

13. Master of Arts in Christian Spiritual Direction (MA-SD)

a. Program Goals

The Master of Arts in Christian Spiritual Direction degree program aims to equip pastors and Christian leaders in the ministry of spiritual formation with an emphasis in spiritual direction. After completion, the student will acquire: i) professional practice of spiritual direction grounded in the Christian faith and tradition; ii) a foundational knowledge of Christian spirituality based on Scripture, church tradition and theology; iii) an effective appropriation from the disciplines of psychology and clinic psychology; iv) experiential learning to grasp the transformational dynamic in spiritual formation; v) capacities for critical theological reflection and integration of knowledge and experience; vi) effective applications of knowledge and skills in the ministry.

b. Requirements for Admission

Admission requirements shall include: i) a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an institution recognized by LTS; ii) two prerequisite courses (6 credits) in the area of biblical studies; otherwise, admitted students should fulfill the requirement via the course at LTS on an extra-credit basis; iii) applicants must have been baptized for at least one year prior to application for study; iv) previous experience in spiritual direction and retreat for the purpose of spiritual formation; v) applicants should have the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for this program; vi) the ability to engage in graduate-level study for academic pursuits and personal development. For application, see VII. Enrollment Procedures.

c. Program Content*¹

i) Core Courses

	credits
CT1000 Introduction to Christian Ethics	3
DM2009 Dogmatics (Module A)	3
CP2011 Essential Counseling Skills	3
SW2000 Paths of Prayer	3
SW2026 Practice of Spiritual Direction	3
SW2027/PT2062 Spirituality Workshop and Silent Retreat	3
SW2029 Ignatian Spirituality and Discernment	3
SW3019 Spiritual Direction Practicum* ²	3
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subtotal	24

ii) Guided Electives on Christian Spirituality (SW)

6 courses 18

iii) Others

Personal Spiritual Direction (minimum 5 times every year)

Total Credits Required for Graduation **42**

- *1 Student is required to pay extra fees for spiritual direction, retreat and practicum supervision, apart from the tuition.
- *2 The spiritual direction practicum will only be started after finishing the 5 core courses on Spirituality and Counseling and with the permission of the adviser.

d. Credits

Full-time students in the MA-SD program normally take a maximum of 18 credits in each semester.

Conditions	Credit Exemption
i) graduate of graduate certificate or graduate diploma or a master’s degree programs in the Theological Education by Extension	a maximum of half of the earned credits with a grade of ‘B+’ or above
ii) a bachelor’s degree holder with a major in Christianity (including 12 credits on Christian Spirituality)	a maximum of 18 credits

e. Duration

This program requires two academic years. The time allowed for completion of the program may not exceed six years.

f. Requirements for Graduation

- i) Students must complete the program requirements with a GPA of 2.50 or above; and
- ii) complete required sessions of personal spiritual direction; and
- iii) satisfactorily meet the standard or requirements of LTS.

g. Further Study

If a MA-SD degree holder continues to study for the Master of Divinity (MDIV) program at LTS, or for the Master of Divinity with Theological Degree (MDIV-T) program with a Bachelor of Theology degree, a maximum of half of the earned credits can be exempted.

If a MA-SD degree holder continues to study for the Master of Arts program in a specific emphasis (MA-CC/MA-CS/MA-D/MA-M) or Master of Arts in Theology (MA-T) program at LTS, a maximum of 18 or 21 credits can be exempted respectively.