

MASTER OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

Available Online and on the Memphis area
Campuses

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 both on-site courses in Memphis and 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, Bible preaching/teaching, and leadership principles.
- Students will integrate what they learn in classes with the

dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Office of Student Financial Planning as soon as possible after acceptance into a graduate program.

Graduation Requirements

- A. The completion of 36 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

Dual Degree Option

A dual degree option is offered between the School of Social Work and the School of Theology and Missions. Students will complete the required social work courses from one of the options (either 24 or 51 hours), the required Christian studies courses (24 hours), and an additional 12 hours of electives.

60-hour option:

- I. Required Social Work Courses—24 hours:
Required Core from Advanced Standing
- II. Required Christian Studies Courses—24 hours:
MCS 500, 505, 510, 515, 517, 538, 545, 546
- III. Four Electives from the following (2 from each discipline)—12 hours:
A. SW: 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554,

- 555, 556, 557, 558, 610, 611, 612
- B. MCS: 516, 520, 535, 536
- C. SW/MSC 580 Study Abroad (Communities and Trauma)
SW/MCS 580 Study Abroad (Poverty)

87-hour option:

- I. Required Social Work Courses—51 hours:
Required Core from Regular Standing
- II. Required Christian Studies Courses—24 hours:
MCS 500, 505, 510, 515, 517, 538, 545, 546
- III. Four Electives from the following (2 from each discipline)—12 hours:
A. SW: 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 610, 611, 612
B. MCS: 516, 520, 535, 536
C. SW/MSC 580 Study Abroad (Communities and Trauma)
SW/MCS 580 Study Abroad (Poverty)

Admission Requirements for Dual Degree:

Applicants to the dual degree must apply to and be accepted to each program separately, per current admission requirements in each program.

Course Descriptions: Master of Christian Studies (MCS)

500. Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise (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.

515. New Testament II: The Letters of the New Testament (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.

516. Survey of Church History (3)

An examination of events and individuals that shaped the history of Christianity from the first century to the present and application of the knowledge gained to current ministry and missions.

517. Spiritual Formation (3)

A study of Christian spirituality emphasizing biblical, classical, and contemporary approaches to growth toward Christ-like character, including an examination of personal spiritual disciplines and how they shape the ethics of a believer.

520. Biblical 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.

535. Communicating Biblical Truth (3)

Communicating Biblical Truth is a study of the basics of sermon development and delivery, as well as the art and craft of teaching biblical truth.

536. Evangelism and Missions (3)

Offered as needed

An introduction to the ministry of evangelism and missions that moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of contemporary strategies, methodologies, movements, and trends with a focus on their practical application.

538. Christian Leadership (3)

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

545. Theology I: God, Revelation, and Humanity (3)

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

546. Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things (3)

A study of nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on the person and work of Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church and Last Things.

537. Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)ocus1.m0etT3 1 Tf13 017.3 (or