

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is the basic professional degree for ministry. With a balanced integration of three components—Biblical Literature, Theological/Historical Studies, and the Practices of Ministry—the M.Div. prepares students for effective careers as pastors, evangelists, chaplains, and a broad variety of other ministries. Students are trained to be Spirit-filled, biblically based, historically informed, socially and ethically accountable, theologically responsible, and skillfully enabled ministers of Jesus Christ. The Master of Divinity is the prerequisite degree for admission into the Doctor of Ministry program and military chaplaincy.

One of the strengths of the Master of Divinity program is the flexibility offered by its nine credit hours of undesignated electives. Students may use these credit hours to pursue a specific area of ministry study, such as counseling or missions. Because ORU also has graduate schools in Education and Business, M.Div. students may also choose to use a limited number of these elective hours for cross-disciplinary training.

The objectives of the Master of Divinity 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 interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages, using critical exegetical tools
- Provide a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.
- Provide a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology
- Enable students to develop skills and practical ministry strategies
- Equip candidates with the biblical, theological, and ethical understanding necessary to analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society
- Enable students to develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to their backgrounds and callings
- Provide opportunities to develop necessary skills for ministry within a variety of traditions, ministry settings, and cross-cultural contexts
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work, and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional calling

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 Bachelors degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a Masters 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 (80.5 CREDIT HOURS)

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| • ORU Distinctive Courses (4.5 credit hours) | • Undesignated Electives (9 credit hours) |
| • Assessments (1 credit hour) | • Biblical Literature (21 credit hours) |
| • Theological/Historical Studies (21 credit hours) | • Practices of Ministry (24 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