



**MASTER'S DEGREE
PROGRAMS CATALOG**

2023 - 2024

Phillips Theological Seminary

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Master of Divinity (MDiv) Degree Program

Purpose

The 81 semester-hour Master of Divinity program is the basic graduate professional degree program for preparation for ministerial leadership and is designed to provide the foundational academic preparation for an educated ministry.

The MDiv program attends to education for ministry through the following interconnected commitments:

- commitment to preparing leaders equipped to create, sustain, and nurture vital congregations and communities that are following the way of Jesus
- commitment to teaching and learning the skills for vital conversations
- commitment to promoting the way of Jesus for the public good

Program Goals

In harmony with the seminary's mission to learn and teach how to be: attentive to God; responsible biblical and theological interpreters; faithful individuals, congregations, and communities acting with God to transform the world, upon completing the MDiv program, students will be able to:

1. Situate biblical, historical, and theological documents within historical, religious, and cultural contexts;
2. Engage and interpret contemporary justice-related texts and movements that seek the transformation of church and society;
3. Reflect on and speak to their own personal and spiritual formation in the way of Jesus in light of course experiences;
4. Demonstrate their ability to exercise and reflect on appropriate practices of leadership in ecclesial and/or public context.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Divinity degree requires the completion of 81 semester-hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher. Of the 81 semester-hours, 66 must be taken to fulfill particular requirements distributed among several areas within the curriculum. The remaining 15 semester-hours are elective hours (unless a student's denominational requirements exceed 3 semester-hours) and may be used to further a student's individual learning goals including his or her understanding of Christian traditions, the nature of Christian witness in the contemporary world, and the development of specific professional competencies that will contribute to current or projected ministries.

Curriculum for the MDiv

The MDiv curriculum is divided into three phases in which each student must successfully complete required courses. Required introductory courses in Phase I normally function as prerequisites for advanced work in Phase II.

Because the prior academic preparation of students varies considerably, students with previous academic work in specific areas of study may, upon consultation with their advisers, petition the academic dean for permission to bypass certain basic required courses and to register for more advanced coursework instead.

Normally, required courses may not be taken as guided readings courses. Some courses which meet requirements in Phase II and III may be taken for elective credit.

The semester-hours required in each phase are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 17 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 46 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 3 hours |
| Electives to be taken in any phase | 15 hours |

Phase I: Invitation to Community (17 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity I | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502, Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, they must attend orientation during their first semester.

Full descriptions for each of these courses may be found in the Course Catalog in the section entitled “Courses of Instruction for Master’s Degree Programs.”

Phase II: Vital Conversations (46 hours)

In Phase II students continue to utilize the strategies learned in Phase I to develop further skills and deepen knowledge in area specific courses, to be distributed as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Biblical Studies | 6 hours |
| HB Exegesis (3 hours) | |
| NT Exegesis (3 hours) | |
| History of Christianity | 6 hours |
| Advanced HC Elective (3 hours) | |
| Denominational Studies DS (3 hours) | |
| Theology & Ethics | 9 hours |
| TH Advanced Elective (3 hours) | |
| Constructive Theology (3 hours) | |
| Ethics, Culture and Mission of the Church (3 hours) | |

Practices of Theological Leadership 15 hours
Preaching (3 hours)
Worship (3 hours)
Leadership and Administration (3 hours)
Christian Education (3 hours)
Care in Christian Community (3 hours)

Theological Field Education 4 hours
During one academic year, students register for two Theological Field Education courses that constitute a sequence in contextual theology: (a) TFE 505 Theological Field Education I which meets in the Fall semester (2 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (2 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of three semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might spend in her or his ministry (for a description of the Theological Field Education Program (TFE) see the Academic Handbook). One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education that is taken at a Phillips approved CPE program may also fulfill this requirement. For information on CPE contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

Faith & Public Discourse 6 hours
Courses in this area give students opportunities to broaden skills in conversations vital to ministry, communal sustainability and the public good and to integrate these skills with learning from previous courses.
Immersion Course (3 hours)
Elective in this area (3 hours)

Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (3 hours)

In this final phase of the MDiv curriculum students will prepare for engagement in significant ministry after graduation. Required courses in this phase include:
Capstones in Theological Leadership 3 hours

Elective Coursework (15 hours)

Students who have only 3 semester-hours of denominational requirements will have 15 semester hours of elective courses that may be taken during any of the three phases of the curriculum, as long as all prerequisites for the course have been met. Students should choose these electives in light of their own individual learning goals and plans for ministry beyond completion of the degree.

Requirements in Denominational Studies (3-9 hours)

Each MDiv student is required to take at least one 3 semester-hour course in the history and polity of his or her own church tradition. The following requirements are specified for each denomination:

1. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) students must take DS 500 History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course

2. United Methodist students are required to take a total of 12 semester-hours as follows:
 - DS 550 United Methodist History (3 hours), satisfies Phase II requirement for advanced History of Christianity course
 - DS 575 United Methodist Doctrine (3 hours), satisfies Phase II requirement for advanced Theology course
 - DS 625 United Methodist Polity (3 hours), satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course
 - PL 725 The Church and Evangelism (3 hours), elective

UMC students under care of the Arkansas Conference are required to also take courses in church administration and Wesleyan theology in addition to these other requirements; these serve as electives.

3. United Church of Christ students are required to take DS 750 History and Polity of the United Church of Christ which satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course
4. Presbyterian students are required to take DS 725 Presbyterian Polity which satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course
5. Students from all Baptist traditions must take either DS 650 Baptist History and Polity or DS 675 Baptist Theological Perspectives which satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course
6. Unitarian Universalist students are required to take DS 800 History and Polity of Unitarian Universalism which satisfies Phase II requirement for Denominational History course
7. Students who are members of denominations not specifically mentioned above, or are members of non-denominational churches, may satisfy the denominational studies requirement by (a) enrolling in HS 650 History of Religion in America, or (b) with the academic dean's permission, taking a 3 semester-hour guided readings course (under DS 825 Readings in Denominational History) on the history and polity of the particular denomination in which they intend to practice ministry.

Students in the MDiv program are required to notify the Office of Admissions and Student Services at the earliest possible date if, during their program of studies, they propose transferring their membership to a denomination or religious community other than that which supported their application to the MDiv degree program and in which they originally expected to serve in ministry. They must also notify Phillips denominational formation directors of the respective traditions.

Clinical Pastoral Education at Phillips

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a first-hand, parish-based learning experience under certified supervision that provides ministers, theological students, religious professionals and qualified laypersons opportunities for intensive study of pastoral relationships and for seeking to make clear in understanding and practice the resources, methods, and meanings of the Christian faith as expressed through spiritual care. Students in Phillips degree programs that require the Theological Field Education may enroll in a Phillips approved CPE program to fulfill this requirement. For more information contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

In addition, Phillips grants advanced standing with credit toward the MDiv degree program for CPE work taken at accredited centers. Students may petition to receive the maximum of 3 semester-hours of elective credit for a basic unit of CPE if the unit was successfully completed within 7 years of matriculation at Phillips. Students will be charged an administrative fee (\$100 per semester-hour in 2021-2022) for transcription of CPE advanced standing credits. Prior to enrollment in any CPE program, interested Phillips students should contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

Online/On-Campus Requirements

In accord with current ATS accreditation standards, a minimum of 24 semester-hours of the coursework required for an MDiv degree (the equivalent of one year of full-time academic study) must be completed “in residence” (i.e., in a classroom setting on our Tulsa campus or an approved extension site). Immersion courses count as “in residence.”

United Methodist Church students enrolled in an ordination track degree program (MDiv or MAMC) are limited to “in-residence” courses only and may not register for online distance education courses offered by any non-UMC seminary, including Phillips, according to policies set by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

Independent Research

Students may pursue special interests in advanced research in any phase of the curriculum by requesting a guided readings course for 1-3 semester-hours credit. Normally, required courses may not be taken on an independent research basis. Moreover, only those students who have completed the phase I and who have shown evidence of a capacity for independent study will be allowed to enroll. Forms for independent study may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. The enrollment must be approved by the instructor who will direct the research and by the academic dean. Normally, no more than one independent study may be taken in any one semester and no more than 6 semester-hours of independent study may count toward the MDiv degree. Independent study courses will not count toward a student’s required in-residence hours. The independent study request form must be filed in the Office of the Registrar with all appropriate signatures by the first day of class of the semester or summer session in which the independent study course is to be taken.

Thesis Option

Although a thesis is not required of MDiv students, a thesis option is available. MDiv students who wish to write a thesis must have completed at least 50 semester-hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher prior to the year the thesis is to be written. The thesis should be written during the last two semesters of the student's enrollment in the MDiv degree program. Students should enroll in RW 750 and RW 760: MDiv Thesis Research and Writing I and II, respectively, in their last two semesters.

No more than two semesters may be used to complete the thesis. Completion of a satisfactory thesis counts for 6 semester-hours credit. Failure to complete the thesis in the required time may result in no credit and no grade for any part of the student's research. Each MDiv thesis will be evaluated by two professors, an adviser and a reader. The adviser must be a member of the regular Phillips faculty. The thesis proposal should be prepared in consultation with the faculty adviser and reader, who should normally approve it no later than November 30, if the student plans to register for RW 750 the following spring semester, or March 31, if the student plans to register for RW 750 the following fall semester. After the proposal is approved by the faculty adviser and reader, the student must submit the thesis proposal to the dean for administrative approval.

An MDiv thesis proposal form is available from the Office of the Registrar. The thesis proposal should include the following information: proposed subject of the thesis; range of research anticipated; educational and professional goals the student expects to accomplish in the thesis; and a preliminary bibliography.

Theses, which shall be between 50 and 80 printed pages, must be prepared according to the Phillips Style Guide following the Masters Thesis Formatting Guide provided by the Dean of the Library. Effective July 1, 2021, students must have passed the formatting check in order to be certified for graduation. The initial submission for the formatting check is due to the Dean of the Library by November 1 for December graduation, and April 1 for May graduation. After passing the formatting check, students must submit to the Phillips Seminary Library two copies of the final thesis on acid-free document bond or 100% cotton bond paper. A standard administrative fee is charged for all master's theses at the time of enrollment in RW 660. This fee covers binding two copies for the library and other related administrative expenses. Students may submit additional personal copies for binding for a fee.

United Methodist Studies

Phillips Seminary is approved by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church to educate candidates for ordained ministry. The faculty includes United Methodist scholars and ordained elders and has an endowed chair in UMC Studies, recently held by Ellen J. Blue, Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies. UMC students are encouraged to remain in close contact with their conference boards of ordained ministry and the Phillips director of UMC ministerial formation about their vocational aims, ministerial opportunities, and curricular options.

In the 81 semester-hour MDiv program, the requirements of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* for ordination and conference membership in the United Methodist Church are met in part by completing the following sequence of denominational courses: DS 550 United Methodist History (3 semester-hours), DS 575 United Methodist Doctrine (3 semester-hours), and DS 625 United Methodist Polity (3 semester-hours). These three courses are offered on a permanent rotation schedule. It is recommended that students take Introduction to Theology, History of Christianity I or II before enrolling in these courses. In addition to the sequence of three denominational courses, UMC students must also take a course on evangelism, normally fulfilled by taking PL 725 The Church and Evangelism, and a course on the mission of the church, normally fulfilled by taking ET 525 Ethics, Culture, and the Mission of the Church. Students normally meet requirements of ministerial readiness regarding professional ethics, sexual ethics, healthy boundaries, and self-care by taking PT 520 Care in Christian Communities. UMC students under care of the Arkansas Conference are required to also take courses in church administration and Wesleyan theology in addition to these other requirements; these serve as electives.

Thus, the MDiv curriculum meets the requirements for ordination in the United Methodist Church in the following ways:

| Requirement in UMC <i>Book of Discipline</i> | Total Number of required hours in Phillips curriculum | Courses in Phillips curriculum |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old Testament | 6 hours | Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3 hours) Hebrew Bible Exegesis (3 hours) |
| New Testament | 6 hours | Introduction to the New Testament (3 hours) New Testament Exegesis (3 hours) |
| Theology | 9 hours—including UMC Doctrine | Introduction to Theology (3 hours) Constructive Theology (3 hours) United Methodist Doctrine (3 hours) |
| Church History | 9 hours—including UMC History | History of Christianity I and II (6 hours) United Methodist History (3 hours) |
| Mission of the Church in the World | 3 hours | Ethics, Culture, and the Mission of the Church (3 hours) |
| Evangelism | 3 hours | The Church and Evangelism (3 hours) |
| Worship/Liturgy | 3 hours | The Theology and Practice of Public Worship (3 hours) |
| United Methodist Polity | 3 hours | United Methodist Polity (3 hours) |

In addition to the above list, students in the Arkansas Conference of the UMC take the following courses to satisfy the requirements stipulated by the Arkansas Board of Ordained Ministry:

- A course in basic pastoral care satisfied by Care in Christian Communities (3 hours)
- A course in Wesleyan theology beyond United Methodist Doctrine satisfied by Advanced Wesleyan Theology (3 hours)
- A course in preaching satisfied by The Art and Practice of Preaching (3 hours) or Preaching as a Communicative Art (3 hours)
- A course in church administration satisfied by The Pastoral Leadership and Administration (3 hours)

In accord with policies adopted by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist students are limited to “in-residence” courses only and may not register for online distance education courses offered by any non-UMC seminary, including Phillips.

Baptist Studies

In cooperation with various Baptist churches affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, Progressive National Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches, and the Cooperating Baptist Fellowship in Oklahoma (CBFO), Phillips Seminary established a Baptist Studies Program in 2002. A director of Baptist Ministerial Formation currently offers counsel to Baptist seminarians from all traditions. Baptist students satisfy their denominational studies requirement by taking either DS 534 Baptist History and Polity or DS 675 Baptist Theological Perspectives, both of which are 3 semester-hours.

Unitarian Universalist Studies

Phillips Seminary has the privilege of preparing a number of students seeking ordination in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Working closely with a director of Unitarian Universalist Formation, the seminary offers classes that relate directly to the seven competencies an aspirant must achieve to be considered for ministerial fellowship within the UU tradition, including DS 800 History and Polity of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In addition, the parish-based CPE program allows UU students to fulfill the CPE requirement and receive academic credit. Students may also ask professors to allow them to use books from the required reading list for UU aspirants to fulfill assignments and complete research and writing projects.

Black Church Studies

Phillips aims to provide all students opportunities for critical reflection on racism and religion, as well as resources for practical ministerial formation which contribute to an increased understanding and appreciation of the historic witness of the Black Church in the U.S. Accordingly, the following courses have been offered in recent years: TH 750 The Theology and Ethics of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Race, Religion, and Education in the African American Experience; HC 760 The Black Church in America; HC 770 Religion and the Civil

Rights Movement; AH 575 History of Preaching in the Black Tradition and TH 775 Womanist Theology.

In Fall of 2020, Phillips launched a new program emphasis in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith Life. Program information can be found on page 26 and in the *Masters Degree Programs Catalog* on the Phillips website.

Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture (MAMC) Degree Program

Purpose

The Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture (MAMC), together with the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree, is designed to equip persons to fulfill their vocations as leaders in providing faithful and effective forms of ministry in congregations and in the world. While the more extensive 81 semester-hour MDiv remains the degree required for ordination in most denominations, the 48 semester-hour MAMC degree, like the MDiv, requires participation in the Theological Field Education program (TFE) and is designed to affirm and respond to the educational needs of persons interested in, for example: congregational leadership in denominations that do not require in all cases the Master of Divinity degree for ordination; or, forms of diaconal ministry, licensed professional ministry, commissioned, bi-vocational, or lay ministry (e.g., in Christian education, youth work, hospice care, and counseling and mediation).

Additional specialized coursework beyond that required for the MAMC degree may be necessary to meet all of the educational expectations for authorized forms of ministry within certain communions. Students should include relevant denominational history and polity courses in their programs of study. Denominational formation directors are provided by the seminary for graduate professional students from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church (USA), Unitarian Universalist Church, and Baptist traditions. Additional formation directors may be provided as needed.

Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who are pursuing recognition as commissioned ministers or seeking ordination on the Apprentice Track may satisfy some or all of their educational requirements through a specially configured track of the MAMC degree program outlined below. Interested candidates should consult the Phillips director of Disciples ministerial formation about their vocational aims and seek counsel about their educational options from their regional ministry commissions.

Program Goals

In harmony with the seminary's mission to learn and teach how to be: attentive to God; responsible biblical and theological interpreters; faithful individuals, congregations, and communities acting with God to transform the world, upon completing the MAMC program, students will be able to:

1. act as responsible biblical interpreters critically informed by attention to both testaments at an introductory level and to current historical, literary, and theological scholarship in the field of biblical studies;
2. articulate substantive issues in the areas of theology and ethics at an introductory level, informed by both historical understanding and awareness of contemporary cultural contexts;
3. demonstrate the skills and practices associated with ministry in conversation with student's denominational heritage, Christian traditions, and probable ministry setting;
4. articulate an understanding of one's own personal and spiritual formation appropriate to the practice of ministry.

Degree Requirements

The MAMC degree program requires the completion of 48 semester-hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher. The program offers two tracks: General Ministries Track and Disciples Ministries Track for those on the Apprentice Track in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Curriculum for the MAMC

The MAMC curriculum is divided into three phases in which each student must successfully complete required courses. Required introductory courses in Phase I normally function as prerequisites for advanced work in Phase II.

Because the prior academic preparation of students varies considerably, students with previous academic work in specific areas of study may, upon consultation with their advisers, petition the academic dean for permission to bypass certain basic required courses and to register for more advanced coursework instead.

Normally, required courses may not be taken as guided readings courses. Some courses which meet requirements in Phase II and Phase III may be taken for elective credit.

A. General Ministries Track

The semester-hours required in each phase for this Track are:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 14 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 19 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 3 hours |
| Electives to be taken in any phase | 12 hours |

Phase I: Invitation to Community (14 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity I OR History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502, Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, it is required the student's first year.

Full descriptions for each of these courses may be found in the Course Catalog in the section entitled "Courses of Instruction for Master's Degree Programs."

Phase II: Vital Conversations (19 hours)

In Phase II students continue to utilize the strategies learned in Phase I to develop further skills and deepen knowledge in area specific courses, to be distributed as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Biblical Studies | 3 hours |
| An advanced exegetical course in either Hebrew Bible or New Testament (3 hours) | |
| History of Christianity | 6 hours |
| History course not taken in Phase 1 (3 hours) | |
| Denominational History/Polity (3 hours) | |
| Ethics | 3 hours |
| Faith and Public Discourse | 3 hours |
| Immersion Course (3 hours) | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Theological Field Education | 4 hours |
|-----------------------------|---------|

During one academic year, students register for two Theological Field Education courses that constitute a sequence in contextual theology: (a) TFE 505 Theological Field Education I in the Fall semester (2 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (2 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of four semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might spend in her or his ministry setting (for a description of the Theological Field Education Program (TFE) see the Academic Handbook). One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education that is taken at a Phillips approved CPE program may also fulfill this requirement. For information on CPE contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

Phase III. Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (3 hours)

In this final phase of the MAMC curriculum students will prepare for engagement in significant ministry after graduation. Required courses in this phase include:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Capstones in Theological Leadership | 3 hours |
|-------------------------------------|---------|

A student enrolls in this course during his or her last semester before graduation. In this final assessment course, students assess, in conversation with their advisers, the meeting of their own individual goals and the MAMC program goals.

Elective Coursework (12 hours)

Students may enroll in 12 semester hours of elective courses that may be taken during any of the three phases of the curriculum, as long as all prerequisites for the course have

been met. These electives should be chosen in light of a student's own individual learning goals and plans for ministry beyond seminary.

Independent Research

MAMC students in this track may pursue specialized research in any division of the curriculum by requesting guided readings courses for 1-3 semester-hours of credit. Normally, required courses may not be taken on an independent research basis. Moreover, only those students who have completed the required phase I courses and who have shown evidence of a capacity for independent study will be allowed to enroll. Forms for independent study may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. The enrollment must be approved by the instructor who will direct the research and by the academic dean. Normally, no more than one independent study may be taken in any one semester and no more than 3 semester-hours of independent study may count toward the MAMC degree. Independent study courses will not count toward a student's required in-residence hours. The independent study request form must be filed in the Office of the Registrar with all appropriate signatures by the first day of class of the semester or summer session in which the independent study course is to be taken. MAMC students in the special Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) configuration have no elective course opportunities for guided readings.

B. Disciples Ministries for Ministerial Candidates on the Apprentice Track of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with Sixteen Areas of Competency for Congregational Leaders

Although the educational requirements for ordination in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) normally include an MDiv degree from an ATS-accredited seminary, regional ministry commissions may now determine, because of economic, linguistic, vocational, or familial circumstances, that some candidates for ordination as commissioned ministers in the denomination may find an apprentice track toward ordination more appropriate than pursuing a full Master of Divinity degree. Approval for this option must be obtained through the candidate's regional ministry commission.

By successfully completing the 48 semester-hour MAMC degree program, those who have the support of the Region in which they are under care to pursue an apprentice track should be able to demonstrate competency in each of the sixteen areas of ministerial practice identified in the "Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry." The sixteen areas are enumerated below, followed by a description of the seminary's MAMC degree requirements with an indication of the competency areas related to specific courses. Please note that because the denomination's apprentice track only requires a total program of studies of approximately 250 contact-hours, a single 3 semester-hour master's-level course at Phillips may satisfy contact-hour expectations in more than a single competency area.

The sixteen "Areas of Competency in Ministerial Practice" as defined by the General Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) include:

1. Biblical Knowledge

2. Church Administration
3. Communication
4. Cross-cultural and Anti-racism Experience
5. Ecumenism
6. Education and Leader Development
7. Ethics
8. Evangelism
9. Mission of the Church in the World
10. Pastoral Care
11. Proclamation of the Word
12. Spiritual Development
13. Stewardship
14. Theology
15. Understanding of Heritage
16. Worship

In order to equip students to meet these expectations for these areas of competency, the curricular design for this track is as follows.

The semester-hours required in each phase for this Track are:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 14 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 31 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 3 hours |

Phase I: Invitation to Community (14 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity I OR History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502, Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, it is required the student's first year.

Full descriptions for each of these courses may be found in the Course Catalog in the section entitled "Courses of Instruction for Master's Degree Programs." A student enrolls in Assessment I after completion of introductory courses and after earning at least 20 semester-hours. In this first assessment course students will develop their own learning goals in harmony with the MDiv program goals listed above and begin an online portfolio of work completed in seminary. During the semester in which a student is enrolled in an assessment course, he or she must develop the online portfolio and meet, online or on campus, with his or her adviser.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (31 hours)

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Disciples History and Polity | 3 hours |
|------------------------------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Practices of Theological Leadership | 18 hours |
|-------------------------------------|----------|

- Preaching (3 hours)
- Worship (3 hours)
- Leadership and Administration (3 hours)
- Evangelism (3 hours)
- Care (3 hours)
- Education (3 hours)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Theological Field Education | 4 hours |
|-----------------------------|---------|

During one academic year, students register for two Supervised Ministry courses that constitute a sequence in contextual theology: (a) TFE 505 Theological Field Education I in the Fall semester (2 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (2 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of four semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might spend in her or his ministry setting (for a description of the Theological Field Education Program (TFE) see listing in Academic Handbook). One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education that is taken at a Phillips approved CPE program may also fulfill this requirement. For information on CPE contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Faith & Public Discourse Immersion Course | 3 hours |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|

Phase III. Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (3 hours)

In this final phase of the MAMC curriculum students will prepare for engagement in significant ministry after graduation. Required courses in this phase include:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Capstones in Theological Leadership | 3 hours |
|-------------------------------------|---------|

Online/On-Campus Requirements for both MAMC Tracks

In accord with current ATS accreditation standards, a minimum of 16 semester-hours of the coursework required for a MAMC degree must be completed “in residence” (i.e., in a classroom setting on our Tulsa campus or an approved extension site).

United Methodist Church students enrolled in an ordination track degree program (MDiv or MAMC) are limited to “in-residence” courses only and may not register for online distance education courses offered by any non-UMC seminary, including Phillips, according to policies set by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

The MAMC and Clinical Pastoral Education

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a first-hand learning experience under certified supervision that provides ministers and theological students opportunities for intensive study of pastoral relationships and for seeking to make clear in understanding and practice the resources, methods, and meanings of the Christian faith as expressed

through spiritual care. For more information, contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

In addition, Phillips grants advanced standing with credit toward the MAMC degree program for CPE work taken at accredited centers. Students may petition to receive the maximum of 3 semester-hours of elective credit for a basic unit of CPE if the unit was successfully completed within 7 years of matriculation at Phillips. Students will be charged an administrative fee (\$100 per semester-hour in 2020-2021) for transcription of CPE advanced standing credits. Prior to enrollment in any CPE program, interested Phillips students must contact the Director of Theological Field Education.

Master of Theological Studies (MTS) Degree Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree program, which requires the completion of 48 semester-hours, is to develop broad theological understandings for general education purposes.

The MTS degree program has two distinct tracks:

Track I: General Theological Studies is designed for persons who seek through an engagement with contemporary biblical, theological, and historical studies to become better educated about important religious and ethical issues in our religiously plural world and/or to serve as more effective lay leaders in church and society.

Track II: Pre-doctoral Theological Studies is specifically designed for persons who are preparing for further academic coursework in other institutions of higher education leading to a research doctorate in a specialized discipline of Religious Studies.

For most denominations, the MTS, standing alone, does not include either a sufficient number of hours or an adequate emphasis on ministerial formation and practice to meet the requirements for denominational certification or ordination. Moreover, The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) has determined that this degree is not designed to prepare students for the practice of ministry.

Program Goals

Upon completing either track of the MTS program, students will be able to:

1. Situate biblical, historical, and theological documents within historical, religious, and cultural contexts;
2. Engage and interpret contemporary justice-related texts and movements that seek the transformation of church and society;
3. Demonstrate an ability to conduct and evaluate advanced research by:
 - a. in Track I, producing an integrative paper in which the students engages in critical reflection on an interpretive issues or set of issues that has emerged in her or his course work with relevant biblical, theological, ethical, historical or cultural materials as articulated in the previous goals; or,

- b. in Track II, producing a master’s thesis in which the student presents a sustained argument on a particular interpretive issue or set of issues with relevant biblical, theological, ethical, historical or cultural materials as articulated in the previous goals.

Degree Requirements and Curricular Tracks

The MTS degree requires the completion of 48 semester-hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher. All students must take 30 semester-hours of foundational courses. Students in Track I, General Theological Studies, must complete 12 semester-hours of elective coursework plus a 2 semester-hour independent study course in which they produce an integrative research paper. Students in Track II, Pre-Doctoral Theological Studies, must complete the 30 semester-hour requirement in foundational courses, 9 semester-hours in specialization courses, and 6 hours of thesis work. MTS students should work closely with their advisers in selecting the courses that best prepare them for the research and writing requirements of their particular track.

A. General Theological Studies (Track I)

The semester-hours required in each phase for this Track are:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 14 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 18 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 4 hours |
| Electives to be taken in any phase | 12 hours |

The detailed curricular design for this track follows.

Phase I: Invitation to Community (14 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity I OR History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502, Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, it is required the student’s first year.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (18 hours)

In Phase II students continue to utilize the strategies learned in Phase I to develop further skills and deepen knowledge in Area Specific Courses, distributed as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Biblical Studies | 6 hours |
| Hebrew Bible Exegesis (3 hours) | |
| New Testament Exegesis (3 hours) | |
| History of Christianity | 3 hours |
| Advanced HC Elective or the other introductory | |

level course (3 hours)

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Theology and Ethics | 6 hours |
| TH Advanced Elective (3 hours) | |
| Ethics, Culture, and the Mission of the Church (3 hours) | |
| Faith and Public Discourse | 3 hours |
| Immersion Course (3 hours) | |

Phase III. Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (4 hours)

In this final phase of the MTS curriculum students will prepare for ongoing learning after graduation. Required courses in this phase include:

Integrative Paper 4 hours

MTS degree students in Track I General Theological Studies are normally required to enroll in RW 600 Integrative Paper Research and Writing (4 semester-hours) in their final semester. The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to conduct advanced research and engage in critical, integrative reflection on an interpretive issue or set of issues that has emerged in his or her coursework. See below for further information.

Elective Coursework (12 hours)

Students may enroll in 12 semester hours of elective courses that may be taken during any of the three phases of the curriculum, as long as all prerequisites for the course have been met. These electives should be chosen in light of a student's own individual learning and vocational goals beyond completion of the degree.

Further Instructions for the Integrative Paper

MTS students in the General Studies Track normally write an integrative paper in the final phase of the program. No more than one semester may be used to complete the integrative paper in a 4-hour course, RW 600 Integrative Paper Research and Writing. Failure to complete the paper successfully in the required time may result in a grade of "F," requiring the student to re-enroll in RW 600 in order to graduate. Each integrative paper will be evaluated by an adviser who must be a member of the regular Phillips faculty.

A proposal for an integrative paper should be prepared in consultation with the faculty adviser who should normally approve it no later than November 30, if the student plans to register for RW 600 the following spring semester, or March 31, if the student plans to register for RW 600 the following fall semester.

A proposal form for an MTS integrative paper is available from the Office of the Registrar. The proposal should include the following information: proposed subject; range of research anticipated; educational and professional goals the student expects to accomplish; and a preliminary bibliography.

The integrative paper, which shall be approximately 30 printed pages, must be prepared according to form guidelines in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018 and the Phillips Style Guidelines available on the Phillips website.

B. Pre-doctoral Theological Studies (Track II)

The semester-hours required in each phase for this Track are:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 14 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 18 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 7 hours |
| Electives to support thesis work to be taken during any phase | 9 hours |

The detailed curricular design for this track follows.

Phase I: Invitation to Community (14 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity I OR History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502, Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, it is required the student’s first year.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (18 hours)

In Phase II students continue to utilize the strategies learned in Phase I to develop further skills and deepen knowledge in Area Specific Courses, distributed as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Biblical Studies | 6 hours |
| Hebrew Bible (3 hours) | |
| New Testament (3 hours) | |
| History of Christianity | 3 hours |
| Advanced HC Elective or the other introductory level class (3 hours) | |
| Theology and Ethics | 6 hours |
| TH Advanced Elective (3 hours) | |
| Ethics, Culture and Mission of the Church (3 hours) | |
| Faith and Public Discourse | 3 hours |
| Immersion Course (3 hours) | |

Phase III. Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (7 hours)

In this final phase of the MTS curriculum students will prepare for ongoing learning after graduation. Required courses in this phase include:

| |
|--------------------------|
| Thesis Project (7 hours) |
|--------------------------|

MTS students in Track II Pre-Doctoral Theological Studies are normally required to enroll in RW 650 MTS Thesis Research and Writing I (3 semester-hours) and RW 660 MTS Thesis Research and Writing II (7 semester-hours), in their final two semesters. The thesis should demonstrate the student's ability to conduct advanced research, formulate a thesis, and present a sustained argument on a particular interpretative issue or set of issues in contemporary religious studies sufficient to promise success in subsequent doctoral studies leading to a PhD or ThD degree.

Elective Coursework (9 hours)

Students may enroll in 9 semester-hours of elective courses that may be taken during any of the three phases of the curriculum, as long as all prerequisites for the course have been met. Students should choose these electives carefully to support their thesis research.

Further Instructions for the Thesis Project

As mentioned above, MTS students in Track II Pre-Doctoral Theological Studies are normally required to produce a thesis that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct advanced research, formulate a thesis, and present a sustained argument on a particular interpretative issue or set of issues in contemporary religious studies sufficient to promise success in subsequent doctoral studies leading to a PhD or ThD degree.

No more than two semesters may be used to complete the thesis. Completion of a satisfactory thesis counts for 6 semester-hours credit. Failure to complete the thesis in the required time may result in no credit and no grade for any part of the student's research.

Each thesis will be evaluated by two professors: an adviser and a reader. The adviser must be a member of the regular Phillips faculty. Normally, the adviser and reader will conduct an oral defense of the thesis.

A thesis proposal should be prepared in consultation with the faculty adviser and reader, who should normally approve it no later than November 30, if the student plans to register for RW 650 the following spring semester, or March 31, if the student plans to register for RW 650 the following fall semester. After the proposal is approved by the faculty adviser and reader, the student must submit the thesis proposal to the academic dean for administrative approval.

A thesis proposal form is available from the Office of the Registrar. The thesis proposal should include the following information: proposed subject of the thesis; range of research anticipated; educational and professional goals the student expects to accomplish in the thesis; and a preliminary bibliography.

Theses, which shall be between 50 and 80 printed pages, must be prepared according to the Phillips Style Guide following the Masters Thesis Formatting Guide provided by the

Dean of the Library. Effective July 1, 2021, students must have passed the formatting check in order to be certified for graduation. The initial submission for the formatting check is due to the Dean of the Library by November 1 for December graduation, and April 1 for May graduation. After passing the formatting check, students must submit to the Phillips Seminary Library two copies of the final thesis on acid-free document bond or 100% cotton bond paper. A standard administrative fee is charged for all master's theses at the time of enrollment in RW 660. This fee covers binding two copies for the library and other related administrative expenses. Students may submit additional personal copies for binding for a fee.

Independent Research in the MTS

MTS students may pursue special interests in advanced research in the areas of Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Theology and Ethics and Faith and Public Discourse by requesting a guided readings course for 1-3 semester-hours credit. Normally, required courses may not be taken on an independent research basis. Moreover, only those students who have completed the basic introductory courses in the relevant curriculum division and who have shown evidence of a capacity for independent study will be allowed to enroll. Forms for independent study may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. The enrollment must be approved by the instructor who will direct the research and by the academic dean. Normally, no more than one independent study may be taken in any one semester and no more than 6 semester-hours of independent study may count toward the MTS degree. Independent study courses will not count toward a student's required in-residence hours. The independent study request form must be filed in the Office of the Registrar with all appropriate signatures by the first day of class of the semester or summer session in which the independent study course is to be taken.

Online/On-Campus Requirements for the MTS

A minimum of 16 semester-hours of the coursework required for an MTS degree must be completed "in residence" (i.e., in a classroom setting on our Tulsa campus or an approved extension site).

Master of Arts (Social Justice) (MA(SJ)) Degree Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Arts (Social Justice; MA(SJ)) degree, which requires the completion of 38 hours, is to give students an opportunity to reflect on social justice as a central concern of contemporary Christian theologies.

For most denominations, the MA(SJ), standing alone, does not include either a sufficient number of hours or an adequate emphasis on ministerial formation and practice to meet the requirements for denominational certification or ordination. Moreover, The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) has determined that this degree is not designed to prepare students for the practice of ordained ministry.

Program Goals

Upon completing the MA(SJ) students will be able to:

1. act as responsible biblical interpreters critically informed by attention to the theme of justice in both testaments and in current historical, literary and theological scholarship in the field of biblical studies;
2. attend to the continuing importance of interpreting events, texts and practices of church history and contemporary cross cultural studies through the lenses of oppression, liberation, and reconciliation;
3. articulate perspectives on issues and topics in the area of public theology and ethics, informed by methods such as feminist/womanist, liberationist, process, and post-colonial models attentive to the theme of justice;
4. demonstrate an ability to conduct and evaluate advanced research by producing an integrative paper in which the student engages in critical reflection on a religious and/or cultural issue, or set of issues, that has emerged in her or his course work with relevant methods and materials as articulated in the previous goals; or by producing a project in the launch course that includes critical reflection on a religious and/or cultural issue, or set of issues, that has emerged in her or his course work with relevant methods and materials as articulated in the previous goals.

Degree Requirements

The MA(SJ) degree requires the completion of 38 semester-hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher. Of the 38 semester-hours, 26 must be taken to fulfill particular requirements distributed among several areas within the curriculum. The remaining 6 semester-hours are elective hours and may be used to further a student's individual learning goals.

Curriculum for the MA(SJ)

The MA(SJ) curriculum is divided into three phases in which each student must successfully complete required courses. Required introductory courses in Phase I, normally function as prerequisites for advanced work in Phase II.

Because the prior academic preparation of students varies considerably, students with previous academic work in specific areas of study may, upon consultation with their advisers, petition the academic dean for permission to bypass certain basic required courses and to register for more advanced coursework instead.

Normally, required courses may not be taken as guided readings courses. Required courses, as well as courses which meet requirements in Phase II and Phase III, may be taken for elective credit.

The semester-hours required in each phase are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Phase I: Invitation to Community | 17 hours |
| Phase II: Vital Conversations | 12 hours |
| Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good | 3 hours |
| Electives to be taken in any phase | 6 hours |

Phase I: Invitation to Community (17 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey (pass/fail) | 2 hours |
| Theology and Social Justice: Theories and Methods | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | 3 hours |
| Introduction to the New Testament | 3 hours |
| History of Christianity II | 3 hours |
| Introduction to Theology | 3 hours |

FDC 502 Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey is required within the first year of study. If a student was admitted on probation, it is required the student’s first year.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (12 hours)

In Phase II students continue to utilize the strategies learned in Phase I to develop further skills and deepen knowledge in area specific courses.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Practicum Course | 3 hours |
|------------------|---------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Two advanced courses representing two areas, i.e., Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Theology and Ethics, and Practical Theology, chosen in consultation with the student’s adviser and with an eye to the student’s plan for Phase III | 6 hours |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Faith & Public Discourse Immersion Course (3 hours) | 3 hours |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|

Phase III. Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good (3 hours)

In this final phase of the MA(SJ) curriculum students will prepare for engagement in significant justice issues after graduation.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Integrative Paper OR Capstones in Theological Leadership | 3 hours |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|

Elective Coursework (6 hours)

Students may enroll in 6 semester hours of elective courses that may be taken during any of the three phases of the curriculum, as long as all prerequisites for the course have been met. These electives should be chosen in light of a student’s own individual learning and vocational goals beyond completion of the degree.

Independent Research

MA(SJ) students may pursue specialized research in any division of the curriculum by requesting guided readings courses for 1-3 semester-hours of credit. Normally, required courses may not be taken on an independent research basis. Moreover, only those students who have completed the required phase I courses and who have shown evidence of a capacity for independent study will be allowed to enroll. Forms for independent study

may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. The enrollment must be approved by the instructor who will direct the research and by the academic dean. Normally, no more than one independent study may be taken in any one semester and no more than 3 semester-hours of independent study may count toward the MA(SJ) degree. Independent study courses will not count toward a student's required in-residence hours. The independent study request form must be filed in the Office of the Registrar with all appropriate signatures by the first day of class of the semester or summer session in which the independent study course is to be taken.

Further Instructions for the Integrative Paper

MA(SJ) students may choose to write an integrative paper in the final phase of the program. No more than one semester may be used to complete the integrative paper in a 3-hour course, RW 600 Integrative Paper Research and Writing. Failure to complete the paper successfully in the required time may result in a grade of "F," requiring the student to re-enroll in RW 600 in order to graduate. Each integrative paper will be evaluated by an adviser who must be a member of the regular Phillips faculty.

A proposal for an integrative paper should be prepared in consultation with the faculty adviser who should normally approve it no later than November 30, if the student plans to register for RW 600 the following spring semester, or March 31, if the student plans to register for RW 600 the following fall semester.

A proposal form for an MA(SJ) integrative paper is available from the Office of the Registrar. The proposal should include the following information: proposed subject; range of research anticipated; educational and professional goals the student expects to accomplish; and a preliminary bibliography.

The integrative paper, which shall be approximately 30 printed pages, must be prepared according to form guidelines in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018 and the Phillips Style Guidelines available on the Phillips website.

Online/On-Campus Requirements for the MA(SJ)

In accord with current ATS accreditation standards, a minimum of 12 semester-hours of the coursework required for an MA(SJ) degree must be completed "in residence" (i.e., in a classroom setting on our Tulsa campus or an approved extension site).

Black Church Traditions Program Emphasis

Purpose

Through its Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life program (BCTAF), Phillips Theological Seminary offers motivated students a program emphasis in Black Church Traditions. This curricular offering is a non-degree program that compliments a student's degree/certificate program. The purpose of a program emphasis in Black Church Traditions, which requires the completion of three program phases, is to give

students an opportunity to enhance their chosen degree/certificate program through focused study and reflection on the theological, ecclesial, intellectual, and historical traditions of Black Churches in U.S. contexts and the faith-lives of African Americans. A program emphasis in Black Church Traditions is a curricular emphasis that provides enhanced study and integration of issues directly concerning Black clergy, clergy serving in majority Black faith contexts, as well as individuals working with or alongside communities or agencies concerned with the impacts of race, justice, and faith in people of African descent in the U.S. context.

The program emphasis in Black Church Traditions is designed to equip persons with i) a core knowledge and appreciation for Black Church Traditions and ii) an ability to integrate and/or translate their degree program with relevant intellectual and/or vocational contexts of Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life.

Emphasis Goals

Upon completing the program emphasis in Black Church Traditions students will be able to:

- demonstrate an appreciation for the histories and diversities of Black Church Traditions;
- identify and reflect on key issues in the development and practice of African American religiosity and faith-life;
- identify substantive roles of Black Church traditions and African American faith across both religious and political contexts;
- articulate how the study of Black Church traditions and African American faith-life can enhance their own ministerial, vocational, and/or intellectual formation;
- use central themes, history, practices, and/or traditions to contextualize, integrate, and translate general and/or broad topics of study within the intellectual, theological, and or discursive practices of study of Black Church Traditions and African American Faith Life;

Requirements and Curricular Tracks

The program emphasis in Black Church Traditions is structured across three phases: Phase I Declaration; Phase II Courses; and Phase III Integrations. Students can choose between two curricular tracks (Traditional Track and Enhancement Track) to complete the three phases.

Phase I Declaration:

The Declaration phase is the process by which a student officially declares their intention to pursue a degree/diploma emphasis in Black Church Traditions. This phase can be completed at any point during a student's degree/diploma program. Upon completion and submission of the Declaration of Intent form, a student is then formally recognized as a candidate for an emphasis in Black Church Traditions. Copies of the Declaration of Intent form should be submitted to both the Director of BCTAF and the Dean of Academic Affairs during regular registration periods. Currently, the sole requirements for declaring intent are that a student:

- is an admitted student within one of Phillips' degree/diploma programs;
- is in good standing with the Seminary;

Phase II Courses:

During the courses phase students successfully complete the course work portion of the program emphasis. The BTAF at Phillips Theological Seminary offers its foundations course, FDC 800, while also designating several courses across the Phillips' curriculum as in-program electives. While the foundations course and in-program electives are essential to the Black Church Traditions degree/diploma emphasis, they are open to all Phillips students regardless of status in the program. Eligibility for in-program electives are governed by the institution's normal registration regulations and processes. Phase II Courses can be completed before or after a student's formal completion of Phase I.

- Traditional Track
 - Required: FDC 800 Foundations in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life (3 hours)
 - In-Program Electives: (9 hours)
- Enhancement Track
 - Required: FDC 800 Foundations in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life (3 hours)
 - In-Program Electives (6 hours)

Phase II Integrations:

The integration phase of the program emphasis helps students articulate and demonstrate how Phase II courses relate to their broader theological, intellectual and degree/diploma program goals. Students complete Phase III Integrations in consultation with Phillips' committee on BCTAF. Through the use of central themes, history, practices, and/or traditions studied in Phase II, students complete integrative tasks that demonstrate both a foundational and integrative understanding of key elements of Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life.

- Traditional Track
 - Application for Emphasis completion
Students will notify the committee on BCTAF of their intention to complete the emphasis during the normal registration period with an Application for Emphasis completion. The application will require the student to:
 - select their chosen track;
 - demonstrate completion of all other requirements;
 - identify a topic for their integrative paper;
 - Approval of Integrative paper
Students will submit an 8-12 page integrative paper that explores and/or reflects on a pre-approved topic/theme to the Committee on FDC 800 Foundations in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life. This integrative paper demonstrates a student's grasp on emphasis goals. Successful completion of the Emphasis will

be marked by majority approval of the Committee on BCTAF. Students may register for RW 500 to receive transcript documentation for the Application and Approval processes.

- Enhancement Track

- Two class Enhancements

Course enhancements help students develop vital translation skills for effective ministry and study. For each enhancement, students will:

- select a course that is not sponsored by BCTAF;
 - submit the course syllabus;
 - develop, in consultation with the Committee on BCTAF, an annotated bibliography that compliments the original course and relates the subject material within the BCTAF curriculum.
 - Submit a 3-8 page paper that positions the original course and annotated bibliography within the BCTAF curriculum.

Course enhancements do not have to be completed concurrently with the selected course. Students may propose or submit a course enhancement at any time prior to their Application for Emphasis Completion. For the enhancement to count, a student must receive a grade of C or higher in the selected course.

- Application for Emphasis Completion

Students will notify the Committee on Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life of their intention to complete the emphasis during the normal registration period with an Application for Emphasis Completion. The application will require the student to:

- Select their chosen track;
 - Demonstrate completion of all other requirements;
 - Identify a topic for their integrative paper;

- Approval of Integrative Paper

Students will submit an 8-12 page integrative paper that explores and/or reflects on a pre-approved topic/theme to the Committee on FDC 800 Foundations in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life. This integrative paper demonstrates a student's grasp on emphasis goals. Successful completion of the Emphasis will be marked by majority approval of the Committee on BCTAF. Students may register for RW 500 to receive transcript documentation for the Application and Approval processes.