

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL STUDIES

This degree prepares students for teaching and research in theological and historical studies and in the communication of the doctrines and history of Christianity. Students learn the historical and theological heritage of Christianity, including doctrinal emphases within their particular communities of faith. The program acquaints students with the people, creeds, liturgies, and systems of faith and order that comprise the basic elements of their Christian heritage. Students' abilities to understand and evaluate the issues and dynamics in the contemporary communities of faith and in contemporary theology are enhanced.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Theological/Historical Studies are to:

- Engage culture with the claims of historical Christian faith
- Provide an account of the history and development of Christian tradition during specific time periods
- Provide a systematized overview of the history and theology of the Christian tradition
- Encourage research of specialized topics in the history and theology of the Christian church
- Provide foundational linguistic preparation that enables translation of Scripture and historical documents in German for theological research
- Encourage awareness of the historical development of the Pentecostal/charismatic movement within church history
- Promote research and critical thinking skills needed to produce an academic thesis
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling

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I chose the MA in Theological/Historical Studies because I knew that it was a degree that would not only teach theology, but would teach the effects of theology on history—and the effects of history on theology. I wanted a historical understanding of what I believe so that I can guard against the mistakes of the past and see the needs of the church for the future. It is a wonderful program that is helping me to examine my own beliefs, so that my faith in Christ Jesus is not just in light of what I believe, but what has been believed from the beginning.

(D.F.)

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ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or a college recognized by The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Applicants whose degrees are in a field other than theology are required to complete up to 15 credit hours of prerequisite courses in addition to the degree requirements
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- 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 (12-15 CREDIT HOURS)

- Required for those who did not have biblical/theological courses in their undergraduate program

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (52.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (3.5 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Theological/Historical Concentration (36 credit hours)
- Biblical Literature Cognate (12 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

