

# MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

## The Degree

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) program is designed to prepare men and women for ordained ministry. Usually this means leadership of a congregation, but the MDiv also provides a solid foundation for any person pursuing specialized ministries, such as chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, or Christian education.

The program is carefully designed to introduce students to essential aspects of ordained ministry: biblical interpretation, preaching, theological reflection, counseling, historical study, spiritual formation, worship, and congregational leadership. The Office of Continuing Education at MTS seeks to provide ongoing programs to our graduates to build on the MDiv degree.



## Requirements for Admission

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited school and official transcripts from all educational institutions beyond high school.
  2. An undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
  3. A completed application including letters of recommendation and an admissions essay, which is used to assess the candidate's ability to communicate and reflect theologically.
- See page 36 for an explanation of these requirements.

## Candidates for Ordination

Many denominations have requirements for ordination in addition to those of the Seminary's degree program. Ordination is governed and bestowed by specific religious bodies and not by the Seminary. Approval as a candidate for ordination is a separate and parallel track to the admissions process at MTS. Completion of Seminary studies does not guarantee ordination.

While the Seminary seeks to respond to denominational needs for a particular course of study, students should consult regularly with their appropriate denominational representatives to ensure that requirements for ordination are being met.

**Candidates for ordination in the Moravian Church** are required to take the following among their electives:

- The Ancient Unity (SEHS 962)
- Renewed and Worldwide Moravian Church (SEHS 960)
- Moravian Theology and Worship (SEHS 965)
- Moravian Polity and Practice (SEPM 980)
- Evangelism (SEPM 945)
- A biblical language

## Concentration in Formative Spirituality

The Concentration in Formative Spirituality (12 credits) is ideal for students enrolled in the MDiv degree program who would like to focus their electives on contemplative practices and group spiritual formation. The courses in the Concentration ground students in the contemplative tradition while offering hands-on opportunities for practical application within parish ministry settings, agencies and for individual practice. See page 29 for more information.

## MDiv Curriculum

The MDiv degree requires a total of 91 credits of course work, and additional requirements found in the next column. The MDiv program can be accomplished in three years of full-time study. The program must be completed within six years.

In the MDiv program, required and elective courses are distributed among six areas of academic preparation and professional development for ministry:

|                    | Credits   |
|--------------------|-----------|
| General Studies    | 10        |
| Biblical Studies   | 23        |
| Doctrinal Theology | 15        |
| Church History     | 9         |
| Pastoral Theology  | 25        |
| General Electives  | 9         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>91</b> |

## MDiv Course List

### General Studies

|  | Credits |
|--|---------|
| Learning as Ministry (SEGS 502)          | 2       |
| Intro to World Religions (SEGS 503)      | 2       |
| Global Ministry or Urban Ministry course | 3       |
| Clinical Pastoral Education (SEGS 506)   | 3       |

### Biblical Studies

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Intro to Biblical Studies (SEGS 501) | 1 |
|--------------------------------------|---|

### Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Old Testament: Literature, Culture and Religion (SEBO 603) | 3 |
| Electives in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible                    | 8 |
| 1 Old Testament Book                                       |   |
| 1 upper level course Hebrew Bible—"Special Topics"         |   |
| 1 additional course in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible          |   |

### New Testament

|   |   |
|---|---|
| New Testament: Literature, Culture and Faith (SEBN 633) | 3 |
| Gospels and Acts in a Global Context (SEBN 634)         | 3 |
| Paul in a Global Context (SEBN 733)                     | 3 |
| Elective in New Testament                               | 2 |

### Doctrinal Theology

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Intro to Christian Theology (SEDO 613)   | 3 |
| Electives in Doctrinal Theology  | 6 |
| (2 of the following 5: Reformation Theology to the Present, Theology from the Underside, Contemporary Thought about God, Christology, Gender and Theology) |   |
| Credo (SEDO 833)   | 3 |
| Christian Ethics (SEDO 843)  | 3 |

## Church History

|  |   |
|--|---|
| The Christian Story (SEHS 613)                 | 3 |
| North American Religious Experience (SEHS 713) | 3 |
| Elective in Church History                     | 3 |

## Pastoral Theology

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Rhythms of the Church Year (SEPM 602)     | 2 |
| Christian Worship (SEPM 612) *            | 2 |
| Speech Practicum (SEPM 611)               | 1 |
| Homiletics (SEPM 741) *                   | 2 |
| Practice of Preaching (SEPM 742) *        | 2 |
| Spiritual Formation (SEPF 723)            | 3 |
| Pastoral Care and Counseling (SEPF 733) * | 3 |
| Congregational Leadership (SEPM 873) *    | 3 |
| The Teaching Ministry (SEPM 653) *        | 3 |
| Electives in Pastoral Theology            | 4 |

## General Electives

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>91</b> |
|--------------|-----------|

## Additional MDiv Requirements for Graduation

- In order to cultivate the habit of continuing education, students will be required to attend at least **6 continuing education events** during the course of the MDiv degree program. Events may include those offered by the Seminary's Continuing Education department, by other accredited colleges/universities/theological schools, or by denominational or judicatory agencies. [[www.moravianseminary.edu/handbook](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/handbook)]
- Participation in one Multi-Cultural Awareness workshop. [[www.moravianseminary.edu/handbook](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/handbook)]
- Participation in Supervised Ministry settings (next section).

## Supervised Ministry

Supervised Ministry (field education) is required for all MDiv candidates and is coordinated with specific courses offered by instructors in pastoral theology. Supervised Ministry is offered at off-campus sites, usually in local congregations. Placement arrangements are made through the Director of Supervised Ministry.

Following a first semester orientation to the program, full-time students will normally serve in two distinct placements: the first, an introductory placement

beginning the following February and spanning 3 semesters; and the second, an advanced placement during their third year. A standard remuneration, for pastoral services totalling 10 to 12 hours per week during assigned semesters, is recommended by the Supervised Ministry Advisory Committee.

Courses requiring Supervised Ministry indicate this in the course descriptions. A comprehensive description of the Supervised Ministry program is found in the Supervised Ministry Manual available from the Director of Supervised Ministry.

### Background Checks \*

All students directly engaged in a Supervised Ministry setting as part of their Seminary program, with responsibility for individuals within a congregation or community agency, are required to file the appropriate background record checks with the Registrar. These documents must be current and on file before a student may participate in a Supervised Ministry placement and register for specific courses, which include the following:

- SEPM 612 Christian Worship
- SEPM 741 Homiletics
- SEPM 742 Practice of Preaching
- SEPF 733 Pastoral Care and Counseling
- SEPM 653 The Teaching Ministry
- SEPM 873 Congregational Leadership
- SEGS 506 Clinical Pastoral Education

Contact the Registrar for the appropriate forms. The cost of acquiring these record checks is the responsibility of the student.

### Internships

The Seminary does not require an internship experience for the fulfillment of the degree program. Academic credit is not normally given for an internship experience.

It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether their denomination requires an internship period to fulfill ordination requirements.

### MDiv Recommended Course Sequence

It is intended that courses in the MDiv program be taken in sequence beginning with those which have been identified as foundational. Upper level courses may require one or more foundational courses as prerequisite.

- Learning as Ministry (SEGS 502) is intended to be an entrance course and should be taken during a student's entering semester.
- Intro to Biblical Studies (SEGS 501) is a prerequisite course to all courses in New Testament and Hebrew Bible.
- Prior to enrolling in Credo (SEDO 833) a student must complete Intro to Christian Theology (SEDO 613) and 6 credit hours of Electives in Doctrinal Theology (see p. 12).

For full-time students, the following is the recommended order that courses should be taken:

#### YEAR I

| <b>Fall Semester</b>                                       | Credits |
|--|---------|
| Intro to Biblical Studies (SEGS 501)                       | 1       |
| Learning as Ministry (SEGS 502)                            | 2       |
| Rhythms of the Church Year (SEPM 602)                      | 2       |
| Old Testament: Literature, Culture and Religion (SEBO 603) | 3       |
| Introduction to Christian Theology (SEDO 613)              | 3       |
| The Christian Story (SEHS 613)                             | 3       |
| <b>January Term</b>  |         |
| Elective/s   | 1-3     |
| [Global Ministry or Urban Ministry course]                 | 3       |
| <b>Spring Semester</b>                                     |         |
| Speech Practicum (SEPM 611)                                | 1       |
| Christian Worship (SEPM 612) *                             | 2       |
| The North American Religious Experience (SEHS 713)         | 3       |
| New Testament: Literature, Culture and Faith (SEBN 633)    | 3       |
| Elective/s   | 3+      |
| <b>Summer Term</b>   |         |
| Elective/s   | 1-3     |

**YEAR II**

**Fall Semester**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Homiletics (SEPM 741) *   | 2  |
| Gospels and Acts in a Global Context (SEBN 634)                                       | 3  |
| Spiritual Formation (SEPM 723)  | 3  |
| Electives   | 4+ |
| [Elementary Biblical Hebrew (SEBO 913) or<br>Intro to New Testament Greek (SEBN 913)] | 3  |
| [For Moravians - Ancient Unity (SEHS 962)]  | 3  |

**January Term**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Elective/s                                      | 1-3 |
| [Global Ministry or Urban Ministry course]      | 3   |
| [For Moravians - Evangelism (SEPM 945) Alt yrs] | 2   |

**Spring Semester**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Practice of Preaching (SEPM 742) *   | 2  |
| Paul in a Global Context (SEBN 733)  | 3  |
| Pastoral Care and Counseling (SEPF 733) *  | 3  |
| Electives  | 4+ |
| [Hebrew Exegesis (SEBO 916) or New Testament<br>Greek Reading and Interpretation (SEBN 917)] | 1  |
| [For Moravians - Renewed and Worldwide<br>Moravian Church (SEHS 960)]                        | 2  |

**Summer Term**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Clinical Pastoral Education (SEGS 506) * or | 3   |
| Elective/s                                  | 1-3 |

**YEAR III**

**Fall Semester**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Credo (SEDO 833)   | 3  |
| The Teaching Ministry (SEPM 653) *                           | 3  |
| Electives  | 4+ |
| [New Testament Seminar]                                      | 2  |
| [For Moravians - Moravian Polity and<br>Practice (SEHS 980)] | 2  |

**January Term**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Elective/s                                      | 1-3 |
| [Global Ministry or Urban Ministry course]      | 3   |
| [For Moravians - Evangelism (SEPM 945) Alt yrs] | 2   |

**Spring Semester**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Intro to World Religions (SEGS 503)                           | 2  |
| Christian Ethics (SEDO 843)                                   | 3  |
| Congregational Leadership (SEPM 873) *                        | 3  |
| Electives   | 4+ |
| [For Moravians - Moravian Theology and<br>Worship (SEHS 965)] | 3  |

