters and the hermeneutics of the book of Revelation.

520. *Methods, Tools, and Practices of Bible Interpretation* (3)

An exploration of the methods, tools, and practices associated with the interpretation and application of the Bible. Students will exegete selected biblical passages, moving from the ancient text to the modern world.

530. *Survey of the History of Christianity* (3)

A survey of the history of Christianity from the late first century through the fifteenth century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Patristic and Medieval periods.

531. *Survey of the History of Christianity* (3)

A survey of the history of Christianity from the early sixteenth century to the early twenty-first century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Reformation and Modern periods.

533. *Christian Ethics* (3)

An introduction to Christian ethics that focuses on ethical methodology and application of Christian ethical principles to key issues in church and society.

535. *Biblical Values and Organizational Leadership* (3)

The course focuses on how biblical values affect models of organizational leadership within the local church and other Christian institutions.

545. *Christian Theology* (3)

A study of the nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on prolegomena of Christian theology.



---

## Admissions Requirements

### Application Foundations

Applicants must be employed by or hold a recognized position in vocational Christian ministry at the time of their

## Academic Foundation

The standard academic preparation for the Union University Doctor of Ministry is a Master of Divinity from a regionally accredited seminary, university, graduate school of religion, or divinity school. (These are collectively referred to below as “accredited graduate divinity schools.”) Preference is given to applicants whose master’s work includes at least 6 semester hours of biblical Greek and 6 semester hours of biblical Hebrew.

Union University recognizes that many prospective students have enrolled in accredited graduate divinity schools in programs of study other than the Master of Divinity. Such degrees include the Master of Christian Studies, the Master of Religious Education, or the Master of Arts in a discipline such as Old Testament. We therefore have established that “Master of Divinity Equivalency” also meets the academic requirement for admission to the Doctor of Ministry. Each applicant in this category will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. However, such applicants should have received a master’s degree from an accredited graduate divinity school they must have earned a minimum of 2 semester hours in accredited graduate divinity schools before they will be admitted to our Doctor of Ministry program of study. Guidelines for meeting requirements for each category of study are as follows.

### Biblical, Theological, and Historical Studies

1. Old Testament , 9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
2. New Testament , 9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
3. Theology , 6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
4. Church History, 6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
5. Hermeneutics (Interpreting the Bible), 3-6 hours

### Languages and Preaching Studies

6. Biblical Greek , 0-9 hours
7. Biblical Hebrew, 0-9 hours
8. Homiletics (Communicating the Bible), 6-9 hours

### Ministry Studies

9. Leadership or Religious Education, 3-9 hours
10. Christian Ethics or Christian Apologetics, 3-9 hours
11. Christian Counseling or Pastoral Care, 3-9 hours
12. Evangelism and/or Missions, 3-9 hours

For each of these 12 categories, the first number is the minimum number of semester hours required in that category to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, 51 of the 72 required semester hours are specified. The remaining 21 hours may be gained in a number of ways, including courses that fit in categories not mentioned above, such as spiritual formation or philosophy of religion. Thus, for example, all students must have earned at least 6 church history hours in order to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. The second number is the maximum number of hours that students should complete in that category as they seek Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, for example, once prospective students have completed 9

hours in church history, they should broaden their preparation by selecting courses from the other categories. The Doctor of Ministry Program Director provides case-by-case assessment of each student seeking Master of Divinity Equivalency. Applicants will be informed in writing when Master of Divinity Equivalency has been established only after Union University has received official transcripts from all accredited graduate divinity schools the student has attended.

## Application Requirements

- The completed official application form along with a \$50 non-refundable application fee. The official form is included as part of this document.
- Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended since high school. A transcript request form is included with this document. Applicants are responsible for photocopying this request form as needed and sending it to their respective institutions. Many institutions make it possible to request this via the internet.
- A ministry endorsement letter, showing that the applicant’s church-related employer supports the applicant’s intention to pursue doctoral study. The form included in this application should be completed and returned to the Doctor of Ministry Office by the employer. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another during the time he or she is enrolled in seminars, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
- Three evaluative references. Applicants are responsible for signing the waiver on each form and providing each



2. The dissertation chair works with the student in research and further development of the project.

1. The dissertation chair works with the student in research and further development of the project.
2. The dissertation chair works with the student and with the IRB (Institutional Review Board) to gain any necessary IRB approval.
3. The dissertation proposal is submitted to the DMin Committee of the STM faculty, a committee appointed annually by the Dean of the School of Theology and Missions. The DMin Committee works with the dissertation committee and the student until the DMin Committee approves the proposal.

3. After DMin Committee has given formal approval of the proposal and after the successful completion of all nine DMin seminars, the DMin program director will notify the student of official candidacy status. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another after the student has achieved candidacy status, but before graduation, the student must take at least a one-semester leave of absence from the program in order to develop a new proposal. This new proposal must be submitted to the DMin Committee for approval. In addition, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.

1. After DMin Committee has given formal approval of the proposal and after the successful completion of all nine DMin seminars, the DMin program director will notify the student of official candidacy status. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another after the student has achieved candidacy status, but before graduation, the student must take at least a one-semester leave of absence from the program in order to develop a new proposal. This new proposal must be submitted to the DMin Committee for approval. In addition, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
2. The student must register for DMIN 800 the next semester after completing all nine seminars. Enrollment in DMIN 800 must continue for at least two consecutive semesters. During this time, the dissertation chair will work closely with the student on all dissertation chair must t ET EMC /Span <</MCID 10936 >>BDC BT /T1\_2 1



625. *Expository Preaching* (3)

Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

Aspects of sermon content will be studied with a view to improving message content. Also, there will be an analysis and assessment of the dynamics of communication in relations to the practice of expository preaching. Biblical

---