

MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY MODULAR AND DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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.

The degree 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

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 an 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
- 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 (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)

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
- Transfer credit and advanced standing for hours taken at another accredited university, per approval of the Academic Committee, are available.

Detailed information is available at gradtheology.oru.edu