



2026 – 2027 C A T A L O G

Phillips Theological Seminary

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Introduction to Phillips Theological Seminary

Identity Statement

Phillips Seminary is an accredited institution of higher education, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The school offers theological education dedicated to learning the way of Jesus in order to cultivate vital congregations, communities, conversations, and the public good.

Mission Statement

The Seminary's mission is 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.

Academic Programs

The school offers four master's degrees with courses online and on campus:

- Master of Divinity (MDiv): 81 semester hours
- Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture (MAMC): 48 semester hours
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS): 48 semester hours
- Master of Arts (Social Justice) (MASJ): 39 semester hours

In addition, the Seminary offers a 30-semester hour Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree which currently offers four professional specializations: Black Church Traditions and Public Proclamation, Leadership in Public Ministry and Social Transformation, Pastoral Leadership in Worship and Preaching, and Pastoral Leadership in Improvisational Ministry.

For those who hold a baccalaureate degree, the Seminary offers a for-credit, graded Graduate Certificate Program, requiring 15-16 semester hours of work.

Perspectives on Theological Education

Phillips Seminary has a longstanding commitment to preparing leaders and equipping them to create, sustain, and nurture vital communities of faith that are following the way of Jesus. Leaders of these communities must attend carefully to the rich diversity of the voices of scripture, the complexities of church histories, and the continuing developments of Christian theologies. From the study of these disciplines, skilled leaders help their communities understand the constant reshaping of Christian identity that has occurred in the past and continues into our own time.

In addition, leaders must be attentive to the depth and variety of human experiences and questions, to the arts of preaching, teaching, and leading communities in prayer and worship, to the practices of care within and outside the church, and to the negotiation of conflicts that is part of the life of faith in any community. They must also seek to enrich their faith community's engagement with the most vital elements of cultural expression and the most enduring and perplexing questions of any given age. They invite their churches to consider deeply and

endlessly the haunting questions of the gospels: “who is my neighbor?” and “how shall we love our neighbor?”

Finally, faithful and effective leadership requires skills for connecting theological reflection with practical wisdom and competence. The Seminary recognizes the interdependence of theological study and practical ministry and affirms the importance of contextual education and supervised ministry for those students enrolled in professional degree programs.

The primary areas of study in the Seminary are: General Theological Studies; Biblical Studies; History of Christianity; Theology and Ethics; Practical Theology; and Faith and Public Discourse. In this curriculum, the Seminary presupposes the baccalaureate degree as not only an indication of previous study and encounter with human culture but a sign of promising abilities for post-graduate work. The masters and doctoral curricula provide opportunities for extending the study of culture and joining the conversation between theological and non-theological disciplines, methodologies, and perspectives.

The faculty has been rigorously trained in individual and specialized fields of competence and is committed to the goal of integrating these fields so that students might be educated for a variety of forms of service in church and society. Given the complexity of processes involved in theological education, multiple teaching methods and class formats are available and used. No one method or format is sufficient for all courses in all curricula.

The Seminary community can properly sustain its pursuit of theological education only insofar as its common life regularly involves opportunities for engagement among faculty and students, for conversations, and for spiritual and vocational formation. Churches and denominations, however, retain the exclusive right and responsibility to determine the appropriate qualifications for ordained and commissioned ministry, to assess the fitness for ministry of individual candidates, and to credential persons for ministerial leadership.

Theological Diversity

The Phillips community welcomes theological diversity among its participants. Its quest to understand and follow the way of Jesus proceeds through critical inquiry and the examination of alternative perspectives. In fact, we firmly believe that theological education requires diversity.

While grounded in the interpretive freedoms and ecumenical commitments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), this claim does not mean, however, that any or all theological positions will be equally welcomed or accepted as equally valid by faculty, students, and staff. Participants fully engaged in the global dialogue on faith and life in the 21st century to which the Seminary invites them will be expected to listen to and learn from others, even as they share their own views in reasoned and respectful argument.

A commitment to openness to theological diversity, therefore, means that the faculty and staff at Phillips intend to create and maintain open spaces for dialogical engagement in a caring community in such a way that no one is excluded on the basis of belief.

Admissions

All questions regarding admission to Phillips Seminary for all degree, graduate certificate programs, as well as course auditing, should be directed to:

Office of Admissions and Student Services Phillips Seminary
901 North Mingo Road Tulsa, OK 74116-5612
Phone: 918-270-6463; Toll-free: 1-800-843-4675
Email: admissions@ptstulsa.edu

Application forms may be completed online at the website: <https://ptstulsa.edu/prospective-students/apply-now/>. Early application is strongly encouraged. There is a non-refundable application for master's and DMin degree programs and for the graduate certificate and audit program. See Other Student Fees in the Financial Information section of this catalog.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all completed documents for application to graduate certificate, master's degree programs, and the DMin program are received by the Office of Admissions and Student Services by the announced application deadline.

Master's Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs

Pre-Seminary Studies

Academic preparation is an important determinant of a student's success in Seminary. Students contemplating study at Phillips Seminary should contact the Office of Admissions and Student Services at the earliest opportunity. Denominational requirements for specific aspects of pre-Seminary preparation can vary. Prospective students hoping to prepare for ordained ministry should discuss their sense of vocation and decision to attend Seminary with appropriate authorities in their churches and denominations.

Admission to or graduation from Phillips Seminary does not guarantee ordination, ministerial standing, or employment by any religious body. The Seminary is concerned with formative education for Christian ministry. However, churches and denominations retain the exclusive right and responsibility to determine the appropriate qualifications for ordained and licensed ministry, to assess the fitness for ministry of individual candidates, and to credential persons for ministerial leadership.

Since liberal arts provide a solid preparation for theological study, Phillips Seminary recommends that pre-Seminary education include several hours in this area.

Demonstrated competence in other areas, such as business management, science, and law can also be valuable assets for Seminary.

Requirements for Admission

The basic requirement for admission to graduate certificate and all master's degree programs is a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or holding membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, or the educational equivalent of the baccalaureate degree. A student with a baccalaureate degree from a non-accredited institution may be eligible for admission on academic probation if other supporting documents indicate a strong likelihood for success in Seminary and an aptitude for a church vocation.

The undergraduate grade point average must be 2.5 (i.e., B-) or better, unless there is significant evidence to justify admission on academic probation. At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, academic probation may be waived for students with an undergraduate GPA below 2.5 who present evidence of substantial graduate work with a GPA above 2.5.

In exceptional circumstances, applicants over 40 years of age without a completed baccalaureate degree may be considered for probationary admission to a graduate program if they:

1. have completed a minimum of 60 semester-hours toward a baccalaureate degree with a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or above or a Master's degree from a university accredited by an agency recognized by the Department of Education;
2. present evidence of significant leadership in church and society;
3. have a qualified endorsement from their denomination;
4. visit campus for a personal interview by the admissions committee;
5. successfully complete a test of writing ability and other tests as required.

If the applicant's native language is not English or if a student has received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada, the student must submit a minimum test score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

If a student is admitted on probation, they will be limited to enrollment in no more than 6 hours their first semester and will be required to enroll in new student orientation/Introduction to the Seminarian's Journey (FDC 501) their first semester. The student's faculty advisor will be notified of the probationary status in order to best guide the student in making course load decisions.

Requirements for Application

Application for admission is on the Seminary website:

<https://ptstulsa.edu/prospective-students/programs-of-study>

The following paragraphs detail the requirements for each master's degree program application.

Master of Divinity Application

A completed application includes the following items:

- Application form and fee
- Essay, described on the application form
- Denominational reference form (see list below to determine who should complete this form):
 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) applicants: regional minister
 - United Methodist applicants: district superintendent
 - United Church of Christ applicants: conference minister
 - Presbyterian Church (USA) applicants: chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of America applicants: bishop
 - Episcopal Church applicants: bishop
 - All other applicants: the pastor of your church
- Three references, one from each of the following individuals:
 - Professor (in the absence of a Professor's reference, contact the [Senior Director of Admissions](#))
 - Professional associate
 - Lay leader in your church
- Official transcripts from any undergraduate school where you received a degree and from any graduate school where you have completed work for credit. Official transcripts have the official institution seal and are sent directly from the institution, not by the applicant. For full admission, the undergraduate transcript must show the degree and the date received.
- Authorization for criminal background check
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid form for anyone interested in a federal loan

Applicants for whom English is a second language or has received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada must submit an official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based).

Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture Application

A completed application includes the following items:

- Application form and fee
- Essay, described on the application form
- Denominational reference form completed by the pastor of your church or a denomination official
- Three references, one from each of the following individuals:
 - Professor (in the absence of a Professor's reference, contact the [Senior Director of Admissions](#))
 - Professional associate
 - Lay leader in your church

- Official transcripts from any undergraduate school where you received a degree and from any graduate school where you have completed work for credit. Official transcripts have the official institution seal and are sent directly from the institution, not by the applicant. For full admission, the undergraduate transcript must show the degree and date received.
- Authorization for criminal background check
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid form for anyone interested in a federal loan

Applicants for whom English is a second language or has received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada must submit an official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based).

Master of Theological Studies Application

A completed application includes the following items:

- Application form and fee
- Essay, described on the application form
- Three references, one from each of the following individuals:
 - Professor (in the absence of a Professor's reference, contact the [Senior Director of Admissions](#))
 - Professional associate
 - Lay leader in your church
- Official transcripts from any undergraduate school where you received a degree and from any graduate school where you have completed work for credit. Official transcripts have the official institution seal and are sent directly from the institution, not by the applicant. For full admission, the undergraduate transcript must show the degree and date received.
- Authorization for criminal background check
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid form for anyone interested in a federal loan

Applicants for whom English is a second language or has received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada must submit an official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based).

Master of Arts (Social Justice) Application

A completed application includes the following items:

- Application form and fee
- Essay, described on the application form
- Three references, one from each of the following individuals:
 - Professor (in the absence of a Professor's reference, contact the [Senior Director of Admissions](#))
 - Professional associate

- Lay leader in your church or another person who has held a leadership, mentoring or supervisory role in your life
- Official transcripts from any undergraduate school where you received a degree and from any graduate school where you have completed work for credit. Official transcripts have the official institution seal and are sent directly from the institution, not by the applicant. For full admission, the undergraduate transcript must show the degree and date received.
- Authorization for criminal background check
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid form for anyone interested in a federal loan

Applicants for whom English is a second language or has received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada must submit an official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based).

Criminal Background Checks

As an expression of Phillips Seminary's commitment to the safety and well-being of our learning community and of the congregations and other institutions that our students serve, the Seminary requires criminal background checks for all students.

Enrollment in Phillips' courses is contingent on (a) the applicant's or student's authorization of a background check, conducted by a consumer reporting agency under contract with the Seminary, and (b) the subsequent determination by the Seminary that no cause for denying admission, rescinding an offer of admission, suspending enrollment, or dismissal is indicated. If an external background check raises concerns with regard to a student's criminal record, a Review Committee will be convened, and the applicant or student will have an opportunity to review and respond to the report.

The Review Committee, comprised of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, Senior Director of Recruitment and Admissions, and one regular faculty member selected by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean (if possible, the Director of Ministerial Formation of the relevant denomination), will consider reported criminal activity in relation to the individual's fitness for leadership in various forms of ministry in church and society and his or her ability to both benefit from and contribute to the Seminary's community life and graduate professional programs.

A formal consideration by the Review Committee will conclude with a written decision that includes information on the criminal activity reported, the judgment process undertaken, and the bases for the decision. An applicant or student may appeal an adverse decision of the Review Committee to the President of Phillips Seminary, whose judgment is final.

A one-time background check fee applies and is included in the application fee for entering degree program students (see Other Student Fees in the Financial Information section of this catalog).

Students who suspend their programs of study and must formally reapply for admission may be required to pay for an updated background check.

Transfer Students

A maximum of 42 semester-hours may be transferred for the MDiv degree; 24 hours for an MTS or MAMC degree; and 18 hours for the MASJ. Credit cannot be transferred to a Graduate Certificate program.

Of those transfer hours, a maximum of 42 semester-hours of online coursework may be transferred to the MDiv degree program. A maximum of 24 semester-hours of online coursework may be transferred to a MAMC or MTS degree program; and a maximum of 18 semester-hours of online coursework may be transferred to an MASJ degree program. Students who petition for transfer credit must identify which of their courses, if any, were taken online, which permits Phillips to remain in compliance with relevant accreditation standards.

Students transferring from another theological Seminary should follow the same application procedures as other applicants.

General rules pertaining to transfer credits are as follows:

1. Normally, approval is **not** granted for required courses regularly offered by Phillips.
2. Written application for transfer credit for previous graduate level studies should be made during the first year of coursework at Phillips Seminary or at least one month before matriculation if previous coursework affects class selections for the first semester.
3. Final determination of all transferred credit will be made by the Vice President and Academic Dean (in consultation with appropriate faculty). No final transfer actions will be made until all official transcripts are received. Additional materials, such as course descriptions from catalogs and syllabi may be requested. A personal interview may also be required.
4. Normally, work must have been undertaken at a school accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.
5. Courses must be compatible with the Phillips curriculum and have been completed no more than 10 years prior to matriculation at Phillips.
6. Should a transfer student drop out of Phillips for two or more consecutive semesters (not counting summers), or drop to a part-time student schedule, courses previously accepted for transfer credit may be reconsidered in relation to current program duration or curricular policies.
7. The student must have received a grade of B- or higher for a course to be considered for transfer credit.

8. Students may not transfer credit for coursework taken after admission to Phillips unless prior approval is granted by the Academic Dean. In all cases, residency requirements must be met.

In addition to the regulations above, the following policies apply to specific types of transfer credit.

1. Graduate theological study for which a degree has already been awarded may be considered for transfer credit not to exceed half the hours of the completed degree program, and in no case more than 30 hours for the MDiv, 22 hours for the MTS and MAMC, or 14 for the MASJ degree programs. Program compatibility is required.
2. Non-Seminary graduate study in religion at a regionally accredited school may be eligible for transfer credit subject to its compatibility with the Seminary curriculum.
Coursework completed at the graduate level in areas other than religion and ministry must have been taken at an accredited school or institution.
Normally, a maximum of 6 semester-hours is eligible for transfer credit to the MDiv and 3 semester-hours to the MTS, MASJ or MAMC degree programs. As in all other transfer cases, curricular compatibility must be demonstrated.
3. Seminary Scholars students are limited to the following transfer hours according to student's degree program:
 - MDiv – 18 transfer hours allowed
 - MTS/MAMC – 12 transfer hours allowed
 - MASJ – 9 transfer hours allowed

Advanced Standing

Advanced standing is the category used for recognizing previous graduate level work for which there is no academic transcript. Advanced standing can be given with or without credit. Advanced standing without credit allows a student to bypass required classes but does not reduce the number of semester-hours of academic work the student must complete at Phillips.

Advanced standing will be considered for only the following two categories of educational experiences:

1. Clinical Pastoral Education at an appropriately accredited center;
2. Graduate level coursework at accredited institutions of higher education whose transcripts do not record graded participation and/or achievement. In such cases, a student may apply for advanced standing for particular courses by presenting evidence they have met the learning requirements of a compatible Phillips course. Examples of such evidence may include exams, major papers, detailed correspondence from the student's course professor, etc. In all cases, requests for advanced standing must be submitted to the Academic Dean in writing and should describe the evidence to be provided for consideration. A maximum of 12 semester-hours of advanced standing with credit is available in the MDiv program, a maximum of 6 semester-hours is

available in the MTS or MAMC programs, and a maximum of 3 semester-hours for the MASJ program.

International Students

Phillips Seminary is authorized under federal law to enroll international students. Application for admission should be initiated at least six months prior to intended enrollment.

The following information is required of all international applicants:

1. a completed application form and required letters of reference. References must include one of the following organizations: World Council of Churches; World Alliance of Reformed Churches; Churches of Christ Theological College; United Methodist Board for Global Ministries; The Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ; or an ecumenical partner church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or United Church of Christ in the prospective student's country;
2. official transcripts of all previous college, university, and graduate work (the student will receive forms for having these evaluated and information on the cost of such evaluation);
3. official results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based); 80 (internet based), and,
4. a certified financial statement, confirmed by one of the agencies listed above, documenting adequate financial support for living expenses during the applicant's anticipated period of residence in the United States. These expenses would include, but not necessarily be limited to: housing, food, tuition (not covered by tuition assistance), fees, books, health insurance premiums (since all international students must be enrolled in a health insurance plan while they are in the U.S.), and round-trip travel.
5. admission to Phillips Seminary must be confirmed before an I-20 form or an F-1 student visa can be certified. Applicants should understand that a student visa normally does not allow international students to work while studying in the United States.

Before arrival in the U.S., international students must deposit enough money for return travel in a special account to be used only for that purpose.

Readmission

Students who have dropped out for only one semester (not counting summer) need only to enroll for courses in the following semester. Students who drop out for two or more consecutive semesters (not counting summer), but less than three years, may apply for readmission by completing the proper form available from the Office of Admissions and Student Services. Students who have been out of Phillips Seminary for three or more years must follow the same application procedures followed by new students. Students applying for readmission may also be required to pay for an updated

background check.

Special Students

Applicants may be admitted as “special students” for study at Phillips Seminary for one semester at a time without being a candidate for a degree program or approved for the graduate certificate program. Although basic admission requirements for Special Students are the same as for applicants seeking admission to a graduate certificate or degree program, the application process is abbreviated. Special Student applications are available on the Phillips website.

Audit Students

Some Seminary courses may be audited with permission of the instructor and the Academic Dean, depending on the nature of the course and the size of the class. Normally auditors are not permitted in language, workshop, and other performance-related courses for which enrollment as a Special Student is more appropriate.

Individuals interested in auditing who are not currently enrolled in a degree program at Phillips should first contact the Office of Admissions. There is a one-time \$25 non-refundable application fee. Students already enrolled in Seminary programs should first seek permission from the course instructor before requesting to audit. All necessary arrangements must be completed prior to the semester’s first day of class and in all cases before class attendance.

The audit fee is \$40 per credit hour. Auditors pay no general student fees.

In accordance with the Seminary’s attendance policy, auditors who miss 20% or more of the class sessions in any course for which they are registered will have a “U” (Unsatisfactory) recorded on their Phillips transcripts rather than “AU” (Audit). Petitions to withdraw from a course should be directed to the Office of the Registrar.

Auditors are expected to complete all reading assignments. Instructors will determine the appropriate level of auditors’ class participation, but auditors are not expected to complete any written assignments.

Doctor of Ministry Program

The DMin is a terminal degree for persons who have completed an accredited master’s degree in a ministry-related area and have participated in a significant form of ministry for at least three years prior to application to the DMin program. Unless specified in this section, all admissions procedures described for Graduate Certificate and Master’s programs also apply to the Doctor of Ministry program.

Application for admission is on the Seminary website: <https://ptstulsa.edu/prospective-students/programs-of-study/doctor-of-ministry/>

Admission Requirements

The requirements for admission to the DMin program are:

1. A master's degree of no fewer than 36 credit hours from an institution of higher education accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in a ministry related area.
2. A minimum of three years of significant ministry experience subsequent to the completion of the accepted master's degree as outlined above, or its equivalent.
3. Students are expected to have at the time of application, and to maintain, an appointment in a ministry setting. Ramifications of a mid-program change in a student's ministry setting must be discussed with the Director of the DMin program.
4. Admission to all Phillips academic programs, including the DMin program, is contingent on (a) the applicant's authorization of a criminal background check, conducted by a consumer reporting agency under contract with the Seminary, and (b) the subsequent determination by the Seminary that no cause for denying admission or rescinding an offer of admission is indicated. One-time background check fee applies and is included in the application fee for entering degree program students (see Other Student Fees in the Financial Information section of this catalog). Students who suspend their programs of study and must formally reapply for admission may be required to pay for an updated background check. A more extended description of related procedures is provided earlier in this catalog.
5. An overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on all previous graduate work.

Applicants to the DMin program must submit their application, including all supporting materials, by May 1 for Fall admission.

All applicants should plan on being engaged in ministry while working on the degree. Their applications should reveal their commitment to continuing their ministerial education and their capacity to engage in an academically rigorous and theologically challenging program.

An applicant who has taken post-MDiv work at other institutions may submit a petition with the application requesting consideration of either transfer credit or advanced standing based on the previously completed work. Such petitions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Doctor of Ministry Application Requirements

A completed application for the DMin program includes the following items:

- Application form and application fee
- One essay, a writing sample (specialization specific), and a resume, described on the application form
- Four references, one each from the following individuals:

- Church or denominational official
- Official of your congregation or institution
- Seminary professor familiar with your academic work
- Professional colleague familiar with your recent work
- Official transcripts from any undergraduate school and Seminary from which you have received degrees. Official transcripts have the official institution seal and are sent directly from the institution, not by the applicant. For full admission, the transcript must show the degree and date received.
- Authorization for criminal background check
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid form for anyone interested in a federal loan

Applicants for whom English is a second language or have received a degree from an institution accredited outside the US/Canada must submit an official TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper- based), 213 (computer-based) or 80 (internet-based).

For more information about application to the Doctor of Ministry Program, see the [Doctor of Ministry Handbook](#).

Financial Information

The cost of attending Phillips Seminary is moderate in comparison with many other seminaries and graduate professional schools of similar size and quality. In the hope that no deserving student is denied the opportunity to obtain a theological education, the Seminary also provides financial aid toward meeting the cost of tuition.

Student Billing

The Business Office handles all matters related to student billing accounts for both new and returning students. Students should consult with the Director of Student Accounts for issues related to billing, payments, and refunds.

Tuition, per credit hour

Tuition for degree-seeking students	\$ 480.00
Tuition for graduate certificate students	\$ 140.00
Tuition for special students	\$ 140.00

Student Fees, per semester

General Student Fee, Fall/Spring.....	\$ 100.00
Student Life Fee, Fall/Spring.....	\$ 25.00
General Student Fee, Summer (Masters).....	\$ 60.00
Student Life Fee, Summer (Masters).....	\$ 15.00
General Student Fee, Summer (Doctor of Ministry)	\$ 100.00
Student Life Fee, Summer (Doctor of Ministry)	\$ 25.00
General Student Fee, Summer (non-degree)	\$ 60.00
Student Life Fee, Summer (non-degree)	\$ 15.00

Course Fees, per credit hour

CPE Program Transfer Fee	\$ 100.00
Audit Course Fee	\$ 40.00

Course Fees, per course

Immersion Course Fee (domestic, level I)	\$ 550.00 *
Immersion Course Fee (domestic, level II)	\$ 900.00 *
Immersion Course Fee (international).....	\$1,700.00 *
Outside CPE Program Transfer Fee (per credit hr.)	\$ 100.00
DMin Project or Project Proposal Continuation Fee.....	\$ 150.00

Other Student Fees

Admissions Application fee	\$ 60.00
Background Check fee	\$ 60.00
Audit Application Fee.....	\$ 25.00
Degree Change Fee.....	\$ 25.00
Incomplete Fee	\$ 25.00

Financial Information

Late Complete Fee	\$ 40.00
Extension of Incomplete	\$ 40.00
Master's Theses/DMin Project Admin Fee	\$ 75.00
Graduation Fee	\$ 100.00

* Domestic, Level 1 includes trips within the contiguous United States; Domestic, Level 2 includes trips within the non-contiguous states of Alaska, Hawaii, and all other offshore insular areas such as the U.S. Virgin Islands; International includes trips to other countries

Payment

All account balances should be paid in full by the first day of class each semester. If paying in full is not possible, you can set up a payment plan through your student portal to spread the cost over time. Before registration opens for the next semester, any account without full payment or a payment plan will have a hold placed on it. This hold will pause your ability to register for future courses and to receive your diploma until the balance is addressed. At the close of each semester, we review all accounts, and any balance from a prior semester that is not covered by a payment plan will be referred to an outside collection agency. Please note that students are responsible for any additional fees charged by the agency.

Credit Balances

Disbursement is the process of applying your financial aid and payments to your student account. For the fall and spring semesters, this takes place after the fourth week of classes. For the summer semester, it happens after the second day of class. At that point, all charges and financial aid for the semester are finalized. If the total of your payments, credits, or financial aid is more than your charges, the extra amount will be returned to you as a refund. Refunds can be sent by paper check or, for the quickest and most secure option, by direct deposit. You can set up direct deposit anytime through your SONIS student portal so your funds reach you without delay.

Tuition and Fee Refund Policies

If you withdraw from a course, you may be eligible for a full or partial tuition refund based on the date you drop the class. Course fees are refunded only if the course is dropped within the first two weeks of the fall or spring semester, or by the first day of the summer term. The tuition refund schedule below outlines how refunds are calculated based on how far you are into the course.

Weeks (Semester Courses)	Days (Term Courses)	Refund Rate
1-2	0	100%
3	1	80%
4	2	50%
5+	3+	0%

Tuition Insurance Reimbursement

We partner with GradGuard to offer tuition insurance that helps protect your investment in your seminary education. This insurance can reimburse your tuition costs if you must withdraw from classes due to a covered reason—such as illness, injury, mental health condition, or loss of income.

For all degree-seeking students who choose to use GradGuard's tuition insurance, our Tuition Insurance Reimbursement Program covers the cost of the policy, up to the \$1,500 coverage level. If you decide to enroll in tuition insurance, you can sign up directly through your student portal or at [GradGuard.com](https://gradguard.com) before the end of the registration period.

Once you have signed up, degree-seeking students can request reimbursement from the Business Office. After we receive your request and confirm your coverage with GradGuard, your reimbursement will be issued using your preferred payment method. Reimbursements are processed at the end of the registration period—typically two weeks after the first day of class.

If you have questions about what is covered, please contact GradGuard at 866-985-7598 or visit their website at gradguard.com. For questions about the reimbursement process, please reach out to the Director of Student Accounts at bursar@ptstulsa.edu or (918) 270-6468.

Military Service Refund Policy

If you must withdraw from Phillips due to military service, all tuition and fees for the current semester will be cancelled, and any payments you have made will be refunded. Please note that different rules may apply to funds received from state or federal financial aid programs, depending on current regulations. To understand how your federal aid may be affected, please contact our Financial Aid Officer, Todd Mantock.

Financial Aid for Master's and DMin Degree Programs

The Financial Aid Office works with both new and returning students to create financial aid plans that support them throughout their academic programs. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Financial Aid Officer.

Tuition Aid Scholarships

Phillips Theological Seminary offers Tuition Aid Scholarships to help reduce the cost of your education. These scholarships are awarded based on Seminary resources and are available to all students enrolled in degree programs. They are distributed as follows:

- DOC/UCC students: 100% of qualifying tuition costs
- Underrepresented groups: 100% of qualifying tuition costs
- All other students: 80% of qualifying tuition costs

Tuition Aid Scholarships are awarded each semester. To receive aid, newly admitted students

must complete and submit the Financial Aid application. Once awarded, aid will continue for every following semester during your program.

Seminary tuition aid scholarships cover the total number of credit hours required for your degree program, plus up to 3 additional credit hours. The total Seminary tuition aid scholarship awarded to a student in a given semester shall not exceed their tuition charges in that semester.

(For more details, see the “Duration of Programs and Course Load” section in the Academic Policies section of the Academic Handbook.)

If you receive a grade of “F” in a course, you will need to repay part or all of the Seminary tuition aid you received for that course:

- First failed course: Repay 50% of the tuition aid awarded for that course
- Second failed course: Repay 75% of the tuition aid awarded for that course
- Third and any additional failed courses: Repay 100% of the tuition aid awarded for that course

Students may withdraw from up to six credit hours without any financial penalty. If you withdraw from courses after reaching this six credit hour limit, you will need to repay the full amount of tuition aid awarded for those withdrawn courses. In addition, tuition aid must be fully repaid for any course failed due to Academic Misconduct.

Please note that any credit hours taken beyond six additional hours past the number required to complete your degree program are not eligible for tuition assistance

Financial Aid Leave of Absence

If unexpected situations—like illness or a change in your ministry setting—require you to temporarily pause your coursework, you may apply for a financial aid leave of absence. Please keep in mind that unsubsidized federal loans cannot be deferred for longer than six months.

Scholarships at Phillips Seminary

Students enrolled in degree programs at Phillips Seminary can apply for several scholarships designed to support their studies and leadership development:

- **Matthew A. Thompson Fellowship for Student Leaders**
This fellowship, funded annually, offers one master’s-level student full support, including tuition, fees, books, and a living stipend. To apply, students write an essay on the theology and praxis of leadership. Applications are accepted each spring, and the fellowship is awarded for the following academic year. Recipients must maintain good academic standing.
- **Robert T. and Harriet M. Peake Endowed Scholarship**
This scholarship is open to full-time master’s students who are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination and have at least a 2.5 GPA. Applicants should demonstrate leadership qualities, devotion to Christ, outreach involvement, and strong intellect. The scholarship covers full tuition, fees, books and a living stipend. Applications are due in the spring. One scholarship is awarded each year.

- **First Christian Church Tulsa Fellowship I, MDiv, Ministerial Leadership**
This award is available to currently enrolled MDiv students in good academic standing. To apply, students submit an application including a written essay and two references. The fellowship covers full tuition for 18 credit hours, fees, books, and a living stipend.
- **First Christian Church Tulsa Fellowship II, DMin, Ministerial Leadership**
This fellowship supports a ministerial leader enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program. To apply, students must submit an application with a written essay and two references. One qualified student will be awarded full tuition coverage for 12 doctoral credit hours during the academic year, along with fees, books, and a living stipend. Applicants must be currently enrolled DMin students in good academic standing, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- **First Christian Church Tulsa Fellowship III, DMin, Academic Excellence**
This fellowship recognizes academic excellence in the DMin program. Applicants must submit an application that includes a written essay and two references. One student will receive full tuition for 12 doctoral credit hours during the academic year, plus fees, books, and a living stipend. This award is available to currently enrolled DMin students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

If a student who receives a scholarship later becomes ineligible, meaning they no longer meet the requirements outlined in the application, they must repay the full amount of the scholarship to Phillips Theological Seminary.

Other opportunities, announced on the website or during the admissions process, may become available.

External Sources of Financial Aid

In addition to Seminary financial aid, many other sources of financial support may be available to you. We encourage you to explore options through your home church, regional offices, denominational offices, and various foundations. The Financial Aid Officer can also provide guidance and information about additional funding opportunities.

Veteran Educational Benefits

Phillips Theological Seminary is approved to offer VA benefits to students enrolled in degree programs. Please contact the Financial Aid Officer to learn which benefits you may qualify for. All students using VA benefits must submit all training records and prior transcripts for evaluation, regardless of whether prior credit is awarded. Please note, students receiving VA benefits may owe money to the VA if they withdraw early or are dismissed from the Seminary.

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

- **Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):**
Information about scholarships is available at discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/.
- **First Christian Church Foundation:**
This foundation offers funds for Disciples students. Contact them at 806-763-1995 or visit 2323 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79401 for more information.
- **Verne Catt McDowell Foundation:**
Based in Albany, OR, this foundation supports Disciples Seminary students, with priority given to those from the Northwest Region, though others may also apply.

- **Forum for Theological Exploration:**
With over 50 years of history, this fund provides scholarships and fellowships for promising students. Learn more at fteleaders.org/fundfinder.
- **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church:**
Numerous scholarships are available for United Methodist students certified as candidates for ordained ministry. Applications and deadlines vary. Visit gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/loans-and-scholarships for details.
- **Cushing Trust Scholarship:**
A \$1,000 scholarship for Oklahoma United Methodist students preparing for ordained ministry. Applicants should apply directly to Trinity United Methodist Church, 3737 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74105.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans (FDUSL)

As a graduate institution, Phillips offers only federal direct unsubsidized student loans to degree-seeking students enrolled at least half-time. These loans do not require demonstration of financial need. Borrowers are responsible for paying interest on these loans during all periods. If interest is not paid while in school or during grace, deferment, or forbearance periods, it will accumulate and be added to the principal loan amount.

Applying for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan (FDUSL)

To apply for an FDUSL, students must meet federal eligibility requirements. According to studentaid.gov, these include:

- Being a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Having a valid Social Security number
- Registering with Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress (see details below)
- Signing statements on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) confirming you are not in default on a federal student loan, do not owe money on a federal grant, and that you will use the aid only for educational purposes
- Having a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent, including state-approved homeschool completion

If you want to apply for an FDUSL, please notify the Financial Aid Officer. Before borrowing, you must complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling. The Financial Aid Officer will guide you through these steps and answer any questions you have.

Once you indicate how much you want to borrow and sign your award letter, the Financial Aid Officer will submit your loan application. This information is entered into the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), accessible by authorized lenders and schools.

Award Letter and Loan Limits

You will receive an award letter showing your Cost of Attendance (COA) minus any financial aid you already have, including Seminary tuition aid scholarships. The remaining amount is called your "unmet need," which you may cover with an FDUSL.

- The maximum loan amount per academic year (July 1–June 30) is \$20,500

- The lifetime maximum for federal student loans is \$138,500, including undergraduate loans

Once awarded, you have 14 days to cancel all or part of your loan after being notified of a disbursement. Please contact the Financial Aid Officer for assistance.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Phillips measures satisfactory academic progress at the end of each semester by calculating your cumulative GPA. Master's students must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and Doctor of Ministry students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. Falling below these minimums places you on academic probation, during which you may continue receiving FDUSL for up to three consecutive semesters. If you are readmitted after academic suspension, you return on probation and remain eligible for FDUSL that semester

Pace of Completion

After completing four semesters, students receiving federal loans will have their pace of completion reviewed to ensure timely progress toward their degree. For Master of Divinity students, pace is reviewed every two semesters. For other master's programs, pace is reviewed annually.

Pace of completion is calculated by dividing total credit hours earned by total hours attempted. Courses with grades of F (fail), WD (withdraw), or I (incomplete) are not counted as completed. Repeated courses count as attempted hours. Transfer credits count as both attempted and completed. If it becomes mathematically impossible for you to finish your degree within 150% of the program's length, you will become ineligible for FDUSL.

Exit Counseling

If you receive an FDUSL and then graduate, withdraw, or drop below half-time enrollment, you must complete exit counseling with the Department of Education. The Financial Aid Officer will provide instructions and support to help you complete this requirement.

Return of FDUSL Funds

If you withdraw before completing 60% of your enrollment period, Phillips returns any unearned funds to the Department of Education on a pro-rated basis, and you remain responsible for repaying any debt owed to the Seminary.

Questions and Resources

For questions about FDUSL or federal student aid, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at **1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243)** or TTY users at **1-800-730-8913**. You can also visit studentaid.gov.

Please remember, to remain eligible for federal student aid, you must maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students on probation for more than two consecutive semesters may lose eligibility.

For more detailed information, please review the [Financial Aid Handbook](#) available on the Phillips website or within the Academic Resources section in Canvas.

Master's Degree Programs

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, 69 must be taken to fulfill particular requirements distributed among several areas within the curriculum. The remaining 12 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 their 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	18 hours
Phase II: Vital Conversations	48 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 (18 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501, 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 section titled Courses of Instruction for Master's Degree Programs.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (48 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

6 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 (3 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (3 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of six semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might spend in their ministry (for a detailed description of the program see the [Theological Field Education 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](#). For a list of accredited ACPE programs please visit www.acpe.edu.

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 (12 hours)

Students who have only 3 semester-hours of denominational requirements will have 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. 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 their 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

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 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 a list of accredited ACPE programs please visit www.acpe.edu). 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](#) and review the [Theological Field Education Handbook](#).

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 through an immersion course offered by Phillips.) Of those residential hours, 12 hours may be met by courses offered via Synchronous Zoom.

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 synchronous or asynchronous 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.

Master's theses, which shall be between 50 and 80 printed pages, must be formatted using the Notes-Bibliography Style detailed in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition*. To ensure proper formatting of their final projects, thesis writers are strongly encouraged to utilize Phillips's "Thesis Template" and "Thesis Template User Guide" files, which pre-formats many elements of manuscripts into Turabian Style. Phillips faculty advisors are responsible for overseeing the formatting standards of thesis-level writing projects completed under their advisement. For the purposes of graduation, a successful passing grade or defense of a thesis-level writing project is sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements. The Phillips library staff are available for assistance in the format-editing process at the request of individual faculty members and students seeking support.

As research works contributing to public knowledge and scholarship, all master's theses are catalogued in digital research databases through the Phillips library. To ensure proper indexing of theses prior to graduation, students must submit their finalized and properly formatted theses to the Dean of the library by November 1 for December graduation, and April 1 for May graduation.

Effective July 1, 2026, thesis writers are no longer required to have their theses physically printed and bound for archival purposes. If a thesis writer wishes to have their thesis physically printed and bound for personal use, they may contact the Dean of the Library for assistance in pursuing this option. In such instances, thesis writers are personally responsible for all costs associated with archival paper, printing, and binding.

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, currently held by F. Douglas Powe, Jr., President and 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 Theory and Practice of Spiritual Care. 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)

Programs of Study

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 Theory and Practice of Spiritual Care (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 synchronous or asynchronous 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 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 in the [Black Church Traditions Program Emphasis](#) section in this catalog and 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:

- 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;
- 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;
- demonstrate the skills and practices associated with ministry in conversation with student's denominational heritage, Christian traditions, and probable ministry setting;
- 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	15 hours
Phase II: Vital Conversations	21 hours
Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good	3 hours
Electives to be taken in any phase	9 hours

Phase I: Invitation to Community (15 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501, 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 section titled Courses of Instruction for Master's Degree Programs.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (21 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	6 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 (3 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (3 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of six semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might

spend in their ministry setting. (One unit of Clinical Pastoral Education that is taken at a Phillips approved CPE program may also fulfill this requirement). For more information on TFE or CPE, see the [Theological Field Education Handbook](#).

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 their 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 (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. 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	15 hours
Phase II: Vital Conversations	30 hours
Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good	3 hours

Phase I: Invitation to Community (15 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian’s Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501, 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 section titled 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 their adviser.

Phase II: Vital Conversations (30 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 6 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 (3 semester-hours), followed in the Spring semester by (b) TFE 510 Theological Field Education II (3 semester-hours). There is no direct relationship between the total of six semester-hours of academic credit granted for the two supervised ministry courses and the amount of time and effort a student might spend in their ministry setting (for a description of the Theological Field Education Program (TFE) and Clinical Pastoral Education see the [Theological Field Education 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](#). For a list of accredited ACPE programs please visit www.acpe.edu.

Faith & Public Discourse 3 hours

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 through an immersion course offered by Phillips.) Of those residential hours, 8 hours may be met by courses offered via Synchronous Zoom.

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 synchronous or asynchronous 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 their 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 36 semester-hours of foundational courses. Students in Track I, General Theological Studies, must complete 12 semester-hours of elective coursework plus a 3 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	15 hours
Phase II: Vital Conversations	18 hours
Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good	3 hours
Electives to be taken in any phase	12 hours

The detailed curricular design for this track follows.

Phase I: Invitation to Community (15 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501, 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 (3 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

3 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 their 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 formatted using the Notes-Bibliography Style detailed in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition*. To ensure proper formatting of their final projects, thesis writers are required to utilize Phillips's "Thesis Template" and "Thesis Template User Guide" files, which pre-formats many elements of manuscripts into Turabian Style. Phillips faculty advisors are responsible for overseeing the formatting standards of thesis-level writing projects completed under their advisement. For the purposes of graduation, a successful passing grade or defense of a thesis-level writing project is sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements. The Phillips library staff are available for assistance in the format-editing process at the request of individual faculty members and students seeking support.

Integrative papers are not required to be digitally archived in research databased or physically printed and bound for archival purposes. The deadline for submission of the final draft of an integrative paper is determined by the faculty advisor. Usually, this deadline coincides with standard deadlines for semester final assignments.

B. Pre-doctoral Theological Studies (Track II)

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

Phase I: Invitation to Community	15 hours
Phase II: Vital Conversations	18 hours
Phase III: Leading in the Way of Jesus for the Public Good	6 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 (15 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501, 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 (6 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 (6 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.

Master's theses, which shall be between 50 and 80 printed pages, must be formatted using the Notes-Bibliography Style detailed in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition*. To ensure proper formatting of their final projects, thesis writers are strongly encouraged to utilize Phillips's "Thesis Template" and "Thesis Template User Guide" files, which pre-format many elements of manuscripts into Turabian Style. Phillips faculty advisors are responsible for overseeing the formatting standards of thesis-level writing projects completed under their advisement. For the purposes of graduation, a successful passing grade or defense of a thesis-level writing project is sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements. The Phillips library staff are available for assistance in the format-editing process at the request of individual faculty members and students seeking support.

As research works contributing to public knowledge and scholarship, all master's theses are catalogued in digital research databases through the Phillips library. To ensure proper indexing of theses prior to graduation, students must submit their finalized and properly formatted theses to the Dean of the library by November 1 for December graduation, and April 1 for May graduation.

Effective July 1, 2026, thesis writers are no longer required to have their theses physically printed and bound for archival purposes. If a thesis writer wishes to have their thesis physically printed and bound for personal use, they may contact the Dean of the Library for assistance in pursuing this option. In such instances, thesis writers are personally responsible for all costs associated with archival paper, printing, and binding.

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 through an immersion course offered by Phillips.) Of those residential hours, 8 hours may be met by courses offered via Synchronous Zoom.

Master of Arts in Social Justice (MASJ) Degree Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Arts (Social Justice; MA(SJ)) degree, which requires the completion of 39¹ 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 their course work with relevant methods and materials as articulated in the previous goals; or by producing a project in

¹ Effective Spring, 2025

the launch course that includes critical reflection on a religious and/or cultural issue, or set of issues, that has emerged in their course work with relevant methods and materials as articulated in the previous goals.

Degree Requirements

The MA(SJ) degree requires the completion of 39² semester-hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher. Of the 39 semester-hours, 33 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	18 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 (18 hours)

The following required courses comprise Phase I:

Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey (pass/fail)	3 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 501 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.

² Effective Spring, 2025

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
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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
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Faith & Public Discourse Immersion Course (3 hours)	3 hours
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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
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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 formatted using the Notes-Bibliography Style detailed in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition*. To ensure proper formatting of their final projects, thesis writers are required to utilize Phillips's "Thesis Template" and "Thesis Template User Guide" files, which pre-formats many elements of manuscripts into Turabian Style. Phillips faculty advisors are responsible for overseeing the formatting standards of thesis-level writing projects completed under their advisement. For the purposes of graduation, a successful passing grade or defense of a thesis-level writing project is sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements. The Phillips library staff are available for assistance in the format-editing process at the request of individual faculty members and students seeking support.

Integrative papers are not required to be digitally archived in research databased or physically printed and bound for archival purposes. The deadline for submission of the final draft of an integrative paper is determined by the faculty advisor. Usually, this deadline coincides with standard deadlines for semester final assignments.

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 through an immersion course offered by Phillips.) Of those residential hours, 12 hours may be met by courses offered via Synchronous Zoom.

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 complements 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.

Graduate Certificate Programs

Phillips Theological Seminary offers Graduate Certificate programs to individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, or the educational equivalent of the baccalaureate degree. Each Certificate program has unique requirements to help students achieve that particular Certificate program's aim. All Certificate programs have a minimum of at least 15 semester hours taken for credit, with some certificates imposing additional requirements or prerequisites to achieve their particular aims.

Each Certificate program specifies 1) whether any additional prerequisites beyond the baccalaureate degree are needed for entry, 2) its curricular requirements, and 3) its eligibility for degree-seeking- and/or non-degree-seeking students.

Non-degree-seeking students for Certificate programs will be admitted as “Certificate Students.” Degree-seeking students already admitted to Phillips are also eligible to complete a Certificate program if specified by that particular Certificate program.

All students who complete a Certificate program will receive a formal printed certificate and will be recognized during Phillips graduation. Degree-seeking students who complete a Certificate program will also receive a note on their transcript at the time of their graduation to verify completion of the Certificate program. Degree-seeking students who complete the requirements for a particular Certificate program but do not complete their degree program may petition the Dean’s Office to receive their certificate.

Non-degree seeking students who complete coursework toward a Certificate program may apply completed credits toward a Phillips degree program if later admitted to that degree.

Graduate Certificate (General)

Program Description

The standard Graduate Certificate is a 15-credit program designed to . . .

Curricular Design

To earn the Graduate Certificate, students must complete 15 credit hours. Recommended courses include:

Credits:	Recommendation:
3	HB 500 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
3	NT 500 Introduction to the New Testament
3	HC 502 History of Christianity I, HC 504 History of Christianity II, <u>or</u> TH 500 Introduction to Theology

The remaining courses can be selected by the Graduate Certificate student as long as prerequisite requirements have been met.

Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy Studies

Program Description

The Certificate in Chaplaincy is a 15-credit program offering specialized training and professional development for seminarians pursuing or exploring careers in chaplaincy. Its curriculum combines clinical practice with foundational training and research in spiritual care to equip students as future leaders in chaplaincy. Graduate certificate students are required to develop professional competencies and deliverables relevant to subsequent training and chaplaincy certification they may pursue.

Curricular Design

To earn the Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy at Phillips, students must complete 15 credits in the following required areas:

Credits:	Requirement:	Rationale:
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<i>Programs of Study</i>		
3	PT520: Theory and Practice of Spiritual Care	Foundational training in spiritual care
3	TFE505: Theological Field Education (at CPE site)	Basic clinical experience
3	TFE510: Theological Field Education (at CPE site)	Basic clinical experience
3	PTXXX: Elective in Chaplaincy or Spiritual Care	Modest specialization opportunity
3	PTXXX: Advanced Research in Chaplaincy	Focus on deliverables for career

Eligibility

All Master's degree-seeking students at Phillips Theological Seminary are eligible to complete the Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy. Note that MAMC and MASJ students have limited elective hours that may not facilitate easy completion of the Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy without paying full cost for additional elective hours. Non degree-seeking students are not eligible to complete the Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy at this time.

No additional prerequisites beyond entry into a degree program are required for entry into the Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy program. Certificate students are subject to the prerequisites imposed in individual courses required for completion.

The Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy Declaration, Progress, and Completion Form may be found on the Canvas Academic Resources site, Module 5.

Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Purpose and Goals of the DMIN Program

The purpose of the DMIN program at Phillips Seminary is to empower students who hold the MDiv degree and are already engaged in various Christian ministries of the church to develop further the talents, competencies, and skills necessary for leading churches in meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

We seek to fulfill this purpose by preparing students to:

- Act as responsible contextual theologians demonstrating advanced skills in biblical studies, history of Christianity, and theology;
- Exercise advanced skills in pastoral leadership specific to the objectives of the area of specialization (see description of each specialization); and
- Integrate theological research with the praxis of ministry within a particular context and with critical studies in arts, culture and the sciences in order to craft an in-depth study of a specialized area of ministry that will serve the local community and the broader church.

Requirements and Curricular Tracks

See the Doctor of Ministry Handbook for complete program information.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Some denominations now require their ministers to acquire continuing education credit annually. The standard formula for continuing education credit is that 10 structured learning hours equal one Continuing Education Unit (CEU). Using this formula, each minister can tabulate the number of CEUs she or he earns each year.

Continuing education opportunities take several forms. Through the seminary's [Ministry Enrichment Program](#), dedicated continuing education opportunities are offered throughout the year and may be taken for CEU credit. These include Remind & Renew, the Tulsa Race Massacre Lectureship, PRIDE @Phillips, and the Indigenous North American History and Culture event. A summary of each of these events is given below.

Pastors may also approach the Academic Dean to arrange a continuing education course for a group of pastors, e.g., a preaching practicum, a seminar for pastors of small churches, etc. Clergy may also take most master's degree classes for CEUs.

Additionally, Phillips Theological Seminary welcomes ministers and other qualified persons to take regular course offerings either as auditors, graduate certificate, or special students.

Ministry Enrichment Program Events

Remind & Renew

Remind & Renew is an annual conference held at Phillips Seminary. Initially held as an annual Ministers' Week event, in 2012 Remind & Renew was created, and its purpose is to gather religious professionals and interested publics for thought-provoking and spirit-renewing presentations, conversation, and worship. The event is *typically* held the third week of January.

Topics and conversations vary from year to year. Participants are able to ask questions and hear stories from leaders in faith communities, scholars, authors, theologians, non-profit professionals, laity, and many more. Lively worship experiences with great preaching are included at each Remind & Renew conference. The opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) is available.

Tulsa Race Massacre Lectureship

The Tulsa Race Massacre, May 31-June 1, 1921, has been identified as the worst "race riot" (riot is a misnomer) in the history of the United States. The community of Greenwood, known across America as "Black Wall Street," was one of the most affluent African American communities in America. It was a self-determined all-Black community within Tulsa's city limits. Famed for having all the markers of any thriving metropolis—businesses, entertainment, professionals, health services, hotels, home ownership, and proud people—the Greenwood District was a shining example of African Americans living in prosperity.

This lectureship commemorates the race massacre, suggests the lessons the history offers, and interprets the historical legacies that must be confronted. Looking back on the prominence of Black Wall Street, the role of faith within the community should not be underestimated. Within the approximately 40 city blocks that constituted Greenwood, there were 13 churches, which meant at least one church existed every three blocks. Socialized within an America that held the belief that prosperity was a sign of God's blessing, and inheriting an African spirituality that held there is no separation between the sacred and the secular, the

residents of Greenwood no doubt believed their success was God ordained. Just as religion is a synthetic feature of African cultures, religion and spirituality were the glue that help the people of the decimated Greenwood to survive. Engaging Greenwood's prosperity as evidence of faith, and conceiving the devastation as the destruction of the household of faith, shifts the gaze from the aesthetics of inanimate buildings to the stories of human lives. The traumatic end of Greenwood is the story of how easily the Image of God can be distorted and destroyed as well as the power of resilience and resistance. The opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) is available.

PRIDE @Phillips

National Coming Out Day was first observed on October 11, 1988, the one-year anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and National LGBTQ+ History Month has been recognized every October since 1994. PRIDE @Phillips is a one-day event held each October that commemorates both observances at the seminary.

For many LGBTQ+ people of faith, the relationship between religious community and personal identity has been a source of exclusion as often as belonging. PRIDE @Phillips exists to name that history honestly and to model what it looks like for a seminary to be a place of welcome rather than judgment. The event brings together students, faculty, alums, and members of the wider community for conversations about faith, identity, and the ongoing work of building religious spaces where LGBTQ+ people are fully seen and fully included. The opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) is available.

Indigenous North Americans Event

November is National Native American Heritage Month, a designation that traces back to efforts beginning in 1990 to formally recognize the contributions, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in the United States. The seminary's Indigenous North Americans Event is a one-day gathering held each November that honors this observance. Phillips Theological Seminary is situated on land within the historic territory of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and near many other tribal nations relocated to Oklahoma.

The event centers Indigenous voices telling their own story, in their own terms, across past, present, and future. Participants hear how Native spiritual traditions continue to shape communities today, and how Indigenous leaders envision the future for their peoples and cultures. The opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) is available.

Phillips Center for Ministry and Lay Training

The Phillips Center for Ministry and Lay Training offers courses for persons preparing for commissioned ministry in local congregations, specialized settings or those on the regional apprentice track to ordination. Several courses are taught by members of the regular faculty or adjunct Phillips faculty. These courses are not eligible for credit within a degree program at this Seminary; however, in most cases, they meet the standards for the "Sixteen Areas of Competencies" and regional criteria for commissioned ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These courses are normally taught in an online or intensive format. Program information, including costs and schedules of courses, is available on the Phillips website. The opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) is available.

Courses of Instruction in Master's Programs

The seminary's master's level courses of instruction are organized into six academic areas: I. General Theological Studies; II. Biblical Studies; III. History of Christianity; IV. Theology and Ethics; V. Practices of Theological Leadership in Communities; and VI. Faith and Public Discourse.

Modes/Formats of Course Delivery

Courses at Phillips Seminary are taught in five modes:

- On Campus – in person (13-week format during the fall or spring semesters)
- Concentrated Week – two concentrated weekends or one to two-week format;
- Asynchronous –online (13-week format during the fall or spring semesters)
- Synchronous – video-conference course format
- Hybrid – combination of on-campus (in person) and/or Synchronous/Asynchronous coursework

Area I: General Theological Studies

A. General Course

FDC 501 Invitation to the Seminarian's Journey 3 hours

Orientation is a hybrid, semester-long experience. In this introductory course, students will engage the essential questions: "What is my embedded theology, where did it come from, and where might it need to change?" and "What does it mean to practice what I believe with integrity?" The intent is to help students understand what theological education entails and introduce them to PTS's culture. It will introduce students to the learning community of PTS -- values and commitments that shape our work. It will provide students with basic skills and strategies needed for academic success, including technology, study/learning approaches, research, and writing. The course is designed to help students participate fully in the seminary journey. This course, graded as pass/fail, is required for all new students in their first or second semester. Any student admitted on probation is also required to take this course in their first semester.

B. Specialized Courses

EXT 512 Practicum for Social Justice 3 hours

This course combines a non-profit and/or social justice-based internship with in-class reflection. Building from FDC 700 (Theology and Social Justice: Theory and Methods), students will perform work in their internship setting for an average of 10-hours-per-week during the 13-week semester, combined with an intensive, in-class weekend reflecting upon the application of theories of faith-based social change in praxis settings. Students will develop tools for identifying goals related to social change, will develop strategies for implementation of change methods, and will develop reflective tools for articulating the effectiveness of social change efforts. **Prerequisites:** Phase 1 courses.

FDC 700 Theology and Social Justice: Theories and Methods 3 hours

This introductory course, required for all MASJ students, equips students to describe,

evaluate, and analyze the relationship between theological reflection and social justice, and to apply that analysis to differing contexts.

FDC 800 Foundations in Black Church Traditions and African American Faith-Life 3 hours

This course introduces students to the diversity of Black Church Traditions with the US context. Through survey and thematic exploration, the origins and development of black faith and religiosity in America are presented as integral to broader – domestic – transnational – theological, political, and cultural discourses and practices. Upon conclusion, students will have a foundational framework for further study of Black Church Traditions and African American Christian practice. **No Prerequisites.** Satisfies Phase II, Vital Conversations Polity/Denominational History requirements for MDIV and MAMC students that are: non-denominational students; associated with underrepresented denominations at Phillips where history/polity is taught with irregularity; and/or denominations that don't have polity requirement.

C. Theological Field Education

TFE 505 Theological Field Education I 3 hours

The purpose of Theological Field Education is for students to engage in ministry in a supervised context, in pursuit of the development of pastoral identity and toward the identification and crafting of effective ministry practices. During this semester, students will engage in 10-hours-per-week of ministry work in an approved context, for a total of 130 hours (13 weeks). Using case studies arising from the student's experiences of ministry in context, this course will provide opportunity for integrated reflection focused upon vocational exploration, theological reflection, development of pastoral identity, and identification of effective ministry practices. **Prerequisites:** completion of Phase One courses and submission of required paperwork to the Director of Theological Field Education. See course enrollment materials for additional hybrid requirements. Read the Theological Field Education Handbook on the seminary's web site for further details about program requirement.

TFE 510 Theological Field Education II 3 hours

The purpose of Theological Field Education is for students to engage in ministry in a supervised context, in pursuit of the development of pastoral identity and toward the identification and crafting of effective ministry practices. During this semester, students will engage in a 10-hour-per-week approved context for ministry, for a total of 130 hours (260 hours (about 1 and a half weeks) across two semesters). In addition, each student will be required to complete an intercultural, community-based ministry project totaling 24 hours across the semester. The focus of this semester is upon building skills for and reflecting upon ministry in intercultural contexts as these skills intersect with the student's pastoral identity. Using case studies arising from the student's experiences of ministry in context, this course will provide opportunity for integrated reflection focused upon vocational exploration, theological reflection, development of pastoral identity, and identification of effective ministry practices. **Prerequisites:** TFE I and submission of required paperwork to the director of Theological Field Education. See course enrollment materials for additional hybrid requirements.

D. Research and Writing

RW 600 Integrative Paper Research and Writing 4 hours

Individual research and writing under faculty guidance. This course is normally taken in the student's last semester of the MTS Track I program or MASJ program.

RW 650 MTS Thesis Research and Writing I 3 hours

Individual research and writing under faculty guidance. This course is normally taken in the student's next to last semester of the MTS Track II program.

RW 660 MTS Thesis Research and Writing II 4 hours

Individual research and writing under faculty guidance. This course is normally taken in the student's last semester of the MTS Track II program.

RW 750 MDiv Thesis Research and Writing I 3 hours

Individual research and writing under faculty guidance. This course is normally taken in the student's next to last semester of the MDiv program.

RW 760 MDiv Thesis Research and Writing II 4 hours

Individual research and writing under faculty guidance. This course is normally taken in the student's last semester of the MDiv program.

D. Capstone Course

LC 600 Capstones in Theological Leadership 3 hours

Sustainable and effective theological leadership is built upon three primary strategies: Collaboration, integration, and articulation. In this course students will explore these strategies in light of their theological commitments as they prepare for their next steps in leadership/ministry. This course should be taken in the Fall prior to graduation. Satisfies Launch Course requirement in Phase III. **Prerequisites:** Completion of Theological Field Education for students in the MDiv or MAMC; completion of 28 hours in the MASJ.

Area II: Biblical Studies

Goals

The Bible is regularly invoked as an authority in various arenas of discourse, ranging from public policy to church doctrine, yet there is often little agreement on what the Bible actually says or means. Therefore, it is imperative that those who are engaged in varied Christian ministries be fluent in interpretation of the Bible that is responsive to the historical processes that gave rise to it and to its hermeneutical potential.

To be fluent in biblical interpretation, the student must be able to employ appropriate exegetical models to understand the Bible as emerging out of the historical development of communities, institutions, and texts in ancient Israel and early Christianity. Because the Bible is a product of historical processes, interpretation pays attention to several interpretive concerns such as the following: historical context; literary character; social and cultural environment; theological heritage and development and hermeneutical implications. Fluency in interpretation enables the student to use the Bible with an awareness of scholarly understandings as a resource for thinking about the issues and concerns of everyday life.

A. Hebrew Bible

HB 500 Introduction to Hebrew Bible 3 hours

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Students will learn about the historical backgrounds of these texts as well as the process of their composition and canonization. The biblical materials will be approached from an academic/critical perspective with insights into how they might be used in different contemporary contexts. Successful completion of the course will satisfy one of the basic Bible requirements for the Master's degree programs.

HB 525 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible: 8th Century Prophets 3 hours

This course is designed as a survey of the prophetic texts in the Hebrew Bible that have traditionally been dated to the 8th century BCE (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah 1-39). Students will examine the historical and sociological backdrop of the 8th century BCE in Israel and Judah as a foundation for exegetical study. Attention will be given to defining the concept of 'justice' as presented by these prophetic texts, as well as exploring how these ancient words may be relevant for the 21st century CE community of faith. **Prerequisite:** HB 500.

HB 575 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible: Women in the Hebrew Bible 3 hours

This course is designed as a survey of the Hebrew Bible from the perspective of the female characters in these ancient stories, in an effort to uncover what can be known about these important women, including: personalities, actions, and faithfulness. Once more familiarity with these female characters has been gained, the course will discover ways in which these women and their stories may be introduced and integrated into the life of the community of faith (e.g., sermons, bible studies, pastoral care, etc.). **Prerequisite:** HB 500.

HB 600 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible: Selected Topics 3 hours

This course consists of advanced exegetical study of Hebrew Bible writings and/or themes. Recent topics offered include Justice and Prophets, 8th Century Prophets, Psalms, and Job. It meets all Masters' degree requirements for an advanced HB course. Students may repeat this course with different topics. **Prerequisite:** HB 500.

HB 825 Biblical Hebrew I 3 hours

An introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. This course is designed to give students a basic understanding and working knowledge of biblical Hebrew. Since this is an introductory course, emphasis will be placed on the acquiring of vocabulary and basic grammar. Exercises and examinations will be designed to prepare students to translate and exegete texts from the Hebrew Bible. **Prerequisite:** No prior study of Hebrew or any other foreign language required for the course.

HB 835 Biblical Hebrew II: Exegesis 3 hours

This course is the continuation of HB 825 in that it will continue the study of Biblical Hebrew grammar beyond where HB 825 ended. In addition, this course will teach students how to do exegesis of biblical texts. The purpose of exegesis, along with the

different methodologies of exegesis, will be covered. Students will then apply both their Hebrew knowledge and their exegetical skills in reading/interpreting a book of the Hebrew Bible. **Prerequisite:** HB 825 or equivalent. Fulfills the Hebrew Bible exegesis requirement.

HB 850 Hebrew Readings 1 hours

Reading of a variety of Hebrew texts with some attention given to advanced syntax.

Prerequisite: HB 835 or equivalent. May be repeated.

HB 900 Research in Hebrew Bible 3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues in Hebrew Bible studies. Offered on request only to advanced students.

B. New Testament

NT 500 Introduction to the New Testament 3 hours

An introduction to the writings of the New Testament, to the worlds from which they emerge, and to a range of interpretive methods or questions that interpreters might ask in making meaning of these texts. **No Prerequisites.**

NT 600 Exegesis of the New Testament: Selected Topics 3 hours

This course consists of advanced exegetical study of New Testament writings and/or themes. Students may repeat this course with different topics (see course schedule for topics). This course meets all Masters' degree requirements for an advanced NT course. **Prerequisite:** NT 500.

NT 825 New Testament Greek I 3 hours

An introduction to New Testament grammar and exegesis. Emphasis is placed on understanding the Greek text and how the Greek language affects the formation of the biblical message.

NT 835 New Testament Greek II: Greek Exegesis 3 hours

A continuation of NT 825. Includes further study of grammar and the development of sufficient vocabulary to make reading Koine Greek easier. The use of Greek as a foundation for exegesis is the primary emphasis. The course will include among other evaluations writing an exegesis paper based on a New Testament Greek text.

Prerequisite: NT 825 or equivalent. Fulfills the New Testament exegesis requirement.

NT 850 Greek Readings 1 hour

Selected readings from the Greek New Testament and other Greek literature from the New Testament world. Students may repeat this course with different topics.

Prerequisites: NT 825 and NT 835 or equivalent.

NT 880 New Testament Seminar 3 hours

This course addresses a variety of issues in New Testament studies for church and ministry today. Students may repeat this course with different topics (see course schedule for topics). **Prerequisite:** NT 500.

Area III: History of Christianity

Goals

Historical studies help students gain broad perspectives on the various and often radically different expressions of Christianity from its early beginnings to the present. Students completing coursework in the area should be able to contextualize contemporary Christian thought and practice by understanding the multiple and often competing narratives that humans have constructed to explain the formation and development of the faith. Students will be able to discuss the impact of earlier structures, disputes, and movements on the shaping of contemporary theological and cultural issues.

Students will understand that personal and contemporary contexts were factors in the choices made by historians as they chronicled Christianity's past and see these factors as integral to the continuing development of Christian histories.

Students who complete the appropriate denominational studies courses should be able to teach and transmit the narratives that explain the origin and development of their particular denominational tradition within the broader context of the history of Christian faith.

A. History of Christianity

HC 502 History of Christianity I: Early and Medieval 3 hours

This course is a survey of the development of the Christian church from the second century C.E. through the Middle Ages, examining the institutional history of the church as well as the theological developments in the church. Attention will be given to various theologians, theologies, and movements that shaped the period. The course highlights Christianity's intellectual and cultural history with an emphasis on the church's evolving relationship to political and social structures that allowed Christianity to be both a religion of protest and liberation as well as a religion of empire and conquest.

HC 504 History of Christianity II 3 hours

This course is a survey of the development of the Christian Churches from the Reformation era to modern times. Attention will be given to the political, economic, and theological contexts that allowed for both the expansion and division of Christianity throughout diverse communities in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. **No Prerequisites.**

HC 507 Readings in the History of the Modern Ecumenical Movement 3 hours

Guided individual research or seminar designed to acquaint students with the history and character of the modern ecumenical movement. **Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

HC 650 History of Religions in the U.S. 3 hours

This course is a survey of the formation and development of a variety of forms of religious experiences and expressions in the United States from the colonial era to the present. While paying close attention to the normative European and American Christian traditions (especially Protestant Christianity) that constitute the central narrative around U.S. national identity, this course will also examine the fundamental religious pluralism of America and engage voices from other religious expressions that

have been a part of the history of the country. This course will give attention to key themes, figures, and movements affecting religious life and society in the United States and consider the intersections of race, gender, geography, socio-economics, and other cultural markers of identity that inform understandings of religion in America. **Prerequisite:** HC 504. This course fulfills requirements as an advanced HC elective OR a required denominational studies (DS) course for students in the MDiv and MAMC programs who represent religious denominations or traditions outside of the current PTS course offerings.

HC 675 Women and Religion in the United States 3 hours

This course is a survey of the history of women and religion in the U.S. from the colonial period to the present. The primary focus is on women who practice the Christian faith, but some attention is given to women in other religions. Students will explore the contributions of women to the development and expression of religions; the complex relationships among society, religion, and culture; and ways that these relationships have impacted, and been impacted by, the lives of women.

Prerequisites: HC 504.

HC 880 Seminar in the History of Christianity 3 hours

A study of selected issues, figures, or movements in the history of Christianity. May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics). **Prerequisite:** HC 502 or HC 504.

HC 900 Research in the History of Christianity 3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues and topics. Offered on request only to advanced students.

B. Denominational Studies

DS 500 History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ 3 hours

This course examines the development of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and related groups within the Stone-Campbell Movement. This course will focus on important principles as articulated by the founding generations and re-interpreted by subsequent generations in different contexts of social and religious history. This course also explores the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North America. Required of all Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) students preparing for ordination and encouraged for United Church of Christ students. Recommended **Prerequisites:** Phase I Courses.

DS 550 United Methodist History 3 hours

This course, required for candidates for ordination in the United Methodist Church, will inform students about the basic periods of United Methodist history. Particular attention will be paid to events, movements, and persons that have shaped the denomination. Recommended **Prerequisites:** HC 504.

DS 575 United Methodist Doctrine 3 hours

This course is designed to provide an introduction to theology in the Wesleyan

tradition as practiced in United Methodism. Students are expected to gain an understanding of and to be able to articulate basic aspects of John Wesley's theology and how it is distinctive, to demonstrate a grasp of UMC understandings of sacraments, and to become conversant with the current debate about theological method. Through case studies and other methods, students will consider how Methodist theology should and does affect decisions of clergy in UMC pastorates, our practices within our UMC life together, and our practice toward the world around us. Recommended **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

DS 625 United Methodist Polity 3 hours

This course, required for candidates for orders in the United Methodist Church, is designed to acquaint students with the 2016 Book of Discipline and a sense of how its rules and requirements come to life in the practical affairs of the church, as well as to help students understand how polity is related to the church's historical and theological development. Recommended **Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

DS 650 Baptist History and Polity 3 hours

A study of Baptist life and thought from the seventeenth century to the present with particular attention to the development of diverse Baptist communities in the United States. Recommended **Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

DS 725 Presbyterian Polity 3 hours

A reflective and practical study of leadership in church government (polity) as defined in the Presbyterian Book of Order. The class will learn how to apply current polity to a variety of pastoral situations. The course will also help students become more familiar with parliamentary procedure in order to plan and moderate session meetings. **Recommended Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

DS 750 History and Polity of the United Church of Christ 3 hours

An exploration of the history, theology, structure, and practice of ministry within the United Church of Christ. Required for all United Church of Christ students preparing for ordination. Enrollment is encouraged for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) students. Recommended **Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

DS 800 History and Polity of Unitarian Universalism 3 hours

An exploration of the history, theology, structure, and practice of ministry within the Unitarian Universalist Church in America. **Recommended Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

DS 900 Research: Denominational Studies 3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected topics or issues related to a student's denomination and/or to the modern ecumenical movement. May be repeated with different topics. **Prerequisites:** Phase I courses.

Area IV: Theology and Ethics

Goals

The theology and ethics area aims to nurture a contemporary expression of Christian faith and ethics, rooted in respect for Christian traditions but responsive to the differing voices and multiple contexts of today's world.

Students completing coursework in the area should be able to: explain basic vocabulary, topics, and approaches to conversations in theology and ethics; to differentiate and compare theological/ethical arguments from various historical periods and/or social locations; and integrate these studies into a coherent theological/ethical voice that informs a vocation of ministry and leadership.

A. Theology

TH 500 Introduction to Theology 3 hours

An introduction to the discipline of Theology as a discourse of theological leadership, negotiating the complexities of changing historical and cultural contexts.

Prerequisites (effective Spring 26): HB 500 and NT 500; HC 502 or 504.

TH 545 Philosophy of Religious Experience 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to foundational issues surrounding philosophical understandings of religious experience. More specifically, it equips students to examine cultural practices and beliefs through the lenses of phenomenology, philosophy of religion, and critical theory. Students are encouraged to reflect theologically on the relation between theory and practice in the philosophy of religion, with special attention to how race, gender, ability, and subject position shapes philosophical discourse on faith. **No Prerequisites.**

TH 550 Christology 3 hours

An exploration of theological answers to questions about Jesus and his significance, and the historical models that have resulted. The time period covered begins with the Christological controversies of the latter half of the second century and continues through images of Jesus in popular U.S. American culture. **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

TH 625 Constructive Theology 3 hours

An investigation of the systematic interconnected character of the major topics/symbols of Christian Theology as a discourse of leadership. This course requires each student to write a constructive essay, expressing their understanding of those interconnected topics. **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

TH 750 The Theology and Ethics of Martin Luther King 3 hours

This course is an examination of the salient themes in the theology and ethics of Martin Luther King, Jr. Through careful reading of sermons, speeches, essays and books, students will identify and assess King's theological and ethical understanding of concepts such as justice, freedom, love, human dignity and nonviolent protest, to name only a few. Particular attention will be given to King's important leadership role in the Civil Rights movement and the ways this movement shaped and was shaped by his theology and ethics. **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

TH 800 Queer Theology 3 hours

This course introduces students to theologies and theological methods that incorporate queer theory. This course will not focus on debates over a handful of Bible verses and specific sexual behaviors. Rather, this course assumes that valuable theological insights are to be gained through queer approaches to theology, in which identities – including especially sexual and gender identities – are queered in order to rethink, subvert, and reinterpret understandings of human life and of God.

Prerequisite: TH 500.

TH 825 Theology and Autobiography 3 hours

This course will explore how theologians use their own autobiographical experience to create a narrative that enacts their theological vision. In addition to reading St. Augustine's classic work, the Confessions, we will read several contemporary theologians who draw on their life experience to reflect on the meaning of faith in a changing world. **Prerequisite:** TH 500. May be repeated with different topics.

TH 880 Seminar in Theology 3 hours

A seminar on a selected theological theme, theologian, or school of theology. May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics). **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

TH 900 Research in Theology 1-3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected topics. Offered on request only to advanced students.

B. Ethics

ET 525 Ethics, Culture, and the Mission of the Church 3 hours

A study of ethical reflection as a practice of cultural analysis. The churches' mission in the world will be considered in relation to the ethical challenges presented by the new media, bioethics, globalization, religious pluralism, race, sexuality, and other issues. Satisfies Ethics, Culture and Mission requirement. **Prerequisite:** TH 500.

ET 900 Research in Ethics 1-3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues in the field of ethics. Offered on request only to advanced students.

Area V: Practical Theology

Goals

Courses in this area prepare students to become theologically reflective practitioners of ministry. Preparation is accomplished at a beginning level and includes: integrating all areas of the theological curriculum with practices of preaching, public worship, care, administration, and spirituality.

A. Preaching

PR 500 The Art and Practices of Preaching 3 hours

A consideration of the nature of Christian preaching. The course explores the issues

and dynamics of preaching, as well as the practices that support preaching. Class size is limited. **Prerequisites:** HB 500, NT 500 and TH 500.

PR 675 Culture and Context: Preaching Toward Social Transformation 3 hours
What is the role of preaching in social transformation and the move towards a more whole and just world? This course will explore this question through deep considerations of the necessity of attending to the culture around and context within one's preaching. We will explore preaching both in and beyond the pulpit, pushing ourselves to consider the possibilities toward an expansive preaching practice and the partners needed for preaching to be a vehicle towards social transformation. Students will leave with practical tools towards their preaching ministries for whatever platform they choose to proclaim on, as well as tools for exegetical work and cultural analysis. **Prerequisite:** PR 500.

PR 880 Seminar in Preaching 3 hours
Advanced study focusing on an issue, person, or practice in Christian preaching. Topics vary (see course schedule for topics). **Prerequisite:** completion of a preaching course listed above or permission of instructor.

PR 900 Research in Preaching 3 hours
Advanced individual research of selected issues. Offered on request only to advanced students.

B. Public Worship

PW 540 Theology and Practice of Public Worship 3 hours
An introduction to liturgical theology, or the discipline of theological reflection on the words and actions of the church's worship, designed for students who will lead worship in communities of faith. While some attention is given to liturgy for occasional services, the primary focus will be on the people of God's regular Sunday worship. **Prerequisites:** TH 500.

PW 880 Seminar in Worship and Liturgy 3 hours
Advanced study of selected issues in the areas of worship and liturgy. May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics). **Prerequisite:** PW 540.

PW 900 Research in Worship and Liturgy 3 hours
Advanced individual research on selected issues in worship and liturgy. Offered on request only to advanced students.

C. Practical Theology and Pastoral Care

PT 515 Introduction to Chaplaincy Studies 3 hours
This course introduces ministry students to the academic study of chaplaincy broadly construed. It is designed to expose students to a selection of the common settings for professional chaplaincy, including but not limited to hospital, military, hospice, prison, campus, and community contexts. Students are thus invited to reflect critically on how spiritual care in chaplaincy is shaped by context. It is thus distinct from clinical courses in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), where academic credit is earned primarily

through volume of clinical hours. While not primarily a clinical course, students are expected to develop basic competency and familiarity with the foundations of chaplaincy methods and research, which may require limited caregiving encounters.

No Prerequisites.

PT 520 Theory and Practice of Spiritual Care 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to foundational theories and practices of spiritual care. Students are invited to reflect critically on how the spiritual need for care emerges individually, interpersonally, and systemically. This course serves students by encouraging practical engagement with common scenarios of care in ministry, religious non-profit, pastoral psychotherapeutic, intercultural, chaplaincy, and ecclesial settings. Special attention is paid to the identities, narratives, and unique vulnerabilities of both givers and recipients of spiritual care. Students are expected to articulate basic theological positions derived from spiritual caregiving practices. **No Prerequisites.**

PT 530 Daughters of God: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Girlhood 3 hours

This introductory course places sociology and developmental psychology in conversation with practical theology in order to explore the development of girls from birth to late adolescents. As we interrogate what it means to be a girl, we explore pay attention to developmental concerns specific to girls and the teaching of gender norms. We also explore the work of practical theologians as our overall focus is to understand the implications for ministry. **No Prerequisites.**

PT 562 Empathy and the Ethics of Pastoral Care 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to foundational theories, practices, and methods of empathy in pastoral care and counseling. More specifically, it is designed to train seminarians to become attentive to how empathy functions in caregiving practices, and to help them develop critical tools for understating both the strengths and limitations of empathic caregiving. Students are expected to reflect carefully on their own social location, in order to hone ministry practices that are aware of the limits of their empathy. They will also be challenged to consider how empathic listening gives way to other forms of communal pastoral and political praxis. Special attend is paid to the identities, narratives, and unique vulnerabilities of both givers and recipients of pastoral care-including but not limited to race, gender, sexuality, socio-economic status, and trauma. **No Prerequisites.**

PT 564 Trauma-Informed Care 3 hours

This course introduces students to essential theory and practice for providing trauma-informed spiritual care. Enrolled students will be trained in foundational principles for offering strategic care for establishing safety and fostering recovery within a variety of settings relevant to ministry and social justice labor. This course also challenges students to think theologically and philosophically on the concept of traumatic experience, including how trauma resists definition. Students are expected to formulate basic positions on the relation of theology to trauma. **No Prerequisites.**

PT 568 Grief, Loss, and Death 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to foundational theories for understanding and ministry practices for responding to grief and loss in a faith context. More specifically, it offers seminarians a basic framework for conceptualizing grief processes, and for developing a practical skillset for offering spiritual care to those impacted by loss. Students are invited to reflect theologically on the significance of death, including its implications for spiritual practice and advocacy work. **No Prerequisites.**

PT 880 Seminar in Pastoral Theology and Care 3 hours

Advanced study of selected issues in the theory and practice of spiritual care. May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics).

Prerequisite: PT 520.

PT 900 Research in Pastoral Theology and Care 1-3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues in the theory and practice of spiritual care.

D. Pastoral Leadership

PL 625 Wesley and Methodist Evangelism 3 hours

This is an introduction to the biblical and theological foundations of evangelism and the local church as a center for evangelism. Attention is given to the content of the gospel, its communication through word, deed and sign, and the context of the recipients. This course helps students to better understand the challenge of intentionally communicating the gospel, by word, deed and sign, to all persons, within and without the local church. The course also explores practical ways of getting more laity involved in the ministry of evangelism. This course also will integrate in rural, generational and contextual approaches to evangelism that are increasingly important for congregations today. **No Prerequisites.**

PL 650 Pastoral Leadership and Administration 3 hours

A survey of practices involved in leading a congregation or faith-based, non-profit organization, with special attention to processes for discerning a particular church's present and future mission, handling administrative tasks, and carrying out the ongoing integrative work in which such practices are shaped by theology and Christian tradition. **No Prerequisites.**

PL 675 Issues for Women in Christian Ministry 3 hours

This course examines issues often encountered by women performing ministerial functions (e.g., preaching, teaching, counseling, managing conflict) and the gifts of leadership which women commonly bring to the pastoral role. **No Prerequisites.**

PL 880.02 Conflict in Community 3 hours

This course explores constructive approaches to conflict resolution in congregations and other contexts drawing on creative nonviolent communication, human relations

approaches, systems theory, and contemporary organizational theory. **No Prerequisites.**

PL 900 Research in Pastoral Leadership 1-3 hours
Advanced individual research in the area of church administration, focusing on a particular practice, topic, or author. Offered on request only to advanced students.

E. Christian Education

CE 535 Teaching and Learning in the Community of Faith 3 hours
This required core course will examine different approaches to Christian Education both inside and outside of the congregational walls. This course will interrogate different ways of cultivating and sharing knowledge. Students are invited to explore how teaching and learning may be different through the different stages of life. Students will be asked to articulate and challenge their own approach to Christian education and develop focused educational planning for their current or envisioned ministry context that would also lead the community of faith to grow in personal and communal transformation. **No Prerequisites.**

CE 540 Educating Through the Different Stages of Life 3 hours
This first level course will explore cognitive, moral, and faith changes that often happens throughout the life span and will engage questions concerning teaching and learning through the human lifespan and multiple styles of learning. Students will examine burgeoning research on brain and cognitive development, qualitative research on how one's culture aids one in the forming of their reality, and work on how faith is understood at different stages of life in different contexts. Students will have the opportunity to design and practice teaching lessons for specific age groups. **No Prerequisites.**

CE 685 Education as a Practice of Freedom 3 hours
In order to oppress a group of people, oppressors limit and/or take control of their education. Oppressors recognize the power of education. So do those who work for liberation. This first level course provides the learner with an introduction to the theory and methodology of Christian Education from a liberation perspective. Christian Education, for the purposes of this course, is the theory and practice (praxis or art) of nurturing faith for the liberation of all oppressed peoples. The cornerstone notions of the course are ubuntu and freedom. The course teaches that education is a practice of freedom and is best accomplished through and with the entire community for the purposes of justice and social transformation. This course fulfills the Christian Education requirement. **Prerequisite:** CE 535 or another education course.

CE 900 Research in Christian Education 1-3 hours
Advanced individual research on selected issues. Offered on request only to advanced students.

F. Spirituality

SP 500 History of Christian Spirituality 3 hours

A survey of the theology and practice of spirituality in various historical contexts from the beginnings of the church to contemporary times. Special attention will be given to influential persons and their spiritual writings.

Area VI: Faith and Public Discourse

Goals

Students completing coursework in this area should be able to reflect on Christianity in the context of the general history of religions, utilizing research in the humanities and social sciences; to serve in church and society as a leader in the critical study of many of the contemporary global issues that are challenging our understandings of Christian faith and order; and to model for followers of the way of Jesus how to participate in the increasingly important interaction between Christians and people of other living faiths and ideologies.

A. History of Religions

HR 500 Contemporary World Religions 3 hours

An introduction to comparative considerations in the study of religious myth, ritual, and community life, as well as to central doctrines and practices of major religious traditions of the world. **No Prerequisites.**

B. Global Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue

IU 825 Seminar in Global Christianity 3 hours

A study of the history and current practices of selected Christian communities outside of North America (e.g., Asian Christianity, African Christianity, etc.). May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics).

IU 900 Research: Interreligious Understanding and Christian Mission 3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues. Offered on request only to advanced students.

C. Interreligious and Cross-Cultural Immersion and other Educational Travel Courses

TC 900 Immersion Travel 3 hours

All course options include pre-tour educational preparation and post-tour evaluation, including but not limited to experiences in Arizona with BorderLinks, a non-profit organization that promotes study of issues on the border between Mexico and the United States, in Nicaragua with JustHope, a non-profit organization that serves the people of Chacraseca, Nicaragua, Ferguson, MO, St. Croix, and Native America-OK. Dates, places, and foci of immersion courses will be announced. **Prerequisite:** completion of one introductory course.

D. Arts and Humanities

AH 525 The Bible and Contemporary Issues 3 hours

This course is designed to provide students with skills that will be useful in leading their congregations/communities in the study and discussion of the bible and the difficult issues confronting people of faith in the 21st century (e.g., Stem Cell Research, Creationism/Evolution/Intelligent Design, Immigration, Human Sexuality,

etc.). Students will gain an appreciation for the influence their particular reading location has on how they interpret texts, and they will begin to develop their own hermeneutical approach for reading/interpreting biblical texts. Through readings and class discussions/lectures, students will struggle with the question of “What is ethical biblical interpretation?” Students will apply this knowledge and awareness to the examination of some contemporary issues in order to determine a responsible way to apply the bible in difficult ethical discussions and decision-making. Each student will choose one difficult issue to focus on for a final project. **Prerequisites:** HB 500 and NT 500.

AH 550 Theological Themes in the Contemporary Novel 3 hours

An exploration of how contemporary novels pose theological questions about, and prompt theological reflection upon, human and cultural experience in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. A variety of styles and sub-genres will be considered. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 575 Preaching in the Black Church Tradition 3 hours

A survey course of Black Preaching in its historical, social, and religious context. Attention will be given to defining within such preaching a specific “Black Hermeneutic” that explains its unique style, methodology, theology, and contribution to the general practice of preaching. Through special readings, listening, and experiencing Black preaching, students should be able to identify its essential distinguishing characteristics, describe its historical context, and learn to appreciate its socio-theological methodology. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 645 Psychology of Religious Experience 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to foundational issues surrounding psychological understandings of religious experience. More specifically, it equips students to examine cultural practices and beliefs through the lenses of psychoanalysis, psychology of religion, and the social sciences. Students are encouraged to reflect theologically on the relation between theory and practice in the psychology of religion, with special attention to how race, gender, ability, and subject position shapes philosophical discourse on faith. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 650 Religion and Politics 3 hours

An exploration of the inevitable but also intentional mixing of political and theological discourse in both public life and theology. While attending to the legal separation of church and state, the course investigates how and why political discourse invokes theological claims and how and why various theologians offer interpretations of cultural and public life. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 700 Reading the New Testament in the Context of the Roman Empire 3 hours

This course examines some NT Texts as participants in the discourses (literature; archeology; material objects/coins etc.) concerning societal structures, practices, and personnel of the first-century Roman imperial world in which the early Jesus movement came into being. Methods include literary, social science, imperial-critical,

ideological, and historical approaches. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of NT 500 Introduction to the New Testament. This course fulfills either the AH Requirement or the NT Exegesis Requirement.

AH 725 Political Pastoral Theology 3 hours

This course introduces ministry students to the political dimension of pastoral caregiving and theology. More specifically, it offers seminarians a basic framework for understanding how the theological principles of pastoral care call us to move beyond traditional counseling settings, and into social advocacy and political interventions. Toward this end, students will be invited to examine and identify strategies for offering pastoral care to their ecclesial and community setting, which include politically contentious topics. In the process, students are expected to analyze how matters of race, gender, sexuality, disability, and socio-economic status shape our pastoral decisions for political advocacy and witness. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 745 Ritual and Rhetoric in African American Faith Traditions 3 hours

African American Faith Traditions have a rich history that has grown and expanded across time. We emphasize the plurality in tradition(s) such that we remember that African American faith is not a monolith. This course will explore the ritual practices and rhetorical nuances in African American faith traditions. This includes but is not limited to pulpit preaching in Black Church traditions, prayers across traditions, rituals of water and Sunday Christian worship. We will explore institutions such as the Black church and consider the cultural, political, and pastoral impacts of these different spaces. Students will leave with a deeper understanding of African American faith histories, ritual practices, and rhetorical particularities. **No Prerequisites.**

AH 750 Research in Religion in the Arts and Humanities 1-3 hours

Advanced individual research on selected issues. Offered on request only to advanced students.

AH 880 Seminar in Religion in the Arts and Humanities 3 hours

Advanced study in selected issues in Religion, the Arts and the Humanities. May be repeated with different topics (see course schedule for topics).

Courses of Instruction in the Doctor of Ministry Program

For courses of instruction in the DMin Program, please consult the Doctor of Ministry Handbook or contact the [Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program](#). For questions concerning credit hours and plan year requirements, please contact the [Registrar](#).

Academic Calendar (Fall 2026 – Fall 2028)			
Fall	2026	2027	2028
Registration reopens for Fall	Jul 31	Jul 30	Aug 4
A-Term Week 1	Aug 3-7	Aug 2-6	Aug 7-11
A-Term Week 2	Aug 10-14	Aug 9-13	Aug 14-18
Master/DMin Student Grades Due (Summer)	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15
New Student Orientation	Aug 18-20	Aug 17-19	Aug 15-17
First Day of Classes	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 28
Labor Day (seminary closed)	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 4
Student Disbursement Date	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 25
Concentrated Course Week 1	Oct 12-16	Oct 11-15	Oct 9-13
Pride@Phillips Event	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 10*
Withdrawal Deadline (Fall)	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 20
Concentrated Course Week 2	Oct 19-23	Oct 18-22	Oct 16-20
Registration (J-Term/Spring)	Oct 26-Nov 6	Oct 25-Nov 5	Oct 30-Nov 10
New Student Registration (J-Term/Spring)	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 13
Indigenous North Americans History/Culture Event	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 14*
Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)	Nov 23-27	Nov 22-26	Nov 20-24
Thanksgiving Holidays (seminary closed)	Nov 25-27	Nov 24-26	Nov 22-24
Incomplete Request Deadline	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 8
Last Day of Classes	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 15
BCTAAFL Celebration Dinner	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 15
Winter Break (seminary closed)	Dec 25-31	Dec 25-31	Dec 25-31
Master's/DMin Student Grades Due (Fall Term)	Jan 4, 2027	Jan 3, 2028	Jan 2, 2029
Spring	2026	2027	2028
New Year's Day (seminary closed)		Jan 1	Jan 3
Master's/DMin Student Grades Due (Fall Term)		Jan 4	Jan 4
Registration reopens for Spring		Jan 4	Jan 4
J-Term Week		Jan 4-8	Jan 10-14
Remind and Renew		Jan 13-14	Jan 19-20
MLK Jr. Day (seminary closed)		Jan 18	Jan 17
New Student Orientation		Jan 19-21	Jan 25-27
First Day of Classes		Jan 25	Jan 31
Ash Wednesday		Feb 10	Mar 1
Student Disbursement Date		Feb 22	Feb 28
Seminary Scholars Interview Weekend		TBA	TBA
Concentrated Course Week 1		Mar 8-12	Mar 6-10
Concentrated Course Week 2		Mar 15-19	Mar 13-17
Withdrawal Deadline (Spring)		Mar 19	Mar 24

Spring	2026	2027	2028
Early Registration Opens (Summer)		Mar 19	Mar 13
Holy Week Recess		Mar 22- 26	Apr 10-14
Good Friday (seminary closed)		Mar 26	Apr 14
Easter Monday (seminary closed)		Mar 29	Apr 17
Early Registration Ends (Summer)		Mar 30	Mar 24
Early Registration for Returning Students (A-Term/Fall)		Apr 19 - 30	Apr 18 - 28
New Student Registration Begins		Apr 26	Apr 24
Tulsa Race Massacre Lecture		Apr 26	TBA
Incomplete Request Deadline		May 7	May 12
Senior Grades Dues		May 7	May 12
Awards Day		May 11	May 16
Last Day of Classes & Senior Banquet		May 14	May 19
Graduation		May 15	May 20
Memorial Day (seminary closed)		May 31	May 29
Master's/DMin Student Grades Due (J-Term, Spring)		Jun 1	Jun 1
Summer	2026	2027	2028
Master's/DMin Student Grades Due (J-Term, Spring)	Jun 1	Jun 1	Jun 1
Concentrated Course Week 1	Jun 1-5	Jun 7-11	Jun 5-9
Concentrated Course Week 2	Jun 8-12	Jun 14-18	Jun 12-16
Immersion Intensive Week	Jun 9-18	TBD	TBD
Juneteenth Holiday (seminary closed)	Jun 19	Jun 21	Jun 19
Independence Day (seminary closed)	Jul 3	Jul 5	Jul 4
Incomplete Request Deadline (Master's/DMin)	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 7
Master/DMin Student Grades Due (Summer)	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15

Note: This Course Catalog is subject to change. Please check the course enrollment materials each semester to confirm course availability.
For up-to-date course information contact [Sharon Russ](#), Executive Assistant to the Dean and Faculty or [Virginia Thompson](#), Registrar.