

Land of Goshen Institute of Theology

Master of Theology Degree (Th.M.)

Total Hours 32

Objectives

Theology is the study of God; therefore, this program of study will provide a strong foundation of theology and help prepare the student for Christian ministry as a Bible teacher, preacher, missionary, and various other public and personal ministry roles. When you earn your Master of Theology degree, you'll be prepared to teach the Scriptures at the undergraduate level, conduct research, and write for scholarly publications. You can choose between a New Testament or Old Testament emphasis with the primary focus of each program on biblical exegesis and interpretation of the original languages. You'll complete your degree with a master's thesis or research seminar, preparing you for further education or ThD or PhD programs.

Course Requirements

In order to graduate with a Master of Theology (Th.M.), the student must have satisfactorily completed the following requirements:

1. Prerequisite: Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in related/approved field
2. A minimum of 32 credits for program completion
3. A minimum overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0
4. A letter of recommendation
5. All financial obligations settled with Land of Goshen Institute of Theology

Courses

The following courses of study are required:

Philosophy

- Comparative Religions
- Apologetics
- Biblical Hermeneutics
- Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

Theology:

- Paul's Missionary Journeys
- Theology of Man
- Eschatology I, II & III
- Reformation Theology
- Grace & Law
- Introduction to Typology

Pastoral Ministry:

- Pastoral Theology

Christian Education:

- Research & Writing
- Thesis Development and Proposal

Electives:

- 10 Credit Hours
 - Psychopathology
 - Professional Ethics
 - Human Resource Management
 - Organizational Management in Leadership
 - Introduction to Worship
 - History of Theology & Religion

*Up to fourteen Practical Application/Advanced Standing Credits may be awarded for hands on experience based on educational and practical ministry related activities approved by Land of Goshen Institute of Theology.

Thesis Requirement:

- A thesis of a minimum of 6,000 words (24-26 pages) on a topic related to the Plan of Study. This project is intended to be a focused, article-length (approximately 6,000 words), original piece of academic research, demonstrating the student's: ability to work across two or more identifiable disciplines and articulate clearly how that work is executed in the project, ability to conduct academic research; depth and originality of thought; ability to articulate his or her research in appropriate academic discourse.

Development of the thesis will proceed in several stages:

- Initial Development: All students will work with an appropriate faculty member in developing a viable thesis project. A thesis proposal must be approved by the Dean. Ideally, initial discussions about the thesis should begin no later than the Spring of the first year of study and students will have taken or plan to take at least two courses in related areas of study.
- Thesis Proposal Class (4 credits): In this class, students (in the second year of the program) will define and refine their topic, thesis, and points of evidence in order to produce a proposal and a detailed outline of the thesis. At the beginning of the seminar, students will be expected to identify and consult with a faculty advisor about the viability and scope of the topic. By week 4 of the quarter, a draft of the proposal will be submitted to the faculty reader. By week 10 of the quarter, a detailed outline of the thesis will be submitted to the course instructor.

- The Proposal: The student must discuss the proposal with and receive the approval of the faculty reader and the Director of the Program. When approval is granted, the student will turn in the proposal to the Registrar who will seek the final approval of the Dean.
- Students will seek approval of the thesis proposal by the fourth week of the proposal seminar. The proposal, on not more than five double-spaced typed or printed pages using appropriate grammar and style, should include the following items:
 - Statement of the proposed title
 - Statement of the thesis and scope of the study
 - Rationale for pursuing the thesis
 - Tentative outline
 - Discussion of available resources with a working bibliography
- Thesis (approximately 6000 words, 24-26 pages): The thesis must clearly delineate the nature of the topic, include a definition of the principle terms, meet standard grammatical requirements, and develop arguments in a systematic and organized fashion. The thesis must be consistent in form with recognized dissertation style manuals, such as Kate Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, or The Chicago Manual of Style (use the most recent editions available). Stylistic consistency is crucial. One may use either footnotes or endnotes, and must include an abstract, 3-5 keywords, and a bibliography.
- Suggested Arrangement:
 - Title page (p.1 is assigned but not typed)
 - Abstract and keywords (p.2 assigned but not typed)
 - Final Evaluation of master's thesis form (no page number)
 - Text (paginated starting with Arabic numeral 1 through to the end)
 - Appendix (if necessary)
 - Bibliography
- Students are encouraged to submit the outline to the faculty reader prior to the final quarter of the program so that the student will have five full weeks in the final quarter to develop the outline with attention to the faculty reader's feedback.
- The thesis is due in final form no later than the fifth week of the final quarter in the program. (The "final quarter" of the program refers to the Fall, Winter, or Spring quarters. Summer is excluded, as faculty are unavailable to read and approve theses during this time.). If the student does not submit their thesis by the end of the fifth week of the quarter, without clearing it with the faculty readers first, graduation is not guaranteed. You will need to submit a petition to the degree program director and the dean. After the thesis has been turned in, the student will meet with the faculty reader for a concluding evaluation and conversation, after which the student may make final revisions. A copy of the thesis with all revisions completed and one extra copy of the title page must be given to the faculty reader for signatures no later than fourteen days prior to the date of graduation. The faculty reader will forward the thesis and all forms to the Director for his/her signature. The Director will forward to the Registrar no later than seven days prior to the date of graduation. The Registrar will seek the Dean's final approval.