

Master of Arts (Bible and Theology)

The Master of Arts (Bible and Theology) program prepares students for ministry leadership through development in four objectives. These objectives are supported by specific outcomes.

Objective:

- ❖ Commitment to the authority of Scriptures as the foundation for the theological disciplines

Outcomes:

- Understanding of theological dimensions of authority, particularly in relation to Scripture
- Understanding of personal and communal dimensions of Scripture's authority
- Ability to employ practical reason in a fashion informed by the witness of the biblical text
- Competence in the analysis and interpretation of biblical texts

Objective:

- ❖ Coherent understanding of the Bible, theology, and Christian heritage

Outcomes:

- Ability to engage biblical texts with critical awareness
- Ability to apply knowledge of biblical Hebrew or Greek to interpretation of biblical texts (for Old and New Testament majors respectively)
- Coherent understanding of the tradition of Christian thought and current trends in Christian systematic theology
- Ability to reflect critically and constructively on questions of the Christian faith (doctrine and practice)
- Ability to articulate positions on theological method and content (Heritage and Thought major)
- Coherent understanding of the history of the Christian church, its structures, doctrines, and practices (Heritage and Thought major)
- Ability to employ critical historical methods to the history of the church (Heritage and Thought major)
- Ability to employ practical reason in a fashion informed by the witness of the biblical text

Objective:

- ❖ Specialized preparation for teaching in a classical field or for advanced graduate studies in Bible or theology

Outcomes:

- Advanced competency in the student's chosen discipline (Old Testament, New Testament, Christian heritage, or systematic theology)
- Competence in research skills
- Competence in critical, analytical, and inductive skills
- Language proficiency in chosen languages

Objective:

- ❖ Growing awareness of personal and spiritual maturity and clarification of goals for Christian service

Outcomes:

- Practices spiritual disciplines
- Ability to articulate vocational goals
- Ability to relate one's vocational goals to the general vocation of Christian discipleship
- Understanding of the vocation of Christian teaching and scholarship, including its contributions to the work of Christ
- Understanding of one's own context and the assumptions and presuppositions which are informed by that context
- Ability to engage persons of differing perspectives and contexts critically and appreciatively