

“Christ’s love, and his apostles twelve, He taught, and first He followed it Himself.”

~ Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400) Canterbury Tales

RELIGION

Religion

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GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN RELIGION

The Graduate Program exists primarily as a response to the need for post graduate theological education for ministry in the educational region of the Church of the Nazarene served by Point Loma Nazarene University. This graduate program exists in a community of learning and living in covenant to Christ, embodied in a Christian liberal arts context. This offers the strength of rich diversity of various Christian traditions and of critical reflection in the inter-disciplinary relationship of learners and leaders. Therefore, those providing leadership in the program see their task as:

- Preparing both clergy and lay leaders for serving in Christian congregations and related institutions;
- Preparing scholars for higher education in the public realm, the church and the academy; and
- Enlarging the vision of practical theology and Christian mission as a public enterprise, responding to the increasingly complex theological, ethical and socio-political issues facing the worlds of the present and the future.

Master of Arts in Religion

The Master of Arts degree in Religion is an academic degree building on an appropriate undergraduate foundation with study on a more advanced level. The degree may lead directly into ministry, be applied to a seminary degree, or prepare one for further graduate study in religion. Two concentrations are available: Theology and Biblical Studies.

VISION STATEMENT

The purpose of this degree is to provide an academic program immersed in the classic disciplines and texts of the Christian faith. The ability to do responsible, independent research, to think theologically in critical and constructive terms, and to interpret and integrate data, are targeted outcomes. The program aims at credibility in the three public arenas of church, society and the academy. It encourages

responsible engagement in nurturing Christian community in contemporary society in a manner that is academically accountable. This degree prepares a student for ministry, public service or entrance to doctoral or seminary programs.

REQUIREMENTS

- Quantitative and Verbal Aptitude test of the GRE with a raw score of 400 on each of the two sections or a raw score of 35 on the Miller Analogy. Students may not continue enrollment after the first semester without the minimum score.
- An acceptable thesis written under the supervision of a committee appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion. Four units of credit are earned for the thesis.
- An oral examination on a syllabus of books assigned for the core courses. The exam will also cover the subject of the thesis. The exam will be graded either Pass with Distinction, Pass, or Fail. A failed examination may be retaken.

Students who, in the opinion of the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion, lack an adequate undergraduate background for graduate study in Religion will be required to take remedial courses as necessary and in consultation with the Director.

GRADUATE RELIGION CORE COURSES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GRE 600	Research Methods and Bibliography	3
THE 645	History of Christian Thought I	3
THE 646	History of Christian Thought II	3
THE 695	Seminar in Wesleyan Theology	3
BIB 695	Seminar in Biblical Literature	3
GRE 690	Special Studies in preparation for the thesis	1-4
GRE 699	Thesis	4

Concentration in Theology

- Graduate Religion Core courses
- The balance of courses to be taken from 400 and 500 level courses in Philosophy and Religion

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
THE 647	Contemporary Theology and Ethics	3

Concentration in Biblical Studies

- Graduate Religion core courses
- Competency in a Biblical language
- One course outside of Bible taken from 400 and 500 level courses in Philosophy and Religion
- The balance of courses to be taken from 400 and 600 level courses in Bible

Master of Ministry

The Master of Ministry is a professional degree designed for the active minister who desires additional academic development leading to a master’s degree focusing on Christian ministry.

The program for the degree consists of eight basic courses combined with elective Master of Ministry courses (575 and 585) and/or other electives chosen from 400 and 500 level courses in the Department of Philosophy and Religion for a total of 36 semester units. All elective courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion.

VISION STATEMENT

The purpose of this degree is to provide a program in academic and professional ministry competencies that is rooted in the classic theological disciplines and engaged with contemporary life, resulting in leadership skills in the formation of character in Christian communities. The desired outcome is the integration of theology and ministry culminating in graduates who are “practical thinkers and thinking practioners.” The program builds on basic prerequisites in undergraduate work and professional experience and provides education intended to lead to lifelong learning for the active minister.

The following eight courses are team taught by guest lecturers, professionals in their respective fields, along with professors from the Department of Philosophy and Religion and other appropriate academic departments of the University.

REQUIERED COURSES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
CMI 612	The Life of the Minister	3
CMI 622	Communicating the Gospel	3
CMI 632	The Old Testament in the Christian Pulpit	3
CMI 642	The New Testament and Ministry	3
CMI 652	The Christian Faith	3
CMI 662	Worship, Leadership and Liturgy	3
CMI 672	Contemporary Ministry	3
CMI 682	Stewardship and Management in Ministry	3
TOTAL		24

ELECTIVES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
CMI 675	Theology and Christian Ministry	3
CMI 685	Bible and Christian Ministry	3

Electives may be repeated.

PREREQUISITES

Completion of an acceptable undergraduate degree from an accredited institution plus the completion of one year of full-time Christian ministry in a local church setting.

Students should read carefully the general regulations concerning admission to a graduate program at Point Loma Nazarene University and the basic requirements for graduate degrees that appear in the section of the *Catalog* captioned Graduate Programs.

Graduate Bible Courses

BIB 670 (3) CONTEMPORARY PREACHING

The use of the Bible for preaching today. Alt.*

BIB 695 (3) SEMINAR IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE

Selected studies in the canonical literature, its historical backgrounds, literary character, and theological witness. May be taken twice. Alt.+

BIB 696 (2) INTRODUCTION TO ISRAELITE HISTORY AND THE HEBREW BIBLE

An introduction to the history of Israel from the early Iron Age into the Hellenistic period, with special attention to its place within Syro-Palestinian material culture and history, and the relationship of this history to the content and history of composition of the Hebrew Bible. Alt.*

BIB 697 (2) INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ORIGINS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

An introduction to the early Jesus movement and the diversity of Christian origins within the social-historical context of the Greco-Roman world and their relationship to documents that later became the New Testament. Alt. +

Graduate Christian Ministries Courses

CMI 612 (3) THE LIFE OF THE MINISTER

A study of factors that occur in the life of the minister. The study could include psychological profiles, stress factors, family life issues or relationships. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 622 (3) COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

Aspects of public speaking, learning theory, writing, the minister as prophet, priest, and king, the reading of Scripture, and the proclamation of scriptural holiness. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 632 (3) THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN PULPIT

The proclamation of the Old Testament. The literature and theology of the Old Testament are utilized in developing a perspective for ministry. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 642 (3) THE NEW TESTAMENT AND MINISTRY

The New Testament, its literature and theology, will be explored as a resource for ministry. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 652 (3) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Examination of one or more significant doctrines, persons, or historical movements with particular application for contemporary ministry. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 662 (3) WORSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND LITURGY

Aspects of corporate worship and renewal, spiritual formation, models and theology of leadership, sociology of groups, community resources, and pastoral counseling. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 672 (3) CONTEMPORARY MINISTRY

An analysis of demographic, social and cultural factors impacting ministry, with attention to pastoral care and church growth including ethnic diversity, urbanization, evangelism, and missions. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 675 (3) THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Selected topics relating to theological understanding and ministry. Designed for the Master of Ministry student. May be repeated.

CMI 682 (3) STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN MINISTRY

The principles of finance as they relate to pastoral involvement in church and life, church budgeting, fund raising, building financing, family budgeting and long-range financial planning. Designed for the Master of Ministry student.

CMI 685 (3) BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Selected topics relating to Biblical interpretation and ministry. Designed for the Master of Ministry student. May be repeated.

CMI 690 (1-4) SPECIAL STUDIES

Selected studies in an area of Christian ministry. Permission of the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion is required. May be repeated up to eight units.

Graduate Religion Courses

GRE 600 (3) RESEARCH METHODS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Graduate level instruction in the scholarly methods used in the study of religion.

GRE 690 (1-4) SPECIAL STUDIES

Selected studies in an area of Religion. Permission of the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion is required. May be repeated for up to nine units.

GRE 699 (4) THESIS

Credit granted for the completion of an acceptable thesis. Permission of the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion is required. Committee is approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Graduate Theology Courses

THE 645 (3) THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT I

A study of the development of Christian thought from the apostolic fathers to the beginnings of the Reformation. Alt.*

THE 646 (3) THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT II

A study of the development of Christian thought from the Reformation to the twentieth century. Alt.*

THE 647 (3) CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

A study of selected contemporary Christian theologians, ethicists and themes. Alt.+

THE 695 (3) SEMINAR IN WESLEYAN THEOLOGY

A study of the Wesleyan theological heritage from John Wesley's antecedents to present developments in the tradition. Alt.+

Courses Designed for the Graduate Level

Courses numbered at the 400-level in the Department of Philosophy and Religion may be approved as electives by the Director of Graduate Studies in Religion. Graduate students taking such courses must do extra academic work in order for the course to qualify for graduate credit.