

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

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. Exegetical methodologies for analyzing narrative and poetic texts will be introduced.

505. Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule (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. New Testament I: The Gospel 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. 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.

520. Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching (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. Church History I: Early and Medieval 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. Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity (3)

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

537. Introduction to 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.

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 of systematic theology.

Offered as needed

579. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

580. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

585. Special Study (1-4)

Group studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

598. Seminar (1-4)

Graduate studies seminar to be used at the discretion of the department.

655. Independent Study (1-4)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.

Please note: The MCS curriculum was revised for students beginning with August 2012 enrollment. Students enrolled before August 2012 should consult their catalogue of record (the catalogue from the year they were enrolled) to find the curriculum requirements applicable to their MCS degree.