



Master of Arts (Christian Studies) (MACS)

Locations: ● Dallas ● Houston ● DC ● Extensions ● Online

Hours: 62 Languages: • English • Chinese • Spanish

PURPOSE:

The Master of Arts (Christian Studies) degree program is designed to provide a graduate-level biblical and theological foundation for various kinds of Christian service. This degree is designed primarily for lay leaders who desire training for more effective ministry within their church or organization. The MACS may also provide supplemental training for those engaged in parachurch ministries or those in support positions with missions agencies or churches. Those who are seeking fuller preparation for a vocationally specific ministry should apply for admission to one of the seminary's professional degrees.

The MACS is offered in English, Chinese, and Spanish with some customized requirements. The program can be completed entirely online in English and Spanish. Most of the courses in the Chinese-language MACS can be completed online, but some will need to be completed in a residential (face-to-face) format in Dallas, Houston, or Hong Kong. Please visit dts.edu/chinese or contact the Chinese Studies office for more information on completing the MACS in Chinese.

Goals

All students in the MACS program will be able to:

- demonstrate a general knowledge of the Bible, including a synthetic understanding of the major books;
- evidence an understanding of the historical development of theology, a knowledge of premillennial theology, and an ability to support their theological views and apply them to contemporary issues;
- communicate biblical and theological knowledge to a contemporary audience;
- evidence an increasing likeness to Christ as manifested in love for God, love for others, and the fruit of the Spirit;
- evidence an interest and involvement in the local church or other ministries with which they are associated; and
- minister within a local church or other group by means of leadership skills, evangelism, and service.

In addition to the above goals, students in the Chinese-language version of the MACS will also be able to:

- design an effective strategy for Chinese ministry.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements and application procedures for the MACS are the same as for all programs of study at the seminary (please refer to the Admission section of this catalog for more information). Students generally will not be admitted into this degree program without goals consistent with the ministries for which the program is designed to equip them.

Transfer of Credit

Transfer of up to 30 hours of credit is allowed toward the MACS program from accredited graduate programs in related fields of study. Students must have earned a grade of C or better (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for a course to be considered for transfer.

Residential Requirements

Although the MACS can be completed entirely online, all of the courses are also offered on the main Dallas campus. Most of the courses are also available at the seminary's extension sites.

Not all of the MACS courses are offered in a live face-to-face format in Chinese. Some are offered live at the Dallas and Houston campuses, and 30 hours can be completed in face-to-face courses in Chinese at the seminary's extension in Hong Kong. For more information on course availability in Chinese, please contact the Chinese Studies office.

Regardless of the mode of delivery (online or in face-to-face classes in Dallas or at an approved extension), at least fifty percent of the coursework required for the degree must be earned through DTS.

All work toward the MACS degree must be completed within seven years from the time of initial matriculation. Extension of this time limit requires the approval of the Credits Committee. Reinstatement to the degree after withdrawal requires action by the Admissions Committee and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree.

Course Requirements

Sixty-two credit hours of coursework are required as a minimum for graduation. Students may pursue this degree on a year-round basis or during summers. By taking about 12 hours of coursework each year or summer, students can complete the program in five years or five summers depending on scheduling needs.

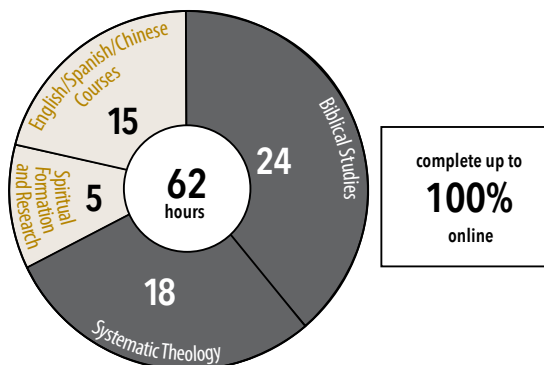
Biblical Studies	24
BE5101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics	3
BE5102 Old Testament History I	3
BE5103 Old Testament History II and Poetry	2
BE5104 Old Testament Prophets	3
BE5105 The Gospels	2
BE5106 Acts and Pauline Epistles	3
BE5107 Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	3
BE5109 Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and Selected Epistles	3
NT5110 New Testament Introduction	2
Systematic Theology	18
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	3
ST5102 Trinitarianism	3
ST5103 Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology	3
ST5104 Soteriology	3
ST5105 Sanctification and Ecclesiology	3
ST5106 Eschatology	3
Spiritual Formation and Research	5
PM5101 Christian Life and Witness	3
RS5101 Orientation and Research Methods	1
RS5103 Summative Research Project	1
Spiritual Formation	0
TOTAL Core Requirements	47

English/Spanish/Chinese Courses	15
MACS in English and Spanish	15
HT5200 History of Doctrine	3
Approved Communication Course ²	3
Electives ³	9
MACS in Chinese	15
EML5101 Designing and Leading Effective Ministries	3
PM5120 Basics in Biblical Communication ¹	3
WM5340 Ministry in Chinese Contexts	2
WM5545 Chinese Historical and Theological Trends	3
Open Electives	4
Total	62

¹ EML5105 or an approved EML communication course may be substituted.

² Options for English-language students include EML5105, EML5450, WM5210, WM5540, or an approved PM communication course. Spanish-language students should take EML5101.

³ English-language students must take at least one elective course from the Division of Ministries and Communication. The remaining 6-7 credit hours of electives may be used for courses from any division.





Students who intend to complete the requirements for the MACS online but do not have prior experience with online courses are encouraged not to take more than one course their first online term.

All students in the MACS, regardless of language, are required to take 24 hours of prescribed Biblical Studies courses, 18 hours of prescribed Theological Studies courses, 3 hours in the Christian Life and Witness course, 3 hours in an approved communication course, and 2 hours in research for a total of 50 core hours.

Spiritual Formation

Because DTS values Christlike character and spiritual maturity, MACS students are required to register for and participate in Spiritual Formation groups for four consecutive fall and spring terms at the Dallas, Houston, or Washington, DC, locations. (Students who are not planning to move to Dallas, Houston, or Washington, DC, for four consecutive fall and spring terms must contact the Spiritual Formation office concerning how to meet their Spiritual Formation requirement.)

In the Spiritual Formation curriculum, small groups of five to seven students focus on identity, community, integrity, and fidelity. The groups also provide an atmosphere for prayer, fellowship, and the integration of learning with life and ministry.

Because students participate with the same group during four consecutive fall and spring terms, they should plan their schedules so that they may meet on the same day and at the same time each term. Spiritual Formation is a noncredit, transcribed experience. Students in the Chinese-language MACS must contact the Chinese Studies office concerning how to meet their Spiritual Formation requirement.

Accelerated MACS

Students entering the English MACS with a strong background in Bible or theology from an approved Christian university, Bible college, or parachurch ministry may apply for the accelerated program during the admissions process. In place of core courses in the MACS curriculum, accelerated participants take four advanced standing courses (AS5103–5106). This results in a curricular reduction of up to 12 credit hours. The accelerated program is limited to students taking courses on the Dallas campus.

For more information about the accelerated program, please visit dts.edu/advancedstanding.



CURRICULUM (MASTER OF ARTS [CHRISTIAN STUDIES])

The following table represents the required curriculum for the Master of Arts (Christian Studies). Students should create an individualized plan of study in light of their current realities and future ministry plans in consultation with an academic advisor. The prerequisites and corequisites for each course may be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog. The terms during which courses are offered vary by location, and the plan provided below pertains specifically to Dallas-campus course offerings. Online courses are typically offered each fall, spring, and summer term. Courses may be cancelled or offered in alternate terms as needed. Required courses are regularly offered during summer terms in intensive or hybrid formats. Please refer to dts.edu/schedule for the most updated list of available course offerings.¹

ENGLISH AND SPANISH CURRICULUM²

FIRST YEAR	HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
BIBLICAL STUDIES				
BE5101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics	3	●	●	●
BE5102 Old Testament History I	3		●	●
BE5103 Old Testament History II and Poetry	2	●		●
BE5105 The Gospels	2		●	●
BE5109 Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and Selected Epistles	3		●	●
NT5110 New Testament Introduction	2		●	●
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES				
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	3	●	●	●
ST5102 Trinitarianism	3		●	●
MINISTRY AND RESEARCH				
RS5101 Orientation and Research Methods	1	●		●
PM5101 Christian Life and Witness	3	●	●	●
INTERDEPARTMENTAL				
SF5100-1 Spiritual Formation ³		●		
SF5100-2 Spiritual Formation			●	
Electives ⁴	6			
FIRST YEAR HOURS	31			



SECOND YEAR

HOURS FALL SPRING ONLINE

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BE5104 Old Testament Prophets	3	●		●
BE5106 Acts and Pauline Epistles	3	●		●
BE5107 Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	3		●	●

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ST5103 Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology	3	●		●
ST5104 Soteriology	3		●	●
ST5105 Sanctification and Ecclesiology	3	●		●
ST5106 Eschatology	3		●	●
HT5200 History of Doctrine	3		●	●

MINISTRY AND RESEARCH

RS5103 Summative Research Project	1			●
Communication Course ⁵	3	●	●	●

INTERDEPARTMENTAL

SF5100-3 Spiritual Formation ³		●		
SF5100-4 Spiritual Formation			●	
Elective ⁴	3			

SECOND YEAR HOURS

31

1 Students studying at the Houston and Washington, DC, locations should contact their campus-specific academic advisor for schedule planning and course availability.

2 The MACS requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study. While students have up to seven years to complete the degree, this curriculum chart reflects how students in the English- and Spanish-language versions of the program can complete the MACS in two years.

3 Completion of SF5100 Spiritual Formation requires two calendar years. Students who register for SF5100 need to keep in mind that the course is a four-term-long course that will meet at the same day and time each of the four terms. The first Spiritual Formation class is only offered in the fall term. Please see the Spiritual Formation section of this catalog for more information.

4 English-language students must take at least one elective course from the Division of Ministries and Communication. The remaining 6-7 credit hours of electives may be used for courses from any division.

5 The following courses are approved to meet the communication course requirement for English-language students: EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations; EML5450 Women Teaching Women; WM5210 Intercultural Communication; WM5540 Applied Biblical Contextualization; or an approved PM communication course. Spanish-language students must take EML5101 Designing and Leading Effective Ministries.



CHINESE CURRICULUM²

FIRST YEAR

	HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
BIBLICAL STUDIES				
BE5101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics	3	●	●	●
BE5102 Old Testament History I	3		●	●
BE5103 Old Testament History II and Poetry	2		●	●
BE5105 The Gospels	2		●	●
BE5109 Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and Selected Epistles	3	●		●
NT5110 New Testament Introduction	2		●	●
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES				
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	3	●		●
ST5102 Trinitarianism	3		●	●
MINISTRY AND RESEARCH				
EML5101 Designing and Leading Effective Ministries	3	●	●	●
RS5101 Orientation and Research Methods	1	●		●
PM5101 Christian Life and Witness	3	●	●	●
WM5340 Ministry in Chinese Contexts	2		●	●
INTERDEPARTMENTAL				
SF5110-1 Spiritual Formation ³	0	●		
SF5110-2 Spiritual Formation	0		●	
Elective	2			
FIRST YEAR HOURS	32			



SECOND YEAR

HOURS FALL SPRING ONLINE

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BE5104 Old Testament Prophets	3	●		●
BE5106 Acts and Pauline Epistles	3	●		●
BE5107 Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	3		●	●

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ST5103 Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology	3	●		●
ST5104 Soteriology	3		●	●
ST5105 Sanctification and Ecclesiology	3	●		●
ST5106 Eschatology	3		●	●

MINISTRY AND RESEARCH

RS5103 Summative Research Project	1			●
WM5545 Chinese Historical and Theological Trends	3	●		●
Communication Course ⁴	3	●	●	●
Elective	2			

SECOND YEAR HOURS

30

1 Students studying at the Houston and Washington, DC, locations should contact their campus-specific academic advisor for schedule planning and course availability.

2 The MACS requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study. Although students have up to seven years to complete the degree, this curriculum chart reflects how students in the Chinese-language version of the program can complete the MACS in two years.

3 Students in the Chinese-language MACS will take SF5110 Spiritual Formation over two consecutive terms, though alternative models may be approved. Please contact the Chinese Studies office for more information on meeting this requirement.

4 The following courses are approved to meet the communication course requirement: PM5120 Basics of Biblical Communication (3 hours) or EML5105 Teaching Process and Media Presentations (3 hours). For more information, please contact the Chinese Studies office.

