

10. Master of Theology (M.Th.)

a. Purpose of the Degree

The Master of Theology degree is to provide specialized training in any field of leadership in the Christian ministry, in professional pastoral ministry, or in theological research and teaching.

b. Primary Goals of the Program

The primary goals for this program include the development of an advanced understanding of a focused area or discipline in the context of general theological study, the capacity to use research methods and resources in the discipline, the ability to formulate productive questions, and to relate this focused area to the social and cultural context of students.

c. Requirements for Admission

Admission to this program requires: i) a M.Div. degree from an accredited theological seminary or college, or equivalent. Or, a person with a M.A. degree in theology (M.A.2-yr) or equivalent, and another academic master's degree can apply for the M.Th.; likewise, a person with a M.A. degree in theology (M.A.2-yr) followed by a Grad.Dip. in theology can also apply. The GPA of the required degrees should both be 3.00 or above; ii) a plan of study; iii) three letters of recommendation: one from professor of the seminary, one from professors or scholars in the applying of study emphasis, and one from the ecclesiastical officer in the home congregation; iv) a written work; and v) applicants must demonstrate their competence in basic theological disciplines by passing written examinations of 4 hours' duration. For more information, see VI. Enrollment Procedures.

d. Language Requirement

- i) Persons enrolled in this program must have sufficient English knowledge for study at the graduate level.
- ii) For a student who takes an emphasis in the area of New Testament or Old Testament, 9 credits of Greek (for NT) or 9 credits of Biblical Hebrew (for OT) are required if the student has not already taken them. However, these credits will not be counted for graduation.

e. Area of Emphasis

In the following table, students are required to select an “Area” under a particular “Field” as the study emphasis (e.g. New Testament).

Fields	Areas
Biblical Theology	Old Testament New Testament Jewish Studies
Systematic Theology	Dogmatics Church History Historical Theology Lutheran Studies Christian Ethics
Practical Theology	Pastoral Ministry and Leadership Christian Counseling Pastoral Counseling Christian Education Diakonia Spirituality Worship and Liturgy Mission and Culture

f. Content

There are two streams in the program:

Stream A:

If the candidate wishes to present a research paper or thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirement, it shall be assigned 8 credits. In addition, 24 coursework credits are required, which must include at least 12 credits in the area of the thesis. The M.Th. Thesis will be evaluated by both the adviser and a second reader.

	credits
3 Guided Electives on Area of Emphasis	12
3 Free Electives	12
Thesis	8
Total Credits Required for Graduation	32

Stream B:

The candidate who seeks the degree without the presentation of a thesis is expected to pursue 32 total coursework credits, which must include at least 20 credits in the area of emphasis. The courses in the area of emphasis should include writing short papers.

	credits
5 Guided Electives on Area of Emphasis	20
3 Free Electives	12
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Total Credits Required for Graduation	32

g. Advanced Studies Colloquium

All M.Th. students must attend at least six meetings of the advanced studies colloquium in their own field. Each student is required to present a paper or part of the dissertation, to participate in discussion, and to respond to other members' papers in the colloquium.

h. Credits

Full-time students in the M.Th. program normally take 16 credits in each semester. In exceptional cases, permission to take an additional 4 credits may be granted.

i. Duration

Stream A normally requires at least two academic years of full-time study to complete; Stream B can be completed in one year of full-time study. All students are required to complete the degree within four years.

j. Requirements for Graduation

- i) Students must complete the program requirements with a GPA of 3.00 or above; and
- ii) satisfactorily meet the standard or requirements of LTS.

k. Further Study

The Master of Theology degree can be a basis for further study at the doctoral level.