

MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY URBAN MINISTRY CONCENTRATION MODULAR AND DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

This specialized program prepares students for effective ministry in urban contexts. Traditionally, such contexts were seen as only inner city environments; however, an urban ministry setting today is one that also includes suburban and rural locales. It is comprised of the complex issues and problems associated with a diversity of race, income, culture, and language in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural communities throughout the world.

In addition to a strong biblical and theological foundation, the curriculum is flexible in order to prepare leaders for the demands of ministry in churches, para-church organizations, and various urban ministries for both professional and lay practitioners. The concentration provides opportunity for the expression of individual interests through specialized research and projects. The practicum will encourage students to seek both national and international opportunities for supervised practice.

This program is designed to prepare individuals for potential careers in pastoral, workplace, humanitarian, missions, relief, and social justice ministry, which will afford students the opportunities to serve their communities and creatively and effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Practical Theology/Urban Ministry concentration are to:

- Prepare candidates with a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.
- Prepare students to increase competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation.
- Provide a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology.
- Provide a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures with their significance in the history of Christianity.
- Integrate theological reflection and practice through internship opportunities.
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling.
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Prepare students to understand and communicate effectively the Gospel in all urban contexts.
- Enable students to develop skills and practical ministry strategies applicable to multi-cultural urban ministry settings.

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The MA in Practical Theology with a concentration in Urban Ministry is about bringing the love and compassion of God to people in all settings, seeking their welfare and making a difference. After spending three months this summer doing urban ministry in the Mississippi Delta, I am greatly convinced I am in the right program. My experience was very challenging, but very rewarding: learning how to reach these people not only changed their lives; it changed mine and my perspective forever. I would never trade that for anything in the world! (J.S.)

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MODULAR AND DISTANCE EDUCATION DELIVERY SYSTEMS

In today's fast-paced society, it can be difficult to earn a residential degree at the graduate level. The Graduate School of Theology and Ministry's fully accredited Modular/Distance Education Program offers a combination of fully online courses and blended courses that allow students to attend class on campus for all or half of a 5-day intensive week, while completing the rest of the course work online. It is a unique schedule, tailor-made for students seeking spiritual, academic, and professional training, while maintaining their current jobs and homes.

Some of the reasons to choose the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry's Modular and Distance Education Program are:

- The program offers a quality professional education with a Holy Spirit empowered dimension.
- Students, by selecting courses that fit their schedules, determine how long it takes to complete the degree.
- The same ATS-accredited material given in a residential semester is offered in online and blended course delivery systems.
- One half of the degree is available online, and the remainder of the course work can be done with as few as 4 visits to campus.
- Classes take place in cutting edge facilities with state of the art technologies designed for adult education.
- The curriculum prepares ministers and leaders for the 21st century.
- Distance library resources are available.
- Professors who are experienced in their respective fields give valuable instruction and impart their spirit of excellence.
- Students build relationships with professors and one another in a supportive, academic environment.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or a college recognized by
- The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 or higher
- An official entrance exam score is required (waived for those who hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution): Miller Analogies Test (minimum score of 396) or the Graduate Record Exam (minimum combined score of 300 for verbal and quantitative sections)
- For those whose language of instruction was not English, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, 79-80 internet-based or the IELTS (minimum band score of 7.0), and submit a score within the past two years

PREREQUISITES (0-3 CREDIT HOURS)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (47.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (4.5 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Biblical and Theological Foundations (15 credit hours)
- Urban Ministry Concentration (18 credit hours)
- Urban Ministry Electives (9 credit hours)

ACCREDITATION

- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools

Detailed information is available at gradtheology.oru.edu