

# Master of Arts BIBLICAL STUDIES

With the Reformers, we cry, “Sola scriptura,” acknowledging that Scripture alone is our authority over the life of faith. As students prepare for both ecclesiastical and secular vocations, we believe there is no better foundation than a thorough knowledge of God’s Word. At Westminster Seminary California, the study of Scripture is founded upon an understanding of the biblical languages, Greek and Hebrew, equipping graduates with the tools to study the Bible in the language of its authors, thus enhancing their ability to properly exegete and apply the Word of God.

Women and men develop understanding and skills in interpreting the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments through the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) program. Graduates should be able to apply their knowledge of the biblical languages, historical circumstances, and literary and theological interrelationships to exegete Scripture accurately. They should also analyze contemporary trends in biblical interpretation with discernment. Graduates of this program are prepared to pursue graduate research programs in Old or New Testament studies; or, with further practical training, to use their biblical knowledge in such ministries as teaching, missions, counseling, or lay church leadership. This program is not meant to prepare candidates for ordination to the ministry of the Word. The degree is conferred upon the completion of the prescribed program, which requires two years of full-time study or a longer period of part-time study. The courses prescribed for this emphasis should be followed in the sequence indicated in the chart on the following page.



## PURPOSES

- Enable students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to correctly interpret the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
- Prepare students to read and exegete the Greek and Hebrew text
- Prepare graduates for graduate research opportunities in Old or New Testament studies; or, with further practical training, to use their biblical knowledge in such ministries as teaching, missions, counseling, or lay church leadership

## OBJECTIVES

- Apply knowledge of the biblical languages, historical circumstances, and literary and theological interrelationships to exegete Scripture accurately
- Analyze contemporary trends in biblical interpretation with discernment

## ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

*The MA in Biblical Studies allowed me to wrestle with my questions about faith and calling in the company of professors and classmates who sharpened my understanding and challenged my assumptions.*

*I graduated with a deeper love for Scripture, a renewed devotion to the church, and the confidence to use my gifts to serve God’s people.*

**KENDRA DAHL, MABS**



**Westminster**  
Seminary California

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Greek & Hebrew 20 credits  
 Biblical Studies 26 credits  
 Systematics & Apologetics<sup>1</sup> 10 credits  
 Church History 2 credits

Historical Theology 2 credits  
 Writing & Research 2 credits  
 General elective 10 credits  
 Total (including propaedeutic<sup>2</sup>) 72 credits

|               |  | <i>First Year</i>           |                                   |         | <i>Second Year</i>                         |                               |  |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-------------------------------|--|
|               | Credits                                    | Code                        | Course Name                       | Credits | Code                                       | Course Name                   |  |
| <b>SUMMER</b> | 4  | NT400                       | Greek I                           |         |  |                               |  |
|               | 4  | <b>Total Summer credits</b> |                                   |         |  |                               |  |
| <b>FALL</b>   | 4  | AP/ST501                    | Intro to Theology & Apologetics   | 4       | NT601                                      | Gospels & Acts                |  |
|               | 3  | NT401                       | Greek II                          | 2       | NT701                                      | General Epistles & Revelation |  |
|               | 3  | OT400                       | Hebrew I                          | 2       | OT403                                      | Hebrew IV                     |  |
|               | 1  |                             | General elective                  | 3       | OT600                                      | Pentateuch                    |  |
|               | 2  |                             | CH elective <sup>3</sup>          | 3       | OT701                                      | Psalms & Wisdom               |  |
|               | 1  | PT502                       | Advanced Theological Writing      | 1       |  | General elective              |  |
|               | 14   | <b>Total Fall credits</b>   |                                   | 15      | <b>Total Fall credits</b>                  |                               |  |
| <b>WINTER</b> | 1  | NT402                       | Greek III                         | 3       |  | General elective              |  |
|               | 1  | OT401                       | Hebrew II                         | 3       | <b>Total Winter credits</b>                |                               |  |
|               | 2  |                             | General elective                  | 2       | HT/ST615                                   | Reformed Conf. & Catechisms   |  |
|               | 4  | <b>Total Winter credits</b> |                                   | 3       | NT602                                      | Pauline Epistles              |  |
| <b>SPRING</b> | 2  | NT403                       | Greek IV                          | 3       | OT601                                      | Historical Books              |  |
|               | 3  | NT500                       | NT Interpretation                 | 3       | OT702                                      | Prophetic Books               |  |
|               | 4  | OT402                       | Hebrew III                        | 6       |  | ST elective                   |  |
|               | 2  | OT500                       | Biblical Theology & Canon         | 17      | <b>Total Spring credits</b>                |                               |  |
|               | 2  | OT520                       | English Bible Survey <sup>4</sup> | 33      | <b>Total degree credits</b>                |                               |  |
|               | 1  |                             | General elective                  | 35      | <b>Total with propaedeutic<sup>2</sup></b> |                               |  |
|               | 1  | PT400                       | Theological Writing Practicum     |         |  |                               |  |
|               | 15   | <b>Total Spring credits</b> |                                   |         |  |                               |  |
|               | 18   | <b>Total degree credits</b> |                                   |         |  |                               |  |
| 37            | <b>Total with propaedeutic<sup>2</sup></b> |                             |                                   |         |  |                               |  |

<sup>1</sup> These 10 credit hours must include AP/ST501, and either ST602 or ST701. Any ST or AP credits beyond the 10 will be applied to the student's general elective requirement.

<sup>2</sup> The 21 hours of Hebrew, Greek, and PT400 are regarded as propaedeutic and are not included in the degree credit hours. Propaedeutic credits may be satisfied by course, exam, or waiver (see "Academic Placement" in the Catalogue).

<sup>3</sup> MABS students may fulfill the CH elective requirement (2 hrs) during any semester and with any CH course, but there is significant practical benefit to taking CH601 during the first Fall semester. If more than 2 CH credits are taken, the additional credits will be counted toward the degree's general elective requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Students are required to take OT520 for general elective credit during their first Spring semester unless they pass the English Bible exam. If OT520 is not taken for credit, then 2 hours of general elective credit should be taken in its place.



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