

## MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

This program is designed to equip graduates for effective ministry in churches, para-church organizations and various ministry contexts. The degree provides a foundation in ministerial theory and practice that will assist students to pursue ministry vocations. It seeks to develop the essential knowledge and skills for lay positions in the church or specialized professions in both church and community.

This degree program prepares leaders by increasing their competence in and understanding of the Word of God through hermeneutical study skills and by developing a theological framework for their understanding of the teaching of Scripture and for the practices of ministry. In addition to a strong biblical and theological foundation, the curriculum is flexible enough to meet the demands of both professional and lay positions.

The degree program is structured to provide a strong biblical/theological/practical ministry foundation for leadership and includes opportunities for students to structure their own program to meet perceived needs in ministry. The practicum will provide supervised practice in church or community contexts that encourages the integration of biblical and theological understanding with practical ministry strategies.

The twelve credit hours of practices of ministry electives provide opportunity for the development of individual interests through course work, and specialized research and projects. Because ORU also has graduate programs in education and business, students may choose to use a limited number of these elective hours for cross-disciplinary training.

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Practical Theology 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 together with their significance in the history of Christianity
- Prepare students to effectively communicate the message of Christianity in various cultural contexts
- Integrate theological reflection and practice through internship opportunities
- 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 (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)
- Practical Theology Cognate (12 credit hours)
- Practical Theology Concentration (15 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](http://gradtheology.oru.edu)