Academic Programs

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The M.Div. program is a 93-credit curriculum that blends biblical studies, social science theory, spiritual formation and practical training with an emphasis upon critical and reflective thinking. It is recognized as the most comprehensive and basic level graduate preparation for ministerial leadership and for future study in the theological disciplines. Alongside the prescribed core curriculum and mentored development courses, students select a specific track and professional development courses, in line with their ministry and educational goals.

The M.Div. curriculum develops progressively over three years through the Person Phase, the Church Phase, and the Ministry Phase presented in “Our Model”. ATS offers a pre-substitution system for those who majored in Bible and Theology in their undergraduate program (see Course Sequence on page 39).

Purpose

The Master of Divinity degree is designed to produce whole people for general leadership in Christian service, whether in their own or in another culture, by bringing into dialogue the various dimensions of theological education. These dimensions are (1) church and academy, (2) theology and social science inquiry, (3) the biblical world and the contemporary world, (4) classroom and experience, (5) character and competence, and (6) wisdom and skill.

Student Learning Goals
1. Students will lay a foundation for ongoing spiritual formation including personal development, moral integrity, and spiritual maturity.
2. Students will gain knowledge and be able to apply methodology in biblical studies, theology and cultural understandings.
3. Students will gain an appreciation of the relational nature of ministry through the experience of being mentored and mentoring others, and through learning and practicing interpersonal ministry skills. Students will be able to understand and practice integration of the personal, theological, and practical components of holistic ministry. Students will gain ministry skills for a broad range of Christian service responsibilities, and will be able to demonstrate competency in classroom and internship environments (in particular, those skills necessary for licensed and/or ordained ministry within the C&MA and other denominations).
Program Assessment Plan

The following assessments are used to assess program effectiveness.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Location in Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Spiritual Growth Covenant</td>
<td>SF 503 Initiation in Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>First Year</td>
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<td>2. Bible Storyline Paper</td>
<td>TH501 Biblical Theology</td>
<td>First Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. OT Methodological Essays</td>
<td>OT503 Reading OT</td>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NT Methodological Essays</td>
<td>NT503 Reading NT</td>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
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<td>5. Integrative Project</td>
<td>SF505 PPTFM</td>
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<td>6. Interview Project</td>
<td>CS501 People…</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
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<td>7. Midway &amp; Final Mentor Reports</td>
<td>SF603 Field Education</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
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<td>8. Revised Spiritual Growth Covenant</td>
<td>SF703 Spiritual Formation Capstone</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
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<td>9. Counseling Triads</td>
<td>CD702 Working With People</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
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<td>10. Mentoring Assignment</td>
<td>SF703 SF Capstone</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
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<td>11. Sermon Project</td>
<td>CD601 Proclamation &amp; Communication</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Evangelism Project</td>
<td>CD702 Working With People</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
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General Prerequisites

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. A satisfactory grade point average (2.5 minimum GPA).

Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of 93 credit hours as prescribed.
2. A minimum grade point average of 2.5.
3. Successful completion of an approved Field Education experience.
4. Passing grade of 85% on the Bible Tutor Proficiency Exam within the first two semesters of the program (except Puerto Rico campus, see Bible Tutor Program, page 58).

Core Courses

The following courses comprise the core of the M.Div.:

CD 601 Proclamation & Communication
CD 701 Worship Arts & Disciplines
CD 702 Working with People *
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CS 501  People as Social & Cultural Beings  
CS 502  Church as a Social & Cultural Institution  
IC 501  Perspectives in Mission  
NT 503  Reading the New Testament  
NT 504  Greek Bible & Western Mediterr. World  
NT 505  Hermeneutics  
OT 503  Reading the Old Testament  
OT 504  Hebrew Bible & Eastern Mediterr. World  
SF 505  Pers/Prof/Theol Foundations for Ministry  
TH 501  Biblical Theology  
TH 502  Theology in the Global Context  
TH 605  History of Christianity  
UR 601  Church in the Urban World

*CN510 Intro to Pastoral Counseling for Puerto Rico campus

Mentored Development Courses

SF 503-1st Year Initiation in Spiritual Formation  
SF 603-2nd Year Field Education  
SF 703-3rd Year Spiritual Formation Capstone

Tracks

Students will select from one of the following tracks:

Bible and Theology: Emphasizes enhanced preparation in biblical and theological studies. Students choose to focus on either Greek or Hebrew. Includes the following 6 courses:

Greek progression:  NT 506  NT Greek I: Elements  
                   NT 507  NT Greek II: Readings  
                   NT 604  NT Greek III: Exegesis  
                   OT Book Study (in English)

Hebrew progression: OT 506  Biblical Hebrew I: Elements  
                    OT 507  Biblical Hebrew II: Readings  
                    OT 604  Biblical Hebrew III: Exegesis  
                    NT Book Study (in English)

TH 601  Systematic Theology I: God & Humanity  
TH 602  Systematic Theology II: Christ & the Church
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Church Development: Emphasizes the broad perspectives and essential skills needed for full-time local church ministry. Includes the following 6 courses:

CD 711 Advanced Communication  
CD 712 Leading Change & Conflict Resolution  
CD 713 Management & Christian Service  
SF 610 Human Development  
SF 611 Discipleship & Small Groups  
TH 604 Christian Ethics

Missions: Emphasizes perspectives and skills needed by those ministering across cultural barriers, especially in evangelism, church planting and the development of an indigenous Christian faith. Includes the following 6 courses (offered primarily at the Rockland Campus):

IC 601 Global Expansion of the Church  
IC 602 Cultural Immersion & Social Analysis  
IC 603 Doing Theology in Context  
IC 604 Christian Encounter with World Religions  
IC 720 Theology of Power Encounter  
IC 721 Christian Witness in the Context of Poverty

Urban Ministries: Emphasizes the perspectives and specialized training necessary for ministry in an urban environment. Includes the following 6 courses (offered primarily at the Manhattan Campus):

TH 604 Christian Ethics  
UR 510 Urban Theology  
UR 511 Urban Church & the Poor  
UR 610 Urban Community & Worldview Analysis  
UR 611 Urban Community Development  
UR 714 Leadership Development & the Urban Church

Professional Development Courses

In addition to the tracks, students select 6 professional development courses of their choosing from within the ATS curriculum or in consultation with the Dean, from other graduate programs within the Nyack College System. This flexibility allows for further study in areas related to career goals and personal interest.

First Year – Person Phase

SF 503 Initiation in Spiritual Formation..................................................3
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IC 501 Perspectives in Mission................................................................. 3
OT 503 Reading the Old Testament......................................................... 3
  (SUB: any OT course)*
OT 504 The Hebrew Bible & the Eastern Mediterranean World............ 3
SF 505 Personal, Professional & Theological Foundations for Ministry 3
TH 502 Theology in Global Context........................................................ 3
NT 503 Reading the New Testament ....................................................... 3
  (SUB: any NT course)*
NT 504 The Greek Bible & the Western Mediterranean World............. 3
NT 505 Hermeneutics .............................................................................. 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3

Second Year – Church Phase

SF 603 Field Education .......................................................................... 3
CS 501 People as Social & Cultural Beings ............................................ 3
TH 501 Biblical Theology........................................................................ 3
UR 601 The Church in the Urban World................................................ 3
CS 502 The Church as a Social & Cultural Institution.......................... 3
TH 605 History of Christianity............................................................... 3
  (SUB: TH 721 Historical Theology)*
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3

Third Year – Ministry Phase

CD 601 Proclamation & Communication................................................. 3
CD 701 Worship Arts & Disciplines ........................................................ 3
SF 703 Spiritual Formation Capstone .................................................... 3
CD 702 Working with People (CN510 in PR).......................................... 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Track Course ............................................................................................. 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3
Professional Development Course........................................................... 3

*Substitutions are approved only for those with documented coursework in
the respective subject at the undergraduate level.