

# Master of Arts THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The ability to know what you believe and why you believe it is crucial to the life of faith. At Westminster Seminary California we believe that rigorous study of theology strengthens and develops in the student a lively knowledge of Christ and his Word, which equips the student to think biblically and to act as becomes a follower of Christ. To this end, our Master of Arts in Theological Studies program seeks to give students the knowledge and skills necessary to systematize and apply biblical truth to the intellectual issues confronting the church and the surrounding culture. The main purpose of the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) program is to develop both the understanding and skills needed to apply biblical truth to the intellectual issues confronting the church and the surrounding culture. Graduates should be able to exegete individual passages of Scripture accurately and understand the system of truth revealed in the Scriptures, as well as the major issues in faith and life that the church has confronted throughout its history and in contemporary intellectual and cultural movements. They should be able to systematize exegetical, historical, and situational data into a consistent and coherent theology, to offer a thoughtful defense of Christian theology, and to explain how this theology applies to an individual's belief and behavior. Graduates of this program are prepared to pursue research programs in such disciplines as theology, apologetics, and church history; or, with further practical training, to use their theological knowledge in such ministries as teaching, missions, counseling, or lay church leadership. It is not the purpose of this program 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 systematize and apply biblical truth to the intellectual issues confronting the church and the surrounding culture
- Prepare graduates for graduate research programs in such disciplines as theology, apologetics, and church history or, with further practical training, to use their theological knowledge in such ministries as teaching, missions, counseling, or lay church leadership

## OBJECTIVES

- Exegete individual passages of Scripture accurately
- Systematize exegetical, historical, and situational data into a consistent and coherent theology
- Offer a thoughtful defense of Christian theology and explain how this theology applies to an individual's belief and behavior

## ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

*I came to seminary to uncover the “why” behind the “whats” that I believe. WSC’s MATS program was delivered in full. Not only did the classes equip me to dig into tough texts and difficult doctrines, but the professors guided me through each subject with competency and pastoral care.*

**MARY VAN WEELDEN, MATS**



**Westminster**  
Seminary California

# Master of Arts

## THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Greek & Hebrew 20 credits  
 Systematics & Apologetics 24 credits  
 Church History 10 credits  
 Biblical Studies<sup>1</sup> 8 credits

Historical Theology 2 credits  
 Writing & Research 2 credits  
 General elective 6 credits  
 Total (including propaedeutic<sup>2</sup>) 72 credits

#### First Year

	Credits	Code	Course Name
SUMMER	4	NT400	Greek I
	4	<b>Total Summer credits</b>	
FALL	4	AP/ST501	Intro to Theology & Apologetics
	2	CH601	Ancient Church
	3	NT401	Greek II
	3	OT400	Hebrew I
	1		General elective
	1	PT502	Advanced Theological Writing
	14	<b>Total Fall credits</b>	
WINTER	1	NT402	Greek III
	1	OT401	Hebrew II
	1		General elective
	3	<b>Total Winter credits</b>	
SPRING	4	CH602	Medieval Church & Reformation
	2	NT403	Greek IV
	3	NT500	NT Interpretation
	4	OT402	Hebrew III
	2	OT500	Biblical Theology & Canon
	2	OT520	English Bible Survey <sup>3</sup>
	1	PT400	Theological Writing Practicum
	18	<b>Total Spring credits</b>	
	20	<b>Total degree credits</b>	
39	<b>Total with propaedeutic<sup>2</sup></b>		

#### Second Year

	Credits	Code	Course Name
	4	CH701	Church in the Modern Age
	2	OT403	Hebrew IV
	2	ST604	Theology Proper
	2	ST605	Anthropology
	4	ST701	Soteriology & Eschatology
	3		Bib. Studies elective
	17	<b>Total Fall credits</b>	
	2		General elective
	2	<b>Total Winter credits</b>	
	3	AP/ST601	Modernity & Apologetics
	2	HT/ST615	Reformed Conf. & Catechisms
	3	ST602	Christology
	3	ST702	Christian Ethics
	3	ST703	Ecclesiology
	14	<b>Total Spring credits</b>	
	31	<b>Total degree credits</b>	
	33	<b>Total with propaedeutic<sup>2</sup></b>	

<sup>1</sup>These 8 credits must include NT500 and OT500. Any Biblical Studies credits beyond the 8 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>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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